



Reflection on Kenya

Not often in a young man's life comes an opportunity as fantastic as that presented to us through the Antipodeans program. Truly, the experience afforded to us was one that we shall remember for the rest of our lives. The Antipodeans program aims to develop independence, leadership and cultural awareness in students. It achieves this by offering a mixture of sightseeing, physical adventure and cultural interaction in many countries throughout the world. We were especially lucky in our opportunity to see the jewels of Kenya, the Maasai Mara, cosmopolitan Nairobi and Mombasa, and the icy peaks and glaciers of Mt Kenya.

Our safari in Kenya (the Swahili word for journey) was divided into three periods; game drives in the Maasai Mara and Lake Nakuru National Parks, a walk to the Point Lenana on Mt Kenya, at 4985m above sea level, and ten days of community work in the predominantly Islamic village of Muhaka. The 15 hour train trip to arrive at Muhaka transported us to the colonial era, complete with a silver service dining carriage. The true focus of our journey was the community project in Muhaka Primary School where our team rebuilt the school bookstore and planted over 400 trees in the grounds. As a part of our preparations for Kenya, we also raised enough money to fund a teacher's salary for a year, helping the school which only has 3 teachers for a population of 400 students. Knox Year 11 intends to make funding the salary of an extra teacher at the school an ongoing project. We are also seeking to provide the local football team with boots!

Overall, it was a fantastic and extremely memorable trip. The violence following the recent elections has brought international attention to Kenya; we were fortunate to see a very different side to this friendly and vibrant country and can only hope for their future. Our thanks to the Antipodeans leaders and Knox teachers who came with us and made our journey possible, and especially Mr Middleton who devoted so much of his time to planning the trip and making this experience exceptional.

By Jack Muir

