



Saving and Enriching Lives in Ethiopia

CHANGING THE BATON - An exciting announcement from Ross Allan

*I am very pleased to announce to the world that Graham Romanes has agreed to take over my role of managing **your** organisation, upon my retirement on 30th June 2014. Graham is no stranger to WellWishers, having been a Trustee since its establishment nearly 7 years ago. He has recently retired as Ethiopia's Honorary Consul-General to Australia, a role he enjoyed for the last 17 years. Graham has penned some words about himself below.*

I cannot adequately express my appreciation to Graham for taking on this role and for all the behind-the-scenes work with the other trustees & management committee in arriving at this point. Many thanks to you all. It means a lot to me that WellWishers will continue its essential work.

As for the future? I've been involved with funding raising as well as supporting the wells programme for nearly 12 years. I felt the time was right for a new manager to take over, bringing fresh ideas and taking WellWishers to another level. With his knowledge & love of all things Ethiopian, Graham is just the man to do that and I know WellWishers is left in capable hands.

I will continue to help WellWishers and ensure that the transfer is as smooth and efficient as possible and assist as and when Graham requires. Please give Graham your full support as he takes on this rewarding role.

About Graham

The Trustees & Management Committee of *WellWishers* have asked Graham Romanes to take on the key manager role with *WellWishers* for the foreseeable future.

Graham is well known to a great many of our supporters as a Trustee of *WellWishers* and also as the [now ex] Honorary Consul-General for Ethiopia in Australia. Graham graduated in Science from Melbourne University (1966), taught in Victoria and overseas in Zambia, then in 1980 joined Community Aid Abroad [later renamed Oxfam Australia] as joint State Director. This job-sharing arrangement was ground-breaking in the salaried sector, and allowed him to play an equal role with Glenyys in raising their three boys. They contributed to the book *Fathers At Home*.

In 1984, during the great Ethiopian famine, Graham was sent to establish a food supply and village water programme in the rebel held areas of northern Ethiopia, working with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST). Oxfam Australia continued to support the water program until 9 years ago, when it withdrew from direct programme involvement in Ethiopia. Fortunately for REST, Ross and Marianne Allan took up an active family support for the programme, and eventually created *WellWishers* to enable a broader involvement for Australians.

Following the downfall of the military junta in Ethiopia, and the establishment of democratic government, in 1997 Graham was appointed Ethiopia's Honorary Consul-General in Australia, representing Ethiopia in Australia, New Zealand and the south Pacific region. To get some background training in this field, he completed a Master of Diplomacy and Trade at Monash University (2005). He held this voluntary Consular position for the last 17 years, and with the establishment of a fully staffed Ethiopian Embassy in Canberra this year, has taken the opportunity to step aside and devote more time to *WellWishers*.



Graham is happy to have the support of others on the *WellWishers* management team in his new role, and is very keen to hear from anyone who feels they can offer a hand, or even seek election as a Trustee.

Graham is absolutely thrilled with Ross's past contribution to *WellWishers*. While saying a Big Thanks to Ross, Graham knows he will have Ross's ongoing support and commitment to a truly wonderful and valuable organisation.

Ross Says "Thank You"

I want to thank those who have helped in the smooth running of WellWishers and am delighted they've all agreed to continue in their current roles.

- Annie for processing credit card donations
- Bangalow Lions for the fun quarterly job of stuffing the newsletters into envelopes, under Neil's cheerful leadership
- John for the annual accounts
- Kate & Beth for the monthly receipts
- Lesley for checking mail & the banking
- Ray for the role of independent auditor
- Robyn for manning (womanning?) the phone and posting the mail

I also thank my fellow trustees, Graham, Robyn & David plus our management committee members Annie & Guy for their help & support; our wonderfully professional Ethiopian partners REST for Project Implementation; and NCA for Monitoring & Evaluation. And of course, our beautiful beneficiaries in Ethiopia. It's been a privilege to be able to help bring them clean water and all the benefits that come with it.

Thanks to my wonderful wife Marianne for her constant assistance, suggestions, preparation of the Newsletter and for her great support.

Most importantly, thanks to all the wonderful supporters of *WellWishers*. Without you, *WellWishers* would not exist and over 250,000 deserving women, children and men would not have received clean water. Well done to you all!

Please become a Member of *WellWishers*. Complete this form and return it to the address below with the Annual Membership Fee for 2014/15 of \$1.40 [payable with 2 x 70¢ stamps]. Please add your email address, if you have one.

NAME: **EMAIL ADDRESS:**

POSTAL ADDRESS: **P/CODE:**

WellWishers – After Ross and Marianne

WellWishers was formally established as a charity in 2007. Ross’s tireless promotion and management of WellWishers since then has produced phenomenal support from Australia & overseas, resulting in the funding of 615 wells to provide a permanent supply of clean drinking water for over 250,000 Ethiopians.

There are thousands of ideas to make the world a better place. They don’t all get past the dreaming stage and they don’t all work. WellWishers did.

It can be proud of its contribution - bringing clean accessible water; better health; better access to education for women and girls through lessening the burden of water collection; and greater community co-operation. A better life for people whose daily struggle for survival makes life in Australia seem like a life of pure luxury.

Each of us who support WellWishers have made a dent in their own standard of living, to make someone else’s better. For most of us, this contribution from our resources will actually make us feel better about ourselves and enhance our own sense of being part of the wider world community.



That’s how Ross and Marianne Allan see it. That’s how I see it. We have resources we cannot take with us when we finally depart, so let’s use them now in a way that makes the world a better and fairer place. Ross, with Marianne’s constant support, has committed his life over the last 12 years to provide a way in which each of us can become better world citizens.

I personally cannot say a big enough Thank You to them. Our “Thank You” is one acknowledgment. The smiles of the faces of villagers, especially the women and girls in northern Ethiopia when water flows from the village pump, is another. Ross and Marianne, we do say “Thank You”. Your contribution has been an inspiration to so many of us. We know your time in Wales with your family won’t mean you are lost to WellWishers but just working with WellWishers in new ways.

WellWishers has a tremendous amount of work ahead. We’ve made a great start in one part of Ethiopia, working with REST and the communities of Tigray. Over a million Tigrayans still need access to proper domestic water supplies. Millions more around Ethiopia need it too. Over a billion worldwide need clean reliable water. Not a time to slow down. Not a time to be making massive cuts in our official aid programme.

Ross and Marianne gave us the gift of WellWishers and we are the custodians of this gift. With our committed supporters, our management team and our volunteers, I’m confident we’ll keep moving forward to realise the dream of bringing clean water and a better life to hundreds of thousands more.

If you feel you can make a special or extra contribution to our team or to WellWishers generally, please feel free to contact me at info@wellwishersethiopia.com or on 0419 559 138. We are very confident of your continuing support.

From Graham Romanes, together with the management team – Robyn, David, Annie & Guy.

Our End of FY Campaign

My last task is to ask you all to open your pockets for our end of financial year campaign.

The past few months have been tough. Supporters may have held back to see where WellWishers was going. We know the answer to that – it’s continuing as before!

Please remember those tax deductible donations. **Celebrate my retirement with a bang!**

CONTACT DETAILS

At this point, nothing changes. Postal & email addresses, phone number & banking details stay the same. The Newsletter will continue on a quarterly basis.

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 name: