



## Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

**Ross' Piece** Save yourself and others from unwanted gifts. It is reported that 72% of Australians receive nearly \$1 billion worth of unwanted Christmas presents every year and 25% of people knowingly buy presents for those who don't want them. The attached flyer shows you how you can solve your gift problem and at the same time solve a problem in Ethiopia. Just imagine how many people worldwide could access clean water with the \$1 billion spent on unwanted gifts. Give a gift that keeps on giving.

*A reminder that the next AGM will be held in Melbourne at 4.30pm on Tuesday 6 December 2011 in Oxfam Australia's office at 132 Leicester Street, Carlton, Victoria. All members are welcome and we would love to see you there.*

The Ethiopian Consul-General has produced a calendar for 2011/12 incorporating many lovely photos of Ethiopia. It can be downloaded for free, at [www.consul.com.au](http://www.consul.com.au). WellWishers get a mention in June/July, for which we feel honoured.

*Only this week on our way home from Wales, visiting 'the bewitching grandchild', we addressed a big group of 10 year olds at an International School in Abu Dhabi. They are getting ready to raise money for a cause and as one of the student reps was a 7 year old when she visited water wells and villages in Ethiopia, she has first hand knowledge to back up our talk. They are targetting sufficient donations for one well. If you know of any schools who would like us to come and address them, please get in touch with Ross - doesn't matter where, Abu Dhabi, Perth, Orange, Singapore or the UK!!*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Donor Offers \$60,000

Our Friend will again match donations in 2011/12, \$1 for \$1 up to \$60,000. Donate generously now.



**\$2.00 & over donations are Tax Deductible**

#### Companies Supporting WellWishers

*We'd like to thank Byron at Byron [[www.thebyronatbyron.com.au](http://www.thebyronatbyron.com.au)] and Ace Rental Cars NZ [[www.acerentalcars.co.nz](http://www.acerentalcars.co.nz)] for the fully gifted raffles prizes this year, thus contributing over \$1,000 to our funds.*

*Also thanks again to Ray Watson [Auditor] and John Robinson [Accounts] for their free service.*

#### Spreading the Word

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 of the work of **WellWishers**.

#### Tax Deductability

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

#### Credit Card Donations

[givenow.com.au/wellwishers](http://givenow.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.*

## Breaking News!!!!

Two weeks ago, some 18 months after making our submission, *WellWishers* were granted DGR [Designated Gift Recipient] status by the Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Assistant Treasurer. This is a very difficult thing to achieve, given we raise money mainly in Australia, for expenditure in a foreign country. *WellWishers* thus have joined an elite number of organisations formally recognised by the government.

What does this mean for you, our supporters? Other than now receiving your receipts direct from *WellWishers*, there is no change for you. You can have your receipt sent by post or by email. Please let us know if you would like an email receipt.

We are very excited about our future prospects due to this Commonwealth Government recognition. The new receipting procedure will apply to all donations received from 1 January 2012.

### A poignant anniversary and an enjoyable way to raise money

Sunday September 11 saw Julia Cairns and her family in New Mexico, USA, hold a different kind of get together for that particular date. They held a house concert. As well as many musicians, they had silent auctions with over 40 items being donated by local business and individuals. Food was donated by local supermarkets and supplemented by quiches that Julia cooked with the eggs from her 6 chickens. Over 100 people attended and the evening was perfect: no rain, no mosquitoes and a full moon rising. Everyone enjoyed themselves and were very generous. Over \$4,000 was raised for *WellWishers*. Many have already enquired when the next event will be.

It was a poignant anniversary in the US but because this was a positive and uplifting occasion, people could focus on the good that can be created in the world. So, all in all a very successful event, made possible by the generous donations of time by the musicians. But the biggest thank you must go to Julia.



**Please become a Member of WellWishers.** Complete this form and return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2011/12 of \$1.20 [payable with 2 x 60¢ stamps]. Please add your email address, if you have one.

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

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

## RECORD BREAKING NUMBER OF WELLS FOR 2012

We are very excited to advise that *WellWishers* will be funding 124 wells next year, 9 more than this year's record. About 40,000 additional people will access clean water.

Like last year, this abnormally high number is the result of continuing prudent management of our financial position, given the volatility of international currency over the past 3 years and the very welcome accumulated currency gains, due to the prolonged strength of the Australian dollar against the US Dollar. However, the current high inflation in Ethiopia may affect *WellWishers'* level of support in 2013.

Our policy to seek currency value predictions from at least 3 firms dealing in foreign currency and to take a

suitably conservative approach in formulating our annual wells programme, has served us well. The average prediction made last year for December 2011 was 88¢USD. Currently it is about 105¢, an under-estimate of 19%. Very volatile indeed.

As trustees, we are incumbent to act prudently and responsibly in the interests of our supporters. I am sure you will agree that this prudence has given us a very pleasing result for this year.

We expect that many scenes such as that above, will be repeated all over the region of Tigray in 2012.



### Volunteer Obstetricians & Midwives needed.....

Right now women and children are dying trying to give birth in Ethiopia. There are hospitals and equipment, but not enough people trained in performing caesareans and difficult deliveries.

Dr Andrew Browning, in co-operation with the Ethiopian Health Bureau, is trying to recruit volunteer obstetricians and midwives to help save the lives of these mothers and babies.

If you can help, please contact Dr Andrew Browning on [andrew\\_browning@hotmail.com](mailto:andrew_browning@hotmail.com)

It is safe to travel and stay in Ethiopia, we do it every year and we always visit areas other than Tigray, so we know of the high demand to help developing areas. What a wonderful way to help if you can.

**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 by Australian taxpayers, 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 800 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 \$ ..... **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)

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

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