

## PROGRESS REPORT – 1 JANUARY 2000 – 29 JULY 2000



*"The healthy social life is found when in the mirror of each human soul the whole community finds its reflection and when in the community the virtue of each one is living" – Steiner*

Bongaletu Community School - Before (1998) and Now (June 2000) is situated among a squatter settlement in Phillipi, Nyanga on what used to be a builders' rubble dump. The school was founded by volunteer teachers and parents in 1980. Salaries were not heard of until recently. This school community, perhaps more than any other, represents for us the spirit of South African people at work.



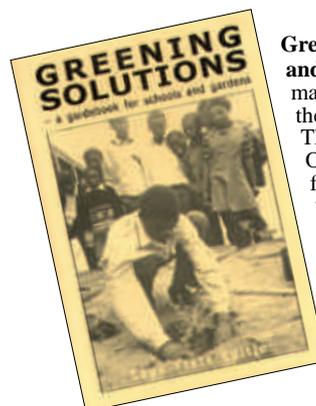
Dear Friends

The Year 2000 is halfway over. Spring is around the corner. We remain convinced that, contrary to the media reports of calumny, crime, corruption and so on, the majority of the people of our beautiful land are good, industrious, resourceful and courageous. Bongaletu Community School, for us, says it all. All that remains is for enough of us to roll up our sleeves and *make* the miracle happen in *every* corner of the land. And so we will. In the meantime, here is our report for the last seven months. It includes some items from late 1999 which could not be included in Newsletter # 23.

## THE CAPE FLATS GREENING PROGRAMME (CFGP)

### Overview

Since January, we have completed 15 projects, of which 9 were Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) Projects and 6 were Greening Projects - all at schools. We have 23 written applications on the waiting list from schools, educare centres, training centres, youth groups and church groups. Besides these, we are involved with planning and implementing a pilot Green Streets project in Khayelitsha with the City of Tygerberg and the Sustainable Energy and Environment Development project. This pilot is focusing on an initial 200 newly built households with a view to expanding into a further 1 800 households. Planning for Arbor Week 2000 in September is well advanced and includes a further 3 School Greening projects and another Green Streets implementation in Nyanga. The next newsletter will contain a report on Arbor Week 2000. The environmental movement in the grassroots is gathering momentum! Here are a few highlights, with photographs ...



**Greening Solutions - a guidebook for schools and gardens - Cape Flats edition.** This work manual has been produced by ABALIMI, with the support of OLD MUTUAL, The GREEN TRUST/WWF and BOTANICAL SOCIETY OF S.A. It is filled with practical ideas drawn from years of experience on grounds planning, water-wise indigenous landscaping, lawn establishment, fertilisation, plant varieties, recycling, supplier contacts and more. It is not yet available to the general public, but is on trial at selected schools and organisations on the Cape Flats. A limited number of copies are available to Cape Flats practitioners at R45/copy.



*Left and Right: The Step-by-Step Creche, Khayelitsha, February 2000.* Francis Oeser of the N/O FUND sponsored this greening project in 1999. In the first picture are (L to R) Nosisa (ABALIMI), Thelma (Creche Principal), Belinda & Rob (ABALIMI). In the background you can see the white sand which previously constituted the creche playground. The creche is now another green jewel in the desert of Khayelitsha - a place of joy for the children in an otherwise barren landscape. The majority of the trees and plants are indigenous and the children also have a new playground with swings and a mini-slide. The creche was built with the assistance of the Khayelitsha Education Resource and Information Centre (KERIC) and a vegetable garden is being established with the help of the Quaker Peace Centre. ABALIMI supported the general greening. This is a good example of how various NGO's can work together on one project.



*Right: Teachers and Pupils of Isiphiwo Primary School, Harare, Khayelitsha with Mrs Delleie Moorad of TOTAL Cape Town at the launch of the school's Total Transformation of their grounds from desert to green - April 2000.* Isiphiwo school is one of the new schools built by Government since 1994. It has an ILUD Plan for its grounds and is vigorously pushing ahead with a complete transformation in one of the most desolate areas in Khayelitsha. Over 700 indigenous trees, shrubs and groundcovers were planted over 12 days. This is the seventh school over as many years that TOTAL Cape Town has helped us to transform into an educational oasis.



*Bottom: Education MEC Helen Zille presents an Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) diagram to one of 7 school representatives a ceremony on 10th February 2000.* In the foreground is an example of a 3-D school workshop model, from which plans are derived. All seven schools involved are part of the integrated Service Land Project (iSLP). This is a leading presidential urban development initiative with whom ABALIMI is working closely. A typical ILUD workshop runs over 5-7 days. The workshop assists each school to forge a common vision for sustainable school grounds development. Furthermore, the ILUD gives every school a powerful fundraising tool, with phased development plans and budgets.

*Above: An Integrated Land Use Design (ILUD) workshop in progress at Mvula Primary School, Nyanga in April 2000.* Parents, pupils and teachers design together their future school grounds and in the process learn about indigenous, energy efficient and water-wise grounds development.

*Right: Glen Adams, W/Cape Minister of Environment & Culture and Rev. William Bantom, Metropolitan Mayor, plant a tree together with Councillors at the launch of the State of the Environment Report at Vusamanzi Public Primary School in Khayelitsha, December 1999.* ABALIMI was contracted by the CMC to ensure that the tree-planting project at the school, which was part of the launch, was properly planned and went off smoothly.



*Above: The Manyanani Peace Park community action group, led by Christina Kaba, has been very busy with various projects which have an impact in the wider community.* The group obtained R50 000 from TELKOM to develop its Sewing and Beadwork group (1st & 2nd picture) and for extending the catering facilities at the Park. Both these activities are creating work for unemployed women in the community. In the last picture, Christina and the Tygerberg City Mayor, Alderman Clifford Sitonga, turn the sod on the 26th July 2000 for the first public swimming pool in the history of Khayelitsha. The Manyanani Peace Park community, supported by an appeal for funds in the UK, has had a major role in lobbying the Council to build the pool years ahead of original plans. Associated to the swimming pool will be Khayelitsha Central Park!

# THE URBAN AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME (UAP)

## Overview

Survival/subsistence home food gardeners continue to be our largest client group. At the moment about 200 per month pour into our township nurseries to purchase low-cost manure, seed and seedlings. With unemployment on the rise, we expect the numbers to increase significantly in the next year. More men are joining the ranks of the survival gardeners, usually the preserve of women while men look for jobs. The demand for training is constant. Since January we trained 72 people from 15

community organisations and groups. School Feeding Scheme Gardens are a new challenge for us and five schools have been assisted to get started recently. Feeding scheme donors are putting pressure on school feeding schemes to become more developmental and sustainable. Community Garden projects are on the increase, with new applications for support coming in monthly. We are currently assisting 9 Community Garden groups (including gardens established by other NGO's) at various stages of their

development. Vegetable Market Gardens are the next logical step. The facts and research prove that acceptable incomes can be created on very small areas of land (approx 750m2) in the Cape Flats. We continue in our efforts to upgrade skills and production capability at the Community Gardens so that members can in due course take advantage of this opportunity. Job creation through non-food-Market Gardens are a reality. This is being demonstrated by the Peace Lily Project, featured below.



*Above: Training in progress, March 2000.* These pictures were taken at the SCAGA Gardens, in Khayelitsha, where a mixed group of community members from different groups and students from SHAWCO were put through their paces. Since January, 72 people from 15 groups and organisations have been trained.

*Bottom: Sindiswe Mahusa (ABALIMI) with two of the men from Eden Gardens.* A group of four men are cultivating land in "the wilds" outside Khayelitsha. They have given up on finding formal work and are determined to make a living off the land. ABALIMI has so far provided technical and marketing support to them. We are encouraging them to establish a more formal project in future. These men, who represent very many others, have re-inspired us with their courage and resilience in the face of a hopeless search for work.



*Left: The Peace Lily Project is beginning to produce beautiful Lilies for sale.* Members of the community, with Lilies in hand, stand in front of the signboard which tells it all. Behind the signboard can be seen their new packing shed/cooling room with a glimpse of the Lily Fields in the background. In early 2000, BP Southern Africa agreed to become the project sponsor. When you see Peace Lilies for sale on the streets or in the stores, remember that they support job creation for homeless people as well as conserve this important plant for future generations. If you are interested in buying Peace Lilies in season contact Brett Young at 683 0018.



*Right: Produce for the market.* Sara Litt (featured with vegetables and community members), a volunteer agronomist from Belgium, assisted us to complete another section of our Market Garden research before going back to Belgium in December 99. With her help, a very precise record of inputs and outputs at the SCAGA gardens was made, which confirmed and continued previous research by Anneke Fermont et al. She also helped us to begin making contact with outlets who can retail organic produce from the townships.





Above and below: **The German Minister of the Environment, Jürgen Trittin, paid us a visit in December 99, along with about 30 VIP's, security and media people.** This was quite an event! Minister Trittin (tall man with moustache in centre) donated 10 tons of precious manure to the SCAGA gardens and new Football and Basketball uniforms along with balls, to the sports teams at the Manyanani Peace Park. Also because of his visit, **Containers For Africa** gave one of our Community Garden groups a converted shipping container at a subsidised price to use as a storage room and office.



**Bon Voyage to our beloved international Research Volunteers - Sarah Litt (Belgium), Esther Busquett (Holland) and Jeroen Schlieffers (Holland)** pictured here in our Observatory office, tying up their research information before departure in December. Sarah, already mentioned above, conducted research on our Market Gardening process, Esther completed Phase 1 of what we hope will turn out to be an extended investigation into household nutrition in relation to home vegetable gardens and Jeroen finished up an examination of the motivations behind the recently emerging youth environmental movement. Other key research persons who worked through ABALIMI were **Katrien Matchke (Germany)** who did sociological studies in our community groups and **Ristin Thomasson (Sweden)** who came on a recce to establish contacts in the grassroots for what we hope will become a socio-political research project.



**VISITORS DAYS - Visiting Friends at the Masibambane Community Garden, Siyazakha Primary School, Phillipi, in October 99.** Including the advertised Visitors Day tours in October and November 99, up to the present, we have taken over 200 folks into the townships to see our projects. Feedback from the tours has been overwhelmingly positive. Visitors have included international and local politicians, university groups and people from all walks of life. **NEW DATES FOR YOUR DIARY: Tuesday 24th October 2000 9 a.m. - 2 p.m. or Thursday 9th November 2000 2 p.m. - 5 p.m.** Remember to bring your own lunch or refreshments, sun hats, jackets and sun tan lotion. Bookings can be made at our Khayelitsha Centre with Belinda Breedzke, Nosisa Merile or Sindiswe Mahusa at 361 3497.

**If you would like to do a more up-market township tour** which includes a few ABALIMI supported projects, a foot safari in Langa and an optional traditional lunch - please contact Bay-Flora Tours, Brett Young at 683 0018.

## NOTICEBOARD

- n ABALIMI A.G.M. is in Observatory at 3 p.m. on Sunday 24th September. If you would like to come please RSVP: Roland Welte at 447 1256 or Marc Stonestreet at 447 9113 between 10 a.m. - 4 p.m. An agenda will then be posted or faxed to you.
- n INVITATION TO BECOME AN ABALIMI MANAGEMENT BOARD MEMBER: We are looking for a few more people to join the brave core group who currently carry the responsibility for the wellbeing of ABALIMI's overall legal, policy and financial matters. We would be particularly interested in people with expertise in NGO Legal and/or Labour fields, Financial Management, Nursery Business Management, Micro-Organic Market Gardening, Fundraising, NGO Management, Urban Environmental Development, Organisation Development and Urban Community Development. The Board currently meets monthly, but this will change to once every three months in the next year, with a delegated Financial sub-committee meeting once a month. If you have the time and would like to make a concrete contribution to transforming the environment and lives of people in the Cape Flats, please send your CV with an expression of interest to the ABALIMI Management Board, c/o The Director, Private Bag X12, OBSERVATORY 7935 or contact Rob Small at 477 1256 for more information.
- n SHOPPING LIST: we are trying to improve our office and training facilities at our township garden centres - without spending lots of money! Does anyone have any of the following items which they might wish to donate? A storage Cupboard • Carpets • Trestle tables • Desks and Chairs • an Electric Fridge • a tea Urn • Filing Cabinets • Asbestos Heaters • an Answering-Fax Machine that is simple to use (remember those days?). If you have any of these items please contact: Landy Wright, Nosisa Merile or Sindiswe Mahusa at our Khayelitsha centre at 361 3497.

### THANK YOU

- The GREEN TRUST/WWF for your VERY special long-term partnership support.
- Outgoing Board members Alwin Hrabovsky, Daphne Barends, Leslie Hurst and Phillippe Souchon who spent many hours and days working for ABALIMI.
- OLD MUTUAL for this newsletter.
- TOTAL Cape Town for their 7th Total Green School!
- CWD-Catholic Welfare & Development for R25 000 to support environmental youth clubs.
- THE COLD CHAIN for your ongoing R1 000/m for micro-veg gardens.
- Mr I.F. Reddihough for a magnificent Millennium donation.
- DWAF- Department of Water Affairs & Forestry for pledging 3 000 trees for Arbor Week 2000.
- To our many Friends - Individuals, Clubs, Small Businesses, Social & Church Groups who respond regularly to our newsletters with interest and to our appeals for ongoing support. Your donations - in kind and in cash, great and small are an endless inspiration to us.
- MISEREOR for your genuine partnership and support over the years.
- Lee Donlin for another most generous donation and always gentle encouragement.
- JAMBO INTERNATIONAL for another US\$300 for training.
- Joseph Rochford & Sons Ltd for £250 for the Cape Flats Tree Project.
- EQUANT for US\$ 7000 for a Market Garden Developer.
- Jan & Martin Dawkins for R1 000 after a telephone report-back in March.
- PADDY WILLIS who besides organising the EQUANT donation, contributed R1000 from his own pocket.
- The Rotary Club of Paarden Eiland who are contributing R500/m and going for a matching grant in favour of ABALIMI.
- THE PEOPLE'S DEVELOPMENT TRUST for a wonderful donation out of the blue.
- Francis Oeser of the N/O FUND who has given most generously again this year, this time towards school drip irrigation systems.
- BP SOUTHERN AFRICA for getting behind the Peace Lily Project.
- The S.A Support Group for R3 000 towards organic fertilisers.
- THE CBNP for coming through with the balance of funds for subsidised agricultural inputs to survival gardeners.
- Shadowlands Nursery for 1 000 cuttings.
- CAPELANDS NURSERY for plants.
- BETTY LANG of the GREEN ROOM for your loving devotion to preparing this newsletter beyond the call of duty, sometimes in the long hours of the night and always at the eleventh hour.
- ABRI MEIRING who took ABALIMI under his wing and laid the foundation for our good relationship with OLD MUTUAL.
- Synchronicity Foundation for US\$1 000.
- OUR CHANNEL ISLANDS FRIEND - your wish list is getting underway slowly but surely.
- Murray & Roberts Limited who gave Bongaletu School a large donation to complete their greening process started in 1998.
- TELKOM who continue to support The Manyanani Peace Park with work-creation projects and the Peace Park sports teams.
- Mr Johan Terblanche who donated ploughing to The Peace Lily Project.
- MCG INDUSTRIES for crates for the Peace Lily Project.
- Metrorail & Durbanville Estate for Peace Lily stock from their land.