

The newsletter of
Jane Goodall's
roots&shoots

ABU DHABI

Dear Members,

It's hard to believe that we are half way through the year already – and the Summer heat is in full swing here in the UAE.

It feels like so much has been accomplished in such a short time – and it has. Just a few of our highlights include our annual awards, both here in the UAE and in our twinning country, the UK. On both sides of the water our schools, guests and partners were thrilled and moved by a spectacular display of creativity, innovation and resourcefulness from our young members.

Because our work spreads right across the Globe, we have a special section dedicated to our various activities around the world. We want to share these extraordinary projects with you.

Recently, I've been thinking a great deal about the nature of resilience. Resilience to keep going, to persevere, to never give up, no matter what life throws at us and what obstacles are placed before us. So many of our Roots & Shoots projects show that resilience. That is our motto here.

One individual that we are honoured to work with, Suparna Mathur, our highly valued partner at NYU as well as our UAE Roots & Shoots ambassador is, for me, the embodiment of resilience. Her journey with us has now led her to undertake the Arctic expedition with Sir Robert Swan. As she begins to embark on this voyage we wish her well in this amazing journey and look forward to hearing about her adventures to come.

Have a lovely Summer!

Tara Golshan
Executive Director, Education



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Our Burundi project gets a helping hand – Page 6



Students showing off their work

Spectacular achievements showcased in the Awards this year!

Photo: Roots & Shoots UAE

On the 20th January, at the luxurious Park Hyatt hotel, the Roots & Shoots UAE Awards hosted nearly 200 members, volunteers and guests. Thirteen Roots & Shoots groups participated in the award ceremony

Roots & Shoots and the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi teams arrived shortly after, followed by the rest of the guests and made their way towards the display area admiring various projects done by the students. Some of the projects included planting trees, school cafeteria initiatives to ban usage of cutlery, informative presentations on banning animal cruelty, inspiring art representing endangered species, reusing and recycling school initiatives, beach clean-ups, fundraising for solar panels installation, stories and books, and many more projects done throughout the Year of Zayed.

The Roots & Shoots Awards this year hosted 164 people including 84 students, 26 teachers, 9 New York University volunteers, and 45 guests. Thirteen Roots & Shoots groups participated in the award

ceremony: Abu Dhabi Homeschoolers Association, Al Raha International School, Al Reef School, American School of Dubai, Dunes International School, Fairgreen International School, GEMS American School, Happy Planet Initiative, Home Education Network of Abu Dhabi, Hunain School, Mayoor Private School Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Zayed Private Academy for Girls and Sunrise English Private School. Among the 13 participants that displayed their efforts, seven of them had the chance to present on stage.

Ms. Maria Bytchkova from Abu Dhabi Homeschooling Association (ADHSA) said: "Both we and our students learned so much from participating in the event and were inspired to do much more by Jane Goodall's speech. We are very grateful for this amazing

continued

Dr Jane addressing members and guests



School display about Dr Jane

Photos: Roots & Shoots UAE

UAE Awards (cont.)

opportunity to showcase our work, learn from others and share a day in the company of likeminded people. This is going to be a cherished memory for all of us at ADHSA”.

Other than the schools who displayed and presented, a further 11 schools visited the awards as guests and had the chance to network with one another, share knowledge and celebrate the achievements of their fellow schools.

Dr Jane Goodall shared her early stories when Roots & Shoots first began in Dar Es Salam, Tanzania in 1990, having only 12 students and now, by 2019, in 50 countries, with over 100 group members in the UAE alone. She shared words of wisdom, one by a Native American Chief 60 years ago “we haven’t inherited this planet from our parents, we borrowed it from our children” where Jane added “we haven’t been borrowing it, we are stealing it and we are still stealing it today”.

At the end of the ceremony, students enjoyed a competitive Nurdle hunt on the beach.

Aisha Al Mazroui – Outreach programme coordinator at the Environment Agency- Abu Dhabi said: “Roots & Shoots Award ceremony was a special and pleasant memory that will always be cherished, I have witnessed great passion in students which is a good indication that the planet will be in good hands.”

Tara Golshan, Executive Director, Education concluded: “As always the passion, dedication and commitment of our young members was inspiring and uplifting. They have done us proud, yet again, and continue to do so”.

FEATURED TEAM

Rahul & Rohan Raju’s Happy Planet Initiative

We started Happy Planet Initiative through which we are doing good work to help fellow Human beings, Wildlife and the Environment.



Earth Hour 2019 Nurdle Hunt



Accepting the Sharjah Environmental Excellence School Award



Showing off their work at the Roots & Shoots Awards 2019

Photos: Happy Planet Initiative

This is what we have been doing:

- Under RR’s Happy Planet Initiative, for the last three years, we have distributed food packets to construction workers on the eve of the holy month of Ramadan and brought awareness to eliminate food wastage, reduce the waste that goes to landfills, reduce carbon footprint and save the planet from global warming. We also donated clothes to the needy in UAE & India. We donated new clothes for Kerala flood victims in August 2018.
- We are compassionate about helping people in need. We donated some of our artwork and paintings for charity purposes. Some of the profits went to UNHCR to help the Refugees and the rest to The David Sheldrick Wildlife Trust.
- We were invited to exhibit our artwork at the Emirates Natural History Group (ENHG) 40th anniversary graced by HH Sheikh Nahyan bin Mubarak Al Nahyan.

The main aim of the ENHG is to encourage and assist members and other interested individuals in the study and appreciation of the natural history and archaeology of Abu Dhabi, the United Arab Emirates, the Middle East and the world at large.

- We were invited to exhibit our artwork at The Festival-Masdar City and bring awareness about sustainability and renewable energy. The largest sustainability gathering in the Middle East, Abu Dhabi Sustainability Week (ADSW) is dedicated to furthering our understanding of the major social, economic and environmental trends shaping the world’s sustainable development and to empowering the global community to realise viable and effective strategies to mitigate climate change.

- We participated in the Earth Hour event to take action for our planet and the ReThink Plastic Campaign to increase awareness of the harmful effects of plastic pollution; the consequences of throwing away plastic bags and how households can change the growing problem of unnecessary waste.
- EEG appreciated our (EEG Members) efforts in the Earth Hour event and especially towards the “Paper Walk Challenge” that resulted in the collection of 5,483 kg of paper, which contributed to saving 93 trees from being felled and mitigated 21 metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions.
- We have been spreading the message of HH Sheikh Zayed Bin Sultan Al Nahyan to save the Environment.
- We took part in a Roots & Shoots Climate Force Challenge to help Sir Robert Swan to achieve the target of reducing carbon emissions by 326 Million tonnes by 2025.
- We are very proud to be holders of An International Diana Award (UK); John Muir Award (USA); Kids are Heroes Award (USA); International Young Eco Hero Award (Eco Artists) 2018; to be published in local and national newspapers and magazines and of course attending the Roots & Shoots Awards UAE and meeting Dr Jane Goodall in person!

by Rahul and Rohan Raju, Happy Planet Initiative

Little Smarties Nursery

Established in 2007, Little Smarties Nursery is a successful educational provider that has developed a unique, distinctive and high quality educational system in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

We have two standardized branches of LSN in Abu Dhabi for providing education, extra care and nourishment to kids who are our first priority at all times.

Our ethos incorporates that happiness for learning, is to teach and practice through play and communication. Little Smarties Nursery has a very special connection with the Al Ghaf Tree, which offers nourishment in the UAE desert, just as Little Smarties nourishes our students' education through creative play and a pathway to their future educational journey!

We believe in helping kids learn about Nature, the Environment and living beings. To give the children a real time experience we have an in-house garden for planting. We allow kids to plant a seed, water the plants and let them grow. It is a very good learning step for children to understand that by way of growing trees we can contribute a great deal in saving our Earth and protecting the environment.

The Green Garden in our nursery lets children nurture their physical movements while being exposed to open air and nature. We celebrated Green Day in order to enhance and make children recall the presence of natural elements, talking about trees and small plants. Understanding nature and environment and learning about saving Earth is very important, so we conducted different activities about recycling on Earth Day. Children learnt how we could save items for recycling.

Recently our little ones started learning about Marine life and Sea creatures through different activities, story time and singing time. Explaining about living beings and how best we can protect the Sea creatures' lives and keep the water clean. To know more



Children helping in the Green Garden

Photos: Little Smarties Nursery



Learning about wild animals and sea life and dressing up

about wild and pet animals, big and small, we had a field trip to the zoo to give children a real experience of looking at the animals and feeding them.

We believe that *"The world is opening up and counts on today's youth to build tomorrow"*. We contribute to world harmony by preparing future leaders. We play and work with our children cognitively, emotionally, socially and physically in an atmosphere of comfort and happiness that allows them to develop and learn at their own pace. **By Kulsoom Mustafa**

Don't miss out

on signing up for our exciting Twinning Programme!



Our twinning programme between the UAE and the UK offers our member schools an exciting variety of projects from across the Ocean and the unique opportunity to be 'joined' with a school in the UK.

Given both our current national and global challenges, it is even more imperative for young people to be outward-looking, knowledgeable, tolerant, open-minded and to have an understanding and appreciation of different cultures.

Through the twinning programme, your students will have the opportunity to learn about another group's homeland, environment, wildlife, culture, religion and language. You'll be able to use technology such as email and video conferencing to give your students a personalised look at your partner school and its students and activities. The perspectives you gain from another culture will encourage your students to express themselves clearly.

We've designed these web pages bit.ly/RnStwinning to make setting up a twinning programme as straightforward as possible. We've also highlighted key success factors in making the twinning programme work and step-by-step resources to help you establish it. Here is some more inspiration for other activities you may want to use.

Once you're up and running, our educational resources specifically tailored to twinned schools will help you get the most out of the programme. Don't miss out on this exceptional opportunity.

Sign up your school today by contacting Jasmina Georgovska at jasmina@janegoodall.org.uk

Tara's January diary

Our ED spent a very busy week in the UAE in January, accompanying Dr Jane on her AD and Dubai tour. It included media interviews and book signings; a lecture at both the Dubai Future Academy and the Emirates Literature Festival; our Annual Roots & Shoots Awards and dinner with H.E Razan Khalifa Al Mubarak and Her Royal Highness at the Royal Palace. It wrapped up with a very special invitation to meet once again, His Royal Highness, the Crown Prince of Abu Dhabi, Sheikh Mohammed Bin Zayed.

The British Embassy also hosted an event in Jane's honour at the Park Hyatt Hotel. Our ED stayed on to visit our member schools and new potential members including Cranleigh School. Phew – all in a week's work!

1. Interview with Euronews TV, anchor – Rebecca McLaughlin-Duane
2. Speaking at the Dubai Future Foundation
3. Lecture at the Prestigious Emirates Literature Foundation
4. Debating at the British Embassy Event

What has our ED been up to?



Photo: Roots & Shoots

Embarking on A Journey to the Edge of the World

By Suparna Mathur

“Travel is not a reward for working. It’s an education for living.”

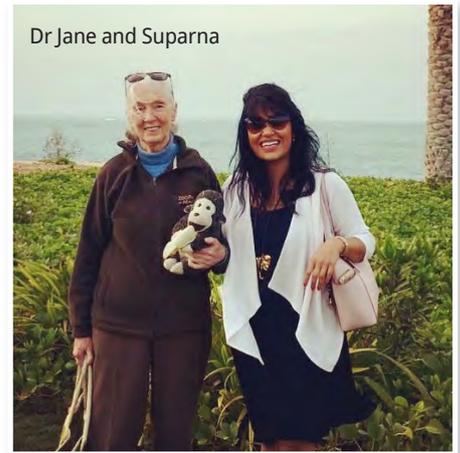
This Summer, I am thrilled to be embarking on the Climate Force 2019 expedition to the Arctic with Robert Swan’s Leadership on the Edge program. My journey north this June is part of a longer life-long journey of social change spanning the world.

I attribute much of my personal and professional trajectory to the seeds of community service. My passion for volunteering began early as a 9-year old at the American Community School (ACS) of Abu Dhabi and has rooted my inherent beliefs in the transformative power of hope and human kindness, despite a world that often tries to tell us otherwise. Volunteering by its very act is inspired by imagining a better version of the world we live in.

Any time we choose to act for change, we transcend our differences and embrace our common purpose to build safer and more harmonious communities.

As an ambassador for the Roots & Shoots program in the UAE, I have had the pleasure of meeting young activists from elementary schools to local environmentalists all the way to renowned global leaders such as Dame Jane Goodall, Robert Swan, Celine Cousteau and Tara Golshan. Each of these individuals has inspired my journey and invigorated my commitment to environmental education, sustainable action and combating climate change.

Our world is amidst a climate crisis. Robert Swan’s call to action to everyone is that *“the greatest threat to our planet is the belief that someone else will save it.”* In 2017, Rob said to me, *“we need you on this trip”*



Dr Jane and Suparna

Photo: Suparna Mathur

and this year, I know that I need this trip. While I am blessed to have a purposeful career, I am finding my professional work keeps me more and more connected to devices and increasingly disconnected from nature. Through this expedition, I hope to feel more rooted, grounded and grateful for the resources of this planet and, most importantly, walk away feeling more armed to tackle one of the most urgent needs of our very existence.

Mayoor Private School

The team at Mayoor Private School keeps extremely busy. Their projects relate to the environment, conservation and sustainability. They have a lot of activities at school starting from KG to Grade X.

Here is what they have been up to:

- Students participated in the **Ghaf Tree Plantation Drive**. A total of 50 Ghaf trees were planted by students and staff. Students showed great enthusiasm in planting them and knew their hard work would recharge ground water, prevent sand storms and the green area would become denser. They have initiated the Ghaf Tree Conservation Campaign with the aim of raising the profile of the tree by creating an awareness of ecological and cultural significance among the community.
- **Al Wathba Wetland Reserve** is a complex surface of water bodies, both natural and manmade, around 40 km southeast of central Abu Dhabi, just past Mussafah.
- Al Wathba acts as an oasis in the middle of the desert for many migratory bird species. Many of these **birds stop for resting or refuelling**, or for breeding in the lake as part of their life’s journey.
- Students from Grade 8A had the chance of **exploring Al Wathba Wetland’s biodiversity**, its natural charm and its migratory birds. The students were led by Guide Mr Mustafah and took 2 hours to complete the tour. They enjoyed and explored each and every corner of the Wetland Reserve and walked approximately 6 kms to observe the fauna, flora, soil, animal footprints, reptiles and skeletons



The school vertical garden

of wetland inhabitants. They have closely observed the Flamingos through a telescope.

- **Vertical gardening** is an innovative, effortless, and highly productive growing system that uses bottom-up and top-down supports for a wide variety of plants in both small and large garden spaces. Some of the advantages of this project were: Maximise Limited Space; Plan and develop a vertical garden inside the building to improve indoor air quality; Reuse old plastic bottles and reduce plastic waste. It brings **awareness to all the students about conserving space**, water and the different species of indoor plants; It helps us decorate the school to encourage the students to learn in a neat, beautiful environment; It increases accessibility and obtains a higher crop yield. The school

FEATURED SCHOOL

Students exploring the Al Wathba Wetland’s biodiversity



Photos: Mayoor Private School

has dedicated time and effort towards this project so that we can spread awareness about **saving space and water**. If students want to contribute to this project they can donate more species of plants to add to the collection.

- The finalists of EMEG Turtle Conservation Project participated in a Tree Plantation Drive at Jebel Ali Marine Sanctuary. The motto behind this mega initiative was an effort to protect the mangrove trees like Avicennia and marine organisms in UAE. A group of enthusiastic students **planted more than 50 mangroves in the sanctuary**. The drive was a huge success empowering students with substantial knowledge of environment and mangrove plants and simultaneously enhancing their social skills.
- The students also took part in a **community outreach project** distributing paper bags to Al Wathba groceries.



Our next generation rise to the challenge to save our Planet – our Global Twin UK

Inspired by conservationist Dr Jane Goodall, young people from Roots & Shoots groups across the UK gathered at the Barbican Centre in London to celebrate the 2019 Roots & Shoots UK Awards. *“The Awards day was a real landmark for Roots & Shoots,”* commented Tara Golshan, Executive Director of Roots & Shoots UK.

“Twelve years on from when we started in the UK, the programme has gone from strength to strength. The awards were truly delightful, moving and inspirational. Our young members displayed creativity, resilience and perseverance in their endeavours to secure and preserve the future of our planet. Long may it continue.”

From creating and selling beeswax food wraps to organising litter picks, from fundraising to build toilets in developing countries to caring for hedgehogs, and from organising meat-free school meals to helping entire towns go plastic-free, these young people embody the empowering mission at Roots & Shoots.

Dr Jane Goodall chatted to the groups as they explained their work to her with colourful displays, and commented that *“young people are the ones that give me the greatest hope for our environment.”*

The event also included a performance of ‘Dancing against the tide of plastic’, created by students from Queen Elizabeth II High School to highlight the damage that plastic pollution has on sea life.

Another regular and very popular highlight is the Trashion Show, with garments created from ‘waste’ material that has been upcycled into high-fashion inspired clothing by the students of Accrington St



The amazing Trashion Show models, Livia Firth and Besureis



Queen Elizabeth II High School students dance performance



Dr Jane and a student at the Roots & Shoots Awards 2019

Photos: Roger Marks Photography

Christopher’s Church of England High School.

Livia Firth, founder and creative director of Eco-Age, had the tough job of judging the winners. *“Roots & Shoots is an outstanding example of how important it is to start galvanising children from a very early stage and inspire them to be our leaders of tomorrow,”* she commented.

Finally, Dr Jane Goodall herself proudly presented the various Roots & Shoots Awards winners with their trophies, and congratulated them on the real difference they have made and how they have and will continue to inspire others, not just in the UK but around the Globe.

A huge thank you to Po-Lin Hsiao – our London Marathon runner!

Late last year, we were delighted to connect with Mr Hsiao from Taiwan. He has run Marathons all over the World and in 2019 he wanted to help Roots & Shoots by running the London Marathon UK!

He is a huge animal lover and truly cares for wildlife, so supporting a programme that educates young people on care and respect for this Planet, was a natural fit.

Po-Lin said: *“Running the London Marathon for the Jane Goodall Institute made me feel very lucky and thankful. It means a lot. On one hand, I ran a marathon, which I really like. On the other hand, I help the people and things I care about. Also, I met many running friends in London. This was the best journey I ever had.”*



Po-Lin Hsiao at the London Marathon

Dr Jane’s 85th Birthday!

LOS ANGELES

To honour Dr Jane Goodall, the City of Los Angeles declared her 85th birthday, April 3, 2019, to be **‘Dr Jane Goodall Day’** and hosted a ceremony where the conservation icon talked about many things including her connection to the city. Her birthday was capped by a dinner gathering hosted by her friend, actor and environmentalist Leonardo DiCaprio. All in a day’s work! Dr Jane’s Birthday month also included being a guest of Jimmy Fallon and Ellen DeGeneres! She encouraged everyone to take action to protect the planet and its inhabitants and spoke about the launch of the Jane Goodall Legacy Foundation.



Jane with Ellen DeGeneres on The Ellen Show

Photo: The Ellen Show

Dr Jane Goodall wows audiences at Winchester College

On Tuesday 12th March, Winchester College’s Natural History Society welcomed Dr Jane Goodall, for the annual Duncan Stewart Lecture where she addressed an audience of more than 450 people.

During her visit, Jane joined 14 local primary and secondary schools, as well as three local conservation charities for afternoon tea.

Dr Tim Hands, Headmaster at Winchester College commented, *“We were delighted to welcome Dr Goodall for our annual Duncan Stewart Lecture. She inspired the audience with her clear passion for the environment and spoke of the importance of individual responsibility and the impact that small actions can have, when taken together.”* The Duncan Stewart Lecture Fellowship was set up by David and Kim Stewart whose son Duncan was tragically killed in 2008 whilst working in his gap year as a marine biologist on the west coast of Argyll.



Dr Jane and inspired students

Photo: Winchester College

Roseacres Primary School's amazing bake sale sponsors tree planting in Burundi

UK

Roseacres Primary School, UK held a bake sale on the 12th March to raise money for adopting chimpanzees and planting trees in Burundi.

After learning about Dr Jane Goodall and the work she does for chimpanzees, the children in Year 3 - 5 decided that they wanted to raise money for them and chose to organise a bake sale. The children created posters and baked for the after-school bake sale. Overall, we raised over £300! Some of the money went towards adopting chimpanzees: the reception classes adopted Anzac, Years 1 and 2 adopted Falero whilst Years 3 and 4/5 adopted Kudia. The classes were introduced to their chimps in an assembly and were very excited about them.

The rest of the money was used to support Dr Jane Goodall's Burundi tree planting project in East Africa, run by David Ninteretse. We chose this project to donate money to as we wanted to help out communities around the world. The locals in Burundi, including the children, will be planting trees where some will be named after 'Roseacres Primary School'. 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.



The team at the Roots & Shoots Awards 2019

Photo: RRoseacres Primary School

Photo: Roger Marks Photography

2,000 trees were planted from the Roseacres Primary School's donation! Thank you so much!

Roseacres Primary School's delicious baked goods

On the 14th March, three children from our school (Isla, Lainey and Ameer) attended the Roots & Shoots awards where we put up a stand sharing what we'd done for the environment and collected our award for becoming a Roots & Shoots school. The children loved the event and Isla claimed it was 'the best day of her life!' They were very excited to share the money we raised in the bake sale and also the other projects that we have throughout the school. Overall, it was a fantastic day and a brilliant event to be a part of!

By Natasha Whates, Roots & Shoots Teacher



Roots & Shoots Burundi members planting the trees

Photo: Roots & Shoots Burundi

If you would like to get involved in such fundraising activities, whether it is adopting a chimp www.janegoodall.org.uk/guardianship, donating to the on-going work of the programme bit.ly/RnSdonate from the Jane Goodall Institute or supporting an International project, please get in touch.

Roots & Shoots Burundi phasing out plastic!

Our R&S team in Burundi is a shining example of how much can be achieved on extremely limited resources. David Ninteretse, their Executive Director, is taking the project of the over use of plastic very seriously. The country is already trying to phase out plastic. He came up with the brilliant idea to replace the plastic and nylon used in the tree nurseries with banana leaves! In French, these tubes/ boxes are called Paniers Confections.

The project has inspired all our R&S members to take part. The new plastic free boxes will be used in all the Provinces R&S Burundi is currently working with. The team's aim is to get this project going in the whole of Burundi and then expand internationally. Well done Roots & Shoots Burundi!



The finished Paniers Confections ready for distribution to the Provinces R&S Burundi works with



Photo: Roots & Shoots Burundi