

Nurturing home-grown development in South Africa

[www.thatu.org](http://www.thatu.org)



**Four years on!**

Now in its fourth year, Thatu is becoming much better known as an organisation. That brings totally unexpected funds like the £734 from Westminster Abbey and also new calls from groups in South Africa who hear about our work. So decision-making in choosing who to support – and who will miss out – becomes ever more difficult.

**NEW PARTNERS**

**MMEAP** in Kwa Zulu Natal is a collective of very enthusiastic volunteer activists helping teachers and children in 20 under-resourced rural schools to learn more about the environment, and to start sustainable food gardens.

So far we have funded two workshops for teachers. In June, ten teachers learned about worm farming, making liquid manure tea, fermented plant juice and building a compost heap. The second workshop will deal with mulching, companion planting and growing plants for compost.

MMEAP's 20-page reports give us a vivid picture of the harsh reality of life in these schools. They have raised money to pay for a part time counsellor because of the many traumatised children.

With games, art, music and outings they help raise the children's low self esteem: **"You have done wonders for our kids, they are no longer just farm kids – they now believe they are like any other kids"** said a school principal. We would like to provide more funding to this inspiring group.



**Eco-Access**, our second new partner, works to improve awareness of the environment and disabled people's access to it. With sub-standard education in so many South African schools, schooling for disabled children is especially problematic.

Eco-Access is already working with children and teachers in five schools around Gauteng to help them become greener and grow food. Thatu is providing a small amount of funding for preliminary work in starting a sixth school in Soweto. It has a well informed and enthusiastic principal and we have high hopes of positive developments.

## OLD FRIENDS



Soil for Life's work in Touws River is producing results in spite of extreme heat and frost -- and even theft and vandalism. Despite crop losses, they have compost heaps and worm farms, and there is a nursery in the community garden which will produce seedlings for the spring planting in September. The community group has now already deposited R3,000 in their new bank account from the sale of vegetables and flowers.

SEED's first Sustainable Schools three year programme finished in June, and in January with Thatu's help they started their Organic Classroom Program on the Cape Flats. As always, initial work on the Flats concentrates on building windbreaks with all sorts of scrap materials and building up the sandy soil.

So thank you to all of you for your support. Our income from summer fetes has been low because of the weather, but we have gained new supporters, and none of our volunteers has succumbed to pneumonia in the wind and rain.

### **But can you help us some more?**

Don't forget our **Virtual gifts** – for those special occasions like weddings, birthdays, anniversaries, civil ceremonies and, of course, Xmas and do tell your friends all about us – please forward this newsletter and look on our website.

**South African donations:** After months of hard work by Susan, we now have a South African bank account. Please tell those in South Africa they can pay directly into it. The details are ABSA Account name: Thatu Acct no 40 7190 0845. Branch code 63.03.05

Finally, why not translate your support into **regular giving**? From as little as £3 per month you can give our fundraising a solid foundation by setting up a standing order and giving us a secure income.

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