

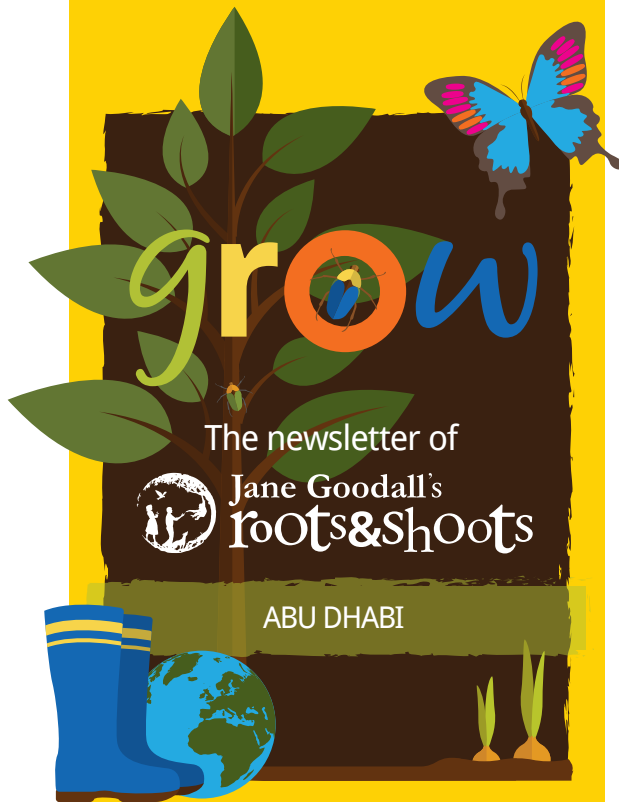
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Dear Roots & Shoots Members,



Summer is here at last. And I am so proud of the amazing work that you continue to produce and the difference that you continue to make.

Our annual awards this year was a

spectacular display of creativity, innovation and resourcefulness. All our students and teachers within the Roots & Shoots family did us proud.

The projects described in this newsletter are all testament to your hard work and dedication. I hope that you enjoy reading about them as much as we did.

In the last newsletter I talked about celebration and inspiration. But what about Hope?

We live on a planet where, because of its many challenges, hope has somewhat faded into the background, especially for those facing political, social and economic obstacles. In some cases it has ceased to exist.

But it is hope that keeps us inspired isn't it? Hope for the future; hope for our beloved planet; hope for our loved ones and hope for a better world in which to raise our children.

Despite the many obstacles we face, as Roots & Shoots crusaders, we must always strive to keep hope alive and at the forefront of our minds and hearts in all that we endeavour to do. So, thank you to all of you who continue to make the difference.

With hope in our hearts, I am confident that we can and will succeed.

Have a lovely Summer!

Tara Golshan
Executive Director, Education



The inspirational UAE Awards with more members than ever!

This year's Roots & Shoots awards took place in January at the prestigious Park Hyatt, Abu Dhabi on Sadiyaat Island. It welcomed students and community members from across the UAE to celebrate the programme and the projects and to launch the exciting Climate Force Challenge, in partnership with 2041.

The passionate and very inspiring schools that attended this year were:

Al Raha International School
Rawafed Private School
Home School group, Abu Dhabi
Emirates Private School
Sheikh Zayed Private Academy
Home school group, Dubai
St Joseph's School
Private International English School
Gems Metropole School
Al Bashair Private School
Al Talee'ah School
Al Bateen Scientific Private School
Bangladesh Islamia Private School

The programme, sponsored by the Environment Agency, Abu Dhabi, welcomed students from 12 different schools including home school groups who came along to present their inspiring projects; to celebrate their hard work over the last year; to meet the one and only Dr Jane Goodall and to pledge their commitment to the Climate Force Challenge!

The day started with Dr Jane and invited guests viewing the fantastic school displays, followed by the official launch of the Climate force challenge where EAD the staff named as Team Zayed, spoke about their upcoming trip to Antarctica.

The schools presented their work and then went to enjoy the turtle



Committing to the Climate Force Challenge

challenge with conservationist Arabella Willing as well as a basket weaving and fire making workshop with Mike, who spoke to the students about plastic waste and made a shower curtain out of all of the events' leftover waste.

There was also an exclusive exhibition of Rahul & Rohan Raju's environmental artwork.

Dr Jane Goodall gave the audience an inspirational talk. By sharing her personal story and other anecdotes, she empowered all to make a difference.

We were most excited that the Awards were also the platform for launching The Climate Force

continued ▶

UAE Awards (cont.)

Challenge that aims to encourage students and members of the community to re-think their lifestyles and commit to being more eco-friendly. As part of this launch, three members of EAD staff, Rashed, Winston and Mariam, travelled to Antarctica for 12 days with Sir Robert Swan.



Photo: R&S UAE

"This year's awards were particularly inspiring with the launch of The Climate Force Challenge. Our members are joining forces with 2041 to help Sir Robert Swan and his team at Antarctica to reduce carbon emissions by 326 million tons in the next seven years. We have a big job to do but I'm confident, by seeing the commitment and resourcefulness in the room today, that we can achieve it." Tara Golshan, Executive Director.

For more information, please visit

www.rootsshoots.ae/join-the-climate-force-challenge/

A sad Farewell to our UAE team members Mariam and Maya



Photo: R&S UAE

It is with sadness that we say Farewell to Mariam Sultan Al Qassimi and Maya Korayem! They have been such an instrumental part of Roots & Shoots UAE and made a great contribution to the programme during their time with us.

We thank them for all their hard work, support and dedication and wish them all the best in their future endeavours!

My Antarctica Experience

Reflections by **Winston Cowie**, Marine Policy Manager at the Environment Agency Abu Dhabi, a member of Team Zayed



Photo: 2041



Photo: Winston Cowie



Photo: Zayed

"It is hard to put into words the most magical place you have ever had the privilege of visiting."

See more online

Antarctica. Magnificent. Beautiful. Colossal. Vast. The grandeur and scale of this lost world is beyond comprehension. Twice the size of Australia. 14,000,000 sq. km You could fit the United Arab Emirates into Antarctica 168 times, New Zealand 52 times. From the tumultuous waters of the great southern ocean, past the furious fifties and shrieking sixties, rises this magical land – the highest continent on earth, which is covered in ice up to 1.9 km thick.

It towers above the sea, majestic, with huge glaciers and sheer cliffs guarding its plateaued interior, these giant walls of ice slipping into the sea on occasion with a thunderous roar.

The biodiversity is like I have never seen. The whales, the seals – sleeping and barking and jostling for dominance, the penguins, those loveable creatures whose antics can't help but make one smile. Never have I seen anything like it in 30 years of travel on the world's oceans.

Antarctica is magnificent. Its biodiversity is like a portal to another world. In the unknown sphere, it has a mystical aura that is difficult to explain – yet you can sense it. On an ecosystem nature-society level, it carries 90% of the world's fresh water.

Antarctica is fundamental to the human race's survival.

Read the full story of Winston's experience and more about The ClimateForce International Antarctic Expedition 2018 [here](#)

Don't forget our Twinning Programme

We are so excited about our Twinning Programme and the opportunities it can bring to the schools involved! We would like to encourage you all to take part. Please visit www.rootsshoots.ae/resource/twinning-online-twinning-guide/



Roots & Shoots First Ever Environmental Writing Competition, hosted by NYU, Abu Dhabi

Our dedicated member, **Hunain School**, initiated an Environmental Writing Competition across three schools including **Al Reef** and **Hamdan Bin Zayed**

The aim was to use cross-curricular techniques of Science and English content and vocabulary to stimulate literary pieces that echoed Sustainability.

There were various categories for grade groups and either an individual poetry category or a group-writing piece, which entailed a 3D model or invention. The judges were from the NYUAD campus as well as Tara Golshan from the Jane Goodall Institute.

"This was a difficult competition to judge. The work of the students was highly creative, insightful and mindful of the challenges facing our planet today. These young people are already making a significant impact on our future and I am so proud of all of them."

Tara Golshan, Executive Director, Education

Students had to create a Gallery of their work and they did an incredible job. Not only was it aesthetically pleasing, it also echoed a message for the UAE to come together to save the environment. Hunain School, placed first in many categories, was closely rivaled by winners from AL Reef.

NYUAD judges said: *"We had the pleasure of judging the 8th and 9th grade writing projects. We were very impressed with the creativity and hard work we saw, and it made our decision difficult. It was clear that the students spent a lot of time researching and learned a lot about environmental issues. We were inspired by the student's passion and we are excited to see the how this passion will transfer to environmental activism in the future. Congratulations to everyone who participated."*

The function saw many community members, parents and organizations gather together to celebrate initiatives for environmental preservation.

The projects were well researched and presented as animal stories, magazine articles, short stories, poems, dialogues and various other genres, the visuals and word choice was emotive and evoked the need for change.



Creative projects, inspiring action to protect and preserve our environment

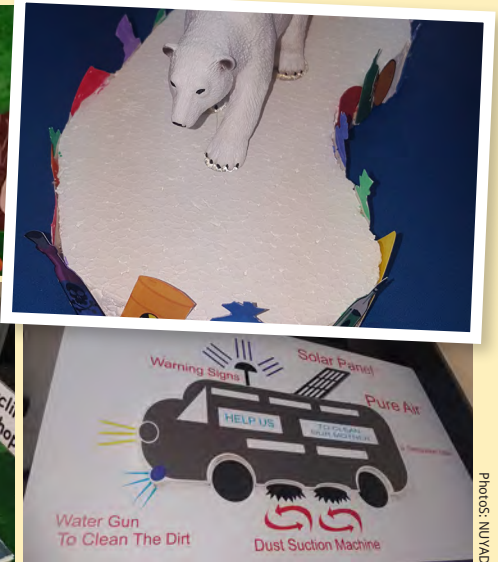
The visuals were an array of future inventions and models highlighting our current world crisis.

Students were truly passionate about this project and about sharing it with the rest of the school community.

The experience was truly a wonderful way for the youth of the Abu Dhabi Education and Knowledge schools to be active role players in their environment and to contribute to the Roots & Shoots family.

Killian Marie Dumont, the Community Outreach Intern at NYUAD said: *"It was such a pleasure to host the Roots & Shoots Environmental Writing competition on campus. It was inspiring to see the passion and effort the students put into their projects, and to see how excited they were to share what they had done. The awards ceremony fell during NYU's 'Go Green Week' and perfectly represented the UAE's commitment to sustainability and environmentalism. I came away from the ceremony with a profound sense of hope. Thanks to the efforts of young girls like these around the world, I have hope that our environment will be protected and respected in the future."*

A big thank you to Hajra Khan, the Teacher from Hunain School who organised this wonderful event



PHOTOS: NYUAD

Our Executive's Diary

A week in the life of AD Roots & Shoots...

Thursday 3rd May; Visit to the British School Al Khubairat, an exciting soon to be member of R&S



PHOTO: R&S UAE

Monday 7th May; Outreach Appreciation Reception hosted by NYU AD

Tuesday 8th May; All day press interviews in Dubai, including the newly launched Pulse 95 radio station

Wednesday 9th May; attending the innovative sustainability fair at ACS

Thursday 10th May; visiting Hunain School, Al Reef and Aisha Bint Abu Baker and attending a wonderful exhibition at Hunain School followed by lunch with the teachers!



Antartica

a beautiful landscape now threatened by our lifestyle
by Mariam Al Qassimi



Mariam braving the Antarctica waters

We had just crossed the Antarctic Circle, 66.33' South. The mist ahead revealed a faint outline. Our eyes, searching for a horizon in the fog, started to decipher the planes of the vast Iceland that lay ahead of us...

In October 2017, I met Roots & Shoots ambassador Robert Swan, who told us of his expeditions as the first person to ever walk on both of the Earth's Poles. Four months later, we joined him on the adventure of a lifetime. I could write about the seals, penguins, albatross and whales, about the three day expedition across the Drake's Passage, the most dangerous waters on earth or the feeling of the crisp fresh snow on our first continental landing.

Instead, the most striking thing that I took away from this expedition was how drastic the effects of climate change are

on our natural environment and how we immediately need to take action to rethink our lifestyles. The amount of ice loss in Antarctica has tripled since 2012 and as it contains most of the earth's fresh water in ice form, this means that our sea levels will rise and is a huge threat to our natural landscapes and to communities that may face displacement due to climate change.

Team Zayed, constituted of my EAD colleagues Rashed Al Zaabi, Winston Cowie and I. The challenge they presented us with, which most of our Roots & Shoots groups will be familiar with, was the 'Climate Force Challenge'.

My part was to commit to an attempt at entirely eradicating plastics from my lifestyle. Urban life, in our day and age, is virtually impossible without encountering some form of plastic somewhere along the way. After all, plastic has played such a vital role in the development of the world that we live in. It becomes difficult to conceive of what our modern day technology, science and healthcare would possibly look like if we didn't have this matter that constitutes and withstands so much. It is really thanks to plastics that we can live the way we do today, and it is thanks to the petrochemical industry (from which plastics thrive) that we are at the stage of fast-paced development that we have reached globally.

Our consumerist habits know no borders. They pollute our earth in landfills and are toxic to our waters and the species we share this planet with. They never entirely break down or biodegrade but rather infiltrate our land, air and sea.

The momentum to follow this through all started with being surrounded by climate change activists from all over the world on 2041's ClimateForce expedition to Antarctica.

Experiencing the pristine condition of the 7th continent made me hyper-aware of the negative impact that us, humans, have on the natural landscapes that we have occupied all over the world, but also infused me with undying hope to spend whatever energy I have to remind people that we, together, can make a difference if we set out to. In particular, if we pool all of our efforts, we can most definitely make waves of change.

Whilst waiting for larger institutions to re-evaluate their sustainable approaches, we must become the change-makers and start influencing our communities. And where better to start than with single-use plastics?

Here are some tips on reducing single use plastic

Cutlery: Say no to disposables.

Coffee cups: Use a thermos.

Containers: use, re-use...

jars and buy bulk food from refill shops or take tupperwares when eating out for leftovers.

Water bottles: Never leave home without your own reusable bottle.

Potted plants: go for pottery that you can paint and decorate yourself.

Install a **water filter** at home for drinking water.

BYOB (Bring your own bags): Don't leave the house without a shopping bag, leave them in the car, and take smaller ones or nets for your fresh fruit and vegetable.

Start **composting** your organic waste instead of using bin bags (which never biodegrade)

Go for food options that **are not covered in plastic:** speak to your local supermarket about this.

Eating in: Take away is great, but what happens with all of the packaging your food comes in?

Ditch gum: This not only contains toxic aspartame but also is terrible for the environment.

All of the options mentioned above are accessible and possible in the United Arab Emirates, and would definitely cut costs for you. If you would like to

take this further, buy local as imported products have a higher carbon emission. Also rethink your contribution to the fabric, palm-oil and dairy industries that also have very immediate impacts on our environment.

If you work in or own a business that consumes single-use plastics, consider going for biodegradable packaging instead.

If we want to avoid sea-level rise and preserve the world's last great wilderness, the Antarctic, cutting out plastic is a first and obvious step to rethinking our lifestyles.

Against all odds – Our amazing members in India dedicated to keep the streets clean!

This wonderful Roots & Shoots group proves that we don't need a lot of money in order to do good!

In Korukkupet, Chennai, children and teachers come up with all these inventive ways to raise money, to help clean up the streets and show support to those who work really hard. Making posters to carry while on their street clean ups and organising flea markets to raise money for gloves for the street workers.

Teaching kindness from an early age is more important than ever. Learning to appreciate what surrounds us and how to care for our environment is crucial, especially in such difficult circumstances. We are so inspired! Thank you Roots & Shoots India. If you would like to fundraise for this worthy project, please e-mail jasmina@janegoodall.org.uk



At the flea market



Photos: R&S India

INDIA



Giftng a worker a brand new pair of gloves (above)



The dedication of our members shines through at the Roots & Shoots Annual Awards UK

The Roots & Shoots Annual Awards UK was an outstanding success! The event took place in the beautiful tropical gardens of London's Barbican Centre and our 13 selected winners were joined by our special guest – the American Community School – who had travelled all the way from Abu Dhabi!

Anne Russell from the American Community School, Abu Dhabi said: *"I was fortunate to attend the UK Roots & Shoots awards event. What fun to fly in from Abu Dhabi and share with like-minded people all the wonderful work that is being done. I learned about so many initiatives that I would love to see the American Community School of Abu Dhabi involved in. The wonderful PAWS program that works to rescue dogs in Romania and the students who created their own cleaning brand are two such examples. I loved the idea of outreaching nature walks and supporting nature photography. The enthusiasm in the room for high end Trashion Fashion was contagious. Finally, hearing Dr. Jane Goodall speak and watching the joy of the students who were recognised was very inspiring. Thank you for including ACS Abu Dhabi."*

Dr Jane Goodall and other VIPs met each group whilst viewing the brilliant displays they had put together, showcasing the projects they've been working on over the past year. A dedicated reporter from The Week Junior also attended, resulting in a lovely write up for the magazine!



The Winner Annabel Clegg, Trashion Show at the Roots & Shoots Awards UK

More about the Winner and their achievements can be found here
www.rootsnshoots.org.uk/blog/2018/03/14/congratulations-to-our-roots-shoots-awards-winners/

And, our Trashion Show was beyond creative and inspiring! Anne Morrison (the teacher who organised it) stated: *"The Trashion Show project has once again captivated the students' imagination. This was our 4th show for the Roots & Shoots Awards and the pupils thoroughly enjoyed the experience. 21 students from Year 7 to Year 13 took part, giving up their lunchtimes to work on their up-cycled creations. It's really encouraging to see the pupils raise issues through their design; garments addressed the issues of unrecyclable waste such as plastic packing, water bottles, baby wipes, crisp packets and drinks cups."*

The models were delighted by the amazing prizes kindly sponsored



Photos: Roger Marks Photography

by – People Tree, Lush, Green Bay Supermarket and Bulldog.

We would like to thank all our members for giving us hope year after year! And, our sponsors for helping us reward and encourage the next generations!

'JANE' nominated at the prestigious BAFTA'S

Dr. Jane was extremely honoured to join director of the 'JANE' documentary, Brett Morgen, for the 2018 BAFTA Awards - and was even lucky enough to run into Andy Serkis, actor from War For the Planet of the Apes! Though 'JANE' did not win in its category, being nominated is a high enough accolade indeed!



Photos: Mary Lewis

Our JGI Outreach Coordinators, Duke and Rubin inspire us with the Burundi Tree Project – making our World greener!

"There is so much diversity and beauty in our world everywhere you look. And everyday, we cannot help it but think that the future generations might not have a chance to see all this, due to our choices and actions.

We believe it is important to have a holistic approach to life as everything in the natural world is deeply interlinked. Including us. Dr. Jane Goodall's Burundi tree planting project in East Africa, run by David Ninteretse is doing exactly that. By rebuilding the civil war torn ecosystem, the local community is inviting animals and nature back to the forests, and in return they get fruits for the community. Everyone benefits."
Duke and Rubin,
Eco Group Besureis



All ready to plant



Students learning about planting

Besureis have raised over £1,000 to support this project! We Thank You!



Photos: R&S Burundi

Planting a tree named after a donor

What has our ED been up to?

Our Executive Director, Tara Golshan impresses at the TEDx talk at Open Gate School, Prague



Photo: Open Gate School, Prague

At the TEDx event, held at the prestigious Open Gate School, Prague, themed: "If not us, who?" Tara talked about her own life story and the importance of taking positive actions towards our planet, Dr Jane, her mission and her legacy – the Roots & Shoots programme. She highlighted our reasons for hope, and how we should not give up on making this Planet a better place for all living beings.

"I was honoured and privileged to be part of the Open Gate School Ted presentations. The audience were attentive and the young attendees inspiring and dedicated. Ted is a wonderful platform to spread our message to a global audience in order to protect and

preserve our planet for the next generations." Tara Golshan, Executive Director.

Ms. Alžběta Janečková, the Student Organiser of the event said: *"The TEDxYouth@OpenGateSchool conference was a culmination of combined hard work of the team and speakers, eight people with breathtaking stories who came together from various disciplines and continents to share their ideas in one afternoon. It was an unparalleled event in both the history of our school and my life and will be long remembered for its inspiring atmosphere, true TED spirit and openness of everyone present."*