

From Karori Pirates to GCU in Cape Town – your football boots.

Some of you might remember our request for football boots earlier in the year and many of you did drop off those pre loved boots and sports shoes for us to take to the GCU Academy at Heideveld in Cape Town.

The academy is set up to help some seriously disadvantaged children make a go of life rather than getting onto a downward spiral of drugs and crime. Through the disciplines and support of the sporting environment the academy helps change things for the good.



And so on a sunny autumn afternoon we drove out to the academy with 30 pairs of boots to meet the Director, some of the coaches and of course the kids.

The facilities are at the opposite end of the spectrum from Karori Park. They

adjoin the local primary school, which I thought must have been closed down given its state of disrepair, and comprise a very lumpy bumpy grass pitch with a lone rugby post at one end, a big rubbish pile on one side and a barbed wire enclosed block of flats on the other side. The school is still in use but has no electricity (all the cabling has been stolen), broken windows and holes in the walls. Literacy is very low and some of the kids get very little, if any, support from their parents. It was explained to us that for many, the biggest goal is to go to the same prison that their father went to or is still in.



But the kids were magnificent! Very well behaved, and so, so eager to get into their practice regimes and develop their skills. The practice sessions were structured just like ours here and the coaches are all “graduates” of the academy, well on the way to success at tertiary study and playing senior football.

While we were there the boots were unpackaged and one boy received a pair as reward for very good attendance at football and school. The kids then knew what might be available for them and the boots will be used as an incentive for training hard and going to school.



So on behalf of the GCU Academy; thanks to those of you that gave us boots to take over.

Your kindness has made a budding football star very happy indeed. If you want to find out more, check out the web page www.gcu.org.za

Pam will continue to support the academy financially by donating a portion of all her sales www.africanextracts.co.nz and if any among you are interested in visiting with Mario at GCU for yourself and having a beautiful and fun holiday to boot – look at just one option available at www.bestofcapetour.blogspot.com



Thank You Karori Pirates Swimming Club

