

The newsletter of  
Jane Goodall's  
**roots&shoots**

ABU DHABI

Dear Roots & Shoots Members,



Welcome to the Spring edition of our UAE newsletter.

There has been so much activity these last six months that I have to keep my introduction very short to fit all the exciting projects and events into our allocated space.

But I just want to say a huge congratulations to all of you for your hard work, perseverance and commitment in making this a great year so far.

Here's to many more productive and rewarding times ahead. Keep up the good work.

*Tara Golshan*

Tara Golshan  
Executive Director, Education

## ACS hosts William Constant, Rhino expert



Photo: ACS

Roots & Shoots Abu Dhabi started the school year with a wonderful talk from William Konstant's about his life-long career in the

area of animal conservation. In ninth grade he read a book by Dr Jane Goodall that influenced his future path. This year he made a personal pledge, Trekking for Rhinos, to hike 2015 miles to raise awareness for endangered species.

Three schools were able to join the talk: Bangladesh School, ACS and Emirates National School.



Packing treat bags for a bus raid – Page 3



An exciting new program with Ecoventure – Page 5



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## Dr. Jane Goodall gives a prominent lecture at UAEU



Photos x2: UAEU

Under the Patronage of His Excellency Dr Ali Rashid Al Noaimi (Vice Chancellor of UAEU), at the University College, UAE University, Dr Jane gave a lecture called "Reason For Hope For Our Planet"; she discussed her work with the Gombe chimpanzees and how she came to found the Roots & Shoots programme. She also highlighted the importance of environmental protection in the UAE and globally, and focused on the individual's responsibility in caring for the environment and how each person can make a difference.

In addition to Dr Goodall's presentation, there was an exhibition of organizations involved in environmental issues (such as Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi (EAD), IFAW, The Al Ain Zoo, National Geographic Al Arabiya Magazine and more). These organizations informed guests of the conservation and environmental work they are doing locally and globally and



Dr Majid Al Qassimi and Jane at the UAEU

provided UAEU students with information about volunteer and job opportunities in their fields.

The purpose of the event was to inspire UAEU students and community guests to take personal responsibility in helping to solve some of the environmental crises we are experiencing today. In addition, the UAEU hopes to expand the community engagement, foster business partnerships, engage students in real world learning experiences as part of their focus on promoting innovation in teaching and learning, and to support interdepartmental collaboration and learning.

The lecture was a huge success and Dr Jane inspired many students to work their own positive change.



# Jane Goodall's January Tour First stop... the Roots & Shoots Awards Celebration



**In an exciting month of events, Dr Jane Goodall met with students from across Abu Dhabi to celebrate two very important events: the Roots & Shoots UAE Awards and 25 years of Roots & Shoots worldwide!**

The 2nd UAE awards, sponsored by EAD, and partnered with NYU, took place at the Park Hyatt Hotel and Villas in Abu Dhabi and were attended by 9 Roots & Shoots schools that presented their projects.

The objectives of the event was to celebrate the work of the students and the '25th Year' theme for R&S; the opportunity to share and celebrate their projects and achievements with each other and outside guests; to give schools the opportunity to meet EAD staff and representatives; the opportunity to meet other teams taking part in the Roots & Shoots programme and discuss and share inspiring ideas.

Schools included Al Muna School, Al Mushrif, the American Community School of Abu Dhabi, Emirates Private School, GEMS American Academy Abu Dhabi, Mayoora Private School, SKBZ Bangladesh Islamia Pvt. School and The British International School-Abu Dhabi (BISAD).

The students were asked to present a project as part of the



Dr Jane with Al Mushrif School at the Roots & Shoots Awards UAE 2016 (top) and Turtle Survival Challenge Activity (above)

25th anniversary of Roots & Shoots and a '5 days of drought' challenge where students were asked to reduce their water usage for 5 days. By participating, they aimed to raise awareness about the plight of those who lack access to water, as well as the overconsumption of water in the UAE.

After the awards, the students also took part in the 'turtle challenge' – a fun way to explore the impact of marine litter.

The event ended with a super fun and energetic Turtle Survival Challenge Activity on the beach which highlighted the plight of the turtles in the UAE.



The PRC department at EAD produced a beautiful artistic back drop for the Roots & Shoots awards

## The International Water Summit...

Following on from this, Dr Jane and Tara Golshan visited ADNEC and had a tour of the EAD stand, followed by a speech by Dr Jane to the students present at the event.



Dr Jane visits the Al Wathba nature reserve to view the flamingo conservation programme



*"Roots & Shoots is a fantastic complement to the enviro-spellathon and Sustainable Schools Initiative we have at the EAD. We are proud to support it and encourage students from across the UAE to join this hands-on program."*

Fozeya Al Mahmoud,  
Director of Environmental Outreach at EAD.

All Photos (page 2): EAD





# Mayoor Private School

**Mayoor Private School recently joined Roots & Shoots, but they have been working so hard. Their activities relate to environment, conservation and sustainability.**

They did an external community outreach project @AlWathba Wetland Reserve, cleaning up as a team. They worked on a medicinal garden at school, and with the help of their parents made models depicting a future without plants!

They also implemented a Zero Food Waste project and a big School Clean Up project.

An impressive Hydroponics project is also under process. Watch this space to find out more about it in the next addition of the newsletter.



Mayoor Private School - external community outreach project at AlWathba Wetland Reserve, cleaning up as a team

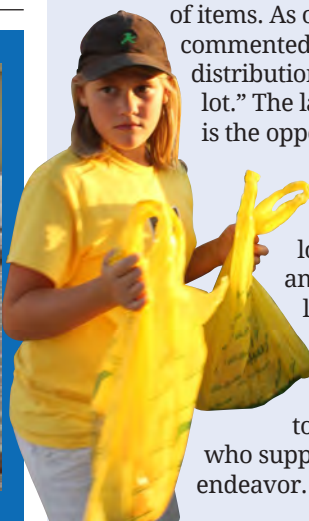
## Bus Raid Program At ACS

Each year there are 3-5 bus raids at ACS. Students pack a small treat for workers who are boarding buses to go home. It is a simple act of kindness to show respect to those who work so hard.



Laden with "treat bags" Roots & Shoots headed out to the Arabtec construction site and distributed a nice snack of a shawarma, apple, candy and water to 450 workers. This is the culminating event after six weeks of organizing popcorn sales, collection of paper bags and candy, ordering water and shawarma. Prior to leaving they need to pack the bags and be sure every bag has the same quality

of items. As one student commented during distribution, "400 is a lot." The larger reason is the opportunity to thank these workers for their long hours and tough living situations. A special thank you to the parents who support this endeavor.



## Asya's Nursery is taking recycling very seriously

They just could not resist on sharing the photo of one of their youngest groups being so hands on and caring about recycling! The Buttercups class just loves to recycle! These youngsters are really starting early on in their lives!



Photo: Asya Nursery



# 25 Activities - the Bangladesh School did it!

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Tara Golshan attended the assembly of the Bangladesh School, to give out a special prize for their amazing venture which involved undertaking 25 projects in celebration of the 25th year anniversary of Roots & Shoots.

Tara got to share her Roots & Shoots experience with the students and hear all about their future plans and projects – as if that wasn't enough!



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The Bangladesh School was a remarkable role model at the awards having completed 25 projects to mark the anniversary, as part of the Sustainable Schools Initiative Programme (SSI) of the Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi.



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## Here they are:

1	Planting Ghaf Tree
2	Celebrating World Water Day
3	Celebrating Earth Day
4	National Environment Day
5	Awareness campaign to promote UN theme 'Seven Billion Dreams,
6	Recycling ablution water for our plants
7	Joined the Water Bank
8	Clean up Campaign
9	Puppet Show - Theme: Reduce Consumption.
10	Mangrove field trip
11	Fresh Fruit Day
12	Renewable Energy: Saving 30% of our total energy requirements
13	Changing into Energy Efficient Lights
14	Installing Wind Tower
15	Making Compost pit
16	Barren Land gets a touch of life: our first tree plantation
17	Visit to farms and educating farmers on water sustainability
18	Integration of environmental education into curriculum
19	Say No to Plastic: Campaign
20	Campaigning against Air Pollution alongside Community Police
21	Promoting Tree Plantation
22	As a lead school our ECO-team sharing best practices with other schools and universities
23	Efficient use of day light
24	Honey from our ECO garden, featured on CNN also.
25	Segregation of waste & collecting e-Waste

All Photos (page 4): Bangladesh School



# Celine Cousteau launches Roots & Shoots leadership programme in Abu Dhabi

Photo: Roger Marks Photography



**Céline Cousteau — granddaughter of the famous French underwater explorer Jacques Cousteau, recently launched the Roots & Shoots leadership programme in Abu Dhabi.**

The leadership programme involves inviting inspirational role models to talk about their

work in the environmental field. Cousteau is the director of CauseCentric Productions, a non-profit organisation that produces and distributes multi-media projects focused on grass-roots organisations who specialise in environmental issues. She has produced and presented television documentaries, which involve regular stints out at sea, such as when she spent five months diving off the coast of Antarctica and Easter Island for a 12-part series. In year 2014, EAD partnered with the Jane Goodall Institute founded by the world-renowned conservationist, anthropologist and UN messenger of peace Dr. Jane Goodall, to bring the global environmental and humanitarian initiative, 'Roots & Shoots', to Abu Dhabi with an aim to help equip a generation of inspired youth with the knowledge and skills to create meaningful change and live sustainably.



*It is a pleasure to be here in Abu Dhabi to launch the leadership programme on behalf of Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots, encourage young people to explore the opportunities and challenges within environmental causes, using media as a vehicle for communicating important stories.*

Céline Cousteau, Founder, CauseCentric & The Céline Cousteau Film Fellowship



*I am very excited to have Céline here to launch the leadership programme for Roots & Shoots which involves bringing inspirational role models to our members to talk about their work in the environmental field through their varying professions.*

Tara Golshan, Executive Director, Jane Goodall's Roots & Shoots



## Environment Agency – Abu Dhabi



Roots & Shoots and the Environmental Agency – Abu Dhabi are introducing an exciting new program. Working with Ecoventure Outdoor Educational Services and Eco-Donut Boats students will explore the Eastern mangroves with trained professionals on solar-powered, electric engine boats. Students will have the opportunity to work with Ecoventure staff looking at the mangrove ecosystem through a hands on approach.

Students will learn about many areas of the mangroves including mangrove adaptations, identification of mangrove species, food chains and food webs, and constructing a field sketch. If you and your students would like to explore further or would like to book a trip please contact Christina at Ecoventure: [christina@ecoventureme.com](mailto:christina@ecoventureme.com)

## The Eco Committee at Al Muna School



The Al Muna Eco Committee has continued to develop new plans and ideas this year.

They have finally got recycling bins in place and the whole school is aware and responsible about using them especially at lunch times.

A major project has been the design and making of several planters made from recycled plastic bottles which now decorate the school. The children did all of the planting and maintain them on a rota basis. The next step will be to create an area with large planters in the playground.

Planters made from plastic bottles and responsible recycling at the school

Photos x2: Al Muna School

# Around the World – UK



Photo: JAPS

## In each newsletter, we will share an inspiring project from Around the World.

This time, it is a project involving Year 6 at a Girls School in the UK.

The "Moving Mountains" campaign was the main school project at James Allen's Prep School in London. Two earthquakes hit Nepal last year and a Year 6 class at the school decided to raise the height of Mount Everest in pounds - £8,848 to help the Nepalese people whose homes had been destroyed.

They all worked together as a team to try and raise the target. As a school they had a sponsored lapathon, where they had to run 6 times round a very large field. They also sold cakes and plastic wristbands, embossed with the logo 'Move Mountains'!

A few of the girls, arranged a music assembly for their year, and parents were asked to donate.

Elsewhere in the school, there were hundreds of different initiatives from lots of girls. From busking on the piano in Herne Hill station, to organising packed lunches for the year group trip, and from arranging a fabulous garden party with face painting and bouncy

UK Founder's day 2015 at JAPS.

castles, to lemonade stalls, brownie sales, jumble sales, helping out at home, swimathons and selling cakes at Dad's office;

In the end they managed to raise a mountainous £22,000!

This money has gone to help rebuild a school in Deurali, near Kathmandu, Nepal. The girls have also been able to buy each of the 47 children at the school an umbrella (for the monsoon season), a pencil case full of stuff, a hygiene kit each and school bags with books. The school is now trying to raise money to buy each of the children a full school uniform. So far they have bought 21 uniforms!

*"The Move Mountains fundraising project from JAPS is one of the most innovative and successful Roots & Shoots projects I have seen in my time here. The girls have demonstrated through sheer resourcefulness, determination, hard work and commitment that not only can one make a difference every day, but that one can make a difference that can have a huge impact on the vulnerable aspects of our environment and humanity."*

Tara Golshan, Executive Director.



*"Hi, I am your UAE Roots & Shoots representative from the Environment Agency-Abu Dhabi. I'm very excited to be on board and have already learned so much from our passionate and engaged students. I look forward to connecting with many more of you as we become active within our communities with our mutual goals of protecting and enhancing the environment."* **Mariam Al Qassimi, PRC, EAD**

## Celebrating Roots & Shoots 25th Anniversary

**25 years and still going strong...**

Roots & Shoots has been running for 25 years, and this landmark anniversary was celebrated around the world on February 19th. It all began when Dr Goodall created the first Roots & Shoots group with 12 Tanzanian high school students who wanted to tackle urgent problems they witnessed in their community – and now there are groups making positive change in over 130 countries!

*"When I first met with high school students 25 years ago in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania – the first group of Roots & Shoots, I hoped that it would spread to other countries" said Dr Jane Goodall. "I could not have dreamt that a quarter of a century later it would represent thousands of young people around the world learning about local problems, planning projects and creating so many hands on activities to benefit their communities, animals and the environment we all share."*



Photo: TASIS

*"I am immensely proud of all those who have been a part of the programme over the years and hope that 2016 will be a year of celebration of all that Roots & Shoots has achieved and a platform to launch us ever further in the years ahead."*

Here in the UK, TASIS, one of the most active Roots & Shoots schools, celebrated with a tree planting ceremony.

TASIS has been part of Roots & Shoots for a long time, with over 750 students.