



*Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia*

**Ross' Piece**

WellWishers' Annual General Meeting [AGM] will be held on Friday, 8 November 2013 commencing at 10am, in the offices of Oxfam Australia [132 Leicester Street, Carlton Vic]. Everybody is welcome but please remember that only financial members can vote. The Agenda will be posted to the website during September. Make a note in your diary [you may be in Melbourne for Cup Week].

*I would like to publicly thank our bank, Bank of Queensland, for the continuing waiving of all fees and for the excellent prompt service and advice they provide WellWishers. Thanks BoQ - every little helps.*

At the time of writing, the 2012/13 accounts are being prepared. Although we expect to exceed last year's fundraising total, that may not necessarily translate into increased well numbers, due to the falling Australia dollar.

*And a huge thank you to everyone who generously responded to our plea for donations in June. About \$130,000 was received. Fantastic!*

<p><b>Tax Deductability</b></p> <p>All Australian donations are Tax Deductible. Over 95% of donations goes direct to the programme.</p>	<p><b>Spreading the Word</b></p> <p>Many of you ask "what can I do to help?" If you could encourage just 1 or 2 people to register for the Newsletter [no obligation to donate], that would be terrific. Please see what you can do to spread the word about the work of <b>WellWishers</b>.</p>	<p><b>2013 Construction Progress</b></p> <p>REST, our Ethiopian Partner, advises all is on programme for 31 December completion.</p> 	<p><b>Donor Offers \$60,000</b></p> <p>Our Friend will again match donations in 2013/14, \$1 for \$1 up to \$60,000. Donate generously now.</p>  <p><b>\$2.00 &amp; over donations are Tax Deductible</b></p>	<p><b>Gift Cards in Lieu of Unwanted Presents</b></p> <p>Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cost is only \$60 and that gives clean water to an average family and their generations to follow.</p>  <p><b>TAX DEDUCTIBLE</b></p> <p>Order via Website or contact Ross</p>
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**8 WELLS!! - The British School, Al Khubairat in Abu Dhabi**

As reported in February's Newsletter, Ross visited Abu Dhabi to talk to 1,000 or so school children about *WellWishers'* work in Ethiopia. We hoped the school would raise enough for 4 wells.

To our delight and their joy, they raised 173,762 Dirhams [\$48,933] - a well for each year in the Junior School. Pictured on the left, is Richard Gray accepting "The Big Cheque" from the Head Girl & Boy with the Headmaster. Richard, his wife Philippa and their 2 daughters Marena & Jasmine, all put a lot into this amazing effort.

I would be very grateful if you would approach your children's or grandchildren's school about supporting *WellWishers* as part of their fundraising efforts. Many schools do this as children are taught about social and other inequities in life. Do not be shy - talk to someone today. Take a copy of the Newsletter with you.

It can be big or small, part of year long campaigns or just a one off. Maybe you might be allowed to promote Gift Cards for sale. Not only will your loved ones learn about how very little can help so many, but others around them will learn too.

**QUOTATION**

**"Teach a boy and you educate an individual.**

**Teach a girl and you will educate a community"**

**Annual Site Visit** Ross is off to Ethiopia in early November for the annual meetings and site visits. It's always something to really look forward to and it's very satisfying to see so much progress. If there is anything you would like Ross to specifically discuss or ask about or to photograph, please email him. All site visits are self funded.

**Please become a Member of WellWishers.** Complete this form and return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2013/14 of \$1.20 [payable with 2 x 60c stamps]. Please add your email address, if you have one.

NAME: ..... EMAIL ADDRESS: .....

POSTAL ADDRESS: ..... P/CODE: .....

### Paul's Successful Bike Ride from the South up to the North of Britain

As reported in the May Newsletter, the indefatigable Paul Carney was pedalling from Lands End to John O'Groats. I'm pleased to say that 1,709kms later [including detours], Paul completed that task in 16 days on 30th June - just see how happy he is in the picture. Ross was in Wales on Day 4 to shout him a beer in Monmouth. In Paul's words



*“Since adopting our son from Ethiopia ten years back, as a family we've embraced the country, its culture, and people as if we ourselves were all born to it. Each year we fundraise to provide two or more villages with a well that will allow them access to safe drinking water. We do this via the Australian program Wellwishers.*

*It's all so simple – find \$6,000 and for a village of around 400 people, life opportunity begins anew, immeasurably for the better. I'm hoping that this will be the enduring legacy of my ride.*

*It's often remarked that the first few days are the toughest. The real trick can be the climate. Late June in the UK does not necessarily equate to words like 'warm' or 'sunny'. For me, sadness is now encapsulated by the recollection of covering in that disused telephone box, rain lashing the glass, freezing to the core, hopelessly lost, the map sodden, falling apart - and it being just 9:00am. But ... then there's joy. There's that vast majestic sweep of the Scottish Highlands, roads empty but for the odd sheep.*

*My route emphasised the British B roads taking you away from the traffic, negotiating around such monster cities as Manchester and Liverpool and capturing the innumerable charms of the timeless rural UK villages.*

*We chose to stay in Youth Hostels over B&Bs (my family joined me each night). Hostels love cyclists. When you're a solo cyclist there's nothing like a bit of cycling brotherhood within the hostels at day's end to restore the spirits and share tips about the ensuing days.*

*With the ride completed, I feel fit and very pleased to have had a great family experience, to have gained a real feel for the history, landscape and people of the UK. Perhaps there are more such challenges ahead somewhere else. One way or another we'll still be ambitious for building wells in Ethiopia”.*

Paul's ride has so far yielded one well, but I feel his selfless efforts are worthy of at least 2 wells. When making your next donation, please add a bit more and allocate it to Paul's total. Use the secure site- [www.givenow.com.au/WellsEnd](http://www.givenow.com.au/WellsEnd).

#### Adelaide Fundraiser Dinner - Friday 6 September

A follow up to the very successful 2010 dinner will again be held at **The Abyssinian Restaurant, Torrensville.**

Full details have been posted to S.A. supporters, so ensure the date is in your diary and that you rustle up as many friends, relatives and work colleagues as you can. Great food, great fun and a great cause.

The evening's highlight will be a presentation by the Ethiopian Consul-General in Australia, Mr Graham Romanes, who will be travelling from Melbourne for the occasion.

Please give Graham & WellWishers your support by attending. The bulk of the entry cost will be tax deductible.

#### Supporters' Visits to Ethiopia



*It's pleasing to see more people visiting Ethiopia with nearly all experiencing an unforgettable visit to a village which received a well via WellWishers. If you are interested, please contact Ross. He will be pleased to arrange it for you*

**Note** 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 by Australian**

#### DONATIONS: \$6,000 provides 1 Well helping up to 400 people

Please tick Square if you are happy for your donation to be made public

My Donation is enclosed \$ ..... Postal/Email Address [incl postcode].....

OR: Debit my **Visa** : **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)

OR: Donate Online (Secure Site): [www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers](http://www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers)

OR: Donate direct to Bank of Queensland: **WellWishers: BSB: 124-048 ACCT NO: 2165 8949**

(It is imperative you reference with your name and postcode)

Please send me information about making a bequest to WellWishers

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