



FEBRUARY + MARCH 2016

Eco Moyo

NEWSLETTER



- Kids first visit to new plot
- Borehole Survey
- Cob Workshop + Volunteers



Summary

Although much has happened since our previous newsletter (2 months ago), many plans have also been put on hold. Lee and myself had an accident with our motorbike (no fast driving, just a heavy load and a sandy road) - we simply hit a patch of soft sand balance and were both injured. Unfortunately, this forced us to cancel a natural building workshop that had started so well, with a great bunch of volunteers helping us build the first classroom on the new plot, we have all the cash from the Eco Moyo auction...oh well, the planets have spoken, time to slow down.

However, we have been far from idle. These following activities have recently taken place:

- Conducted a survey for a borehole
- Introduced our project to the local church/community
- Volunteers helped start building our first classroom (this was left half finished)
- The kids visited the plot for the first time!!!
 - Site development progress
 - Buddy (our guard dog) is cancer free!
 - Kids learn how to make coconut oil
- Norwegian Aquaponics Specialists visited our site

HAPPY READING!!

- ECO MOYO CREW



HYDROGEOLOGICAL SURVEY

At the end of February we hired a hydrologist to conduct a survey to provide us with more information about where (and if) we could expect to find fresh water on our plot. The price for doing so is a fraction of what it will cost to do the actual drilling so this was an important investment.

The groundwater quality is inferred to be about 3000 microsiemens/cm i.e. brackish. A quick google search will show that 2500 - 3000 microsiemens/cm is OK for human consumption and he told us while reviewing the report, that the water should be OK for human consumption although we are on the borderline. Only when we actually drill will we get the exact microsiemens/cm. For irrigation the water is good for salt tolerant plants and livestock can drink up to 6000 microsiemens/cm.

In short; most likely the water will be sufficient for our uses, just have to research which plants will be more suitable than others.

To drill for water in addition to piping, a pump and other equipment needed is estimated to cost between 800,000 Ksh - 1,000,000 Ksh. We are still waiting to hear from a few grants we have applied, but if they fail to get granted the money raised from the Eco Moyo auction will cover for this expense.



INTRODUCED ECO MOYO TO THE LOCAL CHURCH

Since early January we have lived on the plot, hiring many locals for casual labour in the development of the site. People are full of questions concerning what kind of school and farm we are building and we decided to pay a visit to the local church to tell everyone a bit more about what we are doing.

Lee, Patrick, Livingstone and myself attended the meeting and we were given a very warm welcome by the pastor and the assistant village chief as well as the members whom attended the service. Food was served, songs were sung, we were given local clothing as a welcoming gift and the whole shabang reminded of a big birthday party were **EVERYONE DANCED** - both the willing and unwilling :)

We were also given local Giriama names; (the dominant tribe in the area). Patrick was named Kazungu (meaning “english speaking man”), Livingstone was named Katana (meaning “man”), Lee was named Charo (meaning “traveller”), I was named Kadzo (meaning “beautiful”).

We told them about our project and answered as many questions as possible. We addressed the importance of community involvement, conserving the environment, natural building techniques to be used and work opportunities as well as the enrolment process (which we are still working on how to solve).

All in all a great day! We now get more greetings as we drive through the village and people yell out our local names. Word is spreading about our future work and the first step towards getting to know the community was very successful!



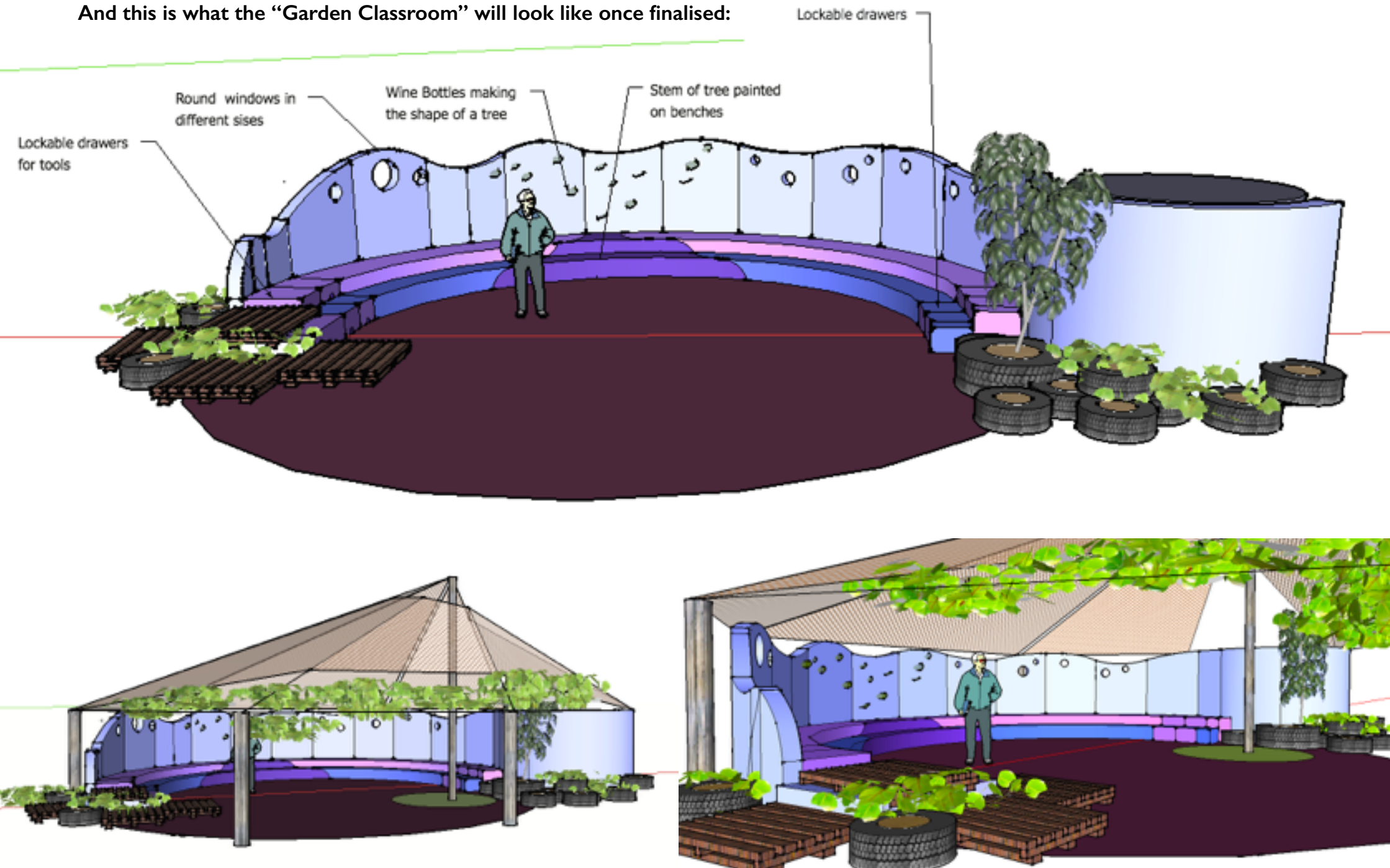
VOLUNTEERS HELPING US BUILD OUR FIRST COB CLASSROOM

In the first week of March we started building our first classroom on the new site. Approx. one year ago, Lee and myself went to a course for “Cob building” in Nanyuki in Kenya and were now excited to finally do it on our own project!

We had a great bunch of volunteers join us from Australia, Spain, Germany and Kenya. It all started so well until Lee and I had the accident with our motorbike and were unable to keep hosting the workshop... But these things happen and there is little else to do than just accept it. The project will resume in a few months when we are back from Norway/Australia.

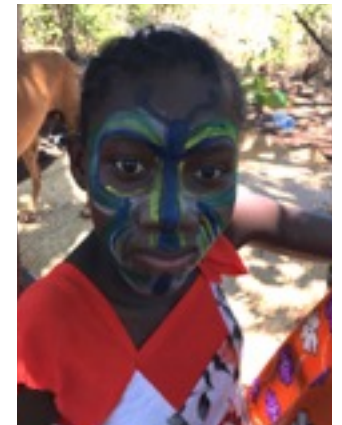


And this is what the “Garden Classroom” will look like once finalised:



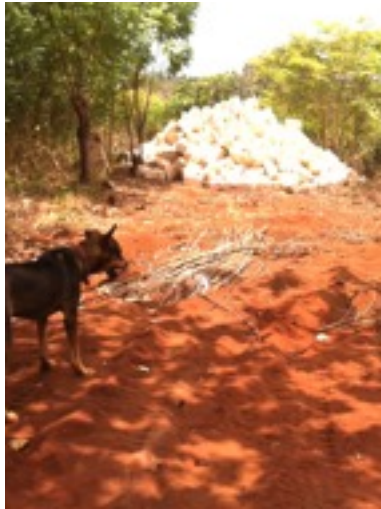
KIDS VISIT THE PLOT FOR THE FIRST TIME!!!

In March the kids finally came to see their future school and home (boarding). Unfortunately, they came in the driest part of the year, so everything was a bit “dead”... However, they really enjoyed themselves, we showed them where we intend to build classes, etc. One of the parents came as well and said she was happy the place was secure and with such a beautiful view!

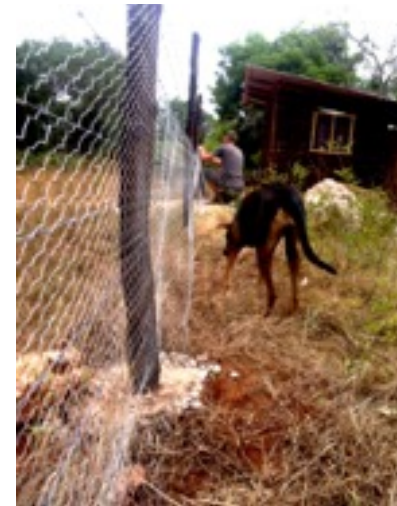


Volunteers Lexi and Rabekkah brought with them gifts for the kids as well as face paint! Butterflies, spiders, flowers and all kinds of designs were created! We ate a nice lunch and played a few games before they returned to Mtwapa in the evening.

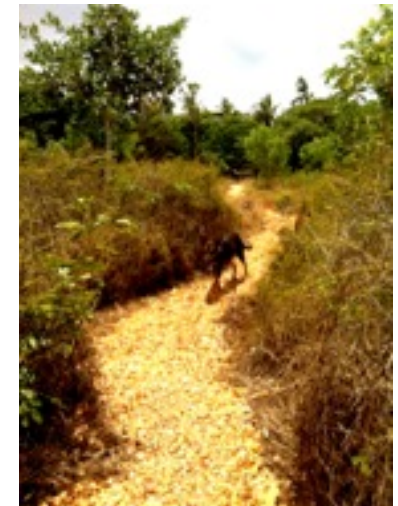
SITE DEVELOPMENT PROGRESS



Bought materials for construction of our cob classroom



Doggy-proofed the fence



Pathways on the plot



Digging into the soil for construction of road. Many tree roots to remove and the road is 300 m long... Big project - half way!



Plastering of our house and the security house using only mud and sand (local style)

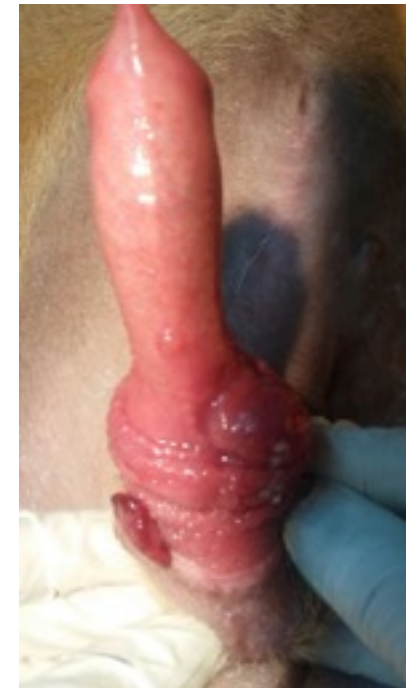


BUDDY IS CANCER FREE !!!!



Almost 2 months ago we discovered that our adopted guard dog Buddy had a rare transmittable Tumour Disease with lesions on his penis (see the pic). We were given the choice between chemo-therapy or alternatively putting him down.

Now, 5 chemo therapy treatments later, Buddy is cancer free!!! He has adapted well to our new site and is a very good guard dog!



KIDS LEARN HOW TO MAKE COCONUT OIL



We try to add extra curricular activities whenever we can, as the Kenyan syllabus is heavily focused on academic subjects.

We purchase coconuts and mangoes regularly from our neighbour at the new plot and here the teachers have engaged the kids in learning how to make coconut oil!

There are different ways of making the oil, and the kids were taught how to cold press the oil as well as boiling it. It's a time consuming process but good for them to know as the oil can be used for cooking, as a skin moisturiser and is very healthy!



AQUAPONICS MEETING

For a while now we have had ideas to build an aquaponics system at our new plot. We invited PRI Kenya as well as a couple of local guys whom are starting their own hatchery not far from us, to meet with our norwegian visitors (AqVisoR) about the idea. Everyone saw the site and we discussed possible opportunities for future development.



OTHERWISE...

WE REGISTERED WITH VIPPS!

To our Norwegian friends: we have now registered with VIPPS - a norwegian app that allows for payments/donations by using your phone and our Vipps number - so now if you feel like donating to our project, you don't have to fill in account details etc.

Vipps name: **Eco Moyo Education Centre**

Vipps Number: **10968**



ORGANISATION DETAILS

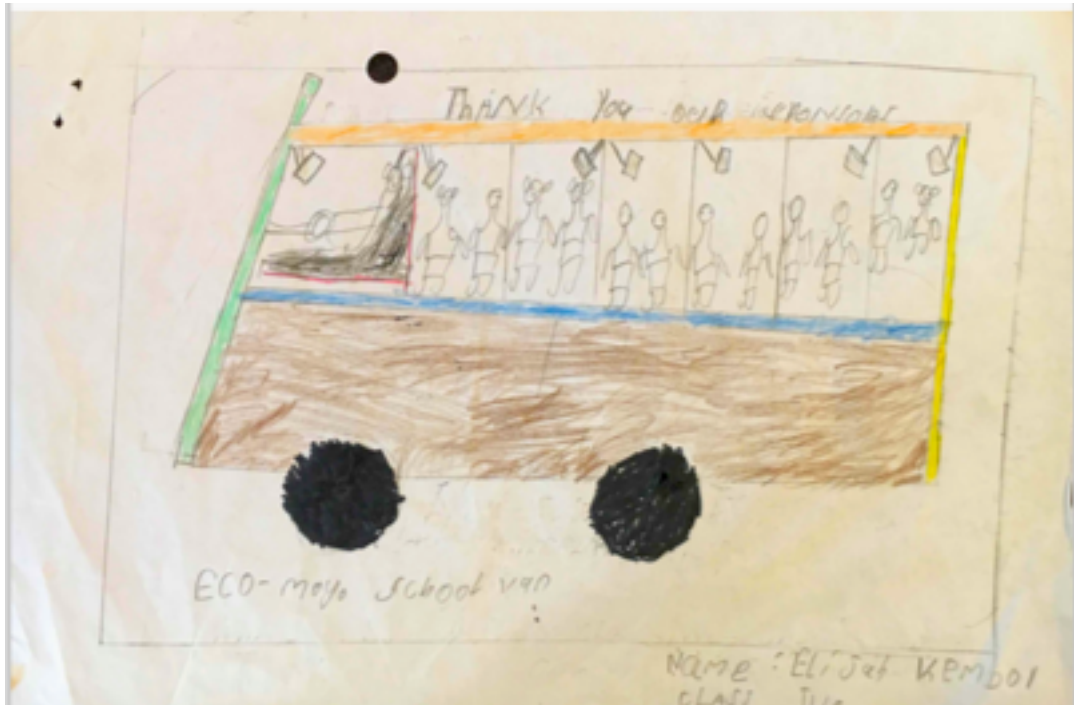
We are getting emails where people ask what our account number is plus other details that are listed on our website. So let me copy some info here:

Account Details

Receiver	Eco Moyo Education Centre
Address	Sundet 18, 3950 Brevik
Account number	15034088508
Organisastion number	912629163
IBAN	NO 3915 0340 88508
BIC/SWIFT	DNBANOKKXXX

The PayPal logo, consisting of the word "PayPal" in white, sans-serif font, centered within a solid blue rectangular button.

Send your donation to
ecomoyokenya@gmail.com



Some of the drawings our kids made for the people whom helped sponsor the school van !



BIG HUGS FROM EVERYONE AT ECO MOYO !!!