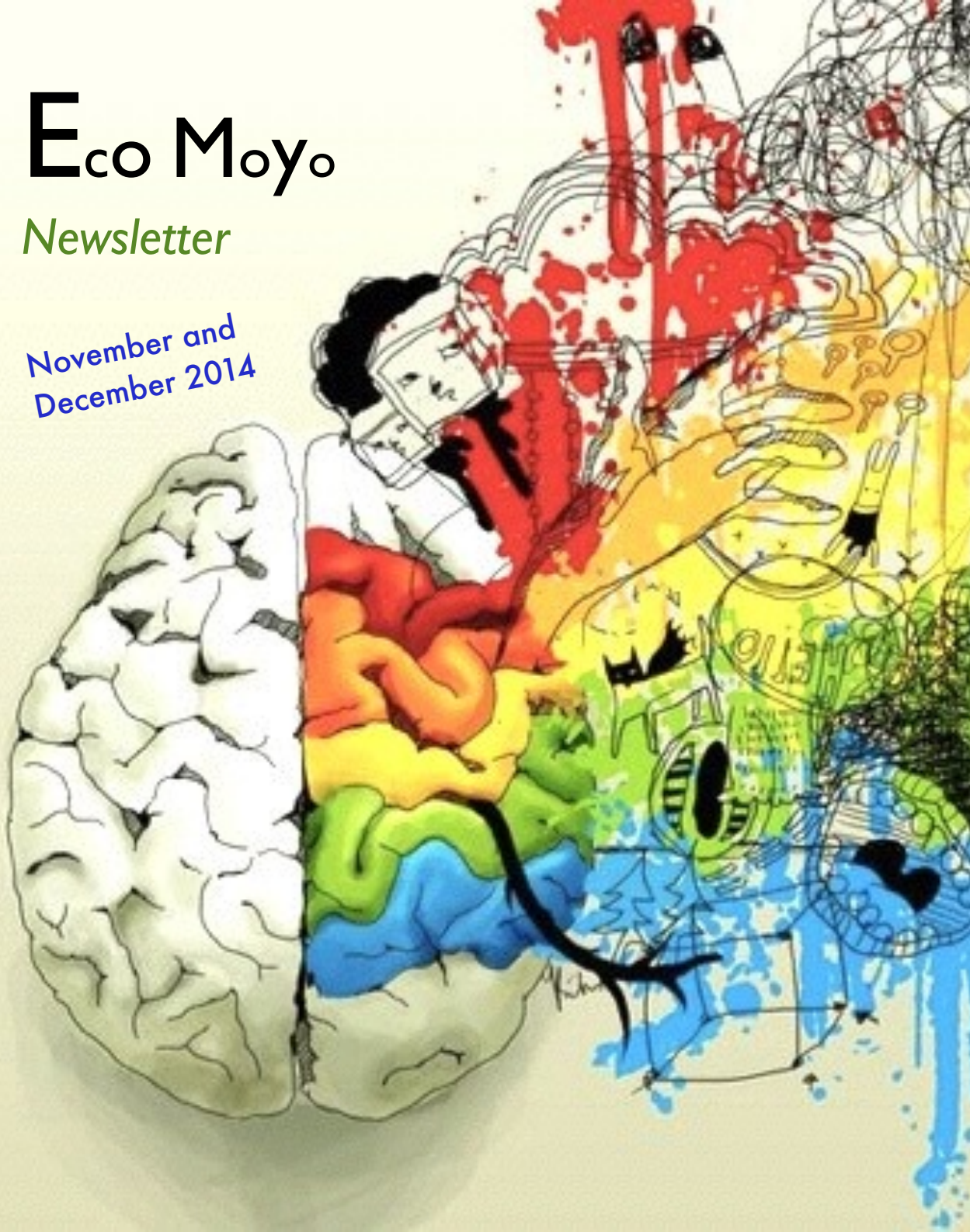


# Eco Moyó

## Newsletter

November and  
December 2014



## Highlights:

- New School Facilities
- “Teach A Man To Fish” Conference
- Cecilia Finishes Teachers Training
- Asumptor gets ID
- Learning Permaculture
- Project Research
- Fundraisers and Donations
- In need of new uniforms
- Christmas

# Happy New Year!

Since the last newsletter (October), so much has happened. I (Lindsay) am back in Kenya, reunited with the kids after 3 months of work in Norway, we have yet again switched locations for our school (to the most amazing space that we are currently fixing up before school starts on Jan 6th), and we have a visitor who is teaching us permaculture!

The ongoing business with our plot in Kilifi has been a nightmare to deal with, but now it really, really, really looks like we are finalising the deal after countless visits to the lands office, etc.

We have visited local projects to learn more about aquaponic fish farming, education for youth and adults, and organic farming.

Christoph (the architect) is making sketches of the school and towards the end of this month me and Lee (our permaculture guy) are attending a week long course, to learn how about natural building techniques and materials!

Moving forward and feeling very excited about this year!

All the best,

- Lindsay Sanner and Eco Moyo Crew

(The pics on the left are from christmas baking day)





# New School facilities

Since September we have been renting a few small rooms for our school around the area where most of the kids live. However, as Annet was looking for apartments (for her and I to live closer to the school), Trizah tipped her about a house not far from her own. It was way too big and expensive for any of us, but then the idea came; what if we moved together and switched the school here as well?



Although this meant higher costs for transporting the kids, living together and having our office and school on the same compound, would cut expenses.



Off we go....

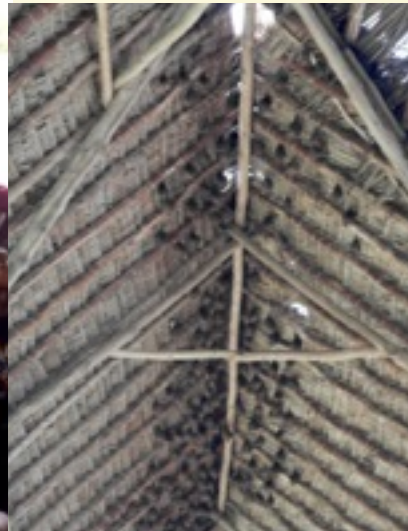
The school area

Our house

And a huge field for growing everything!



The kids and staff were very happy to see the enormous space on their first visit. However, the several hundred bats living under the thatched roof got most of the kids attention...



We have a good dialog with the parents, who are all so happy for the progress of our school. The left picture is from a visit we payed them before christmas to discuss how we will transport the kids every day.

The mud house in the background is how most of the kids live.





Although school finished in the middle of November, every Friday the kids have been collected in a bus and taken to school (and our house) for playing, watching films, painting, baking and helping us fix up the place to be ready for January. Lego is by far the biggest hit!





# “Teach A Man To Fish”

As some of you might know, we aim to eventually become a self sustainable school by growing our own food, producing our own power and managing small businesses to provide income for daily running costs.

“Teach A Man To Fish” is a global NGO that works to promote sustainable education. The latest annual conference was last held in Uganda this late october and Annet traveled to attend the 3 day venue where educators, policymakers, business people, philanthropists, social entrepreneurs meet and discuss how schools can provide income for its operational costs.



Annet presented our project and attended workshops about everything from management and financial plans to community involvement and cultural challenges.

NGOs from around the world, joined to share ideas and knowledge on how to transform young people from *job seekers* to *job creators* through educational and profitable school businesses.



## Cecilia finishes Teachers Training

In the middle of December, Cecilia finished her last exams for Teachers Training Program (Montessori, Kindergarten level)

She has worked very hard for almost a year now, with the last semester spent in assessment at a different school.

She is finally be back with us again from school start and will be responsible for our kindergarden students.



## Asumptor gets her ID

After almost 2 years without owning an ID (because her ex-husband burned it), she is finally on board with a new one.



In Kenya, many people have no ID and no birth certificate as their birth was never registered in any hospital.

Asumptor on the other hand was only able to get a new one by visiting the village cheif in the area where she originates from to confirm her identity.

This demanded money and time - which we gave her!



# Learning Permaculture

Since the middle of November, Lee Pointon has been our visitor, teaching us about permaculture. Together with the kids he has prepared soil and compost for the school gardens. When school starts, we are ready for planting all kinds of different vegetables and fruits!



Now that we finally have a space (temporary until we move to our new plot) to grow our own vegetables, we will be focusing on teaching the kids about ecology and waste management.



As the soil on our premises is basically just made of sand, Lee decided to order different types of manure in addition to better soil for building good soil as this is key for successful yields.



In addition to preparing the school area, we have been busy fixing the house where some of us in the staff are living. Plants and seedlings from our old nursery at my swahili school have been transferred and planted in our backyard where we have built vertical structures.



Old nursery (Patrick and Annet)



Making beds (Annet, Asumptor, Lee, me)



Making climbing structure for beans and tomato with Makao (a boy from the orphanage I volunteered with when I first came to Kenya).



We are growing climbing beans, carrots, beetroot, onion, lettuce, tomato, pumpkin, zucchini, cucumber, ginger, basil, thyme, and this is only the beginning! It's been hard to research what grows well in this tropic climate online, also the ideal kind of soil varies for different species. So we have to test!



# Project Research

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We came to hear about a certain Carol who has worked with educating poor kids in the area, so we decided to pay her a visit! We met with her and her brother who showed us around their school (kindergarden and secondary level as well as vocational training for youths).



Mechanics



Carpentry



Welding



IT



Sewing (laptop bags from old sement bags)!



They are both extremely warm and welcoming people. They were happy to answer all our absurd questions about everything from building costs to management and student life.

Carol told us her story of how she has struggled a lot with the local community when she first started 15 years back. However today she is a respected and admired woman and we could see why!

There was a lot of constructing happening while we were there and they also used adobe earth bricks to build with! Interestingly, the Japanese government and a company from Bosnia have been major sponsors in building the school!

We will definitely come back and spend more time with this amazing crowd!



Kindergarden outside



- and inside



New toilets



Earth bricks (Adobe)



Workshop area



The gang



## Kilifi Backpackers (“Distant Relatives”)

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When we move to our new plot (Ezamoyo in Kilifi) this ecolodge will be only 20 min away. This is a backpacker that focuses on natural building techniques and is also where PRI (Permaculture Research Institute)Kenya hold their workshops on the coast. The place is filled with bamboo, earth-houses, a nursery and will be a great place for us to come and learn. Also, when we eventually get visitors, it’s an amazing place for them to stay at, they have a pool and ocean view!



Cob (rammed earth) house with traditional thatched roofing



Shower in the heart of bamboo!



Plant Nursery



Cob building, compost toilets

## Fundi Kipusa!

Lee and Patrick have been visiting different fish farm projects and came across a man who works with aquaponics not far from our school. This guy Heino has made a system where fish, plants and chickens live together in perfect harmony, benefitting from each others nutrients and functions. The place has been a demonstration site for students and the public. He has also developed the “I Pot” a vertical garden bed that recycles its own water - a great school project!



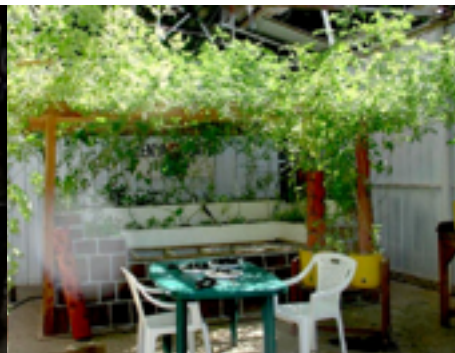
Lee and Patrick



Aquaponic system with I pots



Chicken house in the system



Aquaponic system with pergola made from I pots growing food!





# Fundraisers and Donations

Thanks to all of you have thought of Eco Moyo during Christmas! We have really been in need of this support when fixing up our new place and meeting other expenses with development of our new plot. Apart from individuals

## Nokbra Design

Gábor Magyari has a Christmas Market where 15% of the sales price went to Eco Moyo!

Nokbra Design creates items of recycled materials as you can see on the picture to the right.



## Advent Calendar

Eco Moyo Sandøya is a group of people who live on the same island as my family in Norway.

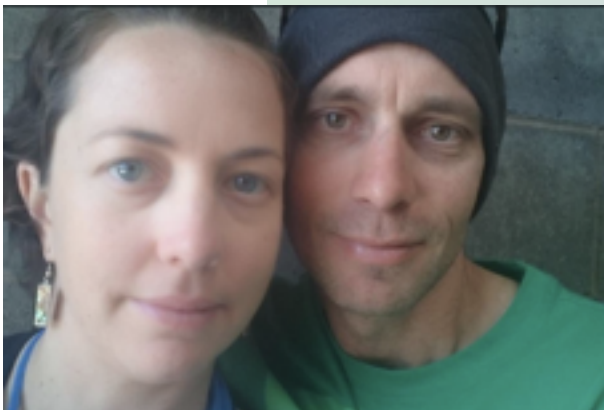
They initiated a calendar where other residents could buy tickets. Prices were collected from things people made and donations from local shops.

One of the woman there even collected 2 laptops from her sons company!!!



Find them on  
Facebook:

Eco Moyo Sandøya



## Eleanor and Darren Burton

Darren met Lee (our permaculture visitor) at a Permaculture Course in Australia.

When he heard about Eco Moyo, he decided together with his wife to host a dinner party to support our work!



## My sister's Class

Andrea (left) and her class won a school competition and decided the following:

Eat pizza and support Eco Moyo!!

Thanks guys!



# In need of new uniforms

As you can see on the pics below our uniforms are really worn out. We gave the job of sewing the uniforms to a woman we wanted to promote, only to realise, she was a miserable seamstress... The shoes were also of miserable quality and all of them have been glued and mended... its time for a makeover!



That is why we are making new ones and this time we will invest in some better materials and get the Maasai people to make our shoes from tires (most durable sandals you will ever know). A uniform is important in Kenya - to show where the student belongs, to the community and ideas for designs are many



We asked the kids to draw their dream uniform and we have been very inspired! However, we are tight on cash these days so if there is anyone who wished to donate for this purpose, shout out :) We need to research prices on materials, but we are looking at roughly 1500 Kenyan Shilling per child.



# Christmas!



Towards Christmas we baked gingerbread cookies, cakes and played games together with the kids. Most of them are not familiar with the concept of an oven and were fascinated by the process! One of the mothers came and made traditional doughnuts, but it wasn't until Ingvild showed up with bags filled with candy and presents that the Christmas madness kicked in :)

Once again Happy New Year!

- Eco Moyo Crew