



# THE THEMBISA TRUST

Grassroots support  
in South Africa

Newsletter no 24  
Spring 2009

Thembisa has  
no political affiliation

34 Trinity Rd,  
Oxford, OX3 8LQ

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

[contact@thembisatrust.org](mailto:contact@thembisatrust.org)

**Patron:**

Desmond M Tutu,  
Archbishop Emeritus

**Chair:**

Grace Townshend

**Trustees:**

Frank Adam, Edward Andrews,  
Stephen Bowley, Tonia Cope Bowley,  
Liz Carmichael

**Treasurer and Administrator:**

Peter Braithwaite

IT support: Charles Rowe

**Newsletter editor:**

Grace Townshend

**Newsletter design:**

Jenny Camons

Registered Charity No: 801978



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**Janet Suzman & Chris Man**



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# 21st Birthday Celebrations

Tonia Cope Bowley,  
Thembisa Trust Co-founder



THE  
THEMBISA  
TRUST



How did you celebrate your 21st Birthday? I wonder what secrets would come out if I invited your response to that question! I must confess my recall of this gateway-to-adulthood occasion are not very sharp – a dinner in Durban with family and friends and one or two treasures that still grace our home!

## Come and enjoy the party

Thembisa's 21st Birthday will be much more memorable. The aim is to celebrate by raising £10,000 to help improve the lot of the kids cared for at the Alexandria Haven, in the impoverished Eastern Cape (see page 7). How will Thembisa do this? Through events over the coming year (details below and on Thembisa's website) and certainly by having fun!

## 21st Birthday events

### Charity Concert *November 2008*

Chris Mann and Janet Suzman performed 'Lifelines' an unforgettable multimedia concert.

### Charity Dinner *Saturday 23rd May 2009*

A unique opportunity to dine with Gary Kirsten (India Cricket Coach and former South African Test batsman) and Deborah Kirsten at a Charity Dinner to be held at the Oxford Belfry Hotel.

### Charity Cricket *Monday 25th May 2009*

A Charity Cricket event at the Tiddington Cricket Club.

### Charity Walk *Sunday 6th September 2009*

Our annual Charity Walk and garden tea.

We would be delighted to meet you at some of the events. Your presence and / or presents will help Thembisa to help others. Do give Thembisa a 21st birthday present if you can. Through your generosity generations of children will have a better start in life.

## 21st Birthday present list!

(Choose your present)

- ▶ Make a donation.
- ▶ Sponsor an aspect of one of the events.
- ▶ Advertise in the events programme (covers charity events on 23rd & 25th May 2009)
- ▶ Offer some of your time.
- ▶ Become a member (£15.00 pa). Membership fees are used to cover administrative costs.

100% of all donations and money raised goes to monitored projects. A membership form is enclosed with this mailing or can be downloaded from the website, [www.thembisatrust.org](http://www.thembisatrust.org).

## History – did you know?

In the first 10 years, to 1997, Thembisa raised £100,000, benefitting 50 projects. From 1988 to year end 2007/8 Thembisa has raised a total of £214,453 for around 70 projects.

**THANK YOU** for your part in making such a positive difference to so many. OH YES! AND DO COME AND ENJOY THE PARTY!

## Email addresses

Keep up to date via email. Please send your email address to [www.thembisatrust.org](http://www.thembisatrust.org) (together with your own name). You will only receive hot off the press news – no junk mail! Your email address will not be passed to any third party.

# Thembisa Charity Dinner

**Aim: to raise £10,000 for the Alexandria Haven Orphanage** see page 7



## 3 Course Dinner ▶ Charity Auction ▶ Fabulous Raffle Prizes

### Guest speakers: **Gary Kirsten & Deborah Kirsten**

Gary Kirsten (India Cricket Coach and former South African Test batsman) and Deborah Kirsten (South African journalist and Gary's wife) will share anecdotes of life on and off the pitch.

### Ticket options:

**The Oval** £40 per person (with a cash bar).

**Edgbaston** £65 per person (includes red/white wine, beer, bottled water, soft drinks).

**Lords** £150 per person (includes pre dinner Champagne and Canapés Reception with Gary & Deborah Kirsten and red/white wines, beer, bottled water, soft drinks, port and liqueurs).

**Tables of 10** may be booked for corporate entertaining.

**Date:** Saturday 23 May 2009

**Time:** Dinner at 8.00pm

**Venue:** The Oxford Belfry Hotel, Milton Common, Milton OX9 2JW  
([www.thembisatrust.org](http://www.thembisatrust.org) for more details).

The Oxford Belfry is offering a deal for those wishing to stay overnight or for the weekend.

### For tickets, sponsorship, donations and enquiries

Contact: Tracey Smith Phone: 07754 490323, Email: [trasmith05@aol.com](mailto:trasmith05@aol.com), or

Post: c/o Stephen Bowley Planning Consultancy, Ferndale, Tiddington, Oxon OX9 2LQ

## Lifelines concert

29 November 2008

Chris Mann, an acclaimed South African poet, and Janet Suzman, the well known South African actress, introduced our 21st celebratory year by performing 'Lifelines' at St John's College in Oxford. The performance dealt with the lifelines of animals, from aardvarks to zebras, bees to seahorses and the biosphere of the planet. Chris sang some of his poems and Janet recited others, with a backdrop of magnificent projected illustrations by Julia Skeen. Chris is a Trustee of Masikhulisane, a poverty alleviation programme funded by Thembisa. At Chris's request, the proceeds of



▶ *Tonia Cope Bowley, Thembisa Trust co-founder, and Janet Suzman in conversation .*

the evening (£1300) will be used to fund life-skills camps for children from very poor townships in the Eastern Cape. The camps, which are held at a centre on the Swartkops River enable the children to have fun while benefiting from physical, mental, social and spiritual challenges.



# Bonginkosi's new school nears completion!

bonginkosi.wordpress.com



► (Above) The new school in progress and (right) the original mud-walled school.



The Bonginkosi pre-school in Edendale serves children who would otherwise be unable to attend a pre-school. Some are Aids orphans from households headed by grandmothers, and in some cases their school meals are the only daily meals they get. Bonginkosi is run under the auspices of African Enterprise (AE), but until recently was operating out of a dilapidated, totally inadequate building. Perhaps you remember the picture of the dilapidated old house. What a contrast the new building is! Thembisa played a huge role in raising the funds, by applying to Kennington Overseas Aid (KOA) to adopt Bonginkosi as their chosen charity in 2007. Thembisa was able to pass on more than

£21,000 raised by KOA, to Bonginkosi.

Progress was at first rather slow, with issues of land ownership delaying the building. Now however, the new school is nearing completion, with an official opening planned for around August! Demand for the new school facility continues to rise. There are currently 46 students enrolled (the current school building is suitable for only 20), and a further 11 have been put on a waiting list until the new facility is opened.

## Eluxolweni street children's shelter

Abuse, mistreatment, neglect ... what are the life-chances of young children who grow up experiencing only this kind of treatment at home? Many end up on the streets. It is such children that the Eluxolweni street children's shelter in Grahamstown cares for.

The shelter's programmes concentrate on intervention, prevention and re-integration with families if at all possible.

At present the shelter houses 31 children. Recently they re-admitted one boy who was reunited with his family in last year, but was

# WARMTH

<http://www.warmth.org.za/>

Some of us are cutting down on luxuries due to the credit crunch, but imagine if you could not afford even one meal a day! WARMTH (War against Malnutrition, TB and Hunger) aims to help people for whom this is all too real a problem, by establishing community kitchens in needy areas around Cape Town. WARMTH provides premises for the kitchens (often converted shipping containers), training for the cooks (nominated by the community), and basic supplies. The cooks receive no salary, but earn money from the meals they sell – basic meals are at a specified, fixed low

price (a voucher scheme operates for the very poorest people); the cook can choose to prepare additional dishes under her own initiative if she wants to, and many of the cooks are able to employ helpers.

In 2008 there were a total of 45 kitchens. WARMTH reports that the kitchen operators are becoming increasingly self-reliant, and that the first eight kitchens will be leaving the WARMTH programme. Some of the kitchens are at schools, which means that children receive at least one good meal and are able to



► *Rosie in her kitchen. Rosie's kitchen is unusual in that overseas donors provided money for it to be built as a proper room added to her house..*



► *There's no room inside to wash the big pots, used to prepare nutritious soup and soya-based stews.*

back on the streets over the festive season. This year five of their boys were enrolled at high school, bringing the total number at high school to eleven. One of the boys is now doing his third year at Rhodes University and they are looking forward to his graduation.

Eluxolweni tries to provide not only for the children's physical needs, but also to help them develop as rounded human beings.

Some activities are undertaken with the help of local volunteers. For example, this year the children are doing horse riding, as well as taking part in the Presidents Award (a programme similar to the Duke of Edinburgh's award, that challenges young people to develop excellence). Thanks to Eluxolweni, they can face the future with hope instead of despair.





# Bethesda Arts Centre

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

The Bethesda Arts Centre at Nieu-Bethesda in the Karoo runs varied training, empowerment and income-generating programmes that are changing the lives of some of the most disadvantaged people in South Africa. Before the Centre came into being, the local San/Bushmen people were struggling against alcoholism, abuse, and lack of self-esteem, with very few options for employment or advancement. The Centre is concerned with capacity building; by teaching a wide range of disciplines, it offers local people the opportunity to develop their talents and to grow in self respect. Through the sale of artwork, members of the community become financially independent. Through access to further education offered at the Centre they also widen their opportunities.

Jeni Couzyn, who founded Bethesda, is



► Above, 'Pipe smoker'  
by Christie Horn.  
Right, 'Owl house'  
by Sandra Sweers.



currently in residence at the Centre, and leading activities. The textiles group continues to be particularly active and is producing some amazing pictorial quilts. During the year they produced a major new two-part quilt, each piece measuring 4.3 metres by 1.5. It was made by eighteen textile artists and three printmakers at the Bethesda Arts Centre, during the course of 3 months, and was exhibited at Decorex, a design exhibition. Bags and cushions made at the Centre also caught the eye of the fashion editor of The Guardian newspaper and were displayed on their website.

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## Masikhulisane Trust

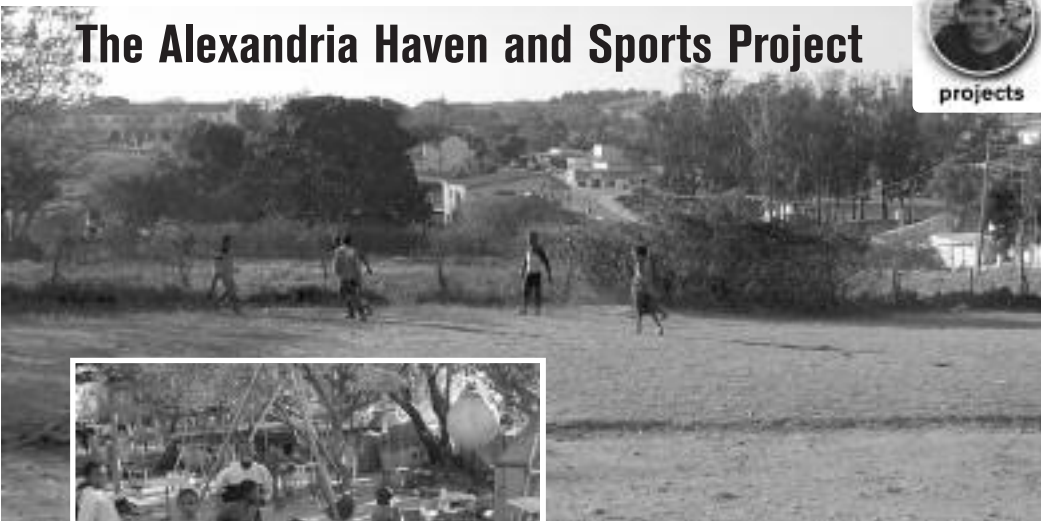
Unemployment is particularly rife in the Eastern Cape around Grahamstown. Masikhulisane aims to alleviate poverty through job creation and other programmes to improve people's life chances. During 2008 funds from Thembisa to Masikhulisane supported the following projects:

1. Umthathi – short term employment and soil reclamation.
2. Grahamstown Area Distress Relief Association (GADRA) – Delayed Literacy Programme.
3. The Centre for Social Development (CSD) – preschool education.

The photos show children participating in the Delayed Literacy Programme. This is run in three primary schools where many students have Xhosa as their home language, but the tuition is in English. As a result 25 to 50% at high school are functionally illiterate. The programme teaches literacy to students in the fourth grade. Volunteer teachers have joined forces with the regular class teachers to implement the programme. The plan is for almost all 17 primary schools in the disadvantaged areas of Grahamstown to eventually be incorporated in the programme.



# The Alexandria Haven and Sports Project



This is the project chosen by Gary and Deborah Kirsten as the focus of fund-raising to celebrate Thembisa 21st birthday.

In South Africa poverty is rife, and some of the poorest people are located in the Eastern Cape. But amazing people are offering local solutions – like Molly Bam, whose compassion gave birth to the Alexandria Haven. At 18 Molly and her 11 siblings were orphaned. Molly took on the role of parent, and at 19 she took in her first foster child, who now lives and works at the Haven as a carer.

Situated in the Eastern Cape, the Alexandria Haven today consists of a three-bed roomed bungalow that houses upwards of 40 kids. The Haven does not turn away any child in need in spite of very cramped living conditions; often not enough food and no state funding. Some of the children have AIDS. Sporting activities take place on a dusty un-grassed area.

The Alexandria Haven has the ground for expansion but not the funds. The property has been re-zoned from farmland to residential, and subdivided into thirty smaller plots. Funds permitting, the immediate goal is to build six architecturally designed chalets, and to level ground for a sports field.

## Vision and Plans

- ▶ Ensure the safety of the children by building a secure fence/wall around the property – in progress.
- ▶ Level off a large part of the property to provide a playing field and areas for the proposed chalets.
- ▶ Each chalet will house six children and an adult. Ideally six chalets to be built soon.
- ▶ In the longer term the intention is to create a small village, including a school.

The estimated costs are R80,000 (± £5500) for each chalet, and R50,000 (± £3500) for the sports field and to level the ground for building.

Thembisa's 21st target is to raise £10,000 for the Haven, for building further accommodation and a suitable grassed playing field.

A dream of an organiser: "Should we at some later stage be able to arrange cricket coaching sessions, this field can be used and children can be brought in from a number of the townships in the area."

**YOU can make a difference to the lives of these kids.** Attend a fundraising event (see page 2–3) and / or make a donation now. Please mark your donation as being for *The Haven*.



# Project funding 2008

Project	Location	
African Leadership Development Institute – leadership training	Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal	£3,500
Bethesda Foundation – centre for arts education and health <sup>a</sup>	Nieu Bethesda, Eastern Cape	£2,500
Masikhulisane Trust – poverty alleviation	Grahamstown, Western Cape	£3,000
Bonginkosi – preschool <sup>b</sup>	Edendale, KwaZulu-Natal	--
Sakhumzi – orphanage	Cape Town, Western Cape	£1,250
WARMTH – war against Malnutrition, TB and Hunger	Western Cape	£1,250
Grahamstown Area distress Relief Association	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape	£450
Ingeloz Eyetu – beadwork project	Van Reenen, Free State	£800
Eluxolweni – street children's shelter	Grahamstown, Eastern Cape	£1,250
Bonginkosi – ladies' blanket-making project	Edendale, KwaZulu-Natal	£500
Summer life skills training camps – for children from impoverished backgrounds <sup>c</sup>	Eastern Cape	£1,300
<b>Total</b>		<b>£15,800</b>

<sup>a</sup> Includes funds raised from raffling of a quilt made by Bethesda

<sup>b</sup> Bonginkosi was not funded during 2008 because of the large donation from KOA that was channelled to them in 2007. We plan to fund them again in the future.

<sup>c</sup> Proceeds from Lifelines concert

## Thembisa's 2008 Charity Walk

7 September 2008

Thembisa's 2008 walks followed the tradition of previous years:

- ▶ A 10-mile and a 2-mile circuit
- ▶ Good weather
- ▶ Lovely, varied countryside
- ▶ Walkers spanning an age range from 4 to over 60 years!

A forced detour due to the presence of a bull in one field didn't spoil the shorter walk!

Thanks to all who took part – walkers and caterers; and those who sold and bought raffle tickets. The first prize in the raffle was a magnificent hand-made quilt/wall hanging, donated by the Bethesda Arts Foundation,



▶ *Walkers from 4 to 60 years old!*

with 'The Zoo' as its theme. This was won by Laa Tatham of Islip. £670 was raised and the funds went to Bethesda and to African Enterprise Leadership Training Projects.