

Honorary Manager's Annual Report to WellWishers July 2019

I am pleased to report to the Trustees and our donors and supporters on our activities for the Financial Year 2019 (July 2018 – June 2019) (FY19)

WellWishers as a Trust has existed since 2007 when it was established following years of gathering supporters by Ross and Marianne Allan. The Allan family had taken on support for a successful water program which Community Aid Abroad/Oxfam Australia had established with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) in 1985. An expanded water supply program with REST began with the welcome onset of peace in Ethiopia in 1991.

REST's work with the 5 million people in Tigray Region of Ethiopia has embraced community programs in water, food security, health, education and emergency relief work in times of crisis.

From humble beginnings as a village hand-dug wells activity during the civil war in 1985, REST has developed extensive program in village and rural water supply through continuation of hand-dug wells and into shallow and deep borehole drilling, spring capping, dam construction and river diversion. REST and remote rural communities have constructed thousands of hand-dug wells in areas where it has not been possible to provide access to sophisticated machinery. Our program for both 2018 and 2019 funded the construction of 40 wells in each year, providing a clean nearby water supply for 15,600 people with associated health and sanitation education. We can rightly be satisfied that our community of supporters here in Australia have made this possible in an entirely voluntary effort.

FIELD PROGRAM:

By December 2018 REST's program of 40 village wells was completed. We also funded work with a new partner, The Ethiopian Catholic Social Development Department in Meki (ECSDM Meki), southern Ethiopia. This program created two river-side spring-capped water storages, providing clean water for 1750 locals. An extensive report on the completion of REST program was received, together with reports on both programs from our independent monitor from Norwegian Church Aid (NCA) based in Addis Ababa.

The program with REST for 40 wells during 2019 is now half completed. WellWishers expects the program to be completed by December.

REST is an outstanding partner for us – always transparent with proposals and reporting, and always ready to show us the outcome of our funding through visits and discussions with villagers who have benefitted from WellWishers support.

INCOME:

Our community donations for the financial year totalled \$287,883 together with interest of \$8,252. Our expenses were for our communications with donors, cost of software and subscriptions. These totalled \$5,369 or just 1.8% of our income, leaving 98.2% of our income to spend in Ethiopia. Whether we should begin spending donated money to raise new money is always a question in the background! We expect to commit more than our 2019 financial year income for the calendar year 2020, possibly up to a total of \$330,000 to maintain a similar program for 2020 and we will draw on our modest reserves to allow us to do this. We receive no government grants.

TRUSTEES and VOLUNTEERS

Guy Gilbert, Mark Harwood, Annie Keely and Graham Romanes have been Trustees for the last financial year. This coming financial year Janita Radford will replace Annie. I am very thankful for the support of our Trustees – they are legally responsible for the work of WellWishers. We are pleased that David

Bowly has agreed to join our Trustee meetings as part of a Committee of Management, expanding our group thinking about WellWishers. Thanks also go to Lyn Fulford who has put in many valuable hours entering donation data into our database.

ADMINISTRATION:

Our donations come to us in various forms – bank transfers, through the giving platforms GiveNow and GoodCompany, and cheques in the mail.

We use a recognised database to enter our information. This is database held by the Trustees and cannot be accessed by outsiders, and information on donors is never given or sold to anyone.

We publish two or three Newsletters each year and these are distributed by mail through Australia Post and by email. Receipting is done on a periodic basis. As Honorary Manager I believe we should increase this regularity to assure donors their money is received. As a Trust which has Donor Gift Recipient status, we do issue a Tax Receipt for all donations as early as possible in July each year.

Our website www.wellwisherethiopia.com is regularly updated, our Facebook page [wellwisherethiopia](#) is less frequently updated.

FIELD VISITS

Field monitoring visits to Tigray are conducted regularly by NCA Ethiopia. Additionally, and at personal expense, one of our Trustees visits the program annually. Visits by donors to WellWishers are also possible by negotiation with the Trustees and REST. Visitors are always so warmly received, and the gratitude of Ethiopian villagers is very evident.

THANKS

I would again like to thank our loyal donors across Australia. A big ThankYou also to B1G1 – Business for Good which encourages businesses around the world to include giving as part of their core business. Of course our biggest Thanks go to our friends in Ethiopia who make this wonderful work a reality – REST, ECSDD Meki and the Ethiopian communities around WellWishers wells.

Graham Romanes
July 2019



The Before and the After at Mai Getum well in Sero, Ahferom District, north central Tigray. You can see its location on Google Maps at 14.29159, 39.21703 The After photo shows the Chair of the Well Committee pumping water with the other five committee members looking on.