



# NEWSLETTER

BCC Africa Inc is a registered Australian charity supporting the work of Bethlehem Community Centre (BCC), an organisation that provides a home and education for orphaned and vulnerable children in Kenya.

## Help support BCC Africa

You can help support the work that BCC Africa Inc does by making a one-off or regular donation. All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

Go to [www.bccafrica.org](http://www.bccafrica.org) to donate through funds transfer BSB 064 404 A/C 1047 2560

or contact Christine Bennett, 0408 280 632, [chris@bccafrica.org](mailto:chris@bccafrica.org)

## Upcoming events

We have two events coming up to help raise funds for education and urgent needs at Bethlehem Community Centre in Kenya.

9 Oct 2021: 10am - 4pm,  
Open garden, Otago Bay

28 Nov 2021, 11am - 4pm:  
Open garden, Freedom Close  
Carlton



## School leavers

Kenya has experienced three COVID lock downs which have been very disruptive to school terms. Only recently Grade 8 (final year of Primary School) and Form 4 (final year of High School) completed the 2020 school year and will soon start first term of 2021.

We had 16 students doing Grade 8 and there were some very pleasing results.

The most outstanding was Brian Gitonga (above) with a very good score of 378 out of 500. We look forward to assisting Brian though High School and hopefully a University Degree. Brian is a happy, enthusiastic and hard working boy who lives in the home at Mwea with his sisters Maurine and Millicent. Natalia Wangui also at Mwea had a very pleasing score of 292.

At the Soweto home in Nairobi, eight students scored over 250 which will set them up well for the future. Newton Kuria scored 330 and Stella Wakonyo scored 291.

There were 5 who completed Form 4 on High School with Nyamai Kioko (B+) and Derick Romosi (B-) scoring the best marks. We look forward to working with these students in seeking further education or skills training. We have a number of past students seeking support for college, university or skills training. If you would like to sponsor one of these students for \$20 or more per month please get in touch with Chris 0408280632.



## School Uniforms

Recently we were able to purchase new uniforms, including jumpers and shoes, for 71 children. This cost just over \$3000. Usually we take hand knitted jumpers from wonderful knitters in Tasmania but sadly our last visit was cancelled.

The uniforms were made by Maggy who was a past resident at Mwea. BCC Africa assisted Maggy to do a sewing course and gave her a loan to set up her own business. She has had a bit of a slump during COVID but is very hopeful that business will pick up after the last lock down.

## BCC Profile: Derrick Murimi



Derrick was just six years old when he came to live at the Mwea home of Bethlehem Community Centre in 2008. He went to primary school in nearby Ndindiruku village and completed Grade 8 in 2016. He scored well in the Kenya Certificate of Primary Education so continued on to secondary school with the support of BCC Africa. Like all Kenyan students, his studies were disrupted for seven months during the corona virus lockdown in Kenya during 2020 in the final year

of secondary school. He sat his final exams in April 2021 and is now looking forward to doing further training with the support of BCC Africa. He is very keen to work in the building and construction industry, and would like to work as a building supervisor. He is in the process of finding a suitable course.

So Derrick has lived at BCC Africa throughout the time that friends of BCC Africa have visited the home. They have seen Derrick grow up from quiet little boy who was always happy playing with his friends, into a determined and thoughtful young man. We hope that when we next visit Kenya, we will find Derrick making good progress in his training. He can only do this with the continued help of the many people who support BCC Africa. We thank everyone who has supported Derrick and the other BCC kids to complete their schooling and give them greater opportunities to prosper in life.

