



Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia


Ross' Piece

Firstly a Happy New Year to you all and furthermore, a big Thank You for all those who purchased Christmas Gift Cards in lieu of buying gifts. These purchases raised over \$4,000, an amazing amount. For many people, these cards are a much preferred gift - to give or to receive. We have Gift Cards that can be used all year round [see below].

I would also like to thank those who are now making monthly donations through their bank or by credit card -- it is said to be a more "painless" way to donate'.

Why not engage with Ethiopia in other ways. The website www.tourismethiopia.org/pages/ethiopia.asp is good for general information and can help you plan a visit. Quite a number of donors have visited and I can assure you there have been many positive changes in Ethiopia in the last ten years. It's surprisingly beautiful with an interesting historical past and you can also indulge your love of walking, hiking or bird watching.

It's time for me to "smell the roses". See the back of this Newsletter for more.

<p>Credit Card Donations</p> <p>Looking for an easy way to donate?</p> <p>www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers</p> <p>It's a secure site and simple to use.</p>	<p>Tax Deductability</p> <p>We would like to remind you that all Australian donations are Tax Deductible.</p> <p>Over 95% of all donations goes direct to the programme.</p>	<p>Annual Report</p> <p>The Annual Report for Financial Year 2012/13, is now available on line.</p>	<p>Bequests</p> <p>The number of people making bequests to WellWishers is gradually growing. If you are interested in making a bequest, please contact Ross for further details.</p>	<p>Gift Cards in Lieu of Unwanted Presents</p> <p>Use them for birthdays, anniversaries, etc. The cost is only \$60 and that gives clean water to an average family and their generations to follow.</p>  <p>TAX DEDUCTIBLE</p> <p>Contact Ross - details at foot of page</p>
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October 2013 visit to Ethiopia



On his 8th self-funded trip to Ethiopia, leaving Marianne behind, Ross visited 4 villages where *WellWishers* had funded wells, including 2 that were solely funded by 2 generous long term supporters. As always, the welcomes were very enthusiastic from large groups of very grateful families. The looks on their faces are something I never tire of - sparkling eyes, huge smiles.

By contrast, I always make a point of visiting a village without a well. This serves as a reminder to me as to why *WellWishers* are doing this invaluable work in Ethiopia. I always come away very sad as to their sufferings without clean water, but am re-invigorated to work that little bit harder when I return home.

About 60% of rural Tigrayans now have access to clean water which is about double what it was 10 years ago when we first visited. We still have a long way to go but if we re-double our efforts, it's not inconceivable to see the figure go up to 100%, 10 years from now! It is achievable.

QUOTATION: **'We make a living by what we receive; but we make a life by what we give'.**

Please become a Member of WellWishers. Complete this form and return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2013/14 of \$1.20 [payable with 2 x 60c stamps]. Please add your email address, if you have one.

NAME: EMAIL ADDRESS:

POSTAL ADDRESS: P/CODE:

A Community Funded Well

In the May 2013 Newsletter, we told of 4 Australians [3 from Byron Shire and 1 from Adelaide] travelling to Ethiopia in February 2013 for holidays, including a visit to a WellWishers well in a village. Here is Diana's follow up:-

"The village visit inspired us to go home and start fundraising. With the generous support of the local community of Mullumbimby NSW, within the year, enough funds were raised to build a well!"



One of the most touching experiences was to receive a \$100 donation from a ten year old girl who had read about the group's trip in the local newspaper. Holly busks to raise money for charity and is fearless about doing good in the world.

The other inspiration was from Mullumbimby High School which has been supporting WellWishers for about 5 years. They put on a concert to help the people in a village somewhere, to have water. It was a tough decision they had to make, as the Blue

Mountains fires left people homeless just before the Higher School Certificate exams. However, they decided to give the funds to WellWishers and they look to continue their efforts in 2014."

Diana Ewing & Nicholas Paris intend to re-visit Ethiopia in 2015 and see the plaque which recognises the generosity of their community and friends.

Well Numbers for 2014

In the last Newsletter, I mentioned we may be able to fund about 85 wells this year. We have just completed negotiations with REST [Relief Society for Tigray - our Implementation Partner] and I'm delighted to announce that in fact we'll be funding 92 wells.

Of those, 14 will be rehabilitated wells that have been out of action for some time, meaning that those villages had to revert to the old method of collecting from far-away polluted sources. Going from one minute having easy access to clean water, then the next minute it has gone, must have been a very traumatic experience. None of these wells were originally funded by WellWishers.

These 92 wells will provide over 28,000 women, men & children with easily accessible, clean water. When completed by year's end, we will have built just on 600 wells, to the benefit of about 250,000 people.

Another Unique Way to Fundraise

Give up an activity for a period of time, rope in friends/colleagues/etc to encourage you.

A Sydney supporter is set to sacrifice the pleasures of drink for the month of February, for the good of Ethiopians. Please visit her site and give her support.

www.givenow.com.au/NicsDryFeb



Nic's aim? No less than a well!

Ross Allan To Retire

After over 11 years of supporting the water wells programme and after nearly 8 years of fundraising and administering WellWishers [which he founded], Ross has decided it's time to retire. As he will be 70 next birthday, the time has come to spend more time with his family in Australia and in Wales - and to smell the roses!

Retirement will be effective from 30 June 2014. But please do not fear for the future of WellWishers. Ross will remain involved with WellWishers as a volunteer consultant for the foreseeable future. This will ensure a smooth transition and allow the great work of Wellwishers to continue and grow.

The Trustees are actively considering future possible organisational arrangements for after Ross' retirement. Updates may be provided by email prior to the May Newsletter, so if we don't have your email address, now would be a good time to send it - to info@wellwishersethiopia.com

We hope that all our wonderful supporters continue their involvement with WellWishers.



Note: 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 made by Australian taxpayers, are Tax Deductible.**

DONATIONS: \$6,000 provides 1 Well helping about 300 people

Please tick Square if you are happy for your donation to be made public

My Donation is enclosed \$ Postal/Email Address [incl postcode].....

OR: Debit my **Visa** : **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)

OR: Donate Online (Secure Site): www.givenow.com.au/wellwishers

OR: Donate direct to Bank of Queensland: **WellWishers: BSB: 124-048 ACCT NO: 2165 8949**

(It is imperative you reference with your name and postcode)

Please send me information about making a bequest to WellWishers

Name for Receipt Purposes - if different to bank account or card