

Be Kids Members, Nickey and Becci at the Kangeta DayCare Centre, Kenya

On 25th June 2008, Nickey Lawton and Becci Bilstoft took leave from work to embark on an adventure and volunteer at the Kangeta Daycare Centre, Central Kenya, a project supported by **Be Kids Australia**.

The girls arrived at the centre after a long car trip from Nairobi. Their first day included meeting the Good Shepherd Sisters who take care of the Daycare Centre among many community servitudes. It did not take long for both girls to settle into their home, an annex to the convent, for the next 4 weeks.



ABOVE: Becci and Nickey

The project that Becci and Nickey had in mind was a great one! – building a playground for children whose

lives have been so disadvantaged that they had only a small notion, if at all, of what “play” means. **Be Kids** slogan is “**Be Safe Be Strong Be Happy**” and there can be no doubt that Becci and Nickey brought a lot of happiness to our children.



ABOVE: Children of the Daycare Centre enjoying the playground

Becci and Nickey spent much time playing with the children during their class breaks. They also assisted in the site dispensary, weaved with the women’s basket weaving group, joined in the dancing and singing with the youth and attended the vocational training centre, also supported by **Be Kids**.

Becci and Nickey bonded so firmly with our children that they found it hard to leave them and it took coaxing from Sister Lucy for them to visit Nairobi and Lewa National Park, an experience they will remember as they watched in amazingly close

proximity to cheetahs and other beautiful creatures in the wild.

After tearful goodbyes, the girls returned to Perth after their 4 weeks, filled with valuable experiences which they would love to share with all.

They both plan to return and encourage others to volunteer and taste the joy of sharing.

For information on volunteering contact Joan Peters on 08 9337 1735 or Judith Cockburn-Campbell on 08 9339 1133.



ABOVE: Becci, Nickey and Sr Lucy with the children of the Kangeta Daycare Centre



ABOVE: Becci having lunch with the children at the Kangeta Daycare Centre

Special points of interest:

- KANGETA DAYCARE CENTRE IS LOCATED IN THE TOWNSHIP OF KANGETA IN CENTRAL KENYA
- THE SISTERS OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD IN CONJUNCTION WITH BEKIDS AUSTRALIA PROVIDE A SAFE EDUCATIONAL ENVIRONMENT FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH WHOSE POVERTY AND HANDICAP HAVE PREVENTED THEM ATTENDING SCHOOL.

Inside this issue:

NICKEY & BECCI AT THE KANGETA DAYCARE	1
THE PLAYGROUND	2
THE DISPENSARY AND MOBILE CLINIC	2
BASKET WEAVING WITH THE WOMEN’S GROUP	3
PHOTOS	3
SPECIAL THANKS	4

Volunteers in Action

The Playground



Women from the Kangeta community take turns helping with construction of the new Day Care Centre

The playground was completed, much to the great excitement of the children of the Kangeta Daycare Centre who lined up for a turn on the swings and other play equipment at every possible opportunity. Our members also brought with them a whole raft of play equipment – as much as could fit their luggage plus the budgeted excess! You can imagine Becci's horror when her luggage got lost for 10 days!!

The playground was built on the grounds of the Kangeta Daycare centre. Nickey and Becci raised funds from friends, work mates and family to purchase all the equipment which included swings, climbing ropes, frames, volleyball nets, skipping ropes, totem tennis, table tennis, bats and many balls.

Minara Resources, their employer, donated \$1600 toward the costs of the playground. Ross Jayne, of Minara Resources donated a mountain bike and **Coffee Connection (Malaga Markets)** a coffee hamper for quick raffle run at Murrin Murrin Minesite (Becci and Nickey's workplace). **The Playroom (Osborne Park)** also kindly donated equipment.

A very special thank you to William of Kangeta Township and his team of trades- people who sourced materials and provided labour for the erection of the swing frames and volleyball posts. It made for a true community experience.

RIGHT: Children enjoying the new playground



ABOVE: Becci and Nickey helping secure the volleyball posts
RIGHT: William securing the volleyball net



BE KIDS WORKS WITH AND FOR CHILDREN TO IMPROVE THEIR SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC ENVIROMENT

The Dispensary and Mobile Clinic

Becci and Nickey volunteered part of their time at the St Josephs dispensary, run by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd, who also run the Day-care Centre. The dispensary provides free immunizations, AIDS tests and treats patients of common ailments and diseases. The mobile clinic provides general medical care to children, women and babies in remote localities.

schools in the Kangeta region, witnessing first hand the health problems faced by children.



Sister Lucy Kanjira (WEP Coordinator) with Lydia Naitore's youngest child at Kangeta Centre

Becci spent a very emotional day with Sister Esther and her assistant in the mobile clinic which visited three



ABOVE: Young boy attending the mobile clinic



ABOVE: Young Boy peering through the building waiting for his turn
LEFT: Becci, Assistant treating a patient in the mobile



Special Edition

Basket Weaving with the Women's Empowerment Group

Nickey and Becci both participated in the basket weaving workshops with the local women in the community. These workshops are run in one of the rooms built by **Be Kids** for the Daycare Centre.

The program is designed to train young single mothers with skills not only in weaving but provide a forum to build self esteem and confidence.

The group meets daily at the Daycare Centre. Most of the women complete a basket a week.

These beautiful baskets are sold at local markets and can be purchased at our **Be Kids Community Fair** to be held in Fremantle on 15 November 2008. Nickey weaved relentlessly with the aim of completing a basket before she left – and this she did!!



LEFT: Nickey with Margaret and her completed basket



ABOVE: Nickey with basket weaving

LEFT : A lady who participates in the basket weaving workshop at the Kangeta Daycare Centre



Orientation Day at the Girls Vocational School run by the Good Shepherd Sisters at Kangeta

Photos



ABOVE AND BELOW: Girls and Boys dancing and singing songs about daily life in Kangeta, often addressing social issues



ABOVE AND BELOW: Becci amongst the children of the kangeta Daycare Centre.



Australian volunteers Nickey and Becci with the children of the Kangeta Daycare Centre.

BE KIDS IS

DEDICATED TO HELPING COMMUNITIES OVERCOME POVERTY AND DISEASE THROUGH SELF-RELIANCE AND EMPOWERMENT PROGRAMS



BE KIDS AUSTRALIA

Be Kids Australia Inc
PO BOX 1054
WILLAGEE CENTRAL
WA 6156

Phone: +61 8 9337 1735
E-mail:
joan@bekidsaustralia.com.au

Be Kids Australia

BE KIDS works with and for children to improve their social and economic environment. The organisation is dedicated to helping communities overcome poverty and disease through self-reliance and empowerment programs that provide essential needs such as food, shelter, clean water, healthcare, education, and employment.

BE KIDS is 100% volunteer so all funds raised are put towards our projects.

**For more information on Be Kids, visit the website
www.bekids.org**

Special thanks to

- Minara Resources
- Coffee Connection, Malaga Markets
- Ross Jayne of Minara Resources
- The Playroom, Osbourne Park
- William of Kangeta Township
- Sisters of the Good Shepard Sister Lucy, little Sister Lucy and Sister Esther for their support in making Becci and Nickey's stay at Kangeta memorable
- AND finally the CHILDREN, TEACHERS AND SOCIAL WORKERS at the Day Care Centre