



## Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

**Ross' Piece** *We arrived back from another fantastic visit to Ethiopia 2 weeks ago. The warmth, friendship and hospitality never ceases to amaze me. It recharges my batteries so I can continue to spread the awareness of WellWishers and to increase our donation monies.*

The fundraiser at Brisbane's Parliament House was very successful raising over \$10,000 that night. Congratulations to Susan Black & her helpers. It is great to see supporters undertaking their own fundraising for WellWishers.

*Over the coming issues I will give a rundown on key matters raised in the final version of the Impact Assessment Report [over 100 pages] prepared by an independent consultant and which we received whilst in Ethiopia.*

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### A Supporter's Story

In October, Marena, an 11 year old, came visiting the rural Tigray villages with Ross, Marianne & Robyn. Marena, from Mosman NSW & now living in Abu Dhabi, has never gone without water or electricity or seen a real typewriter. Read her story over.

#### ORDER GIFT CARDS



*Details attached. Make up your gift list & order before 28 Nov. Thanks Sham for the artwork!*

**TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

#### Readathon

Sacred Heart Primary School in Preston, Vic raised **\$1,750** with their children's Readathon

*See what a group of children can do! We throw out a challenge to other schools.*

#### Web Site Additions



*2008 trip photos, some video coverage and a few stories about the visit will be gradually added to the site*  
[www.wellwishersethiopia.com](http://www.wellwishersethiopia.com)

#### Donor Offers \$60,000

Just a reminder that a Friend is matching donations in 2008/09 on a \$1 for \$1 basis. Take advantage of this offer by ordering your Christmas gifts.  
**All Donations Over \$2.00 are TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

#### Donations of \$55

*For \$55 a typical family gets a share of a new well. Why not stretch your budget to make a monthly donation? Contact Ross to facilitate a monthly payment.*



## 39 WELLS BY JUNE 2009!

The upshot of a series of meetings with REST (our Ethiopian programme implementing partner), was an agreement for them to build another 39 wells from funds donated last financial year.

This is fantastic, providing another 20,000 people with that basic human right - CLEAN, ACCESSIBLE WATER.

By June 2009, about 140 wells will have been funded since 2002. We are targeting to raise funds for 45 or more wells this financial year. Please help us reach our goal.



## Turning 'Wine Into Water'

**What a fantastic thing - for less than the cost of a glass of wine [\$5.50] you can download 3 beautifully arranged classics performed by Tony King. Go to [www.winemusic.biz](http://www.winemusic.biz).**

*About 160 people have purchased to date but another 950 buyers are needed to fulfill Tony's dream of funding a well. Thank you Tony - you have a heart of gold. ONE person is making a difference.*

### 'Swinging Bridge' Wine Offer

An opportunity to purchase affordable wines (including Best Shiraz at NSW Wine Awards & Best Single Vineyard Chardonnay at Melbourne Wine Show) and assist Wellwishers. The family-owned Swinging Bridge Estate from Central Ranges, NSW, will donate \$30 to Wellwishers for every case ordered online at [www.swingingbridge.com.au](http://www.swingingbridge.com.au)

**Please mark ALL orders Wellwishers to ensure WellWishers benefits from this very generous offer.**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE:** Receipts could be delayed a bit due to NCCA's high seasonal workload. REMEMBER 95% of all donations go directly to the project.

*Please ensure your name is referenced when making donations by internet or direct banking.*

**Please become a Member of WellWishers** - all you need 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 50c stamps).

### Application for Membership of WellWishers Trust

NAME .....

ADDRESS .....

POSTCODE .....

## Marena's "Magical Day"

*Marena is 11 years old and currently lives in Abu Dhabi with her family, having moved there early this year. She, her mother Phillipa and her 7 year old sister Jasmine came with Ross & Marianne Allan and Robyn Beetham on their site visits in Tigray this October. These are her words.*

Today was the best day of my life!!! We went to a village which was given a water well 8 mths ago. People swarmed to welcome us, stopping school & work to be there to say thank you. There were over 1,000 people there.



We sat upon a bench shaded by umbrellas held by some of the local people. We listened to all the speeches made by various people in the huge crowd wishing to express their joy & gratitude for being given a well. They told us in Tigrinya [translated by one of the REST guides] how important the well was in their lives & what an amazing difference it had made to the quality of their everyday lives.



The sorts of things they told us was how with a well close by with clean water, they were all

much healthier and did not feel so tired and sick all the time. It also meant that the young girls who used to walk for kilometres over very rough terrain to collect water, now have time to attend school and be educated. It also meant that the mothers had more time to clean their houses, work in the fields, and to rest. Their lives were totally improved in so many ways because of this one well. The well catered for about 1000 people in the village, but people in neighbouring villages, currently without a well, would be able to access this water also.

After the speeches, we danced and sang our way with the villagers to the training centre, where we were special guests for lunch. They slaughtered



a goat for lunch to serve with the injera. That is a huge thing for them, and we were very moved by their generosity.

I said earlier today: "Today is the most magical day of my life". I believe that this is true from the bottom of my heart. Ross, Marianne, Robyn & Mum all admitted to shedding tears during the moving speeches of gratitude from the local people. There is nothing to compare with this in our world - it is a true indication of our shared humanity - of black and white helping each other to create a better world! Emotionally drained, we all drove back lost in our own thoughts. What a day!

*Read more of Marena's trip to Ethiopia on our website - she has kindly given us permission to print her complete diary entries for the 6 days of her visit.*

If you prefer a hard copy of this Newsletter rather than by email, I would be happy to provide this. It may make it easier for you to pass a copy onto friends & family. Back-copies of all Newsletters are available upon request and may also be viewed on the website - [www.wellwisherethiopia.com](http://www.wellwisherethiopia.com) is still in infancy and we would appreciate feedback from you about the information provided and if there are areas we can improve. We'd also love you to send our website link to anyone you know who may be interested in WellWishers work.

**Please note** that Donations are to be 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 for \$1 extra donation**. About 95% of funds raised go to the actual Wells projects. There are no pastoral activities related to this project. **All donations over \$2.00 within Australia, 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 about 1,000 people

Please tick Square **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:** Debit my Visa or MasterCard - **Please CIRCLE your card type** (automatic periodical payments available)

Name on Card: ..... Signature: .....

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

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

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