



Saving and Enriching lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece February has nearly gone. Is it me or do the months seem to fly by faster than ever? Hope 08 has been good to you so far!

10 APRIL sees Canberra host our 1st fundraising dinner, ably organised by Robyn Beetham and her fabulous helpers. Attendees at last August's function in Northern Rivers, all said what a great night it was. April's is sure to be the same. To those in Canberra, please help support your organisation as well as have some fun. Guest of Honour will be the Honorary Consul-General for Ethiopia who will have some great stories to tell you about Ethiopia. I am also attending and look forward to meeting many of you. Tables & seats are still available so please please **contact Robyn ASAP on 02 6290 1899.**

Did you know it only costs about \$55 to provide fresh, clean water for a typical family for their share of a new well? It would be great if you could stretch the budget to make a monthly donation of that amount, knowing that every time you check your bank statement, you've helped a family get something you've always taken for granted. Clean water saves & extends lives. Please contact me to facilitate this.

A common feeling in helping those in need around the world, is one of frustration. "How can one person make a difference" is a common thought. Well, you can - and you DO. Last financial year's records show that for those who gave \$100 or less, collectively donated more than enough for one well, thus changing the lives forever of over 500 villagers in need of clean water. Congratulations! You DO make a difference - never forget that.

Don't forget that the birthday or dinner party you're planning to hold, can be used as a fundraiser. It's still cheaper for your guests than going to a restaurant! This is a personally rewarding way for your guests to help. We have produced a simple fold-up pamphlet that explains all about WellWishers. Please contact me and I'd be more than happy to post some to you.

*And please - don't forget to visit our new website at **www.wellwishersethiopia.com** We've recently added a section on Newsletters as well as giving you some information about your Trustees, in the "About Us" section. Your comments on any part of the website, are always welcome.*

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Gift Certificates

This useful gift keeps on giving and is for all occasions. For your supplies contact Ross.

Construction Status

Planning is well under way and in fact construction has commenced on some of the 30 wells being funded from our efforts from 2006/07.

So far, everything is going to plan. We'll give you an update in the next Newsletter.

Bequests

*One person has made a b e q u e s t t o **WellWishers**, for which we are very grateful. We have had other inquiries about this opportunity and we're pleased to advise that we are now offering this to all supporters. For further details, please contact Ross.*

Photos



For more of the magical scenery and our 2006 visit go to:- <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wellwishers>

Donor offers \$55,000

Just a reminder of our Friend's most generous support in matching all donations in 2007/08 on a \$1 for \$1 basis, up to a maximum of \$55,000. Let's take advantage of this offer!

Donations over \$2.00 TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Spreading the Word

Please pass this Newsletter to friends who may be interested and ask them to contact me. There is never any obligation to donate, so they shouldn't be scared!

When mentioning this worthy cause to others, suggest they go on the mailing list.

RELAX IN QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND KNOWING YOU HAVE HELPED ETHIOPIAN VILLAGERS OBTAIN CLEAN WATER

WellWishers are holding their first ever **RAFFLE** and the prize is a **Trip for 2 to NEW ZEALAND.**

Airfares [from Brisbane, Melbourne & Sydney] to Christchurch, plus Accommodation for 6 nights in Queenstown & Car Hire from Christchurch [for 7 days] are all included.



This is a significant prize. We really need your help to cover costs and make at least enough for one well. ORDER generously & SELL enthusiastically, knowing you can make a difference.

\$2 Per Ticket or \$5 for 3 Tickets. Please ensure you order enough books for yourselves and for your friends. Contact Ross for prompt delivery of tickets.

Visiting Ethiopia

I wanted to share with you my experience of visiting the villages in Ethiopia. The beauty of the country took us by surprise and that before we came to our first village. We'd been in Ethiopia for 12 days, down south via Lake Awash, the Bale Mtns, around Addis Ababa and going onto Lalibella, Gondar and Axum on 'The Historic Route'.

When met by REST [the NGO responsible for construction, monitoring etc of the HDW programme] staff in Axum, I thought we'd seen it all. How wrong I was, in more ways than one. Tigray for me was one of drought and famine, a harsh dry land [impressions formed by pictures of the well documented famines]. But no, it's a beautiful area, canyons, tablelands and lovely rock formations, though definitely dry in 2003. We travelled many short distances of 50 to 75 kms to the villages where wells had been constructed or were being surveyed, the journey taking up to 2 hrs to reach isolated villages. Often the last kilometre or so was walked, though the scenery was always stunning.



Our first village set the tone for following visits - we'd left the vehicles to walk the last few hundred metres - the REST guys were in front and turned to us with astonishment and smiles saying - be prepared. We could hear singing and drumming and as Ross came over a small rise, he stepped back. His eyes started to water, he adjusted his cap and put on his sunglasses, turned to me and said, 'you are not going to believe this'. He asked REST to give him a moment to compose himself.



Stepping over the rise - what a sight. Over a 1,000 people. We were escorted in by a rider, on a pony dressed for the occasion. The dancers enfolded us into their midst and encouraged us to join their circle, singing and ululating. There was nothing for it but to join in with tears trickling down our faces. Everyone wanted to see us, they were on shoulders, in trees and standing on boulders. We had many speeches, the Priests said prayers of thanks and many villagers also thanked us for being there in person and for donating a well.



It was overwhelming, we considered we'd done so little, but they felt as if God had sent us. One eloquent female speaker said to us at one such village welcome [for we had many following that first one] that it wasn't just the fact that we'd donated money for a well, but that we actually took the trouble to come to visit. That meant a lot to us, but apparently meant so much more to them. The providers of clean water were no longer invisible and a mutual bond had been established. We explained we were the conduit for many people and had the privilege to be a WellWishers representative in their homes.

Marianne Allan

If you prefer a hard copy of this Newsletter by post rather than email I would be happy to provide this. It may make it easier to pass on to friends and family. Let me know and I will attend to it. Also, back-copies of all Newsletters are available upon request.

Please note that all donations are to be in favour of "WellWishers" posted to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter. This ensures we take advantage of the before mentioned \$1:\$1 extra donation. 90% 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 a limit) gives 2 WELLS, helps up to 2,000 people.

- Please tick Circle **only** if interim receipt is required [you will automatically receive one later from AngliCORD]

I enclose donation of \$ [cheque/MO attached in favour of "WellWishers"]

Address [incl. postcode]

Please Debit my Visa, MasterCard or Bankcard [automatic periodical payments available] **Please circle your card type**

Name on Card Signature

Card Number Expiry Date/.....

Name required on Receipt (if not advised, we'll assume it's the account name).....

Donate online to www.ourcommunity.com.au/anglicordtigraywells