



WELCOME to **bricks + cartwheels'** first newsletter! 2008 is shaping up to be a big year with our sights firmly set on our commitment to the community of Katolo in Kenya. We hope you enjoy this edition of **b+c news**.

The b+c team have been busy over the summer in Sydney. We are in the final stages of completing the Development Proposal. This strategic document will assist our team to develop all aspects of the Secondary School project - **design intent, sustainability, funding, education, risk management, community training and school management**. It will be available to download from our website soon.

We're also developing a masterplan for the School and research remains a priority. **We're currently looking in to green energy and waste systems and innovative schools from across the globe.**

## thinking of kenya

The ongoing political unrest in Kenya following the December elections has been a serious concern for the bricks + cartwheels team. In regular contact with our Kenyan partners and friends, we have been able to glance an insight to the situation from their experiences, a more personal viewpoint than the international media can provide. **We are so relieved that our friends in Katolo and Kisumu are safe and we share the hope that Kenya will soon return to the peaceful country we know it to be.**

Many people across the country have been killed, injured and displaced from their homes in violent outbreaks that sparked from disputed election results. President Kibaki's main opposition Raila Odinga believes, like many Kenyans, that he was cheated of victory.

Kofi Annan, former UN Secretary General has mediated talks between Kibaki and Odinga in Nairobi for over a month. **We were ecstatic to hear the news last week that Kibaki and Odinga have signed a power sharing deal** where Odinga will assume the new position of Prime Minister.

Currently, the community of Katolo is located within a relatively stable area of Kenya. We do not anticipate that the political unrest will cause a major disruption to our immediate plans for the Secondary School for Girls. We hope to deliver promising news of progress regarding the new parliament soon. We remain committed to working with Katolo to ensure a brighter future for the girls and the whole community.



## mud brick making in mudgee

Last October the bricks + cartwheels team spent a whole weekend in Mudgee learning the art of mud brick making. bricks + cartwheels has recently been exploring the potential of using **stabilised soil block** as a construction technique for the Secondary School for Girls, Kenya.

**The weekend at Mudgee was the perfect opportunity to test the construction methods of building mud bricks from scratch.** bricks + cartwheels learned the ins and outs of building mud bricks. We did it all, from digging out the sludge from the dam to mixing and packing the mud hard into the moulds with our hands.

It was great to learn exactly what materials, equipment, time and labour is needed to build the mud bricks.

A big thank you to Rosby Vineyard for hosting the b+c girls.

## let us introduce... JOAB OTHATCHER

Joab is the Director (with his beautiful wife Philomena) of our Kenyan partner organisation - TEMAK. He and Philomena have two children- Jolene and Barry both in school near Kisumu. Joab lives and works in Kisumu, running the extensive programs of TEMAK and is the current President of Rotary Kisumu. He grew up in Katolo and maintains strong connections and relationships with the community ensuring that bricks + cartwheels have the latest news from Kenya. Joab is passionate about empowering young women and this is evident both in the way he encourages, supports and loves all the TEMAK girls - and the way he deals with the bricks + cartwheels girls too! We can't wait to get back to Kenya to see the Othatchers again- they are one inspirational family!



Harriet Stone - bricks + cartwheels' queen of fundraising

## schools support katolo...your school can help out too!

### ravenswood gives uniforms to katolo

Ravenswood School for Girls in Sydney has kindly **donated their old school uniform** to the new school for girls in Katolo. It is a very opportune moment to commence a sister school relationship between the girls in Katolo and Ravenswood. The new Ravenswood uniform will be introduced over the coming years and students will return their old uniforms to the school uniform centre so that we can send them to Kenya. Thank you girls!

### schools for school

Ravenswood is the first school to jump on board! We would love to get many more involved SO get 'back to school'!! If you think your old **school would be interested to fundraise** or assist the community of Katolo in any way let us know!

**email Harriet:**  
[fundraising@bricksandcartwheels.org](mailto:fundraising@bricksandcartwheels.org)

## fundraising events...

**bricks + cartwheels** hosted their **first fundraiser** at the Marlborough Hotel, Newtown on the 29th November. It was a fabulous night! **Over 300 people attended and we raised \$6700** with every cent going to building the Secondary School for Girls.

The annual **Sydney Gentlemen's Ball** was held at Pruniers, Woollahra on the 15th December last year. A big THANK YOU to all of the 2007 Gents Ball committee and to all those that bought raffle tickets in support of bricks + cartwheels - **a massive \$5000 was raised!**

## b+c bags

A shout out to the generosity of **The University of Sydney Faculty of Architecture, Design and Planning** who have provided us with tonnes of b+c eco bags. They have been a fantastic addition to our fundraisers so far and will be invaluable at future events. Thankyou! Keep an eye out for them on the streets...



Kirstin and James Hume-Grimm at the Marlborough

## every donation counts

Cindy Harpur works at Greenpeace Australia Pacific and instigated the **great idea of donating to b+c monthly**. Whilst she insists that it is only a small amount that gets deducted from her bank account each month, **a little goes a long way in Kenya and her continuous support means so much**. Thank you, Cindy! If you'd like to donate monthly too, let us know.

[info@bricksandcartwheels.org](mailto:info@bricksandcartwheels.org)

## upcoming events

We are currently **planning the 2008 Charity Ball**. As we are new to this we need your help! If you have been to a similar event or **if you have any FAB ideas** or suggestions on how we can make this a night to remember please send us your thoughts.

[fundraising@bricksandcartwheels.org](mailto:fundraising@bricksandcartwheels.org)

## huge thanks to hurricane

The bricks + cartwheels girls were delighted to check their email on returning from a Christmas break at the beach to find an extremely generous donation in our bank account. **Thank you so much to Hurricane Event Management and Adam Spencer**- what a perfect end to the first year of bricks + cartwheels! With kind and thoughtful people like you, we can continue to work alongside the community of Katolo.