



Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece *WellWishers* 1st AGM was held last Monday in Oxfam Australia's offices in Melbourne [Thanks, Oxfam]. All Trustees plus 2 Members attended and 9 sent apologies. See over page for the meeting highlights.

A very comprehensive Impact Assessment report is nearing completion, concentrating on the impact on village life by the wells funded by **WellWishers**. More in later newsletters.

The Centre for Social Response is holding a fund raising barbecue dinner for **WellWishers** at Parliament House Brisbane on 17 October 2008. Susan would love to hear from all Brisbane supporters. Why not book a table? Her number is **0409.542.848** or email her at susan@socialenterprisehubs.org

ADVANCE NOTICE: This year there will be 4 different Christmas Gift card designs to choose from. Each one costs \$55, the proceeds covering the cost of a typical family's share of a new well. Full details in November's Newsletter.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Donations

The Gift Certificates are up and running. Have you thought about these for presents? We can supply them and they are suitable for all occasions.

Ethiopia in October

We travel to Ethiopia next month. If you have questions for villagers to answer or have specific photo requests, let Ross know before end September.



Credit Card Donations

ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers

This site for credit card donations is working well, although we do prefer cheques so as to avoid paying fees. It's a secure site and we are seeing an increase in automatic monthly donations. Thank you to those donors.

Photos

Visit <http://www.flickr.com/photos/wellwishers> For our



2006 trip magical scenery. Updates after the October journey.

Donor offers \$60,000

Remember a Friend has agreed to match donations in 2008/09 on a \$1 for \$1 basis. Take advantage of this offer as a Christmas gift.

All donations over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTIBLE

Spreading the Word

Many supporters ask what they can do to help. Without stretching your friendships, if you could encourage just 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.

Ethiopia Trip

Ross & Marianne Allan and Trustee Robyn Beetham are embarking on their next self-funded trip to Ethiopia early next month. This trip's objective is to renew contacts with REST [the Well's implementing NGO] and NCA [the independent monitoring NGO]. The Agenda includes reviewing the programme to date, discussing any problems, improvements, finalising the comprehensive Impact Assessment reports and of course we'll visit some villages who have benefitted from *WellWishers* work. We will also negotiate the number of wells to be built early next year from funds raised in 2007/08.

We will then travel into the Western Highland district of Ethiopia so that we can learn more about this fascinating and diverse country and meet more of its different ethnic peoples.



Please become a Member of WellWishers - all you need to do is complete this form, return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2008/09 of \$1.00 [payable with 2 x 50¢ stamps].

Application for membership of WellWishers Trust : NAME

ADDRESS Postcode

Melbourne Dinner *Another very successful fund raising dinner was held last week - this time in Melbourne at an Ethiopian restaurant [yes, there are quite a few in Australia]. 102 people attended and many more were unable to be accommodated. The night included a very moving live choral performance of "We are the World", Ethiopian slide show, talks from Melbourne's Ethiopian community and the Consul-General. In all, a sum of about \$12,500 was raised - enough for 2 wells.*

Congratulations must go to Paul Carney , a Melbourne WellWisher who worked tirelessly to ensure the night's success. It was a fun night. Heart felt thanks Paul. Pictured is Paul with Consul-General Graham Romanes



Inaugural AGM

This was held on 8 September 2008 in Melbourne. Of the 39 financial members, 15 either attended or sent their apologies - a pleasing response. The Chairman, Ross Allan, gave his report for the period since formal inception [31 August 2007] to 30 June 2008, the highlights of that report being:

- ◆ *Presentation of the audited accounts showing a nett \$199,019 raised in that period.*
- ◆ *After deducting raffle & costs of the Canberra dinner, the cost of administration & marketing equalled 1.2% of net income received*
- ◆ *After adding retained funds [from forex gains] & interest, it is expected we'll be able to fund between 35 & 40 wells early next year, up from 30 this year. The exact number will be negotiated with our Ethiopian partner [REST] during the October 2008 field visit.*
- ◆ *103 wells have been built since 2002, including 3 this year from donations from the USA and from the Australian Embassy in Nairobi. So far, about 60,000 people have benefitted since 2002.*
- ◆ *About 600 people now receive our quarterly Newsletter.*
- ◆ *We've been getting great support from the media this year, from which we can directly attribute 60 new supporters and \$50,000 of donations .*
- ◆ *Thanking the trustees for their wisdom and support during the year.*
- ◆ *Finally, thanking all those who supported WellWishers, including individuals, groups and those who organised their own fund-raising on WellWishers behalf. There are too many to name but without them, WellWishers could not exist nor support those in need in Ethiopia.*

The other important piece of business was electing a Trustee. Ross stood down and being eligible, stood for the vacant position. There being no other candidates, Ross was re-elected as a Trustee. If you would like more information about the meeting, please do not hesitate to ask.

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. Backcopies of all Newsletters are available upon request and may be viewed on the website www.wellwishersethiopia.com. The website is still in its infancy and we would appreciate feedback on information provided and if there are improvements we can make. Send the link and spread the word.

*Please Note: All donations are to be made out 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:\$1 extra donation. About 95% of funds raised go to the actual Wells projects. There are no pastoral activities related to this project. **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 up to 1,500 people.

Please tick Box **only** if interim receipt is required [you automatically receive one later from our Australian Partner]

Enclosed is my donation of \$ [cheque/MO attached - in favour of "WellWishers"]

Address [incl postcode]

OR Please Debit my Visa or MasterCard [automatic periodical payments available] **Please CIRCLE your card type**

Name on Card Signature

Card Number Expiry Date / CCV
(last 3 numbers on back of Card)

Donate Online [Secure Site] www.ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers