

WORLD FAMILIES  
AUSTRALIA



**impact**

IMPACTING CHILDREN  
AND COMMUNITIES

JUNE 2011

In this issue:

Samerro-Dembidollo  
Dekia Boarding House  
Meskele Kristos School  
Welcome Robin's Nest  
Bike Ride for Bonga  
Management Matters

Contact details for

Project Officers

Anugerah & Booth  
Homes

Coming next issue:

Management Matters/  
Constitutional Changes

Preet Mandir

Other Reports as they

Become available

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## Samerro-Dembidollo

### January 2011

Thank you for your continued support for Agricultural development projects with the Daughters of Charity through WFA. In January of this year I had the opportunity to visit Ethiopia and spend some time visiting the project areas. In the village of Samerro, accessing water continues to be a major problem. It's not that there is no water, it's at the bottom of a valley, but the infrastructure is not in place to harvest and store the water.

Maize, sorghum & chilli are the most abundant vegetable crops and even going to the markets in the main town of Dembidollo, the variety of vegetables is restricted to potatoes, onions, cabbage, chilli and tomatoes. Not a great variety.

The agricultural development project has provided farmers with oxen to plough land, helped with provision of seed for growing food and for some time now funds have been directed to a new income generating project involving the growing of silk.

The silkworms feed off castor oil leaves, which happen to not only be indigenous to Ethiopia but are abundant in the local area, growing wild. Castor is also being encour-

aged to be grown as a bio fuel, so the seeds are going to be an added by-product.

Three people from Samerro village completed their training late last year in Addis Ababa. There is much hope for the future as the reality of production of their own silk being grown in Samerro slowly sinks in. Eggs were being harvested at the time we visited.

Thank you for your ongoing support; helping people to help themselves and support them through agriculture and income generation is an important key to taking steps out of poverty.

Gemma & Darren Pilcher

### Dekia Boarding House

Liwan is the remote village in southwest Ethiopia where WFA supporters have funded the building of a school and the provision of clean water and latrine. Prior to this the village lacked all basic services and the village was illiterate. This project was successfully completed in the beginning of 2010.

The school is doing really well and I visited it for the 3<sup>rd</sup> time in September 2010 with my daughter Lexi. 40% of the students are girls which is better than

many rural other regions. In Liwan men have up to 7 wives and a dowry system making it difficult initially to encourage fathers to allow their daughters to attend school.

The Liwan School only goes to Grade 4, so when students are ready to do Grade 5 they need to move to Dekia, a larger but still remote village about ½ days walk from Liwan. There are now 10 children in Dekia doing Grade 5 and 6, and they currently live in a shed sharing 3 straw mattresses.

A safe and suitable boarding house is needed – especially for the girls. We are also seeking sponsors for the new Liwan Graduates in Dekia and also sponsors for girls in Liwan to encourage their attendance at school. The children do not receive any funds individually, instead the money is pooled in these programs to ensure food and education materials for them all.

The boarding house has been started and we are now raising funds to complete it and fit it with simple furniture.

The cost is proposed at: 216,250 Ethiopian Birr = \$13,039 Australian.

## MESKELE KRISTOS SCHOOL UPDATE

Meskele Kristos school has received some much needed resources. These books were happily received by the teachers and will be of great assistance to the students. The next plans to help develop the school are to build a library and some toilets. The school currently has NO water and NO toilets. This leads to lots of health issues for the children and staff. Pricing for separate boys and girls toilet blocks are underway and once WFA has received the funding necessary, the building of these can be started. WE ARE SEEKING MORE SPONSORS OF THIS PROJECT, DONATIONS ARE ALSO WELCOMED AND ALL ARE TAX DEDUCTABLE.

For more information please contact: Dee Hudson 0404 454 390  
[bendy98@bigpond.com](mailto:bendy98@bigpond.com)



### **CHILD SPONSORSHIP IN MESKELE KRISTOS**

**\*\*\*NEWSFLASH\*\*\* SEEKING SPONSORS FOR MANY MALNOURISHED CHILDREN.**

Twenty six more children have joined the child sponsorship project in Meskele Kristos. Many of these children are malnourished. Many more sponsors are needed to sponsor these children. We are hopeful that we will find sponsors soon so WFA is able to help these children regain their health as quickly as possible. Due to the extreme poverty of families in this village, it is a very real concern that they do not have enough food and/ or a necessary variety of foods with vitamins and minerals needed for good health. Malnourished children also struggle to focus and achieve their best at school.

For those interested in sponsoring a child please contact: Dee Hudson- 0404 454 390 [bendy98@bigpond.com](mailto:bendy98@bigpond.com). Sponsorship is pooled and used to provide educational and nutritional support for the children of the village. Given the whole village (Meskele Kristos) is so desperately poor, it is not appropriate to privilege one child over the others. However, each sponsor will be matched to a child and is welcomed to write to the child.

### ***Robin's Nest***

We are pleased to welcome Robin's Nest to World Families. They are located in Newcastle, NSW and WFA will be overseeing project management and doing administration tasks for this project. Robin Byrnes, project officer of Robin's Nest, and her team have children's homes in both Kenya and India, where children live with house parents and attend school. Various developmental community projects are also running conjointly to improve the lives of the local people.



Kenya Projects: This supports seven community families where the need is most urgent. The project has provided school fees, planted seedlings, and has built a chicken coup and cowshed to provide a sustainability project for a widowed mum, (identified by the social worker and community leaders). It has also built 2 mud homes, including bunk beds, and started the construction of a kitchen. The project works with a big hearted local businessman, a rice distributor, who trains and supports targeted community people to start a rice business. Another sustainable project was the construction of an oven to help a community member raise funds to put his orphaned brother and sister through school – a big brother caring for orphans.

## ***Biking for Bonga Cardiac Equipment***

I want to warmly thank Peter Esselbach for his HUGE effort coordinating the Bike Belair for Bonga event. This event was coordinated by Peter to raise funds for the WFA project raising money for cardiac equipment for an Ethiopian paediatric cardiologist.

This was a fantastic day with about 60 riders showing up on the day. I am so grateful for Peter's willingness to arrange the event! I also want to thank Di (WFA President) and her husband Coz who championed the BBQ, Jean (WFA office) and Emma (WFA project officer) who came and helped with preparing and serving the food, as well as a number of Peter's friends and family - Leah Stevens, Peter Battersby, Lynn Gaskill, Nicola and Georgia Esselbach - who assisted by being Marshals for the riders.

Thanks also to the following businesses whose donations of goods meant the money raised goes straight to the project:

- Belair National Park who donated the Pines 2 Picnic Area for our use for the day. Emma and Andy who donated a huge amount of soft drinks for us to sell.
- TAFESA Meat Studies at Regency who provided 200 sausages at a much reduced cost.
- Bakers Delight at Mt Barker and at Findon for bread donations.
- Coz and Di Amato who provided the sauces and cleaning materials, the spoons and cups for the fruit eaters.
- Alison and Peter Esselbach who donated catered salads, water for the riders and utensils for the salads.
- Adelaide Fresh at Fulham who donated oodles of fruit for the fruit cups.

These generous donations meant that 100% of all sales from the Bike Riders, BBQ, salad and drinks were donated! Approximately \$2800 was raised for the equipment for cardiac screening to rural areas through the Bike Ride, the BBQ and separate donations to the project. The funds will purchase 2 back up batteries for the echocardiogram, a special trolley for the machine, an examination bed for screening, and the transport of the equipment to Ethiopia. The back-up batteries and trolley are being purchased through a company in the US called Global Public Health who are heavily discounting the equipment to support us in helping children in Ethiopia.

*Thank you, thank you and thank you to EVERYONE who helped make this happen by making a financial or goods donation, by riding a bike, or by helping with the event! Sandi Petersen*

## **MANAGEMENT MATTERS**

During the latter part of 2010, it was clear that the World Families Australia administration budget was slowly falling into deficit due in part to the reduction of the administration component paid by the Members Account for adoption support. This highlighted that the ability of the office to manage the day to day operation of our organization was not being sustained. To counter this, the Management Committee undertook a number of steps:

At the time of the AGM when the regular donation was increased to \$70, the administration component of the regular donation was increased from \$10 to \$11.

Encouraging donors to receive the newsletter on-line, reducing the postage costs and having invoicing done on the internet.

To stop the distribution of free copies of the adoption magazine, "Adoption Australia".

Following these measures the budget was monitored to determine if the measures were successful. However, whilst reducing the problem, alternative measures needed to be implemented to ensure the long term viability of World Families Australia.

A sub-committee of the Management Committee considered a number of options and these were presented at a formal meeting. It was felt that where donors were providing an administration amount of approximately 15% from the regular donation of \$70, where other donations are received, a 15% administration fee would be applied on the amount donated, up to a cap of \$200. This practice has been applied from December of last year and has had the desired effect of bringing the budget back into line.

### Website

Currently the website is in the initial stages of a major make-over. In the future it would be possible to visit the specific project you are looking for with a press of a button and to make donations on line using a bank account or credit card using Paypal.



Speakers are available to tell groups about the work of W.F.A.

Please contact us through the office.

(08) 8261 0008

## **LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT THIS QUARTER**

**Please pay by the**

**1 June 2011**

### **Please Note**

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach us at the office by 26th July 2011**

### Project Officers for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

#### **ETHIOPIA**

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BONGA Feeding	Christine Hoffman	8265 5256
BONGA Women's Development	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
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SRI LANKA Colombo	Elaine Smith	8264 8861
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THAILAND	Gail Churchill	8344 4264
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VIETNAM	Margaret Palin	8263 9022
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**FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES TO FINANCE OFFICER**

**PROJECT ENQUIRIES TO PROJECT OFFICER**

#### **OFFICE**

**Open Tuesdays & Friday  
Phone 08 8261 0008**

## **Bali Anugerah and Booth Homes**

After going to Bali in March to visit the girls in the **ANUGERAH GIRLS** home and the boys in the William Booth Bali boys home, I had been provided with a list of children still requiring sponsorship. The money goes for their education and school clothing. You are welcome to write to your child and see the progress of how they are going. The children are very happy and content and its always a pleasure to visit them whilst in Bali. Please consider sponsoring a child, its so rewarding. If you require more information on the Bali programs, please contact Donna Peters on [donnapeters@iprimus.com.au](mailto:donnapeters@iprimus.com.au) or 0412406200

Opinions expressed by contributors to Sponsorship News are not necessarily those of Family Families Australia

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