



Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

Ross' Piece


Time just flies! Again, the end of the Financial Year is upon us. Reducing your tax bill by donating to *WellWishers* would bring much more happiness to those without clean water, than to the tax man.

If you would like your donations to be deductible for the 2011/12 Financial Year, they **must** be with us no later than 30th June. Donations received after that will be deductible in Financial Year 2012/13. Receipts will be sent out late July/early August.

Please note Membership Fees for 2012/13 are due on 1 July. Members can vote at the AGM, elect trustees and receive the Annual Report. Please join - it's your organisation. It's only \$1.20, payable by 2 x 60 ¢ stamps (form below)

All Agreements are now in place with our Ethiopian partners for the 2012 wells programme. It is hoped that all 124 water points will be completed by 31 December 2012. Construction has begun.

Much thanks to Jack of Tasmania for the \$440 raised from a disco party with his young friends. Inspirational stuff.


<p>Tax Deductability</p> <p>All Australian donations are Tax Deductible. Over 95% of donations goes direct to the programme.</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>Order via Website or contact Ross</p>	<p>Bequests</p> <p>We are privileged that 6 supporters have made WellWishers a beneficiary of their estate. If you're interested in considering this, please contact Ross for further details.</p>	<p>Melbourne Dinner</p> <p>Another fun night is scheduled later this year. Keep tuned for further details, but meanwhile why not organise a group of friends to be ready to participate when the date is announced.</p>	<p>Credit Card Donations</p> <p>givenow.com.au/wellwishers</p> <p>WellWishers pay a small fee for donations received this way, but it can be an easy way for you to donate. Be assured it's a secure site.</p>
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MAITLAND, Hunter Valley NSW was the scene of a very successful dinner on 10th March this year. About 65 people attended a very entertaining evening with some fantastic singing and music by *Dulce* [the Tuyl sisters]. There was a raffle and many auctions, with a very determined auctioneer and this resulted in a nett total of around \$7,000 being raised. Many, many thanks and congratulations go to Peter Kesby and his crew [including family] for all the enthusiastic hard work. **Another village receives a well next year.** Peter showed just how you can motivate family, friends, colleagues and acquaintances to support *WellWishers*, with the provision of a nice meal, good entertainment, donations of items to auction and a raffle. A great evening.



QUOTATION:

"A society has no chance of success if its women are oppressed or uneducated"



Congratulations Annalene & Daryl

Late last year, these guys tied the knot and to celebrate, their friends and family donated to *WellWishers* instead of buying presents. This generosity resulted in about \$6,000, or another well for Tigray. What a fabulous wedding present! Thank you Annalene and Daryl, for your unselfishness.

Please become a Member of WellWishers. Complete this form and return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2012/13 of \$1.20 [payable with 2 x 60¢ stamps]. Please add your email address, if you have one.

NAME: EMAIL ADDRESS:

POSTAL ADDRESS: P/CODE:

The Story Behind WellWishers

I have been asked many times over the years, how did *WellWishers* come about?

I believe we have certain values “inside” us and all it needs is an event to expose them. My Dad died in 1996 and the following year, I walked the Kokoda Track in PNG in his memory, he being there during WW2. It was the most difficult thing – physically & emotionally – I’ve ever done, but also very rewarding. It brought out dormant feelings of social injustice in the world.

Back in Australia, I suggested to Marianne that we should start to divest our assets, for the benefit of others. She wholeheartedly agreed. I firmly believe these assets should be used to assist those in the world with little or nothing, to help provide for themselves.

For us, it’s more important than leaving our assets to our children or family. It’s not their money, nor do they need their lifestyles enhanced at the expense of those who do not even have basic rights, such as clean water or education. We feel that philosophy will ultimately benefit them, as people.

Searching for an organisation to work with, we settled on Community Aid Abroad (CAA - now Oxfam Australia). CAA presented us with several projects for our consideration; all were very worthwhile, but none ‘pressed the right buttons’. Our requirements were simple – the project must save lives and be of benefit to women & children. Eventually, a proposal for the construction of water wells in Ethiopia’s Tigray province arrived. It took about 5 minutes to realise that this was the one. A Eureka moment! That was 10 years ago.

We funded 9 wells in 2002. In 2004, we rallied some friends to help. I became impatient at the slow progress in getting clean water to the people, so in 2006, I decided to build a mailing list. It initially started at 150 to 200 friends, family & colleagues (it’s 1,500 today).

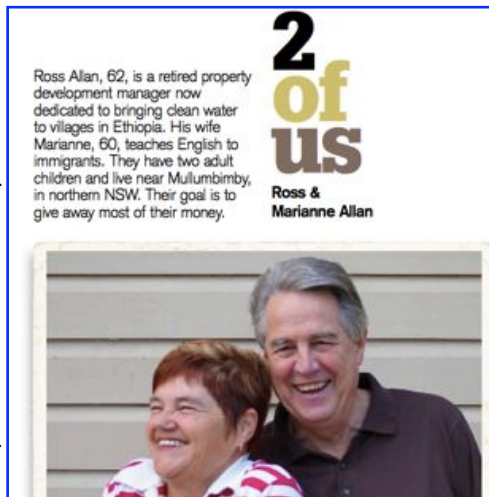
Meanwhile, in 2005, we took the challenging decision to do our best to replace Oxfam Australia who had stopped funding the construction of water wells in Ethiopia. There was (and still is) a tremendous personal connection between Ethiopia and Australia that goes back to the 1970s and 80s, during the struggle against the oppressive Communist regime. We wanted to maintain that connection.

In 2007, *WellWishers* became a registered Charitable Trust and last year, we became a tax-deductible organisation in our own right. We are proud of what’s been achieved in the past 10 years but this could never have been done without your support – the supporters of *WellWishers*. One person (you!) can and has made a difference.

The future? To see that everyone in Tigray has access to the most basic of human rights – clean water. After that, we shall move onto other areas.

Our philosophy is not everyone’s cup of tea, but we have no regrets in dedicating our time and assets to this cause. Our children don’t “need” the money, are not automatically entitled to it and they have been given opportunities that many in the world can only dream of. It’s a quirk of fate that we were born in our rich countries and that our fellow human beings were born into such abject poverty in Ethiopia, over which – like us – they had no control.

It is for this purpose that Marianne and I have dedicated our assets.



Good Weekend, Sydney Morning Herald January. 2008

Buy 1 Give 1 If you run, or are employed by a company that wishes to give something to those less fortunate, I recommend you visit the *Buy1GIVE1* website [www.b1g1.com] to learn how you can do this. It’s simple - and very, very effective. To explain, your café could donate say 5¢ [or less] for every drink sold and 100% of that amount would go to *WellWishers*. Using this scheme, Skybright Natural Health have raised, nearly \$5,000 to date. In all, this programme has so far donated nearly \$20,000 from many types of businesses, from several countries. Why not visit [www.b1g1.com], start the process and watch the cents grow into life saving dollars.



Donations This Financial Year to Date

I’m not sure if it’s the continual annoying negativity with which we are daily bombarded, but people in general seem to be conserving their money these days. *WellWishers* are not immune to this. Our economy is good, unemployment is low, inflation and interest rates are low. . But as at 30 April, donations are down 23% on the same period last year. We have less than 2 months until Financial Year’s end, so please help give us a good boost by donating generously, thus enabling the wells programme to build many more wells in 2013.

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 by Australian taxpayers, are Tax Deductible.**

DONATIONS: \$6,000 provides 1 Well helping up to 400 people

Please tick Square if you’re happy for your donations to be made public

Enclosed is my Donation of \$ **Postal or 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.ourcommunity.com.au/wellwishers

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

Please send me information about making a bequest to *WellWishers*