



The Queenstar Experience
2019

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This is a photographic record of just under three weeks spent at the Queenstar Community Organisation's school in February. For that experience I am indebted to Projects Abroad at its team in Nanyuki Kenya for making all the necessary arrangements.

At the school I was met with a happy bunch of people devoted to ensuring the well-being of the children in their care as well as the children themselves who were eager to learn; and not just from the text book.

During my time there I not only spent time in the classrooms with the children but also members of the team individually talking about their views and ideas on how the organisation, in the local community could develop for the benefit of all. It was a very rewarding experience.

Thank you team Queenstar

Abdikadir Dima Duba

Mohammed Abdikadir

Martha Muthoni

Elizabeth Njenga

The photographs in the book seek to highlight what went on during my stay there. The result being that several of the photographs were taken by others including one of the children (they were all keen to learn how to use a camera).

There were two events during my stay for which I have photographs when other volunteers who were involved.

Kodai Onodera

Rise Hosoi

Nanase Hojo

Yuka Nabeshima

Alessandra Rossi

&

Louise de Vaucleroy

There is even one photograph of Denis Gakara from Projects Abroad doing his duty and taking photographs.



The Road to Queenstar

The school lies a little way out of the town of Nanyuki with Mount Kenya clearly visible.

Access is relatively easy even though the road network leaves something to be desired.

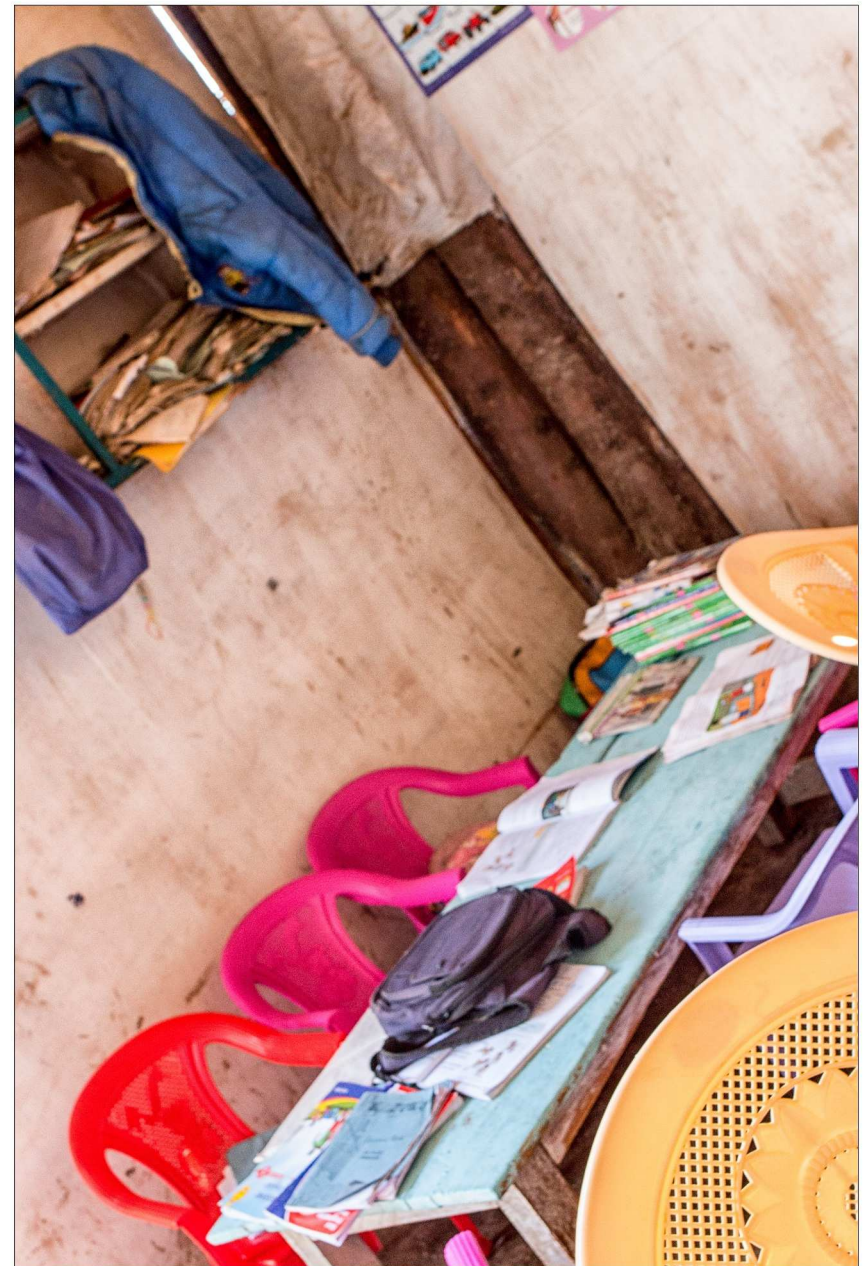
The school itself comprised three classrooms and an office/staff room.



The classroom I worked in. There were two classes actually working in this area.



RIGHT: View out of the door









*Food and nutrition plays an important part in the life and work of the school.
See later the chicken project*



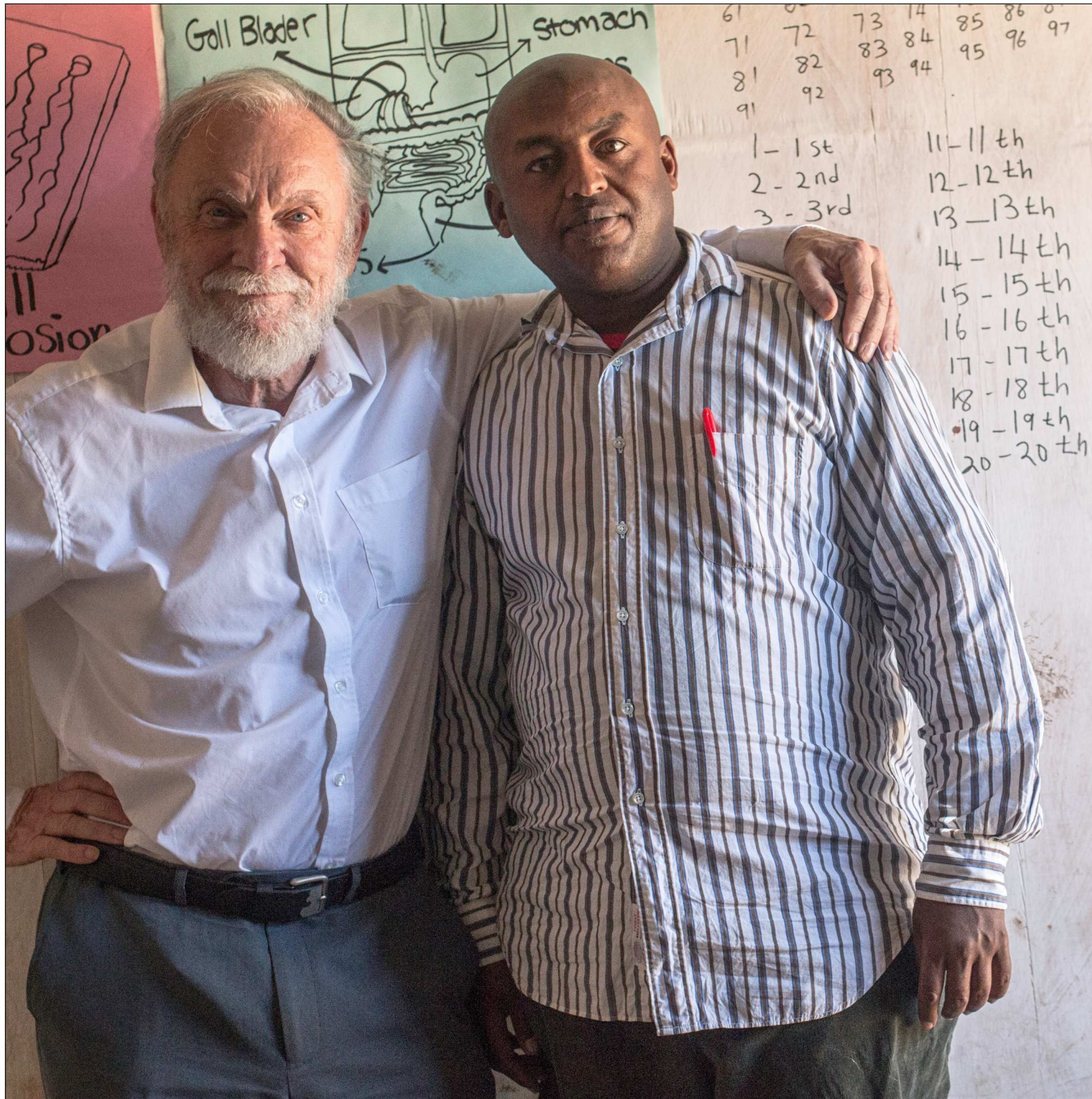




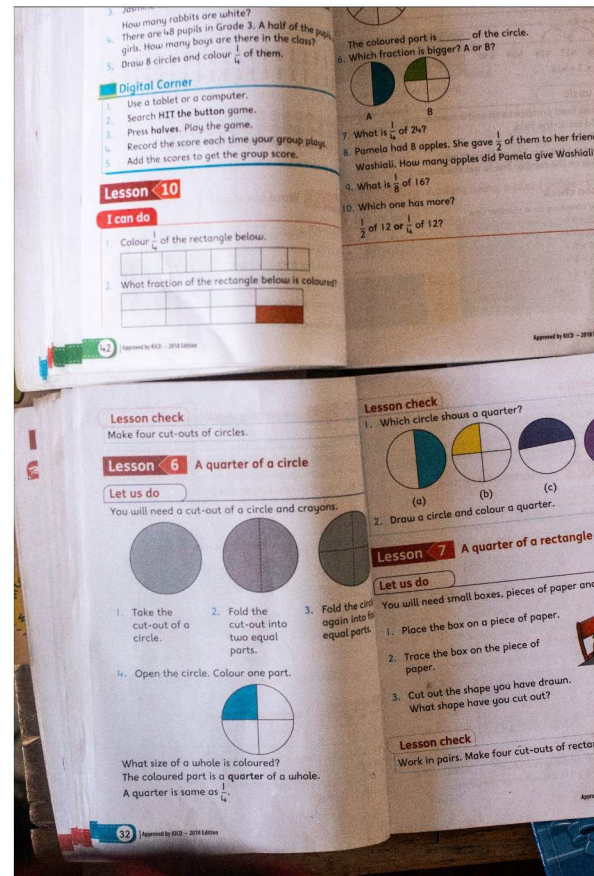








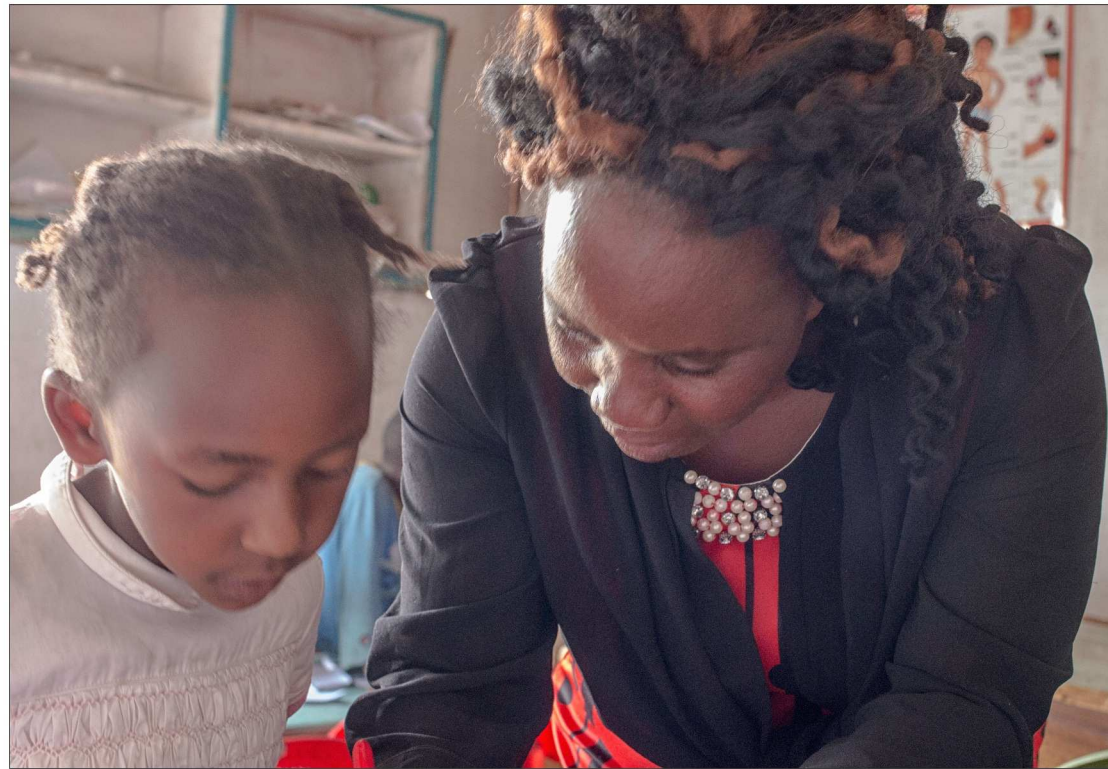
When you put your camera down expect one of the children to pick it up. Good shot of me and Abdikar



Trying to get my head around how to do maths while Abdikar works with some other children in the class



















Kodai Onodera gets fully involved with the children both in and out of the classroom







And then it was a matter of learning Japanese



Rise Hosoi gets involved with the children and Abdikadir

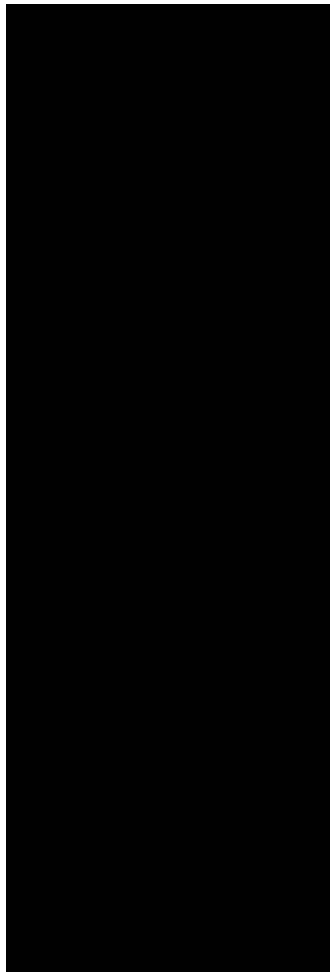




*Kodai and I receive our
Certificates of Achievement*

















Alessandra Rossi joined the team and quickly found herself involved with all the children

Teachers Nanase Hojo and Yuka Nabeshima hard at work







Louise de Vauchleroy just loved working with the children







*It's time for the children to receive gifts of stationery with Denis Gakara on hand to take some more photographs of the children.
It was a lovely celebration*





I first met Jacob and his family when I took a walk from Abdikadir. It was perhaps a quarter mile but the road was not made up. Once there, having been introduced to the family I discovered that Jacob had been confined to a wheelchair since the age of 10, which in that area really confines you to the home.

Jacob however had sought to achieve what he could and this has resulted in him being able to repair mobile phones and radios for those in the neighbourhood. He showed me his repair kit which by any standards was limited.

The thought of Jacob and his efforts remained with me after that and on the day before I left asked that a small sum of money I was carrying could be taken to him. You cannot imagine my surprise when the money was returned with a message that he would be at the school later that morning.

I wondered how he could every get there over the roads. He couldn't make it on his own and had to be pushed by friends. Once there I handed him the money to buy some things for his repair kit; he was really grateful. But then something else happened. He didn't go home but stayed there and despite being in the wheelchair was able to play with some of the children. He enjoyed it and so did the children. To me this epitomised the ethos of community, embracing everyone regardless of abilities



The Poultry Project

When I went to Kenya I took a sum of money specifically to assist where I would be working (at that point I didn't know it would be Queenstar) in providing them with some support.

After some discussions it was clear that the need was to ensure that all children who attended the school had a mid-day meal that had significant nutritional content. For a number of the children it would be their only meal of the day. What was more the project I was told had to be sustainable. It all made sense and the content was quickly developed.

The project would see a new chicken run built to replace the existing one for the few chickens that were already on the site with a new stock of chicks acquired to provide the foundation of the project. Ultimately the project would see the inclusion of an incubator unit to enable more chicks to be born.

The photo is of me handing over my contribution three days before I left. Little did I know how quickly action would follow.



24 Hours Later





48 Hours Later
One hundred chicks in residence



Those more relaxed moments at Queenstar







Good-bye My Friends



Mt Kenya from Queenstar