



Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece *Late in September, this year's construction programme should be completed. Whilst water was not found in one well, the other 40 were successful. This means about 18,000 men, women and children will soon be enjoying a healthy drop of clean and easily accessible water. The total number of wells we've all collectively funded, is 140.*

Our 2nd Melbourne dinner was held on 19 August (whilst this Newsletter was at the printers). It's anticipated that around 70 plus people would have raised more than enough for one well. Congratulations and heartfelt thanks to Paul Carney for all his hard work. He's already talking about doing it again next year, if he can find some helpers!

A reminder that Membership fees for 09/10 are now due. Being a member entitles you to vote at the AGM [in November] and elect Trustees, etc. The cost is \$1.10, payable by 2 x 55¢ stamps [see form at the bottom of the page].

NEWS IN BRIEF

Order Gift Cards

Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cost is \$60 and gives an average family clean water for the rest of their lives.



TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Credit Card Donations

ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers

Although WellWishers pay a small fee for donations received this way, it can be a convenient method to use. Be assured it is a secure site.

Ross to Ethiopia

Ross will be checking out wells & meeting with villagers in October. If any supporter has any special requests, please email them as soon as possible

Photos

We have been a bit slack in updating photos from our visits. We will do this



as soon as we can including pictures of other areas of this amazing country

Spreading the Word

Many of you ask "what can I do to help?" If you could encourage just 1 person to register for the Newsletter [no obligation to donate], that would be terrific. Please see what you can do to spread the word about WellWishers.

Donor Offers \$60,000

A Friend is matching donations in 2009/10 on a \$1 for \$1 basis up to \$60,000. Take advantage by donating now.



All Donations Over \$2.00 are TAX

60 Wells for 2010?

Our accounts have yet to be completed, but preliminary figures indicate we could be building about 60 wells next year (from funds donated during 08/09). This is fantastic news and all supporters are to be heartily congratulated on this effort.



A notable change has been the number of individuals and groups who have been conducting their own fund-raising events in support of WellWishers. A truly gratifying thing.

When we started fund-raising on a larger scale 3 years ago, it was my goal to be able within 5 years, to fund as many wells as Oxfam Australia were funding in their final year of operations in Ethiopia. Thanks to your generosity, we've achieved this goal 1 year ahead of schedule.

Tax Receipt Process

As many new supporters have joined WellWishers over the past year, it's timely to re-iterate the donor receipting process.

Tax deductibility is given via our partner, Sydney based NCCA. To keep NCCA administration charges to a minimum, WellWishers provide donor details to them at the end of each month.

All donations received during a particular calendar month will be receipted by NCCA at the end of the next month or early the following one. For example, a donation received on say 10 September would be receipted late October or early November. The exception is December and June donations when due to NCCA workload factors, they could be a month late.

But never fear - you will receive your receipts! If, for your own purposes you need an interim receipt, Ross will provide one upon request.

Individual Well Ownership

Although we receive generous donations from time to time to cover the cost of a well (and sometimes more), some supporters who have been donating for 3 years have now reached \$6,000 in total. This enables them to "own" a well and have their name engraved in a plaque at the well site. Congratulations to them and thank you.

Please become a Member of WellWishers: all you need to do is complete this form, return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2009/10 of \$1.10 [payable with 2 x 55¢ stamps].

Application for Membership of WellWishers Trust: NAME:

ADDRESS:P/CODE:

Everyday Hero

WellWishers have been invited to register with this organisation. We can now receive donations from people participating in such events as City2 Surf in Sydney, etc. If you are planning to participate in such events, all you have to do is log into www.everydayhero.com.au, select your event then build your own fundraising page. Examples of upcoming events are:

- Unity Walk [Melbourne & Sydney, 30 August]
- Walk-to-Talk Fun Run [Sydney 13 September]
- Bridge to Brisbane [Brisbane 30 August]
- Stay in Bed Day [30 August]

Not only will you help those events (through entry fees), you can also help WellWishers by sending your personal link to your friends, once you have registered and set-up your own page.

Four people did just that for the recent City 2 Surf in Sydney and the Mullum 2 Bruns (in Northern Rivers, NSW) events, raising over \$4,000, with many people requesting further information about WellWishers.

If this isn't your scene, maybe your kids, etc are participating. Tell them about this, so they may help others as they enjoy their run or walk.

Touring in Ethiopia

We have many supporters who have visited Ethiopia and many more who would like to. How much do you know about this beautiful country? Do you, like myself and Ross did, have a picture in your mind of a dry, desert country with very little vegetation and a great deal of poverty, under nourished locals and little civilisation or culture?



Ethiopia can be like that, but it also has so much more. It has a very well known and very well trodden tourist path, called the Historic Route. This is to the north of Addis Ababa and currently is mainly done by air. It takes in Axum, the capital of the Queen of Sheba's empire; Lalibela, the home of the famous Bet Giorgis and other major rock hewn

churches; Bahir Dar, Lake Tana & the source of the Blue Nile; Gondar the city with the Emperor's compound of castles and associated buildings and King Fassiledes baths, home to the famous Timkat Festival each January .

That makes a wonderful holiday and gives you a fantastic insight into Ethiopia's history. However, when you venture south to the Bale Mountains and the Kenyan border there are many more surprises, including minority ethnic groups, one of which still practice lip plating.

Down south you see flamingos on the drying lake beds and you have sighting of antelope. There is abundant bird life which makes Ethiopia very popular with European birdwatchers.

There are many specialist tours including bushwalking in both the Simeon & Bale Mountains. The Simeon Mountains are home to the Simeon wolf, endemic to Ethiopia and an endangered species. Ross and I, on our first visit to Ethiopia, actually had 12 sightings of this beautiful animal and that was in the Bale Mountains.

Do some web trawling and discover for yourself the superb scenery and some unusual historical facts, including Ethiopia being the home of coffee. www.tourismethiopia.org/

With every visit to Ethiopia, we try to tour a different area, aiming to learn more about this wonderful country and its friendly, diverse population.

Marianne



Please note that Donations are to be in favour of "WellWishers" and posted to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter. This ensures we take advantage of the before mentioned **\$1 for \$1 extra donation**. **Over 95%** of funds raised go to the actual Wells projects. There are **no** pastoral activities related to this project. **All donations over \$2.00 within Australia, are Tax Deductible.**

DONATIONS: \$6,000 provides 1 Well - The Friend's 1:1 donation (up to limit of \$60,000) gives 2 wells, helping up to 1,000 people

Please tick Square **ONLY** if interim receipt is required (you will automatically receive one in the month following your donation)

Enclosed is my Donation of \$ (Cheque/MO attached - in favour of **WellWishers**)

Address (incl. postcode)

OR: Debit my Visa or MasterCard - **Please CIRCLE your card type** (automatic periodical donations can be arranged)

Name on Card: Signature:

Card Number: Expiry Date:/..... CCV(last 3 numbers on back of Card)

Name for Receipt Purposes **if different** to bank account or card name:

OR: You Can Donate Online (Secure Site): www.ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers