



## Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

**Ross' Piece** Last October, some WellWishers supporters visited Ethiopia and have separately written stories on various aspects of their trip. Read their experiences on the back page.

I'm pleased to advise that WellWishers is now part of BHP Billiton's Matched Giving Programme. For every dollar given by an employee of that company, BHP shall match it 1:1. Therefore if any of our supporters or their friends or relations are employed by BHP or their subsidiaries anywhere in the world, let's try to maximise their generosity. Please contact me for further details.

REST: Final report for the 2010 wells programme has been received.

The Annual Report for the Financial Year 09/10 will be sent out to Members in the next few weeks.

There are about 58% more visits to [www.wellwisherethiopia.com](http://www.wellwisherethiopia.com) than a year ago, which is very pleasing. Please pass this link onto your friends or anyone who is interested in helping others less fortunate.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Credit Card Donations

[ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers](http://ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers)

WellWishers pay a small fee for donations received this way, but it can be an easy way for you to donate. Be assured it's a secure site.

#### Gift Cards in Lieu of Unwanted Presents

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

Order via Website or contact Ross



#### Tax Deductability

All Australian donations are Tax Deductible. Over 95% of donations go direct to the programme

#### Monthly Donations



Please consider this method of support.

Contact Ross for details

#### Bequests

We are privileged that 5 supporters have made WellWishers a beneficiary of their estate. If you are interested in considering this, please contact Ross for further details.

### RAFFLE

Due to the shortage of time and the complexity of work involved, we've decided to postpone the Annual National Raffle until June, when Ross returns from Wales.

### WellWishers Achievements



Last Newsletter, we mentioned that we will be funding 115 new wells this year. We should have advised that this will take the number since 2002, to about 310. This means over 140,000 people will have received the benefits of clean water

### Future Programme

Our Ethiopian implementation partner REST [Relief Society for Tigray] has advised that the number of wells supporting big village populations, is rapidly reducing. This is good news. Resulting from this, are new guidelines for future wells. 350 average [reducing to 300 in 2012] populations with minimum, average walking time [excluding waiting] of 1 and a half hours.

But there is still a long way to go. Barely 50% of Tigray's rural population currently has access to clean water.



### Queensland Floods

Like all Australians, we are saddened by the damage and loss of life caused by the recent rains and cyclone. Most of us will have done something to help out. We hope that it will not have a detrimental effect on the fund raising activities for building wells. The people of Ethiopia suffer every day, not just at times of severe weather events. Thank you for keeping WellWishers in the forefront of your mind.

### Janice & Andrew's Impressions on Integrated Programmes, October 2010

Tigray was quite a surprise, not in famine or overgrazed, as we'd imagined. Following the wet season, the irregularly shaped fields of lush crops of various shades were being harvested with small hand scythes & threshed using oxen. We were happily received by people with an open confidence for positive future outcomes. Two projects particularly impressed us:

1. *Beekeeping project:* Previously barren hillsides had been terraced with stone walls and livestock had been withdrawn, allowing impressive regeneration with a great variety and numbers of indigenous, nectar-producing plant species. Landless young people were given modern bee boxes and microcredit to buy a colony of bees to forage these terraces, resulting in top quality honey and a sustainable and income producing industry.

2. *Water management:* Walking the fertile plain at the base of rocky hills, accompanied by the confident and competent local head man, provided examples of REST's planning. Tamped down earth walls were built across 'wild' water eroded gullies. These walls slow, hold and re-direct the silt laden water during the short rainy season, which flows off the hills, giving the water time to soak into the ground and replenish the water table. There were also deep ditches and holes, having a small surface area to minimise evaporation, sometimes using a mechanical pump to distribute water to channels as necessary. On the reclaimed land, we marvelled at the variety of healthy vegetables, fruit trees and crops.

REST's planning and implementation of their projects and the calibre of their staff, all locals on local salaries, impressed us.



### Visit to a Tigray Village

As supporters of *Wellwishers* Toni and I were grateful for the opportunity to tour Ethiopia with Ross and Marianne and some fellow supporters, in October last year. The experience is one we will not soon forget.

Ethiopia is a remarkable country. Its history is one of struggle and more struggle, yet there is a sense of optimism for the future and an industriousness that perhaps, with our comparative wealth and ease of lifestyle, we have lost.

Certainly for us the highlight of our tour was a visit to the village where the well we sponsored is now in use. The countryside is mountainous and the difficulty previously endured by the women and girls in carrying water was immediately obvious. The welcome given to our group was quite remarkable, with singing and dancing and lots of smiling faces; but to sing & dance and feel our common humanity only emphasised to me the yawning gap in opportunity and circumstance that exists between our two cultures. That Toni and I, with no real impact on our own circumstances, could have such a profound effect on the lives of 400 to 500 people is both humbling and sad. Certainly, our resolve to continue our support for *Wellwishers* has been strengthened.

Peter and Toni Kesby

### FRIENDS ON THE ROAD



As a *WellWishers* traveller in Ethiopia, you are never without friends – either fleetingly or forever.

Friends are made quickly. There are the friends you make in the streets, visiting special places or as an instant wedding guest in the Ghion Gardens in Addis when couples and their families flock there for their photographs at weekends.

Outside Addis, villagers wave in greeting as they travel to market. Sometimes, children run alongside your vehicle with exuberant smiles, arms flailing and thumbs up. People are eager to share their stories. Village women tell of demanding daily routines; proudly, a student shows me his one roomed home; a boy in Axum insists my friend and I visit his Mum living opposite.

Progress in the big cities and smaller towns sits alongside almost biblical rural scenes – farmers threshing wheat by hand scythe for example - in landscapes dotted with *tukuls* like stars in the sky.

The deepest sense of history, the upkeep of culture accompanied by an importance of family, underpin people's daily lives. Somehow, the Ethiopian people hold an unspoken knowing about how to be in the world. These are our friends on the road.

**Please note** that Donations are to be in favour of "*WellWishers*" and posted to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter. 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 900 people

Please tick Square **ONLY** if an 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](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers)