

Wellwishers

Saving and Enriching lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece Welcome to **Wellwishers**. **End-of-Year-Donations:** We are nearing the end of the financial year and it's time for all of us to sort out our end of year finances. **All our donors around Australia enjoy Tax Deductibility.** I hope you will be thinking about your donations to various charities and particularly to our cause. As you are aware, the tax rates reduce from 1 July 07, so there is never a better time than now..

The donations are lower than last year at this stage and I would like to encourage all **Wellwishers** to spread the word. It would be great to get the support of a Lions, Rotary or other clubs on a regular basis - if you know members of these clubs in your town, I can provide the material for a talk or I would be happy to address their meetings. Everyone's ongoing support is appreciated.

WEBSITE: Help! Is there anyone out there who is an "expert" on setting up a website and who would be prepared to donate the time? I would really like it up and running ASAP. Please contact me if you can help.

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.

The Process

We continue to explain the various steps of installing a well.

On the next page we explain construction.



The Pump and the Committee

Construction Status

At the time of writing, construction of the 25 wells funded by 05/06 donations, is all but complete.

We hope to have specific details in the next Newsletter.

Photos



For more of the magical scenery and our 2006 visit:-

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/wellwishers>

Donor offers \$55,000

Remember a Friend has agreed to match donations in 2006/07 on a \$1 for \$1 basis. So take advantage of this offer by 30 June 2007.

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.

Perceptions

Over 1.8 billion people - that's 30% of the world's population - have no access to clean water whatsoever. **Wellwishers'** donations go directly to the people of Tigray in Ethiopia.



Before our first visit in 2003, our perception was that of a dry and barren province with nothing but dust and dirt. This came about because the people of Tigray featured heavily in the 1984 stories about starvation and malnutrition in Ethiopia and Eritrea - sparking off Live Aid and many other media stories. So we, like yourselves & most people we

speak to, were expecting landscapes and environment that we saw in those media exposures.

How wrong we were - the beauty of much of the landscape we travelled through "blew us away" as they say. Sure it was dry and often areas were denuded of decent vegetation, but people were working the land everywhere from the valley floors to the mountain plateaus. There is a kaleidoscope of pale colours, mostly always pale. Tigray Province is mainly at an altitude of 2000 metres or higher and it is a vast plateau coming up from the Great Rift Valley in the east.



When coming from the north into Mekele [capital of Tigray] you drop down about 900m in one step and on this road you may at sunset come across a

camel train bringing salt harvested in the Danakil Depression [reputed to be the hottest place on earth] to the markets. It is a common site for the locals, but it put a lump in our throats seeing such an old labour, likely to continue for many years, due to unsuitable environmental conditions for mechanical harvesting.

When driving north from Mekele to Adigrat and then west towards Axum, you climb for about an hour and the valleys below are deep and terraced. The scenery equals that of the Grand Canyon.



This Canyon is located between Adigrat and Axum.

CONSTRUCTION

1. The First Step

Once the site is selected, an Agreement is signed by REST (our Ethiopian implementation authority) & the community. After making the necessary design, a trained technician shows the community how to dig the well. Allocation of manpower is done by the community - for digging, sourcing & supplying local materials, storage, security & local transportation.

Approx 6 metres of aquifer (water table) penetration is mandatory in order to have a continuous water supply during droughts. The well's overall depth is usually about 20-25 metres but this can vary, depending on ground conditions.

2. Excavation

The well is excavated using hand tools, small generators, de-watering pumps, hammer drills and explosives. It's dug to an average diam. of 1.8 metres & usually lined with stone masonry provided by the community.

The community excavates until problems occur they can't handle – usually striking rock. As rock covers most of Tigray, explosives are used for blasting in most wells, to get a better aquifer penetration. Shot holes are drilled by hammer drills to a depth of 500 to 600mm, at a diameter of 38 to 44mm. However, net depth of rock excavation achieved, is about 150mm per day.

3. De-watering

Once water is struck, its inflow is drained by continual pumping to enable further deepening of the well. In the initial stages, water is drained using rope-and-bucket. Depending on the depth of aquifer penetration, this method often becomes impossible and electric pumps are then used for de-watering. Water coverage will be attained in the specific project sites.



4. The Pump

The completed wells are chlorinated and fitted with Afridev hand pumps from India. These pumps have been used since 1996 and were selected because of their proven success in rural villages in India. They're easy to maintain by a WATSAN (water & sanitation) committee & spare parts are cheap.

5. Monitoring

REST's Technical Implementing Teams are responsible for well construction. Technicians supervise construction and form a team including Labourers and skilled Masons from the community. A Technical Field Coordinator supervises the Technicians in the field, oversees the logistics of the operation, deploys equipment & materials to water sites & monitors progress under construction.

The Technicians in turn, coordinate the activities of community workers and are responsible for overseeing and participating in the daily activity of construction, use of explosives, training of the WATSAN Committee on operation and maintenance of the hand pump, taking soil samples at regular intervals for hydrogeological interpretation, & maintaining records of all technical activities. Construction time is about 2 months depending on the geological formation. Technicians are based mostly in the field at well construction sites. REST work closely with the Tabia Baito (People's Council), the WATSAN Committee & other villagers in the project's implementation.

6. Next Step

In the next Newsletter, we will discuss the commissioning and post-implementation follow up meetings, etc .

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, backcopies of all Newsletters are available upon request.

A reminder that all donations are to be made out in favour of "AngliCORD" but posted to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter. This reduces AngliCORD's administrative work and ensures we take advantage of the before mentioned \$1:\$1 extra donation. The remaining funds raised go to the actual Wells projects. There are no pastoral activities related to this project.

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 "AngliCORD"]

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