



Saving and Enriching lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece Welcome to **WellWishers**. What a busy and exciting time since the last Newsletter. We have formalised a Trust Deed, the Mystery Donor has agreed to continue his generous support, and we successfully undertook our first formal fundraising function. Details Below.

Our other exciting news is that the Website was launched last week. Designed and put together free of charge by Louise Giles of Husk, an Auckland based web designer, the site will be expanded over coming months, but hey we're now in cyberspace. Thanks to Louise for her cheery & very professional input. Oh, and by the way Louise also designed our new logo and letterhead. I hope you like it! The web address is www.wellwisherethiopia.com

I have attached information relating to an organised trip to Ethiopia in February/March 2008. It will take you to places the average tourist rarely visits. You'll spend time inspecting community developments and talk with villagers who have recently had a **WellWishers** well installed. I did a similar trip to India a few years back with Oxfam Australia and highly recommend this trip. It is somewhat life-changing a trip you will never forget.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The Gift Certificates

We can supply these & they are suitable for all occasions.

As we get older, we tend to need less. This is one gift that will be extremely useful and will keep on giving.

Contact Ross for your supplies

The Process

Due to Lack of space in this edition, we have had to postpone the final installment to the next Newsletter.

Construction Status

Construction of the 25 wells funded by 05/06 donations is now complete.

60th Birthday

One WellWisher recently celebrated her Big O requesting donations in lieu of presents. Through her guests' generosity, over \$2,000 was raised!

Give this some thought for your next party or function.

Photos



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

Donor offers \$55,000

Our Friend has agreed to further extend the 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!

All donations over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Spreading the Word

To broaden our donor base, when mentioning this worthy cause to others, suggest they go on the mailing list.

Please pass this Newsletter to friends who may be interested and ask them to contact me.

Funds Raised in 06/07

I am pleased to announce that a total of \$157,930 was raised last financial year. After adding interest and foreign currency gains, we should have enough money to construct about 30 wells over the coming 10 months. I will be in contact with REST [Our Ethiopian NGO - non-Government Organisation - partner] shortly, to negotiate the exact number. It will definitely be well in excess of last year's 25 wells. A letter from AngliCORD is on the back of this page, certifying the funds raised during 06/07.

On behalf of our Tigrayan recipients, please accept my gratitude for your wonderful support. Who said that one person [you the reader] cannot make a difference!?

Fund Raising Dinner

Our inaugural fund raising dinner was held last Thursday [30 August] in Brunswick Heads in the Northern Rivers area of NSW. Its success was beyond our expectations. We had hoped to raise enough money to build 1 well [\$6,000] and are ecstatic that the 81 attendees raised about \$7,000 that night. WOW

It was a fun night and introduced about 60 new people to Wellwishers. The Guest Speaker was Graham Romanes, Ethiopian Consul-General who travelled from Melbourne for the occasion. The general feeling was that this function should become an annual event. We hope to hold similar ones in other cities next year. If anyone is interest in organising one, please let me know. I will be very glad to help.

Increased Fee Payable to AngliCORD

I have agreed with our Australian partner, AngliCORD, to an increase in their administration & monitoring fee from 5% to 10%. They've been providing their valuable service at a loss for the past 2 years. Please note that the other 90% goes to the project in Ethiopia - far in excess of the norm for NGOs. I've copied below an extract of a letter from Greg Thompson, the CEO of AngliCORD, which relates to this matter.

"We value our working relationship with WellWishers and acknowledge your commitment to the people of Tigray. We take seriously our responsibility to you, and to the people you support, to ensure the funds reach REST and are used to support the programs for which you gave the funds. The costs to us of giving that assurance and to comply with statutory & sector obligations are not insignificant. To enable us to meet the cost of fulfilling these obligations we have increased our fee to 10% of funds expended on the program. This fee will cover the cost of managing your donations, of increased monitoring of the application of funds and preparing reports through Ross Allan who prepares newsletters to keep you informed of the communities' achievements, as they work to meet the needs of the people you have chosen to support."

20th August 2007

WellWishers
c/- Ross and Marianne Allan
PO Box 662
Mullumbimby NSW 2482

Dear Ross, Marianne and WellWishers

I write to confirm that between 1st July 2006 and 30th June 2007, a total of \$157,930 has been received by AngliCORD, to support the efforts of the local community in the construction of Hand Dug Water Wells in the Tigray region of Ethiopia. This total includes a generous donation of \$55,000 from an anonymous donor.

With interest and currency gains there could be sufficient funds to build up to 30 wells for villages with a population in excess of 20,000 people. Increased access to water will significantly reduce infant mortality, increase life spans, improve health (especially for women), allow more girls to go to school, and generally improve the standard of living for these impoverished people.

On behalf of AngliCORD I express our deepest gratitude to all who have supported this important program and for your commitment to the people of Tigray. We value the opportunity to work with you in the continuing support of, and partnership with, some of the world's poorest people.

Yours Sincerely



Greg Thompson

ARN 39 116 072 050

Donations to AngliCORD are tax-deductible



Chief Executive Officer:

Mr Greg Thompson

P.O. Box 139
East Melbourne
Victoria 3002

Telephone: 613 9495 6100
Facsimile: 613 9495 6891
anglicord@anglicord.org.au
www.anglicord.org.au

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 now to be in favour of "WellWishers" but 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. Please advise in whose name you wish the tax receipt to be in. All donations over \$2.00 within Australia, are Tax Deductible.

DONATIONS: \$6,000 provides 1 WELL - the Friend's \$1:\$1 donation makes it 2 WELLS, benefiting 1,000 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]

Name on Card Signature

Card Number Expiry Date/.....

Donate online to www.ourcommunity.com.au/anglicord indicating donation is for Tigray Hand Dug Wells

WellWishers Trust

As you are probably aware, *WellWishers* has now existed as an informal entity for about 18 months. As the level of donations increases, the need for transparency & accountability increases. I've therefore decided to formalise this entity, and last week, we signed a formal Charitable Trust Deed, in the name of **WellWishers Trust**. Although this increases my workload, it's imperative to have an entity that offers full transparency & accountability to you, the supporters. There is no cost in setting-up this entity with the possible exception of stamp duty [we are requesting a refund from the NSW Government].

It is now necessary to appoint an Honorary Accountant and Auditor to re-check that the books are professionally maintained. A separate bank account will be opened within the coming fortnight. **In future, all donations should be made in favour of *WellWishers***. This will not affect the tax deductibility status, as *WellWishers* will continue to pass all donations on to *AngliCORD*. I'm extremely grateful to Richard Gray who most generously drafted and finalised this deed on a pro bono basis. Thank you Richard.

Membership: The formation of this Trust now allows you to have a legal say in the running of *WellWishers*. Being a Member entitles you to vote at General Meetings and the Annual General Meeting, even if only by proxy. For example, being a Member gives you the right in appointing or removing Trustees. Annual membership is \$1.00 per year and I urge you to complete and return the form at the foot of this page.

I'm delighted to now introduce the four Trustees who are legally responsible for the governance, transparency & accountability issues relating to your Trust. Robyn, David and Graham bring diverse but skilled experience to *WellWishers*.



Robyn Beetham from Canberra, has been an active supporter of the Hand Dug Wells [HDW] programme since early 2004. Prior to retirement in 2003, she was a career Commonwealth Public Servant, working at senior executive level in a range of Departments, in policy formulation and programme administration. She later served on governance boards in Defence Materiel Organisation & the Board of Safeski's. More recently she has become increasingly involved in community service through organisations such as Rotary & the St Vincent de Paul Society – and in the HDW programme.

She brings a wealth of experience in government & governance processes; strong leadership, policy development, & programme management skills; excellent communication & people skills; and strong representational abilities derived from her background in both the public and private sector, & more recently in the field of community service.



David Langmore has recently retired after a career mostly concentrated in regional strategic planning & development work in the Gippsland. For several decades, he was an active member of Community Aid Abroad (now Oxfam Australia) and recently completed a four year term as an elected director of the Oxfam Australia's national board.

In 2005, he & his wife travelled for 4 weeks in Ethiopia spending several days with REST [Relief Society of Tigray] staff inspecting a range of water resource projects through various parts of Tigray province. They were mightily impressed with the social, health, and economic productivity benefits of these projects. David is now delighted to be involved in the move to create a channel through which Australians can contribute directly to enable more Ethiopian villages to build desperately needed new wells and other water resource projects.



Graham Romanes [from Melbourne] currently juggles two roles – full-time Honorary Consul-General for Ethiopia, responsible for official Ethiopian matters in Australia & NZ, and running a small business promoting Ethiopian jewellery & artifacts, and Ethiopian Fair Trade coffee. Trying to make a living from the 2nd, and simply trying to make a contribution to the welfare of Ethiopia in the world from the 1st.

Graham went to Africa to teach in 1971, fell in love with Ethiopia, and returned to Australia eventually to manage the Oxfam/CAA program in Africa for 15 years. Lots of aid dollars sharpened his eye for good people and programmes to support. Any good programme should be strongly tied to community capacity and vision, and in Tigray province, the wells programme is an absolute stand-out, and a proven winner over the last 20 years. He is delighted to be a Trustee for *WellWishers*.



Ross Allan is the Founder of *WellWishers*. With wife Marianne, they have been supporting the HDW program since 2002. They visited Ethiopia in 2003 & 2006 to see the plight of the people & the benefits they receive after a well is installed. Having retired some years ago from his successful project & development management company, Ross decided he wanted to devote most of his time & resources in helping people wherever he could. He felt that he is undeservedly fortunate to be born in a country as wealthy as Australia and that it's unfair that social justice is decided upon by places of birth.

Ross is currently serving a 4 year term as a Director of Oxfam Australia and is also a committee member of Oxfam Trading which oversees the retail operations of Oxfam Shops throughout Australia..

Please become a Member of *WellWishers* - All you have to do is complete this form and return it to the address below, together with the annual membership fee of **One Dollar [\$1.00]**. For the successful democratisation of this Trust, I urge you to become a member.

Name: **Postcode:**