

## WOMADelaide

- THE WORLD'S FESTIVAL -

**9th ~ 12th March 2018 at Botanic Park**

Many thanks to those who have volunteered their time to help World Families with the WOMADelaide stall. If any members are attending WOMADelaide, please stop in at our stall say hello and view our display. We will have some items for sale, proceeds going to the various projects that supplied items.

### [Robins Nest](#)

Dear WFA Team and fellow supporters,

I really get nostalgic when I have to say good bye, but I would love to acknowledge the generous support, valuable time shared and solid direction that World Families Australia has given selflessly to myself and our Robins Nest Global Child team since 2010 as they guided us through obtaining our official approval for a Charity, ACNC and DGR status. I can not say that it was an easy or quick road, but I can say that it was a worthwhile venture and I feel blessed having had the chance to get to know, work and learn from the WFA team over these past 7 years. There was never anything too difficult that would stop WFA from tackling, or thoroughly answering or lending a helping hand, and all in a timely manner- every time! I always felt safe with their integrity, and supported with their wisdom



while under the caring umbrella and leadership of WFA. We hope you all keep in touch and updated by looking us up on our facebook site: [RobinsNestGlobalChild](#), web site: [www.globalchild.com](http://www.globalchild.com) or email us directly at: [robinsnestaus@gmail.com](mailto:robinsnestaus@gmail.com) as we continue as we can, to do our part, to help vulnerable children, in stamping out unjust poverty in the nations. So on behalf of our Kenyan, Indian and Australian Robins Nest Global Child children, staff and volunteer team, I'd like to send you a BIG heartfelt THANK YOU! Asante Sana! & Dhanyavaad!

## Introducing's New Project Officer ~ Ethiopia

### Michelle Nethery

Hi all – I'm excited to be the newest Project Officer for Ethiopia having taken over the Jimma sponsorship program from the amazing Sandi Petersen (totally in awe of what she has achieved in Ethiopia).



I began my relationship with WFA in about 2001 when we were waiting to adopt our sons from Ethiopia and were able to meet our sponsor child, when we were in Addis Ababa becoming our family in 2002. Ethiopia has given me two gorgeous sons, brothers, Tesfa and Yideg who are now 18 & 16 and then our surprise biological son, Ruben, born just 12 months after our arrival back in Australia. Baptism of fire into parenthood! It has been my dream to be able to give back to Ethiopia since that time – even though we sponsor children, I have always wanted to be able to do more... that time has now arrived!

We travelled back to Ethiopia in April last year so that the boys could experience their birth country and culture and we

could meet our sponsor children. There is so much I could write about regarding our trip but I'd need a small book to cover it all! We travelled North to Bahir Dar, Gondar, trekked in the Simien Mountains and then onto magical Lalibella. It was wonderful to meet up with three of the WFA boys in Lalibella. The social worker, picked us up in a ute with my boys all standing up on the back causing a lot of amusement having a couple of "ferenges" on the back! The WFA boys, Temesgn, Ayalew and Tilahun are now 17 and studying hard and asked to pass on their love and thanks to their sponsors - they are great young men!

Finally off to Jimma and Bonga to meet our sponsor kids and those of our other family members and my husband's school. Kedouse the WFA social worker together with Sr Tsege and the other sisters from the Daughters of Charity are all clearly passionate about their community. We met the children and a few others that Sandi wanted me to follow-up on at the leprosy community school. It was such a delight and privilege to meet our sponsor kids. Although their English (combined with shyness) and our Amharic was limited it was so wonderful to meet them all. They all gave personal little speeches of thanks which was extremely humbling. It is an amazing experience and you should be very proud of your sponsorships and know what a huge difference it makes in the lives of your sponsor child, family and community.



The most fun was had after many frustrating phone calls trying to track down our last sponsor child who lives in a small village outside Bonga. We decided to just jump in our car and go to see if we could find him. Off we went on a very rough & bumpy 25 odd km drive in search of our mystery man - we got so lucky! Driving past the local school we pulled over to ask a young teenage boy if he knew him & showed him the photos we had - yes, he knew him & where he lived!! Yahoo! He jumped in with us & off we went! Can you imagine the shock/surprise when this car full of ferenges & strange Ethiopians pulled up at their house? It was such a lovely occasion full of much love and joy! Our dream of meeting all our children was now fulfilled. We also were lucky to meet with the new abba (priest) on the way back – fresh on the job and full of passion for his community.



Bonga is such a beautiful lush green environment after the dry Northern half of the state. We met with the Sisters, Ermias the Social Worker, Genet (Sight Impaired Co-ordinator) and Ato Asarat the School Principal who between them all we were able to meet more of our own and other sponsor children. Bonga is very much a rural town with most roads being dirt and many children walking to school on bush tracks over creeks and up and down slopes. The most amazing was a young blind man who manages to do this without any aides each day as he attends school – it was a delight to meet him and his family. It was great to read in Christine's last update that the new toilet construction at the school was underway as the old ones are beyond belief.

The sad fact of meeting all of our sponsor kids is that all but one was a family where only mum or grandma were struggling to raise their kids or grandkids on their own. The sponsorship monies sent by us all would be the main income received by these families.

Ethiopia is a land of extremes but with a massive heart. So many in need but getting by the best they can. I can't wait to return!

**Michelle Nethery** [Michelle.nethery@gmail.com](mailto:Michelle.nethery@gmail.com)



### **Testimony Faith Homes**



Just one of four Primary School girls being seen off to School by Esther, on the first day. The photo speaks for itself, and tells the whole story of how our children are loved as our own, and are themselves happy and contented with it. It is not 'automatic' but needs considerable faith and patience on both sides. Thank you again for sharing in the miracle.

*John and Esther Green Project Officer: Danni Potter 08 82830728*



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 March

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 24th April**



50 Fern Grove Boulevard Salisbury East SA 5109  
Mailing Address: PO Box 11 HOPE VALLEY SA 5090  
Email: [worldfamilies@bigpond.com](mailto:worldfamilies@bigpond.com)

"If you judge people,  
you have no time to  
love them."

*Fill your life with  
adventures, not  
things. Have  
stories to tell not  
stuff to show*

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

Editor: Diane Amato

## PROJECT OFFICERS for WORLD FAMILIES AUSTRALIA

### ETHIOPIA

DEKIA	Dee Lumsden	0413 187 049
ADDIS-BGW	Morgan Smith	08 8522-7694
BULBULA	Kate Drogemuller	08 8948 0623
JIMMA DOL	Michelle Nethery <a href="mailto:Michelle.nethery@gmail.com">Michelle.nethery@gmail.com</a>	
JIMMA, LIWAN, BONGA, LALIBELA, MEDICAL OUTREACH	Sandi Petersen	08 8370 8965
BONGA Rural	Emma Lewis	0415 978 066
JIMMA-DOC BONGA Feeding, BONGA-BWDP SAMERRO	Christine Hoffman Gemma Pilcher	0417 793 300 07 5438 0953
WOLAYITA	Katie Davis	03 6425 1563
MESKELE KRISTOS	Dee Hudson	0404 454 390

### FIJI

Brooke Matcham  
[brooke.matcham@gmail.com.au](mailto:brooke.matcham@gmail.com.au)

### INDIA

Minjur Jenny Minck 08 8258 7909

### INDONESIA

Java Cathy Deane [deanecathy@gmail.com](mailto:deanecathy@gmail.com)

Mission Uplift

Mavis Pardede 0413 871 206

### KENYA

Neema Liz Rankine 0434692207  
Testimony Homes Dani Potter 08 8283 0728

### PHILIPPINES

Elaine & Bruce Smith 08 8264 8861

### SRI LANKA

Shalom Children's Home Steve Hodgson 0438 875 957  
Colombo Karan Coombe-Smith  
[coombesmith@adam.net.au](mailto:coombesmith@adam.net.au)

### THAILAND

Peter Mann 08 8363 2585

### FINANCIAL ENQUIRIES:

Elaine Smith Finance Manager  
[wfafinance@bigpond.com](mailto:wfafinance@bigpond.com)

### SPONSORSHIP ENQUIRIES:

Kerry Walker Sponsorship Coordinator  
[wfasponsorship@bigpond.com](mailto:wfasponsorship@bigpond.com)

### OFFICE HOURS:

**Tuesdays and Fridays only**  
**Phone 08 8258 7909**  
emails monitored daily

### POSTAL ADDRESS:

P.O.Box 11, HOPE VALLEY 5090

### EMAIL:

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

### WEB:

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