



World Families Australia Inc.

Impact

JUNE 2017

IMPACTING CHILDREN AND COMMUNITIES



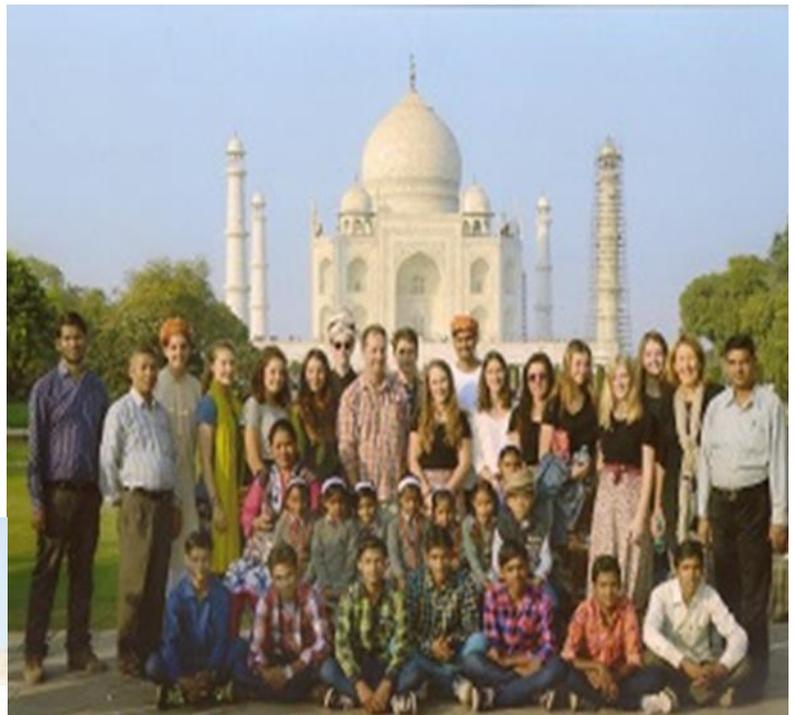
Dhanoli Primary School, India

Led by teacher, Lyn Mulholland, a group from St Phillips Christian College, again made Robin's Nest Dhanoli Primary School (near Agra) one of the stops on their annual, end-of-year working holiday. The group of twelve teenagers, two adults and one translator spent a day at the school running a program of games and stories for the students. We are very grateful for their enthusiastic sharing of themselves with the children. The school was especially grateful for the donation of a much needed school laptop.

As a special treat fourteen students were accompanied by staff members from our home in Jhansi when the visitors went on a tour of the Taj Mahal and the Agra Red Fort. The group also visited the primary school and taught the students songs and interesting facts about Australia. They ended the day at the home of the National Coordinator of Robins Nest Global Child. There they shared a dinner of traditional Indian food.

We're equally thrilled that Lyn met up with her sponsored child. Robin's Nest greatly appreciates the assistance that all of our sponsors and supporters continue to give us each year. We, and all of our children and supported communities, are incredibly grateful and we can categorically say that your support can dramatically change lives.

Although this is just a snapshot of the work we do in India, it provides a snap shot of the crucial role that WFA, your sponsorships and donations play in bringing change to the lives of the poor and eradicating poverty.



We appreciate the assistance that WFA has given to support us over the years. The villagers in India are incredibly grateful!

May you be blessed,

Robin Byrnes WFA Project Officer robinsnestaus@gmail.com



From the Capri to the Kalahari



More than 400 people packed into the foyer and spread into the cinema of The Capri Theatre at Goodwood (in Adelaide) recently to support the annual **KEDI Movie Night Fundraiser**. Attendees enjoyed champagne and an incredible array of finger foods before the screening, served by the Concordia College Kalahari team, creating a festive and noisy gathering with a purposeful intent.

'Hidden Figures' was the film and captured the essence of what KEDI is about – the recognition of racial injustice and the quest to create change that impacts on many. It was also another opportunity for the Concordia College Kalahari participants to show they are willing to 'serve' as volunteers here before they travel to South Africa in June to volunteer there.

"The Kalahari movie night was a huge success. The team were given many opportunities to share information about the 'Kalahari Experience' with people, many of whom had little or no prior knowledge. It was a great way to raise first-hand awareness which allowed for people to get something out of it and feel a part of something bigger".

Rebecca Schubert & Indianna Krieg
Concordia Kalahari team members 2017

The night is run 100% by volunteers. All the food is provided by the KEDI and Concordia Kalahari teams and The Capri volunteers run the bar, help to serve, and direct guests to their seats. The KEDI team provide raffle baskets which are hugely popular, filled with home-made goodies and treats. Before the movie the KEDI team shares their work with a short visual presentation – a powerful way of showing how the proceeds each year are spent.



This year we raised **\$6000!** An incredible amount which shows what is possible when people willingly give their hearts by supporting this event.

And Kalahari youth leaders (left) wave their thanks to us all!

Lea Sander

WFA South African Project Officer

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**WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA Inc. PHILIPPINES PROJECT REPORT
January – April 2017! By Bruce and Elaine Smith Project Officers.**

In February 2007 Bruce & Elaine Smith WFA project officers traveled to the Philippines for the first time, part of that trip had us visiting the World Families project in Malabon to see the great work the Sisters and staff were doing with the children there! Sadly for reasons beyond everyone's control the Damayan Centre at Malabon had to close down in June 2014!



As part of our 2007 trip we also visited another work in Las Pinas which has now become a project of World Families Australia Inc.!



This work began with a visit to an Indigent (people that live below the poverty line) community in Las Pinas where we found ourselves surrounded by about ninety children none of which were going to school! We felt we needed to do something for these children and beginning with a feeding program and then we began to educate some of these children first with a kindergarten (34 kids) and then a grade school of 10 kids!



In 2009 we formalized this education by forming the Philemon Academy Foundation Inc. and had locals trained to be teachers all of whom have gained their teaching degree!

As of March 2017 we have one hundred and fifty-five kinder to year eleven students.

What a difference that just over a decade of working with these children has made!

We are not sure if we will be granted another decade of working into the Philippines but we would like to think so! In 2027 Elaine will be 87 years young and I Bruce would be 75 years young, but that's all doable!

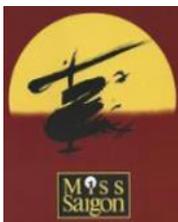
Next year 2018 in March we will see our first lot of students graduate from year twelve and we have been blessed to see each one of these students go from having no real future to now having an amazing future! Much of our time this trip was spending time with our Philemon Academy Foundation Kids! Such a blessing that all the students old and young just wanted to hang out with us! We were able to spend quality time learning about their dreams and aspirations and the list of what they wanted to be was quite extensive and impressive. It was not hard to see the transformation that has taken place in these precious students' lives.



It does not stop with their future these students are doing great exploits in the here and now! Winning competitions, in fact three of our students came first, second and third in gymnastics at the Club Gymnastica Philippine Cup 2017 National competition just recently!

Well done boys!

New things are happening!



Starting last year skilled talented international performing arts artists have come along independently and asked to work with our kids. We now have six in total! A music teacher, singing teacher, drama teacher, a professional musical singer who has played the role of Kim in Miss Saigon for 12 years, including in Sydney Australia, a woodwind artist and a member of the Manila Symphony Orchestra who is talking about giving our kids exposure to the M.S.O's recitals!



None of these artists had previous exposure to the impoverished but all are saying the same thing **“what can we do? how can we help?”** What an amazing blessing! Every one of these artists could command large fees but are giving their time for these impoverished kids!

All these artists have the same desire and that is to give back to the less fortunate the opportunity to turn their lives around the very same reasons we got involved!

WOW Thank You for the amazing opportunities you are giving our kids! You are opening doors that none of us could have opened!



ALL OUR CHILDREN NOW HAVE THE POTENTIAL FOR AMAZING FUTURES THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF SPONSORS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF THESE WORLD CALSS INTERNATIONAL ARTISTS AND OUR DEDICATED REGULAR TEACHERS!

IN THE PHILIPPINES WE WERE TREATED TO A DRESS REHEARSAL AND THREE FULL PERFORMANCES OF A PRODUCTION BY OUR STUDENTS!



The Performance called **HALAMAT** is an all original musical staged by the performing arts scholars of Philemon Academy Foundation Inc.

Halamat is made up of two Tagalog words:

“hala” If you keep doing that there will be consequences (**beware**)
 “Alamat” a story made up to teach a lesson. (**legend**),

It is based on true stories and superstitions the children experience in their community. Once a year, a child drowns in the nearby river, prompting residents to spread old tales of a river "diwata" who steals one life during flood season. Will the residents choose to continue appeasing her, or will they discover a power capable of saving them from what they fear?



This performance was put together by June Veras (Drama teacher) (left) Katherine Asis (music teacher), Pauline Wong (singing teacher) Tobiyah Carandang (dance and singing) and Jean Almeda (dance) (right). Plus, many others including other teachers from the Philemon Academy Foundation Inc.



Cast and some of the crew from Hala-

All four performances were World Class and that in no small part was a result of the caliber of those who put it all together and the ability of our precious students who performed outstandingly!

We were told that we may not understand much of the performance as it was all in Tagalog! Well they were wrong it was all about their life in the Lagoon/Riverside area (their home) and because we knew their story we understood it all!



Over two hundred children (who are not part of our school) along with over one hundred adults came for the final performance we put on right in the middle of the Lagoon, Riverside community!

Even those that came to the performances that did not know the history of the community, were all deeply touched by these performances!

No bells and whistles, just Pure performance!

Contact Project Officers Bruce or Elaine Smith for tax deductible sponsorship or more information! wfafinance@bigpond.com or Bruce 0414 953 533 or Elaine 0414 434 533

New Project Officer

It is with pleasure World Families Australia welcomes Karan Coombe-Smith as the new Project Officer for the four Sri Lankan projects, run through the Salvation Army, St. Mary's Girls Home and the Good Shepherd Convent. Karan has been a long term sponsor with World Families Australia and is planning a visit soon to Sri Lanka to visit the projects. We look forward to hearing from her in a coming newsletter.

If anyone has an interest in becoming a Project Officer please contact the office for a discussion of where you could be of assistance.

Thailand Project Officer Change

Peter Mann will be taking over as the Sponsorship Officer for Thailand as Kevin Lynch is retiring. Peter is a past Project Officer for Vietnam and we welcome him in his new role. We thank Kevin for his continuing dedication to the children of Thailand and know that he will follow with great interest the possibilities that are presented in the future to the children in his projects.

The brand NEW 2017 | 2018 Entertainment Books are here!

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To order a book go to <http://www.entbook.com.au/162x689> or ring our office on 8258 7909



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

Please contact us through the office: (08) 8258 7909

**LAST DAY FOR YOUR GIFT
THIS QUARTER**

1st June

Please Note

Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 18th July



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

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