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# **Newsletters**

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Donate Now UK

# **June 2006**

Where has the time gone? We are already half way through this year  $\dots$  and a lot has been happening with The Pebbles Project.

# **UK Events**

Play our Video

## Our new office

We have moved into our new office and training room - where the farm stall used to be at Manuka Restaurant on Main Road in Somerset West. Please pass by and say hello if you are in the area and find out what Pebbles has been up to, and enjoy a cappuccino and lunch at the Manuka restaurant. If we are not here, we apologise but it means we are out on the farms or in the créches ... doing what we do best.



## **Training Programme**

The Pebbles training programme began in March, and is attended by 8 crèche workers from five wine farm créches. They have formed a happy team and are really enjoying the opportunity to share their skills and learn from each other. We have covered a range of topics in the training, with visiting trainers from the Stellenbosch Early Education Development (SEED) Trust and Smile Education. We have already covered a range of topics including working with Foetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder children, setting up and managing a crèche, using School Readiness guidelines, planning daily programmes and teaching sessions at crèche. The training programme continues until December 06 and will now begin to focus more specifically on learning difficulties, group and individual activities, and skills development.



Sponsor a Child

## Lwandle and Kayamandi

# **Sponsor A Child**

Fund a Project

We have provided some educational resources (toys, books, posters, games) to both the Lwandle and Kayamandi créches, and will begin an individual training programme at Kayamandi in July 2006.

We now have 7 children being sponsored, which is fabulous, and are in the process of identifying another 20 children in need. If you are interested in sponsoring a child, please contact Anna Lusty







# New staff

Pebbles now has a new member of staff - Marileze Buys, who has experience in working with children with special needs and farm worker communities and has already proved to be a great asset to Pebbles.

She is focusing on setting up mini-libraries in all the créches, using funds raised at our Valentines Jazz Brunch at Lourensford in February.

Marileze is also responsible for co-ordinating an after-school art project at Eaglevlei wine farm, educational trips out for the children and hands-on days renovating créches.



# **Hand-On Days**

We have held two hands-on days renovating the créches at Remhoogte and Eikendal wine farms. The Remhoogte créche was completely transformed by the wonderful team at WINE.CO.ZA, who slaved all day to provide a perfect learning environment for the children on the farm, as well as donating toys, clothes and mattresses.



Eikendal was re-decorated by a team of friends and family organised by Marileze, and the children love their fresh new-look créche. If your company would like to be involved in a Pebbles hands-on day, please contact **Marileze Buys**.

### **Educational Trips**

Marileze organised a trip to the Baxter Theatre to see Pinocchio on Tuesday 27th June for 120 children aged 3 - 12 from the wine farms with whom we work. The Baxter generously gave us all the tickets, plus the transport for FREE - many thanks to them, the children loved this experience.

We are in the process of arranging other trips to shows, the science centre, the Aquarium and other places of interest. Many of the younger children on the farms have never been further than their local shop, and will benefit hugely from exploring their wider world.

If you can help with offering an educational experience for the children with whom we work, please contact Marileze on info@pebblesproject.co.za.

### **Fundraising**

Pebbles has held two fundraising events since the beginning of the year - superbly organised by Pebbles trustees Ansgar Flaatten and Lucy Warner :

- The Valentines Jazz Brunch sponsored by Lourensford, which raised in the region of R50, 000 to buy books for the mini-libraries and crèches. Many thanks to Anton du Toit and the team at Lourensford for making our event such a success.
- The Tank Party, sponsored by JF Hillebrand, at the Aquarium in April on the last night of the Cape Wine 2006 show. This was a brilliant event, complete with auction, dancing, chill-out massages, live music and a lot of fun. We raised almost R110, 000 from the whole event, and a huge thank you goes to JF Hillebrand for making the whole thing possible. Many thanks also to Ken Forrester for acting as our auctioneer, and pushing everyone to their donating limits!

The fundraising does not stop there, however, as one of our loyal supporters, Mr Keith Prothero, has been busy organising wine tastings and auctions in the UK to raise funds for Pebbles. Thanks Keith.



We have also received donations from the Verberg Trust, Tim James and Angela Lloyd's wine auctions, Michael Cross, amongst others, so a big thank you to all of you. Thanks also to Dr Sandra Marias from the MRC, who arranged the donation of two computers to Pebbles.

We would also like to thank all the friends and family of the late Mr Gordon Pragnell who sent us donations in his memory both in South Africa and the UK - it's clear Gordie is still looking out for his favourite charity!!

## **Coming events**

We have decided to move the sponsored skydiving event until next year, and focus this year on organising a big Christmas event - details to be sent out soon.

How you can help

If you would like to get involved with Pebbles, please do contact us; we would love to hear from you. We are looking for :

- Volunteers with some artistic talent who would like to be involved with the Art Project, which begins in August for children, aged 9 - 12.
- Volunteers who would like to spend a regular time each week in one of the crèches, running a sport or art/craft activity with the younger children, or simply spending time with them playing games or reading stories.
- Volunteers who would like to get involved in the next hands-on day renovating a crèche no specific skills necessary, just a sense of humour, lots of energy and the ability to wield a paintbrush. Please contact us for details about hands-on days - they provide a perfect corporate team-building exercise!
- Any toys, games, books suitable for children aged 2 6. Please can all donations of toys etc be in working order and clean condition. Thank you.

# Pebbles Project - Helping Children with Special Needs

 Any other assistance that you can give us - whether it be paying for transport for the educational trips, donations of paint for the crèche renovations, donations of food parcels for the Lwandle and Kayamandi crèches who are struggling with feeding up to 60 children, or any useful contacts. Many thanks.

Many thanks to everyone who has supported Pebbles so far. We are really beginning to make a difference.

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