



Educational Projects



PO Box 541, Ennerdale 1826 Tel/Fax 011 211 4373

January 2010 – August 2010

8th September 2010

Greetings one and all...the Ennerdale development of the Don Bosco Educational Projects...the Declan Collins Skills Centre, the Laura Vicuna Educational Centre and Sancta Maria Crèche is back with the NEWS.

It has been a very busy time these last few months as the buildings went up. Some changes have taken place in the Management Committee. Mrs Bernie Mullen is no longer working with the project. Her health dictated that she pack away her takkies, which had done so much running around, and replace them with a pair of soft slippers and an easy chair. However, she is never far away when something crops up. We owe Bernie a great debt of gratitude for the firm foundations she put in place for this outreach to the young people of Finetown, Ennerdale and Lawley.

For the meantime Fr Robert Gore is now Chairman on the Mancom and Mrs Val Drift has moved into the office to see to all the administration. And what a lot of administration there is for such a small team of dedicated people.

Some of the committee is digitally caught at a meeting in the All Saints Church presbytery, Ennerdale. The chairman is taking the photograph. L – R: Fr Francois Dufour SDB; Bro Mgongiseni SDB; Mr Chester Brown; Ms Val Drift (Admin); Sr Margaret Sweeney FMA; Mr Robin Martin (Accountant); Fr Jeffrey Johnson SDB; Sr Helen Fitzgibbon FMA. Other members not pictured: Mr Anthony Reeves; Ms Janice Seland; Mr Gilbert Swats; Ms Rosa Calaca; Ms Liza Rossi.

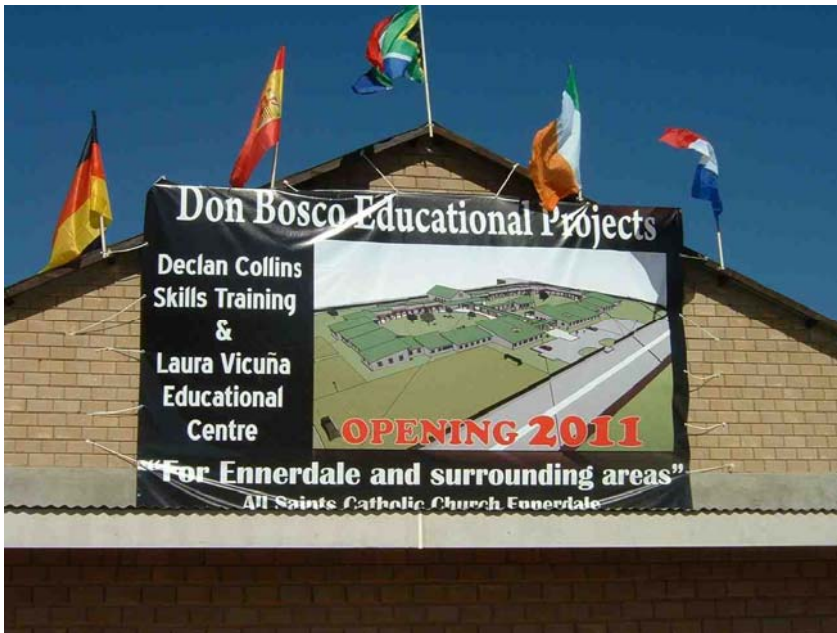


DECLAN COLLINS SKILLS

As you recall, Fr Declan Collins worked in Ennerdale and had a special place in his apostolate for the youth, especially those who needed to find their way off the streets and into useful employment. However, he was brutally murdered at the Presbytery. This only increased the determination for the Salesians to make a difference in this area. Declan's family underpinned and continue to support the efforts of the Committee to keep the spirit and challenge that Declan faced, alive. This has meant a lot of hard work over the years, but it is now starting to take shape. Visitors to the new site marvel at the extent of the buildings and facilities. Now after months of worry whether funding would come to us for the building of the Declan Collins Skills Training Centre...the good news reached us at the beginning of July. The German Government together with the Jugend Dritte Welt, Bonn are collaborating with us to build this Declan Collins Training Centre, equip the workshops and pay the

instructors for a limited period. Even so we have to find a MILLION RAND for our part of the contribution towards the approximately six million all this will cost. So we are elated that this is under way, we are seriously challenged to continue finding funding to support this initiative.

WORLD CUP VISITORS



The world cup attracted many visitors to South Africa. Among those visitors were friends of the DBEP (Don Bosco Educational Projects). The hall was decorated with the flags of the donors countries (except the Australian since none could be found – England’s flag just out of view)...see the picture. All the visitors were greatly impressed with what they saw. Most of all they were really astonished to meet with the 230 children and youth who are presently crammed into a small hall for classes. The World Cup added a festive flavour to the

visits with plenty of noise from the vuvuzelas. Entertainment was provided by the children as they formed teams for each of the countries and held their own tournament....even the youngest joined in the excitement, with our famous visiting German football star, Giovane Élber. A prolific



goal scorer in various clubs, Élber's career was mostly spent in Germany, where he represented most notably Bayern Munich (six full seasons), scoring a total of 133 first division goals in 260 matches for three clubs.



Bonn Visitors – Jugend Dritte Welt.

Visitors from Bonn, Mr Uwe Bothur, and Conny (with the camera) and Jörg from White River, where particularly interested in the start of the Declan Collins Skills Training building. Foundations and floors have been laid (photo on left) and the walls are going up quickly. The following picture was taken on the 7th September 2010 showing the progress.



Ekukhanyeni - Permaculture

Training is underway on a weekly basis on Thursday at St Francis of Sales permaculture site for the two new Champions. There are three 10 Day Training Intensives scheduled for the remainder of the year starting up again this month. The target is to train another 40 community members in the skills of growing their own food on any piece of spare ground around their dwelling.

Ground has been set aside at the DBEP site specifically for this training in food security.

Talking about food...veggies have to be cooked...



Mass Cash Holdings

A proposal has been drafted for a mobile kitchen and sent to Mass Cash Holdings. Mass Cash focuses their Corporate Social Initiatives (CSI) on food security that benefits the poorest of the poor and children. They are considering supplying institutes with container kitchens. Ms Jane Bruyns from Mass Cash confirmed that our project requirements will definitely be on their CSI Committees list for their next batch to be distributed towards the end of the year.

Lotto

We are eagerly awaiting the result of our application to the Lotto. We have received our reference number. We were informed that they are currently looking at applications handed in during October 2009. Our application was submitted on 7 December 2009.

Thabiso Skills Institute

TSI held a Regional Workshop from the 31st August to the 2nd of September. This Institute is based at the HQ of the Catholic Schools Institute in Booyens...which is also the home of the Salesian Provincial Office for Southern Africa. Its vision is for faith-based skills development centres to work together to offer quality skills development and training that meets the physical, intellectual, moral, spiritual and social needs of learners. Ms Val Drift and Sr Margaret Sweeney attended the meeting which keeps the Declan Collins Centre project in line with all the latest developments in the training sector.

Computer Project



Another project on the go which will move to the new site once it is ready is the thriving Computer Project. At the moment it is based in the Salesian House in 7th Avenue, which is only a matter of five minutes (car) from the DBEP site. There was recently a donation of an up-to-date laptop with software to the Admin office from Mr Martin van Heerden of Dwell Q Projects. Further good news is that a further twelve students graduated on 30 July 2010. With them is their teacher, Coleen Max.

Craft Centre

The craft centre, now in the hall at All Saints Catholic Church, is producing many interesting articles in traditional beadwork and dress making. The adults are learning from Sr Giovanna (in the background). A couple of the ladies are being trained as trainers for the DBEP. The others are learning valuable skills while also earning some income from the sales.



FUNDRAISING

While we have support at the moment to continue the building of the Declan Collins Training Centre, we are scraping the bottom of the funding barrel for the rest of the project. We have three buildings with the trusses up, but no money at the moment to put the roof sheeting on. The builder tells us this will cost ZAR 100 000.00 to do. So before the rains come we hope to have the roof sheeting on these few remaining rooms. (Which means finding the money!!)



GOMPELS FAMILY SUPPORT

Fr Eddie O'Neill in the Salesian Project and Development Office introduced the Gompels family to the needs of the Don Bosco Educational Projects. Very generously they agreed to finance



the building of five rooms to be used for skills development. These areas will house the computer room, cooking and domestic science, dressmaking, adult literacy and crafts. The buildings are almost complete. Doors and windows still need to be added. These items are delayed at the moment for security reasons.

Recently, the family have generously given another donation, which will help us to purchase new equipment, and pay salaries and running costs. We are indebted to David and Mary Gompels and their son Nicholas and family for their support. We also thank Mr Neville Kyrke-Smith, the National Director of Aid to the Church in Need, UK, for the part that he and his organisation have played in support of the project with the tax implications and ensuring that the donated funds reached us safely.



Laura Vicuña Centre.



Laura Vicuña Centre was a hive of activity for the four weeks of the June/July holidays. A few hundred children thronged our small yard daily. They were entertained with a wide variety of indoor and outdoor games and were coached in soccer and rugby skills by local experts.

It was our great pleasure to have some of our past students join the volunteers who kept the children busy. These volunteers, under the guidance of teachers Mandla, Katerina, Sr. Margaret, and Staff members who gave a week each of their holidays, were all young people from Finetown and they did us proud! We are most grateful to Rivonia Parish for supplying the food for the duration of the *holiday project*.

The children ate in style every day and thought it was Christmas all over again with meat, vegetables and fruit each day. May God bless all who helped to make 2010 holiday for the children a memorable one.

We also had the most welcome gifts from three of the doctors of the Homeopathic clinic. They provided the learners with blankets and food parcels.

FINAL WORD (OR TWO...!)

There has been so much news to crowd into this letter I have tried to be as fair as possible...which is always not possible. But the communication gap between the DBEP and yourselves will hopefully be shortened in the future. It is a common phenomenon, that everyone is trying to do far too much, so much so, that something falls through the cracks!

THANKS TO ALL

May I express a big thank you to all who are working so hard to ensure that these facilities are put at the service of the poor and needy children, youth and young adults of the area from the start of next year. Thank you for supporting this initiative in ways that only you know best.

Fr Robert Gore. SDB

<u>DONORS to DATE</u> Red DePorte Daughters of Mary Help of Christians Salesians of Don Bosco Gompels Family BMZ – Bonn, Jugend Dritte Welt Misean Cara Anonymous Donor Declan Collins Trust Business Partners Salesian Missions Letsedi Trust Bankoure, Italy. ZTE Corporation Catholic Church, Robertsham. Aus Aid Fanad Friends Ireland	<u>BOARD MEMBERS</u> Fr Robert Gore SDB Fr Francois Dufour SDB Fr Jeff Johnson SDB Sr Margaret Sweeney FMA Sr Helen Fitzgibbon FMA Mr Chester Browne Ms Janice Seland Mr Gilbert Swats Mr Anthony Reeves Ms Rosa Calaca Ms Liza Rossi <u>ADMINISTRATION</u> Ms Val Drift Mr Robin Martin
---	--

DONATIONS MAY BE MADE TO:

Name of Account: Salesian Collins Centre
Bank: First National Bank, Southdale. 254205
Account No. 62128569227
Swift: FIRNZAJJ

If you have received this email newsletter in error, please reply to the sender with “unsubscribe” who will immediately remove your address from the mailing list.

If, HOWEVER, you have friends who may be interested in supporting this project and / or receiving this newsletter...do pass this letter on...or e-mail in their e-addresses.

Mission Statement:

We of Don Bosco Educational Projects are, in the spirit of our founder St John Bosco and St Maria Mazarello, committed to uplift and empower vulnerable children and young adults through an integrated approach to education, skills training, health and food security, thus enabling them to make a meaningful contribution to South African Society.