

# Swedish Friendship Exchange

Kurt, Barbro and Camilla spent about two weeks on a social and “SOUNDS” visit to SA in late October-early November. Grant hosted them for a week during which they took in the scenery of the Northern Lowveld. After that, PP Robin and Edie hosted them for 5 days with the plan being to take in visits to the chief partners of the SOUNDS project. This was critical for Camilla so that she could absorb a picture of each of the sites, so she could make a choice as to which partner to assist when she returns next year.

On the Monday, they visited Berakah, a very poorly resourced site where Camilla’s skills could make a major impact. Next year Sophie, the crèche principal, wants to extend the use of SOUNDS to 26 new crèches. Number of sets needed will be 52.

On Tuesday, the group visited Prof Nel at North West University. The plan here is to introduce the project to students next year as a test project to determine the outcomes gained by using SOUNDS. The number of sets needed is uncertain but ranges from 50 to 200/annum.



At the Peace Corps HQ the group of Rotarians was received by Director Ron Campbell, and Lilorne Share, RCPE’s contact with the volunteers.



The team visited PEN on Wednesday where ten teachers were trained and three sets distributed. A crèche from Mamelodi was in the group. PEN plans to expand from their current area, (inner city Pretoria) to Johannesburg, Mamelodi and Soshanguwe. The number of sets needed will be large but is currently unknown.

On Thursday, they visited the Peace Corps head office. PC has previously focused their educational training at secondary school level and used SOUNDS principally at the remedial level. The focus has now changed to Grades R and 1-3. SOUNDS will be a tool used in their programmes. Some 50 to 100 sets will be needed per annum. The budget for the project is 400 sets and with a quick sum it is obvious that the demand already exceeds our ability to supply, a nice problem.

