

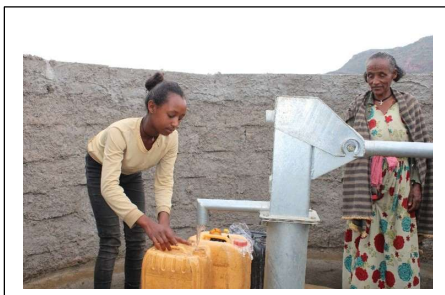
Qeyih Saeri well, Mai Tekli community, Samre District, Tigray

## New hope for Shewit

Shewit Hagos is a 15 year old 6th Grade student from the Tahtay Adekesandid village in Kilde Awulaelo District, Tigray (you can see her well at 13.848220 39.572320 on Google Maps). Shewit lives in a household of five and has faced significant challenges in accessing clean water, a responsibility that has weighed heavily on her young shoulders, and tells us:

*“Before our well was built, we were compelled to walk for an hour and a half to gather water. As girls, we had the additional burden of collecting water during wartime, which left us feeling unsafe and fearful of the risks, including the threat of violence against women. I remember the toughest days when we went without even a glass of water. Before the construction of the new well, I struggled to arrive at school on time. My teachers often expressed their frustration with my lateness, and my school work suffered as I was exhausted from long walks to fetch water.”*

However, the recent establishment of a community water point, made possible by the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) and funded by WellWishers, has dramatically transformed Shewit’s life. *“This water point has changed our lives completely. We no longer have to walk long distances; now we can collect four jerrycans of clean and safe water each day. We now feel safer, and I am finally able to arrive at school punctually. I believe my school results will improve as well. I am committed to encouraging my community to protect this water point as if it were their own property, and I will contribute all I can, including monthly fees.”*



*“I hope to become a teacher so that I can inspire the next generation of girls by sharing the difficulties we endured during our time as students. I can see a future where my community is abundant in water sources, freeing girls from the burdens of fetching water from unsafe places and protecting them from gender-based violence.”*

Photo: Shewit at the well

## Vale Marianne



It is with much sadness that we announce that Marianne Allan died late April in her home in Castlemaine surrounded by her family, after a 6+ year battle with Pancreatic Cancer. She was one of only 2% of Stage 4 sufferers to survive this long from this terrible cancer.

As many of *WellWishers* supporters would know, Marianne was the wife of *WellWishers* founder, Ross Allan. She tirelessly supported Ross behind the scenes as he established *WellWishers* over 20 years ago. Marianne also accompanied him on their many trips to Ethiopia over the years, a country whose people she loved. Her encouragement will be greatly missed. We say farewell and thank you Marianne.

## Progress in 2026... and beyond

Our story and achievements may seem a bit repetitive, but for thousands of Ethiopians each year our support and interest in their lives is new and exciting – and life-saving!

In 2025 we funded the successful construction of wells in another 40 villages bringing life-saving water to 8,450 people who need safe water as much as we do.

Support from our *WellWishers* family in 2025 has enabled us to commit to village water supply in another 40 communities in Tigray this year. With an unexpected donation of \$50,000 from an individual donor recently received, *WellWishers* Trustees will consider an extension of the 2026 program.

Please dig deep into your pockets to ensure the continuation of our life-changing program. Donations before June 30 are tax deductible in this Financial Year. Every accumulated \$7800 of individual donations will mean another well with associated sanitation programs.

Thank you to all our supporters and friends. We need every one of you to help us make a difference!

## Our partner REST

In 1984 when our Australian involvement with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) opened up the opportunity of partnership in village water supplies, REST was totally occupied with relief needs created during the 1978-1991 civil war and resulting famine and with supporting farmers who stayed or returned to their small farms. Since then, REST's work in water – hand-dug wells in remote village, borehole development where appropriate, small town water supplies, damming and irrigation – never ceases to amaze me. Thank you REST for your enduring commitment. Graham Romanes

## Something you are keen to know?

We would like to hear from you. We welcome any questions about our program, or topics for our Newsletter, no matter how hard! [Email](mailto:info@wellwishersethiopia.com) us, or write to us at PO Box 27, Brunswick South, VIC 3055.

Graham Romanes, Honorary Manager

All donations over \$2 to *WellWishers* are tax-deductible.

*WellWishers*: Bank of Queensland BSB 124048 or 124001 (either are OK) and Account no. 21658949

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