



*Saving and enriching lives in Ethiopia*



## Our water projects in 2018

### Hand dug wells in Tigray:

All successfully completed! REST have sent their final report for the 2018 program, and you can read it in full on the **News** page of our website. Wells were completed in 40 villages, providing a secure supply of clean water for 8621 people.

Some of the important indicators in the final report show that, across the 40 wells:

- Water availability increased from 7.6 litres per day per person to 13.7 litres
- Average walking time to collect water reduced from 40 mins to 14 mins
- The percentage of girls going to school increased from 80% to 99%.

### Spring capping in Oromia:

This was a new and exciting venture for WellWishers. Our new partner, Meki Branch Office of the Ethiopian Catholic Church Social & Development Commission proved to be up to the job and completed the spring capping for 1750 direct beneficiaries in Bombasso Reji Kebele, providing water for those within a 1.5-kilometer radius and at 15 litres per person per day. This project is 225 km south of Addis Ababa.



Spring capping involves capturing clean water from a hillside spring, storing and making it available from pipes on the tank. The ongoing management of these two nearby systems will be by a locally trained committee of 3 women and 4 men. A final report from the partner is available on our website **News** page

We are waiting on a new proposal from our partners in Meki, and it is likely that it will be to make this captured water available over a wider area through the provision of a reticulation system supported by solar-powered pumps.

*Photo: Genet(R) and friend at the capped spring.*

*Plenty of water here for a solar-powered reticulation system !*

## Tigray Rural Water Supply and Hygiene Program 2019

Our ongoing Hand Dug Wells program this year is in five districts of Tigray (Saharti Samre, Endamehoni, Alaje, Kilte Awlaelo and Medebay Zana). Whilst the names of these places might not mean much to us in Australia, the 40 target villages in these five districts have a very real 6955 people in them, with very real needs for clean water.

Funds in 2019 will bring new wells to 28 villages and restore very old wells in another 12 villages. In conjunction with this construction work, 40 WASHCOs will be established for ongoing supervision, maintenance and hygiene education. These committees are composed of 6 people, including at least 3 women. The Relief Society of Tigray (REST) has been our key partner since the formation of WellWishers. The focus of our program with REST is in villages in areas which are generally difficult to access by vehicle, or where other techniques of water supply have failed. Last year Graham visited villages where our hand dug wells program successfully supplied water after unsuccessful attempts at borehole drilling. Our technology might seem quaint to some, but it remains relevant and its real strengths are community involvement in construction and ownership, and simplicity in maintenance. The 2019 program plan is available on our **News** page of our website.

## What of the future for our Hand Dug Wells program?

Over the last 34 years our partner REST has developed an amazing program related to water security. The humble beginning was the digging of one well at the village of Dedebeit with basic hand tools. It was extraordinarily difficult work in a rocky terrain. From that point teams of two Australian technicians trained a large number of locals in techniques which soon involved the use of small generators, hand held rock drills and explosives. The handpump design was adopted early in the 1990s. The forerunner of WellWishers' funding, Oxfam/Community Aid Abroad, established a fine relationship with REST and WellWishers continues to build on this relationship.

*In REST's words: **We began our work in water in 1985 in partnership with Community Aid Abroad. ... We laid very sound technical foundations for our work in rural water supply. We established our Water Unit in 1993 after the war when water coverage was a mere 2 percent of Tigray Region and water collection took a backbreaking 6 to 8 hours a day. Fast forward three decades... our team has experienced water technicians, hydrogeologists, engineers, drillers, mechanics... backed up by our own drilling rigs, generators, hammer drills, dewatering pumps... This allows us to offer a range of technology options from hand dug wells and springs to boreholes and roof rainwater harvesting, constructing water points in villages, schools and health centres. (Coverage is now approx. 65%, leaving 2 million still in need of accessible potable water)***

Apart from REST's food aid program, its development program focusses on Natural Resource Management (soil and water conservation, reforestation, alternative energy), Potable Water (that's us!) and Smallholder Livelihoods (diversifying income sources through vegetable production, fruit production and cattle fattening as examples).

WellWishers is a small part of REST's overall program, but we play a very important role in supporting village life for thousands of vulnerable Ethiopians each year. Where it is appropriate REST will employ faster and more expensive technologies for water supply, but we are assured that the simplicity and portability of our program will remain vital and relevant for many years to come.

Our size is not the issue. As Getachew Kalayu, the Director of REST's Planning and Coordination reminds us ever year that they can wisely use every single dollar we send, and WellWishers contributes a vital chapter to REST's history and today's practice.



The well committee at Andi Hutsa, Adwa, one of our 2018 wells



Another of our 2018 wells. The Committee at Mai Dur hand dug well, Ahferom

## Please keep your support coming

We welcome your sharing of ideas for fundraising, ideas about what you would like to hear from us to help with giving, ideas about what you might like to see on our website.

Every month there is a surprise for us – a new Trust or Foundation approaches us, a new business seeks partnership or a new individual or family donor comes on board. As we do not seek government funds, every donated dollar is important, and as Getachew from REST says, "Every dollar can make a difference". Thank you again for your wonderful support. Graham Romanes, for the Trustees.



## DONATIONS

**\$6800 will cover the cost of one well for an entire village, providing clean, reliable, accessible and permanent water for an average of 225 people**

**\$150 will provide a permanent water supply for a household in Ethiopia.**

Name: .....

Postal address:.....Postcode.....

Email (if you have one).....

My Donation is enclosed: \$. .... (Cheques made out to WellWishers)

**OR** Debit my Visa / Mastercard - donation amount: \$. ....

Name on card: .....

CARD NUMBER: .....

Card Expiry...../..... CCV..... (last 3 numbers on the back of your card)

Signature..... Date:.....

**OR** Donate online (Secure site): **[www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers](http://www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers)**

**OR** Donate direct to WellWishers at

The Bank of Queensland: WellWishers BSB: 124048 Acc No: 21658949

Please include your name and postcode as reference.

Name for Tax Deductible Receipt purposes if different from bank account or card

Name:.....

Or please tell us if this is a gift in lieu (special occasion or person) and details: .....

☐ Please send me information about making a Bequest to WellWishers

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## MEMBERSHIP

Membership of WellWishers is for 2018 and 2019.

To become a member please complete the form below and forward with the Annual Membership Fee - \$2.00 (payable with unused stamps if you wish). Your email address would be appreciated.

Name:.....

Email:.....

Postal address: ..... Postcode:.....

Contact: Graham Romanes, WellWishers PO Box 2088 Fitzroy VIC 3065

Email: [info@wellwishersethiopia.com](mailto:info@wellwishersethiopia.com)

Phone: 0419 559 138

Website: [www.wellwishersethiopia.com](http://www.wellwishersethiopia.com)