



## Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

**Ross' Piece** *It seems the recession is affecting some people more than expected and as I feared, donations have all but dried up. Unfortunately, the dire problem of lack of clean and accessible water in Ethiopia remains. Please help wherever possible.*

The end of the Financial Year is nigh – times sure flies! Here's your chance to minimise your tax bill by donating to this life saving and life enhancing programme, through WellWishers, before 30 June.

People often ask what can they do to help. It would be wonderful if each of you could ask **just one** of your friends to sign up for the quarterly Newsletter. As you know, there is **no obligation to donate** – just making people aware of the problems of our Ethiopian friends, is also very important. Could you please make this your goal for the coming month?

Thanks go to Trinity Support Services from Wangaratta, Vic for facilitating a \$3,000 donation. The money was raised by people in the community who experience mental health issues as part of their recovery therapy. They are aiming to 'complete' the well next financial year.

41 new wells are currently under construction, funded from donations received during last financial year. I should be able to give you a detailed progress report in the next Newsletter.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### A Typical Day at School

Enjoy reading 9 year old Amete's story (over page) of her memories of a day at school in Ethiopia, before she became part of an Australian family 2 years ago. It is inspiring reading.

#### Order Gift Cards

Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cost will be \$60 from 1 July and gives an average family clean water for the rest of their lives.



**TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

#### Bequests

We are privileged that 4 supporters have made WellWishers a beneficiary of their estate. If you are interested in considering this, please contact Ross for further details.

#### Ethiopia Visit in May



Centre for Social Response's proposed trip to Ethiopia this month has been postponed due to insufficient numbers, not helped of course by the economy. Stay tuned.

#### A Supporter's Story

In October 08, Marena, an 11 year old, visited some rural Tigray villages with Ross, Marianne & Robyn. Find her story on the website under "News"



#### More Good News

Our Friend has renewed the offer for 2009/10 financial year, to match all donations on a 1:1 basis. The contributions will be capped at \$60,000. **All Donations Over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTIBLE**



### Wellwishers Trust Facebook Group

Are signed up on Facebook? WellWishers are too! Come join us, and help spread the word. Join up your friends and distribute WellWishers information to them, and to their friends, and on and on. Look for "WellWishers Trust" (the non-profit page)

facebook

### Annual Raffle Winner



Our 2nd Annual Raffle was a great success, raising about \$7,000 after cost deductions for the prizes. More than enough for a targeted well.

The winning ticket was kindly drawn by Cr. Jan Barham, Mayor of Byron Shire, and a WellWishers supporter. The lucky winner was Fred from Sydney, who has supported

WellWishers since its inception. Fred and his partner will be winging their way across The Ditch for a weeks holiday in beautiful Queenstown at the Mecure Resort.

I'd like to sincerely thank everyone who bought and sold tickets; it wouldn't have been possible without your help. Thank you. We'll be running another one next year. Start saving – it may be your turn!

### Jazz Uncovered

Early April saw the launching of the very successful Jazz Uncovered festival in Canberra – 12 hours of mainly contemporary jazz presented by over 20 local and district groups. The day finished with a great performance by headline act Wanderlust. A highlight was the incredible talent of the young musicians – the future of jazz is in good hands!



All the day's net proceeds were donated to WellWishers - about \$3,000 or half a well! Many thanks to Brendon and the hard working committee for coming up with this initiative and for the enormous amount of co-ordination work required in bringing such an event to its successful conclusion.

All being well, we hope that WellWishers will be the main beneficiary next year.

### Turning 'Wine Into Water'

What a fantastic thing - for less than the cost of a glass of wine [\$5.50] you can download 3 beautifully arranged classics performed by Tony King. Go to [www.winemusic.biz](http://www.winemusic.biz).

Thank you Tony - ONE person is making a difference.

### 'Swinging Bridge' Wine Offer

Purchase affordable wines (incl. Best Shiraz at NSW Wine Awards & Best Single Vineyard Chardonnay, at Melbourne Wine Show) and assist WellWishers.

The family-owned Swinging Bridge Estate from Central Ranges, NSW, will donate \$30 to WellWishers for every case ordered online at [www.swingingbridge.com.au](http://www.swingingbridge.com.au)

Please mark ALL your orders WellWishers to ensure WellWishers benefits from this very generous offer.

*Amete is a 9 year old Tigrayan girl who 2 years ago, lived in a rural village typical of the ones for which WellWishers fund wells. Since settling in Australia, she has learnt English, with a great Aussie accent, and loves going to school. She and her younger sister Frewoini recently busked at a local market and earned \$21.20 for WellWishers!*



*This is her story in her own, unedited words.*

**School in Tigray**

Children and adults in Tigray go to school for the same reason in Australia – they want to learn to read and write. If they can read and write they can have jobs to do. If they can add up they can sell the things they grow or make themselves.

Hi, I am Amete-B'ghan who is writing this letter to you. I went to school in Tigray for two years and I thought you might like to know about it.

School in Tigray was difficult. They didn't have chairs and desks like in Australia. They didn't have many books or pens. Seats are made of dirt and rocks and every morning the children have to spread water on the dirt floor. Each day your lap was your desk.

In each class there are children and adults doing the same kind of work. Everybody just wants to make their life better for themselves and their families.

School was only for half a day, because children and adults had to work at their own property. They need to get water every morning, look after their goats, sheep, cows, horses, donkeys and children and baby brothers or sisters while their parents are working hard too.

I used to go to school in the afternoon with my aunty and friends. Before school I would get up, have about a tablespoon full of left over dinner for breakfast and walk with my neighbour down the rocky hill, fill a big plastic container with water, walk back up to our

house, and put it into other containers. Then get the goats out, take a rope and tie it around my hip and collect firewood while keeping an eye on the goats.

There was no electricity or watches where I lived in Tigray. From the top of the hill where I was watching the goats I would hear children leaving the morning school and then I would know it was time for the afternoon children to make their way down the hill to go to school. I would then call to my sister Frewoini, that I was at this spot so that she would know to get my home made school bag and come back after having some thing very little to eat and we would swap – that means that Frewoini looks after the goats and I go to school.

It was about a three kilometre walk to school. Some people might think that it was a long way, but we had fun walking and I was used to it. We would sing and run and I looked forward to seeing my friends, just like I do in Australia.

Tigrinyans think that education is important, that is why they go to school instead of working all day.

**Frewoine & Amete at play in their new home.**



**Impact Assessment Report**

*As reported in earlier Newsletters, last October we received a 103 page report on selected wells funded by WellWishers, covering the methodology of the programme and the impact it has had on those communities fortunate to have received a well. At WellWisher's expense, this report was prepared by Professional Consulting & Business PLC, an independent consultant from Ethiopia. As part of our transparency & accountability obligations to our supporters, we will repeat this exercise probably every 3 years to ensure our goals are being met.*

*The Consultant made 16 recommendations on how to improve the delivery process, 15 of which will be incorporated into future Agreements with REST, our Ethiopian project-implementing partner.*

*Broadly speaking, the report confirmed the achievement of expected health, education & gender benefits. Some minor matters of training need addressing and we have taken these up with REST. We shall continue our annual monitoring process to ensure these problems do not recur. Most of the implementation problems relate to government bodies rather than REST. I should emphasis we have had nothing but a positive reaction from those authorities who have demonstrated eagerness in solving these issues.*

**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**. About 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](http://www.ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers)