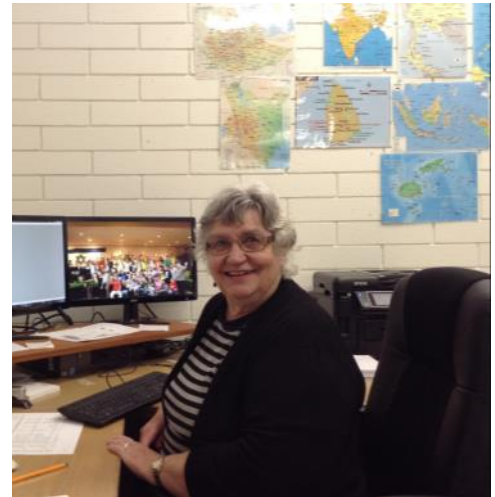


## Elaine Smith is retiring!

Recently Elaine announced her impending retirement from her role as financial manager with World Families Australia. Elaine will continue in her role until the 31<sup>st</sup> July in order to complete end of year financial matters. On behalf of all donors and Project Officers, past and present, I would like to express thanks to Elaine for her generosity of spirit, attention to detail, approachable manner and sense of humour. Elaine's dedication to World Families Australia has been exemplary.

Elaine will continue her association with World Families Australia as Project Officer for the Philippines so we will still see her around. After 25 years I think Elaine has earned her retirement. Congratulations Elaine and best wishes for the future!

Morgan Smith  
President – World Families Australia



## Cancelation of Post Office Box

In our endless search to save money, the office has decided to cancel our Australian Post Office Box. In the future can you please ensure that correspondence is sent to:

**50 Fern Grove Boulevard  
Salisbury East SA 5109**

There will be several months of changeover while we still have the Post Box. We're hoping this doesn't cause too much confusion. Thank you all so much for your continuing support.

## Project Officer required for Thailand

With the recent death of our Project Officer to Thailand, Kevin Lynch, WFA is seeking a new Project Officer. Peter Mann has been acting as caretaker Project Officer for an interim period. Peter is now looking to relinquish the role; consequently WFA is reaching out to anyone in our WFA community who would like to take up the role.

Please contact the office for further information. With the support of Peter and the office team an interested person would be able to undertake the Project Officer role.

# PROSTHETIC CLINICS BONGA ETHIOPIA

The **Medical Outreach Projects** in Ethiopia assists by working **with** existing healthcare services to support and improve what they can offer - working in collaboration with Ethiopian doctors to bring healthcare to rural areas and to the poorest people. WFA is too small to be effective if we work as an 'island' and Ethiopia's poor and rural populations will benefit best through having a strong public healthcare system.

**The Prosthetics Project** has been running since 2010 and provides ongoing funding to enable free prosthetic clinics to Bonga. Many hundreds of people have come from remote villages, some of whom we have provided stretchers to assist getting patients to Bonga. Prosthetic above and below knee legs, prosthetic shoes, crutches and wheelchairs are provided. Patients include children and adults disabled from birth or through burns, accidents, polio or landmines. This project is not only giving mobility to those with disabilities but also provides ongoing compassionate support through a regular friendly face and ongoing assessment.



The clinics are coordinated by Abreham, a nurse heading up the prosthetics unit at Jimma University Hospital. The prosthetics unit was set up by a European hospital that provided the equipment and training in making the prosthetics. However, the hospital does not have a budget to provide the prosthetics free of charge, or to provide rural clinics, which is where WFA support fills a significant gap preventing the poorest and rural living people with disabilities to access help. Some of the people being helped are:

**G** lives in a remote village out of Bonga. He has been unable to stand or walk since childhood. His disability has impacted every aspect of his life, including preventing him from attending school and socialising in his community. He was limited to crawling about and spent all his days inside his hut. He heard about the Prosthetic Outreach clinics on the radio broadcast. He was provided with a wheelchair and can now move around his village and spend time outside in his garden, and is no longer reliant on others having to carry him. He is a hard worker, assisting his family by planting seeds in small soil containers, which are then sold as seedlings at market as a way of making a small income. He also makes sleeping mats out of local materials.



**A** is a young mother with leg paralysis from polio. Her husband is blind. She attends the prosthetic clinics regularly for support and assessment. She sells shoes on the street and in the weekly town market to make a small income – previously someone would need to carry her or she would need to drag herself with her hands, however the wheelchair provided to her has given her independence and dignity.

**T** is the young boy who led to the funding of the Bonga Prosthetic Clinics. T had severe burns from falling in a fire as a child, leading to the loss of a foot and a very distorted lower limb. Prosthetic shoes were provided for him, which needed to be replaced every 6 months or so. However, a proper prosthetic was not possible due to the nature and shape of a large contracture on the back of his leg which meant a prosthetic would be too heavy and difficult to sit down with. T has recently had surgery on his leg so that a prosthetic can be made.



Sandi Petersen Project Officer for WFA, Ethiopia, PO Box 116 Stirling 5152

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## PHILIPPINES PROJECT REPORT

By local coordinator Adora Carandang



At Philemon Academy Foundation, Inc. we envision transformative education as an integral part of every student's life. We make a home for them where they will feel safe and secure while equipping them to be our nation's future leaders. We tap their potential and work on their weaknesses. We appreciate their various intelligences and adapt their individual learning style to enable them to learn at their own pace.



We realize that most of these children from the urban poor neighbouring communities come from dysfunctional families deprived of love and acceptance. Giving them the attention they so deserve, draws them out so their self-esteem is recovered slowly. The school identifies their gifts in the Performing Arts, gymnastics, Kyokushin Martial Arts and at the same time hones them in partnership with credentialed instructors, some renowned.

This year, several students, because of their hard work and determination, emerged from various competitions with awards and honours'. One of our grade 10 students won 2nd place silver medal in the Philippine Dance Cup nationwide tournament, out of 30 competitors from all over the nation. A 10th grader brought home a bronze medal from a regional Kyokushin Competition. Three of our gymnasts won gold and silver medals from an Asian competition where delegates from Malaysia, Indonesia, Hong Kong, Vietnam, etc came to our city to compete. One of our students who left for Hong Kong for an international Hip Hop Dance Competition won 3rd place, bronze medal. Our String Orchestra has not only grown in number but also matured in their skill as Violin, Viola, and Cello players. They have been privileged to perform in different Chambers of Commerce while our ballet students have danced on the stage of The Cultural Center of the Philippines, the cultural center that showcases the best of the arts in our nation.



It is indeed an honour to be part of the journey of these children who started out tripping over even in their dreams for a bright future, then seeing them slowly surfacing to rediscover themselves and how they can be contributors to society rather than remaining in the shadow of the outcast.

This year we have upgraded our academic curriculum that will better attend to their unique capabilities and aptitude. It will certainly demand more from our pool of teachers who have devoted their lives, all volunteers and licensed educators, to be part of this transformative work. They have gone through intensive training to be better equipped and prepared to work with our students using this new curriculum.

With this lofty aspiration and virtuous vision for our nation in partnership with this next generation of leaders, we cannot help but be awed by the few who catch it with us and plunge in with us- those who dare to dream with these children who may be taking baby steps into their God-given destiny, but we will all surely get there. It is not without a world of very complex challenges that we are able to go this far. Finances at our lowest ebb, poverty mindsets, domestic problems, plummeting motivation are simply a few of our constant handicap. However, they are also the rocks that we use to push up and climb this ever-rising mountain.



Every year, we pause to realign ourselves with the vision and take inventory of the resources that only miracles will attest to its provision. We remind ourselves, year after year, why we are part of this. We tell each other why it is important to focus on the vision and quiet down our own voices, so that we are all on the same page. It is indeed increasingly onerous...but the reward of seeing lives change- is absolutely priceless!

[See next page for Project Officers comments:](#)

## REPORT FROM WFA PROJECT OFFICERS for Philemon ~ Philippines

Bruce & Elaine Smith

We can only ditto the above remarks from one of our local coordinators and just add that it was an honour and privilege for us to attend and see our first ever year twelve graduates, graduate. These precious young adults now have a future and a hope and have all been given the opportunity to enrol into a thirteen thousand student University, thanks to contacts we have made in the Philippines on our numerous self funded visits.

Should you like to support our project or sponsor a child, that is rescuing these vulnerable children and giving them a future and a hope please contact us as follows

Elaine: mobile 0414 434 533 or Bruce: mobile 0414 953 533 Or email us: [bmejsmith@gmail.com](mailto:bmejsmith@gmail.com)

**REMEMBER:** Children have the right to protection from violence, abuse and neglect as well as from being hurt or mistreated, physically or mentally. They also have the right to good medical, optical and dental care and treatment something that has been lacking in their lives.

**When you donate, sponsor a child or support the project you give them that right!**

### *Final Barmera Camp*



The first Barmera Camp was held in 1975. Some of the original organising committee included Peter and Barbara Engelhardt, Sue and John Thilthorpe and Carol and Bruce Lynch and Keith Holland. Peter, Barbara, Sue and Carol were at the final camp in January 2017, John and Bruce having passed away.

Helen, and her husband Dennis, along with Sue Dobbin from Glossop took over the organising in 2001. Dennis was responsible for the finances, Helen took the bookings and Sue managed the rosters. They made a good team but were helped out in so many ways by the past organisers. There are many memories too numerous to mention, but none of the camps would have been possible without the families, some year after year. We thank Helen and the whole team for their long term dedication that gave so many adoptive families the delight of friendship.

There were funds left from the final camp and Helen requested that these funds be divided and shared equally with the Bonga Barta Latrine, in Ethiopia, and the Nong Kahi School, in Thailand. In keeping with Helen's wishes, both of these projects received \$523.67.

## Lakew and Misrak visit from Ethiopia.

Lakew and Misrak were the agents who facilitated adoptions to Australia from Ethiopia and in some cases, were the children's foster parents. Their visit was anticipated with much pleasure by many adoptees and their families in the 6 states that they were to visit while here. We understand that both Lakew and Misrak had a wonderful time in Australia and loved seeing the children, many of whom are now young adults. Some also have their own families.

In South Australia Rob Winkenweder coordinated two functions. One at the Burnside Council on 21<sup>st</sup> May in the evening, and the other at a private house, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May in the afternoon. Both events were very well attended with adoptees of all ages and their families. It was also an opportunity for adoptive families and adoptees to reconnect with each other.

The photograph below is of the Winkenweder Family with Lakew and Misrak. Fasika was 13 months old when Rob & Judy travelled to Ethiopia to meet him and start their family. He is now 22 yrs old. While Hilina was 3.5 yrs old when she joined their family, and she is now 20 yrs old.

Morgan Smith



### Christmas Gift Cards



It has been proposed that Christmas Gift Cards be available again this year. Some of the Ethiopian Projects and the Philippines Projects will have Christmas Gift Cards. Other Projects may come on board soon.

If you would like to consider giving family or friends a gift card from World Families, please contact your Project Officer to advise them this is something you are considering. More information will be available in the next 'Impact'.



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 September**

### Please Note

**Any articles for the next newsletter should reach the office by 13th November**



“Here's to the crazy ones. The misfits. The rebels. The troublemakers. The round pegs in the square holes. The ones who see things differently. They're not fond of rules. And they have no respect for the status quo. You can quote them, disagree with them, glorify or vilify them. About the only thing you can't do is ignore them. Because they change things. They push the human race forward. And while some see them as the crazy ones, we see genius. Because the people who are crazy enough to think they can change the world, are the ones who do.”

— [Rob Siltanen](#)

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

Editor: Diane Amato

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