

WORLD FAMILIES  
AUSTRALIA



**impact**

IMPACTING CHILDREN  
AND COMMUNITIES

MARCH 2011

In this issue:

Bonga Barta Library

Sammerro Report

Management Matters

Welcome Robin's Nest

Damayan Report

Contact details for

Project Officers

Coming next issue:

Profile of Robin's Nest

Meskos Kristos School

Other Reports as they

Become available

## Bonga Barta Library

As you know Sandi and I travelled to Ethiopia earlier this year, a self-funded trip. Whilst we were in Bonga we were able to visit the Feeding Centre/Kindergarten and see for ourselves how the money we send is distributed. 150 3-6 year olds attend this Kindergarten and are taught the Montessori system of teaching. The Daughters Of Charity manage this for us. When the children finish their schooling here they go across the road to attend the Bonga Barta Primary School.

We visited the school and met the Headmaster; we saw that this school is the oldest in the area and it is also the poorest. They basically have very little resources. The Headmaster didn't ask for anything in particular, their list of requirements is quite long. When we returned home and after many discussions we decided that a library would benefit the children of the school. Children face many challenges to study, such as the distance that is required to walk to school, the workload that they have at home and most importantly no books for their study and research. There are approximately 1,035 students who attend the school



Children ready for school

We have set up a project to assist with building the library and hope to raise approximately \$25,000.00. Your generous tax-deductible donation, no matter what amount will go directly to the project, less than 10% goes to administration.

Cheques can be posted to our office, also credit card facilities are available. Please state it is for the Bonga Library. Direct debit facilities are available:-

**World Families Australia  
Sponsorship Account**

BSB: 105152 A/C:

035867740 Bank: Bank SA

I am returning to Ethiopia just after Christmas, again a self-funded trip and will be able to let the school council know that we have begun fundraising. With a lot of work and help from you we hope to start building the library in 2011.

I would like to thank everyone who bought our Christmas cards as gifts; I hope your family and friends enjoyed them.

I hope the New Year brings Joy and Peace to you all

Christine Hoffman  
Project Officer for Bonga & Jimma

[Ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com](mailto:Ce.dj.hoffman@bigpond.com)

0417793300



School Wish List

## Samerro Report from Gemma Pilcher

Never see a  
need without  
doing  
something  
about it.  
Mary  
MacKillop

Dear Sponsors and donors,

Thank you for your continued support for the children in Samerro, Ethiopia. You may have noticed an absence of information in the current WFA newsletter about Samerro, so I do hope this information provides a good overview of the year just passed. This year has been very busy and the WFA projects in Samerro have been progressing well despite challenges they have faced.

About mid year Sr Genet left the Sisters at Dembidollo (where they live and the projects are coordinated from – Samerro village is about 7km away) to be with her family during a crisis they were facing. She is expected to return in about 6 months. A young lady from Tigray in the north, finished up her 12 month period with the nuns and has decided to take a different path in life.

This has left them quite under resourced, as if they didn't already face massive challenges

### HOSTEL GIRLS

At about the same time as Sr Genet left, I was approached to see if we could help 2 young Sudanese girls that were living in Gambela, some hours south. They had been orphaned with the death of their mother early in the year, and their surviving family members live in Australia. It took some searching and a few failed attempts but eventually they were located and taken into the hostel run by the Sisters and supported through WFA. Through a wonderful network of people in Australia, these girls now have protection for a decision from the Australian government to allow them to migrate to Australia. The girls are 8 and 15 years old and being Sudanese, do not speak the same language as the staff and children in our project area, so it has not been easy and they continue to feel the loss of family and the community they are familiar with, but at the same time they are now in a much better position than when they first arrived, and we pray that the future will see them reunited with their sister in Australia.



It took some searching and a few failed attempts but eventually they were located and taken into the hostel run by the Sisters and supported through WFA. Through a wonderful network of people in Australia, these girls now have protection for a decision from the Australian government to allow them to migrate to Australia. The girls are 8 and 15 years old and being Sudanese, do not speak the same language as the staff and children in our project area, so it has not been easy and they continue to feel the loss of family and the community they are familiar with, but at the same time they are now in a much better position than when they first arrived, and we pray that the future will see them reunited with their sister in Australia.

### HOUSING PROJECT

During the year, through generous donations we have been able to support the building of 13 houses for children and families from Samerro village. As I will be travelling (self-funded) in January 2011 I do hope to provide further details on each family that has been assisted through this project. There is one house that is being built in Gimbi, some hours north, and this will be for one of the hostel girls and her brothers. Her story is sad, but repeatable all over Ethiopia. Her mother left when she was an infant, her father remarried and disowned his children forcing her and her young brother to be separated and do whatever they could for survival. The nuns in Gimbi took her in and sent her to Dembidollo so she could have a roof over her head and an education. A brother went east an hour and half working in a t shirt shop and sleeping there as the guard at night...at an age of about 6 (maybe younger at the time). There are another one or two brothers. She says to me in a letter ***“from my childhood my life has been of suffering, but I reached this age (17?) with the help of God. I did not receive support from my father, neither my mother or any relative, but only from our Lord.....”*** referring to her support from WFA ***“now I already have a piece of land with a fence (government requirement) for my brothers and myself, thank you so much”***.

Small gestures of kindness do change the world for these kids.

# Management Matters

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting was held on 1st December, 2010. Jean McMahon was welcomed as the new book keeper. Project reviews have been completed on Sandi and Morgan's projects and we will work through other projects in 2011 to ensure we have an appropriate mix of relief and development.

The new pamphlet has been completed and is looking very good. Many thanks to Sue Piggott and her staff at Biz Boost for their work on the pamphlet and also for our web site. The site is being updated but is still a work in progress. We are now back to black and white printing for the news letter and more people are now accessing the newsletter on line. This will help reduce the cost of printing.



WFA has been in consultation with AusAid regarding the criteria for tax deductibility. Reviews are being conducted to ensure our programs are compliant.

The policy of police checks is being introduced. It is our intent to ensure people who visit sponsored children in the name of WFA are reputable. Almet were thanked for their kind support of WFA in allowing us to use their office space. To Elaine Smith, for her tireless work and continuing commitment to WFA, we extend our thanks.

The following people were elected to the management committee:

President: Diane Amato, Treasure; Elaine Smith, Secretary: Bert Michels, Members: Glen Smith, Vicki Hyde, Bruce Smith, Morgan Smith, Christine Hoffman and Hugh Browell.

## Global Experience

In October Morgan Smith, Christine Hoffman and Diane Amato presented a workshop at The University of South Australia.

We explained how WFA started and is run and gave a power point presentation of some of our projects. The students then worked on different scenarios to produce an outline for aid projects. WFA has been invited to present the workshop next year. We received a financial remuneration from UniSA and have used it for administration and projects.

## Sponsorship Report

This year over 900 regular sponsors supported children, families and communities through WFA's relief and development programs. In addition a number of others provided one off donations to a range of projects. These donations will be monitored more closely in 2011. Over the 2009/2010 financial year \$393,660 was sent overseas to projects. Managing these funds creates a

significant work load for our book keepers.

This year WFA managed 45 projects in a range of countries including Ethiopia, Fiji, India, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand, and Vietnam. Donations to projects provided to provided children with a range of life's necessities including food, education, clothes, shoes, shelter, clean water and medical care.

New projects have commenced in Indonesia and Ethiopia. Housing was completed in Sammerro. Other short term projects have opened and then closed on completion. These included training for barber and hair dressing, shoes for children and flooring for a school that then enabled the school to be completed.

## Welcome Robin's Nest

We welcome Robin's Nest with it's 3 projects (2 in India and 1 in Kenya) under the administration of WFA. Part of their vision statement includes; " We envisage a world where all children have access to safe and nurturing living conditions, nutrition and education to enable them to reach their natural potential. Through their education the cycle of poverty can be broken. " In the next newsletter we will have a report on one of the projects with more reports in the following newsletters.

## DAMAYAN CENTRE - PHILIPPINES

Aside from our educational assistance thru the sponsorship program, we have started an ongoing formation for the parents of the sponsored children. The program is "**Community Development for People's Empowerment and Self-Reliance**". So the objective of this program is to empower them so that in the future (perhaps after 5 or 6 yrs.)

the families will be more responsible for their own development as communities. We are now networking closely with Kapatiran-Kaunlaran Foundation, Inc. whose expertise is capability-building of people in communities.

In the past, we had programs and activities to recognize and develop the potentials of the parents so

that they may become better persons and become more responsible parents & also help us in the implementation of the diff. activities in the centre. With our new program, it is designed to make them aware of their capacity to do something about their situation (of poverty & powerlessness) so that if they become organized as a group they will have the strength and power to improve their situation and be responsible for the development of their communities.

Of course, the educational assistance to the children is still very much needed as well as the regular non-formal education sessions they have every Saturday here at the centre.

Report from Sister Susan

Voice mail can be accessed anytime and emails are monitored frequently



**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*

*1st of June 2011*

***Please Note***

*Any articles for the next newsletter should reach us at the office by 19th of April 2011*

**Project Officers for  
WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA**

**ETHIOPIA**

BGW	Morgan Smith	8523 4245
ADDIS	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
JIMMA, LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA	Sandi Petersen	8370 8965
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis	0415 978 066
BONGA Feeding	Christine Hoffman	8265 5256
BONGA Women's Development	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
SAMERRO	Gemma Pilcher	07 5438 0953
WOLAYITA	Katie Davis	03 6425 1563
LOVE & HOPE	Dee Hudson	07040446

FIJI	Penny Bruce	8767 5074
------	-------------	-----------

INDIA Chennai Kolkata	Michelle Williams Helen Edwards (helen.edwards@ sa.gov.au)	8281 1544
--------------------------	--	-----------

INDONESIA Java	Office	82610008
Bali, Nais	Donna Peters	9402 3442
Mission Uplift	Jenni Callander	8255 4840
	Malcolm Hillam	8339 4302

KENYA	Danni & Mike Potter	8283 0728
-------	------------------------	-----------

PHILIPPINES	Tony Bailey	82610008
-------------	-------------	----------

SRI LANKA Colombo	Elaine Smith	8264 8861
----------------------	--------------	-----------

THAILAND	Gail Churchill	8344 4264
----------	----------------	-----------

VIETNAM	Margaret Palin	8263 9022
---------	----------------	-----------

**FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES TO FINANCE OFFICER**

**PROJECT ENQUIRIES TO PROJECT OFFICER**

**OFFICE**

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

**"With love in our heart  
There will be peace in the world"**

**Adele Basheer**



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

Postal address: P.O.Box 11, HOPE VALLEY 5090 Telephone: (08) 8261 0008

Email: [worldfamilies@bigpond.com](mailto:worldfamilies@bigpond.com)

[www.worldfamilies.org.au](http://www.worldfamilies.org.au)