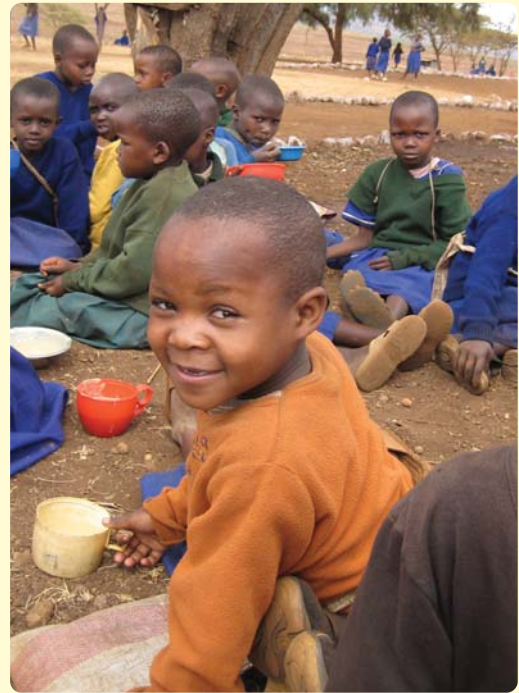


Tanzania

2008

by Amy Battersby



Lunchtime at Lerang'wa

“The week in the school was probably the most overwhelming experience I have ever and will ever experience in my life.”

It all started on a school night. I sat there contemplating whether I should bother to write an application letter and it wasn't until I realised that I might be missing out on a once in a lifetime opportunity that I decided to pen my letter.

The process of being picked was nerve racking. After a long and agonising wait I received a letter and inside was the answer that I had been waiting for. I was ecstatic to read that I had been accepted to go on the trip and this is when the journey really began.

Weekly meetings were held right up until it was time to depart for our three week adventure. The teachers' help in each session deserves to be credited as they attended to the individual needs of all 16 students who now feel like my extended family.

The trip consisted of a visit to a school,

a safari, a hike up Mount Meru and an excursion to Zanzibar. Each and every minute was treasured by us all. The week in the school was probably the most overwhelming experience I have ever and will ever experience in my life. Each day was unique, even though we were teaching and playing with the children every day. The safari was mind blowing; we saw every animal you could think of, from lions that were a metre away to flamingos thousands of metres away. Every animal was beautiful in their own way.

Next, we embarked on the mountain expedition, the part of the trip which no one was particularly looking forward to. However, we all judged too soon. It was a fantastic experience and a real sense of achievement was earned from it. There were some difficult points on the journey

but, as a team we got through it. The final part of the trip, which was the excursion to Zanzibar, was brilliant. It was a time to reminisce about the trip, to bond even more closely and to confirm our new 'family' status!

I would encourage anyone to go on this trip. Words cannot describe what an amazing experience I had. You find out who you are and earn yourselves friends for life. Thank you to everyone who was involved in the organisation of the trip, even if it was a minor part that was played, because you made a major impact on us and created a set of experiences that will never be forgotten.

Morning assembly



Climbing through the foothills of Mt. Meru



“This has been one of the best experiences of my life, and I can’t believe how much I have learnt over these three weeks. I have been through so many emotions and made so many new friends, the trip has flown and I don’t want to go home. I am so glad I could come to Tanzania, it has been a life changing experience.”

Jayde Cook



Home time

Tanzanian Diary 2008

by Mr Wilkinson

How do you sum up in 500 words the most amazing school trip I have ever been involved with? In order to help me I re-read my diary, but I found there were just too many great things to mention in full, so here is the edited version.

The arrival at the little school set in the foot hills of Mt Kilimanjaro was overwhelming, I don’t think there was a dry eye on the bus as we heard singing and witnessed a wave of excited students running up the dusty track to meet us. The education district commissioner was also there to meet us, a rare site indeed. This emphasised to us the importance of the work that we are funding and how grateful the local community is of our support.

The commissioner officially opened the new teacher accommodation, and we saw for the first time what an amazing job was done by the local builder ‘Cosmo’. But something was missing, something we all take for granted in our own homes: electric lighting. Over dinner that evening the group unanimously decided that we should try to install solar power into the school complex. Not necessarily a difficult task you may think, however business in Tanzania has to be experienced to be believed, and it was something of a small miracle that on our last night at Lerang’wa School, we saw solar panels being hoisted onto roofs and electric light glowed from buildings for the first time.

In total, solar panels enough to illuminate six of the teacher’s houses along

with the doctor’s and nurse’s accommodation were installed. None of this could have been realised without the hard work and determination of every Caterham pupil who has helped raise money over the last year, so thank you and well done in making Lerang’wa Primary School the first in northern Tanzania to have solar power.

Leaving the school after a week was again emotional, many great friendships had been formed and it was clear to see that students from both schools had been deeply affected by the experience. Before we headed home we had another 2 weeks in Africa. These were filled with a safari, a climb to the summit of Mt Meru (4566m) and a few relaxing days in Zanzibar. I would like to thank all of the 16 students; Olli, Becky, Georgia, Lucy T, Guy, Abi, Nix, Jayde, Pippa, Hannah, Amy, Lucy B, Penny, Suzie, Matt and Charlotte for their hard work and determination over the last year, they were a wonderful group. Extra special thanks goes to Ms Kirk for all the work she put into organising the trip, and to Mr Tuckett and Mrs Wallace for their endless humour and patience.

Over the coming year we are aiming to build a dining area, kitchen and playground at Lerang’wa School, all things they desperately need. So please keep fundraising. You are helping to make a huge difference to many people’s lives.



Masai mother and child

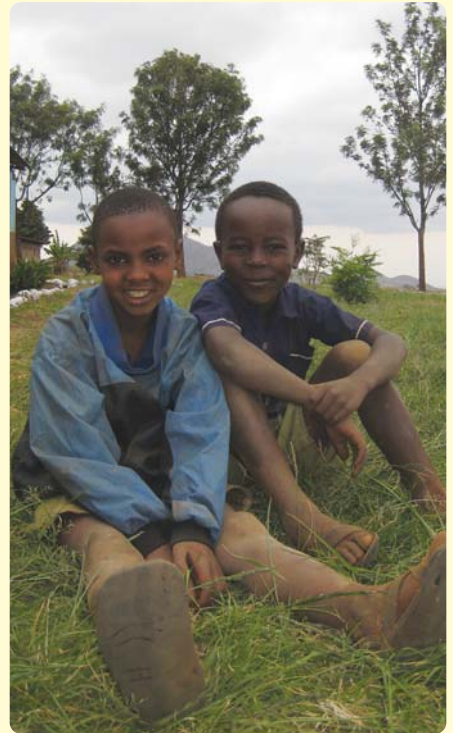
Forging links



Memories of a truly unforgettable trip...



Feeling cold at the peak of Mt Meru (4550m)



The cheeky boys



Lerang'wa pupils and Mt Kilimanjaro



Solar power being installed on the new teacher accommodation, all thanks to YOUR donations



Zebra relaxing in the Ngorongoro crater

Spelling test at sunset



Having fun at 'The Shifting Sands'