



*Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia*

**Ross' Piece** "Nothing in this world is impossible to a willing heart" [Abraham Lincoln]. How very true!

All legal agreements have been signed with our Ethiopian partners and the construction process on 66 new and 1 rehabilitated wells, is now under way. A progress update will be given in the next newsletter.

Many thanks to those supporters who have **unselfishly opted for donations in lieu of presents** on their birthdays or other functions. Marianne & I attended one such function in Sydney last month that raised \$15,000 - thank you John. Many others have similarly raised amounts ranging from \$500 upwards. We are so very grateful to all of you.

**NEWS IN BRIEF**

**Bequests**

We are privileged that 4 supporters have made **WellWishers** a beneficiary of their estate. If you are interested in considering this, please contact Ross for further details.

**Gift Cards in Lieu of Unwanted Presents**

Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cost is only \$60 and gives an average family clean water for the rest of their lives.



You can order via the Website or contact Ross



**TAX DEDUCTIBLE**

**Annual General Meeting**

**WellWishers'** 2nd AGM was held on 19 November 2009. The audited accounts were accepted as was the Chair's Report which has been put on our website. Please contact Ross if you would like a hard copy.

David Langmore was re-elected as Trustee. Congratulations David.

**Spreading the Word**

Many of you ask "what can I do to help?" If you could encourage just 2 people to register for the Newsletter [no obligation to donate], that would be terrific. Please see what you can do to spread the word about **WellWishers.**"

**RELAX IN QUEENSTOWN, NEW ZEALAND and KNOW YOU'RE HELPING ETHIOPIANS OBTAIN CLEAN WATER**

**WellWishers announces the 3RD ANNUAL RAFFLE!**

**The prize? A Trip for 2 to QUEENSTOWN.**

**6 nights in Queenstown; 7 days Car Hire from Christchurch (See flyer for more info)**

**A significant prize! Help SELL enthusiastically, so we make enough for ONE well. ORDER generously knowing you made a difference. \$2 Per Ticket or \$5 for 3 Tickets**

**Order books for yourself & for your friends. Contact Ross to promptly receive tickets.**

**Turning 'Wine Into Water'**

Go to

[www.winemusic.biz](http://www.winemusic.biz).

Listen to this lovely music. For less than the cost of a glass of wine [\$5.50] you can download 3 beautifully arranged classics performed by Tony King.

**Our Future = Tigrayans Future**



As long as **WellWishers** stays strong and keeps a healthy donation base, we'll continue to see improvements in the health and welfare of rural Tigrayans. Ross and I have visited many homes, seen on-going change and are constantly amazed at the quick uptake of new ideas and programmes. The overwhelming factor in this, is the easier access to a supply of clean water.

Visiting on an annual basis is good, giving Tigrayans hope, real hope. It gives them a small insight into our world and helps them know they are not a forgotten people, that others in this big world know and care.

The local and district governing bodies have much improved and are now better able to cope with demands. But as is often the case in countries devastated by years of internal conflict & continuous drought, it's a long, slow process to change years of neglect and opportunity.

**WellWishers** are not alone in helping Tigrayans. Whenever the opportunity arises, the people will help themselves & each other. Rural villagers see education as being the main focus of life improvement. This includes education about day to day working activities, land usage, land preservation, health and hygiene, basic schooling and family planning. They actively take up new ideas and methods.

Ross in his talks, tells of the community who was unable to attract school teachers as they had no access to clean water. A well was built and the community decided to continue their building contribution by constructing 2 classroom blocks nearby (pictured at right). As soon as the buildings were complete and they had enough roofing iron for 1 classroom block [the only thing supplied by government], they opened the school. No seating, no finished flooring but the building was there, the water was there and now they have teachers.



That community entertained us with a play written on the affect clean water has on families and communities. It was a most entertaining 15 minutes with adults, children and teachers all contributing.

Written by Marianne

## Health & Sanitation - Ross' Observations from October 2009 Visit

As mentioned in the last Newsletter, I was very impressed with the advances made in health issues since 2008. I'd like to share some of them with you here:



- Most children now take water to school - to drink whilst walking long distances and for washing & gardening activities
- Throughout Ethiopia, one Health Extension Worker [HEW - like a Nursing Assistant] and 20 voluntary assistants, cover 5 village. Between them, each household is visited at least weekly to discuss health and hygiene issues.
- The HEWs carry a backpack [supplied by the UN] filled with medication and 3 methods of birth control the take-up of which [with great support from the husbands] is quite high. Contraception is provided free by the Government.
- REST [our partner] and the HEWs train 10 households per village on health, hygiene, HIV & AIDS and family planning matters. These households in turn, pass on their knowledge to the other families thus covering all of the village. 60% of households have been trained up to September 09, with a target of 100% by the end of this year. An amazing effort in a country of 80 million.
- In most villages visited, up to 70% now have latrines [mainly with flues, with water containers for washing nearby], versus none before they received our hand dug well. This was achieved in one year.
- Generally throughout Ethiopia, 80% of all diseases are attributed to lack of clean water.



- Two sad stories came from 1 village. The first was of a mother with 4 young children. Whilst collecting water from the usual source, she slipped down the steep bank. Later that day, when she had not returned, the neighbours searched for her and found she had drowned. At that time, the father was fighting in the Ethiopian/Eritrean border war and was sadly killed. The 4 young children effectively became wards of the kushet (village). The other story was of a man (pictured at left) who lost his son in the same way.

### Other notes of interest:

- A few houses now use weak, battery powered lights by which children do homework, thus extending their day. We're concerned about potential eye damage and have taken this up with REST.
- Quite a few houses now have enclosed stoves with external flues, halving timber usage [hence also halving collecting times] and reducing respiratory problems. Increased use of dry cattle dung also reduces timber usage.
- A majority of homes have replaced their leaking thatched roofs with paper-thin corrugated iron roofs, thus keeping the rain out [when it rains!].
- Tigray's wet season this year was 50% of normal, so the locals are bracing themselves for more hard times.



Please note that Donations are to be in favour of "WellWishers" and posted to the address at the bottom of this Newsletter. Over 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, helping up to 500 people.

Please tick Square **ONLY** if an interim receipt is required (you will automatically receive one in the month following your donation)

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 donations can be arranged)

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)