



NEWSLETTER

February 2017

Access to Education



Welcome to our new school year

The year 2017 is in full swing, our school children and staff have returned, the annual general meeting has been completed and the new board is in place.

We welcome teacher Evelyn back to school after her maternity leave. Her beautiful baby boy, pictured left, came for a visit recently.

Our first group of year seven students have moved on to high school and ten new pupils have been welcomed to our school. Pictured right is one of the new year three students. Welcome.



Our students returned to school on Monday, 16th January with project supervisor Katoba and teachers Susan and Jannipher there to greet them. The staff was well prepared for the start of the academic year, having spent the week prior at our school, enjoying student free days to complete their preparation.

This year, our school will have no year seven students so teacher Susan will have the year five and six class while teacher Janniper will instruct the year three and four class. Evelyn will care for the year one and two children. The new teacher aide will assist as required. Pascal continues to instruct music classes, Mable and Rhoda are back in the kitchen and our facility caretakers continue to keep a keen eye on our school.

Welcome to you all.



Day one of school and it is great to be back

What's it all about?

It's about:

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It's about having time to
think



It's about being pleased
to be here



It's about being student of
the week for honesty and
good behaviour



It's about helping
teacher Susan cover
the new text books



It's about earning my
education fees



It's about dental hygiene



It's about showing the parents and guardians what they
are learning at Girls and Boys Friendly Society.



It's about activities and
sport on Thursday
afternoons



It's about walking past piles and
piles of rubbish on our way home



It's about care from nurse Carol

Hampers for every student



Prior to Christmas, our supporter Mrs Mwaya and members of her church community visited the school. The students were on leave, so were invited back to school to meet with Mrs. Mwaya and her friends.

Katoba explains *"They taught about the true meaning of Christmas to the students who were able to make it. They served snacks and treats and ate with the students, they donated school resources and prepared a hamper for each of our students. The hamper included both food stuff and non food items."*

The visitors got a tour of the school and a brief history of Our Rainbow House by caregiver Nellie Tembo. Mable came and washed up the cups and plates. Rabson manned the vehicles as there were several parked outside the gate.

The visitors were very happy to have chosen our school which is in their section's catchment area for fellowship. We are grateful for the generosity of the Zambian community who continue to help our school according to their means".

For the students who were not present to receive a hamper prior to Christmas, Mrs. Mwaya had one waiting for them when the school staff returned for pupil free days. Thank you to the church community for making a real difference to the lives of our students.



Caregiver Nellie talks to our visitors



Access to education



We are delighted to welcome a new teacher aide to our staff. She will be assisting the teachers as needed and was particularly helpful during the first few weeks of term, with Evelyn on maternity leave.

The employment of this young teacher aide is great news. For our school, it is another pair of hands and more attention for individual students. For her it is assistance for the completion of her education at Chelstone Secondary School. A pre-Christmas plan between an elderly Australian and her eight great grandchildren saw funds donated to our charity in lieu of Christmas gifts for these children. To the delight of the family involved, their donation will help to offset the secondary schooling costs of our new teacher aide.

Access to health education

A Public Health Seminar, focused on the disease tuberculosis, will be held at the school on 17th March. Caregiver Lovely will conduct this workshop. Lovely is affiliated with the Zambia Tuberculosis and Leprosy Trust ZATULET and has been trained on the warning signs, prevention and care of tuberculosis patients. This airborne disease is one of the main causes of death worldwide and is prevalent in Zambia. Those infected with HIV/AIDS are more susceptible to contracting tuberculosis. This health seminar will be held in conjunction with the monthly meeting of the Parents, Guardians and Friends Association.

Access to a primary school education



Day one of school for 2017

To add to the existing challenges for the children and their guardians in the compound is the challenge of accessing education. The chance to attend school is the great hope yet for some it is an impossible dream.

For a small fee, the Zambian government provides primary school education for all children. The cost of a uniform, shoes and books are an added expense. The classes in these schools are usually overcrowded and for our villagers, the cost is often prohibitive.

Many of the school age village children spend their days playing in the dusty streets. For some, the need to assist with the family income producing work supersedes education.

We are proud of our small class sizes and profoundly indebted to the generous donors for providing uniforms, shoes, text books, soap, tooth brushes and paste, mattresses, pillows and so much more. .

Included in her Annual Report, Katoba the project supervisor says "The students are malaria free because of the mosquito nets, they are healthy because of the food they receive at school and during the school holidays, they have a mattress to sleep on and a warm blanket to cover, their homes have been renovated, to mention just a few".



The national high school entrance examination, completed by year seven students, is the first step towards a secondary school education. The importance of succeeding at this entry level assessment is critical for students who wish to continue into high school. There is pressure on year seven teachers and students alike to succeed at this entrance examination.



Our super six

We are proud to announce that all of our year seven students sat for this examination and all were successful. Congratulations to these six students and their teacher Susan for this one hundred percent result for our school.

The sponsors of these six students are to be commended for their support, securing the student access to primary education. The sponsor of teacher Susan ensured our students were taught by an experienced teacher.

Access to a secondary school education



This student is reading a "well done" letter from Alison.

At the time of registration for the national high school entrance examination, students state their preferred high school. Once qualified for high school entrance, the students are advised of their high school acceptance and the requirements to be completed prior to the commencement at that high school. Four of our students will be attending Chelstone High School, while another is off to Chakunkula High School. These schools are within walking distance of the homes of the students.

Several of the sponsors who supported these students at our school have very generously offered to continue with financial support for the students into high school. This ensures our students can attend high school classes, dressed in appropriate uniform with books and stationery requirements met. Other sponsors are yet to confirm ongoing sponsorship, pending meeting approval.

For Katoba, our project manager *"The contribution of the sponsors of these students cannot be over emphasized, without whom all this would be impossible. The families of these students are all filled with gratitude because the sponsors go far and beyond, helping with school necessities and to their basic needs as well."*

Dear Board of Our Rainbow House

I am glad for the letters you sent for us. I would like to thank you for the things you are doing for us. I am happy to be in a new Grade which is Grade 8 at Chelstone Secondary School. I promise that I will work hard and try my best to pass my Grade 9 Exams next year. Please continue with your wonderful work.

I would also like to thank my sponsors for sponsoring me. May God continue blessing you. I hope that one day I will come and visit when I am done with my education. Thank you for your support.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

There has been some beautiful correspondence crossing the Indian Ocean recently.

The sponsors referred to in this letter from one of our students are the Lions Club of Emerald, along with Eric and Stella Bowyer.

Just imagine when our students can travel the world and visit those who believed in (and supported) the charity in its early days.

We are so proud of our students. Student sponsorship coordinator Suzie and director Alison have each written to the individual students, conveying our best wishes. We have invited them to visit our school to tell how they are enjoying high school.

The placements at Chelstone and Chakunkula secondary schools account for five of our six eligible students, so what about the one remaining student? Please read on.



Not too sure about this tie

Katoba was very excited to relay the news to the Australian board that our year seven student Blessings had received an offer from the Kuchetekela Foundation of a scholarship to attend Pestalozzi Education Centre from grade eight to grade twelve! This Foundation provides scholarships to Zambian boys and girls who are academically promising but financially disadvantaged. The scholarships are to attend excellent secondary schools. Blessing will be a boarder at Pestalozzi.

The Principal of Pestalozzi Education Centre, Mr Sydney Himwitta, says the school offers a holistic education, focusing on experiential learning. *“Our values of head, heart and hands makes the students’ education more meaningful”* he says.

An extract from a letter to our director Alison from Florence Nkowane Lutale, the executive director of the Kucetekela Foundation:

“I would like on behalf of Kucetekela Foundation to congratulate Our Rainbow House for excellently preparing their students for the Grade 7 exams and also for the Kucetekela Foundation interviews and exams”.

There was such excitement for all of those involved in the education of Blessings. His guardian is his aunt Christine, pictured here.

Christine came to visit Katoba and spoke about caring for Blessings as well as her large extended family. Working so hard, Christine prayed often for help with her load.

“Our Rainbow House came and they offered to assist me with Shillah who is my grand child. Later they got Blessings as well....what a relief and answer to my prayers of many years. I could not express into words what this scholarship opportunity means to me. Our Rainbow House has shared my burden and I couldn’t be more thankful”.



A letter from Blessings

“I am greeting each and every person who raises money and other resources or does something for Our Rainbow House school and my community.

My family and I want to express our gratitude and many thanks to the staff members, sponsors, and all involved as you have raised me as your own son from grade 5 when I started school at Our Rainbow House.

And now I am being helped jointly by Kuchetekela Foundation and Our Rainbow House to go grade 8. This is my dream come true because my guardians could not have managed to help me.

May God help you in everything you do so that you can succeed. I will work very hard at school. Thank you very much from my family and myself.”

A letter from Katoba

“I as Project Supervisor, would like to commend Blessing’s family for the hard work that his aunt has put into this process. Christina is very hardworking, she is wonderful to work with, she works very hard with her adult literacy classes and teachers.

There is nothing we would ask her to volunteer to do, she would be on top of it. She is the first to show up for cleaning the school or contributing as a guardian.

Because she is so willing to help at the school and never miss a meeting, she deserves such fortune for her family.

I am proud to say, we are making dreams come true, not just for our students, but for their families as well”.

Accessibility to high school is often governed by affordability. Pupils are required to pay high school fees, with the added financial burden of uniforms and books. Sadly for many students who have successfully qualified for high school, the financial burden forbids their attendance at secondary school. Our Rainbow House would like to thank everyone, far too many to mention individually, who has played a part in the education of our “super six” students. We are so proud of them.

Alison tells us: *“It has been a great year for Our Rainbow House with all of our grade seven students passing the entrance examinations for high school as well as one of our students receiving a scholarship from the Kucetekela Foundation for five years education at Pestalozzi Education Centre. We also acknowledge our project supervisor, Katoba with the staff at the school, for their continued co-operation and commitment. They are great to work with and we look forward to taking our project to “greater heights”.*



As our year seven students move on to secondary school, we welcome new students, including these year ones, pictured on their first day at school. Welcome to you all. We trust this is the start of a wonderful Our Rainbow House journey. We are excited.



Accessing education in our wide brown land

As we Australians celebrated Australia Day on 26th January, our thoughts turned to the first fleet of British ships that arrived at Port Jackson on that date in 1788.

As early settlers ventured across our country, the need for educational facilities for children was recognised. Church and Government schools were developed in more populated areas, while small one-roomed schools served some rural areas.

To access these schools, the students walked or came by horseback. However, geographical isolation prohibited access to any school facilities for many children. Their formal education was ad hoc and the fortunate few enjoyed a visit from itinerant teachers who travelled the outback in horse drawn vehicles.



Mossview School 1893 - 1912



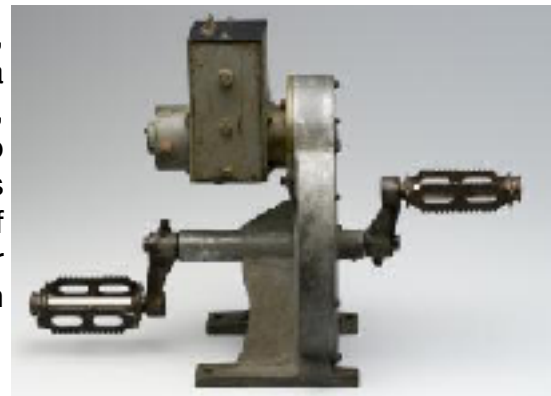
Heading for home.

Virginia State School 1908 - 1959

Correspondence schools were established with lessons arriving by mail although these services were often disrupted and students struggled to keep up. Boarding school, often many miles away from home, was an option for some students.



An Australian inventor, Alfred Traeger, built a pedal transmitter-receiver, using bicycle pedals to drive the machine. This became a means of communication for emergency call systems in Central Australia.



in 1944, such a broadcast facility at the Royal Flying Doctor Service Base in Alice Springs was used to successfully transmit the first two-way radio sessions to the outback children and paved the way for "School of the Air", a world first. Without electricity, the home based pedal powered radio was used. Reception was not perfect but talking with a teacher was a revolution.

Today, with the assistance of modern technology, many students living in geographically isolated areas of Australia access "School of the Air", enjoying daily contact with teachers and classmates. The School of the Air in Alice Springs in Central Australia is believed to be the largest classroom in the world. Their broadcast area covers 1.3 million square kilometres.

What do teachers do in their school holidays?

Readers of our newsletter will recall the visit to our school by volunteers Denise and Jan in September 2016. Their stay was all too brief but their contribution was manifest. Drawing on years of teaching experience and enthusiasm for education, Jan and Denise won over the hearts of staff and students alike.

With continued interest in our project, Jan and Denise travelled from Mackay to Emerald during the school holidays to offer their assistance. Sorting, covering, labelling and cataloging the books recently donated by Clermont State School was their task. With the job unfinished, the books were taken back to Mackay for completion.

Jan and Denise are regular volunteers at a project in the Solomon Islands and Jan is currently working her way through thousands of books (3,942 last count) for schools there. The Our Rainbow House books are stored with Denise so as not to get them mixed up.

Together with former volunteer Suzie, Jan and Denise welcomed the invitation to address the **Emerald Rotary Club**. They spoke of their time at the project and Suzie detailed the student sponsorship program, of which she is coordinator.

The Emerald Rotary Club has been a tower of support to our charity since its inception and we were once again humbled by the generous donation presented to Director Alison following the address by our volunteers.



Volunteer Denise



Volunteer Suzie



Thank you President George (left) and your fellow Rotarians

It was decided that these funds will be used to sponsor a student for 2017, pay the wages of our assistant cook Rhoda, the bonus for caregiver Mary and the cost of new textbooks for this coming year. Our books are treasured and teacher Susan, ensured they were covered prior to use.



A Rotary meeting

Jan explains "I first heard of Our Rainbow House when Alison and Nicole spoke at a Rotary conference in Longreach. Their passion was obvious and it wasn't long before I was on the phone to my 'partner in crime' saying "How would you like to go to Zambia?" It took about three seconds for an answer but took about 18 months before it came to fruition. Between that phone call and our trip to Lusaka we met with Alison and Terry to talk tactics and then travelled to Emerald for an interview with Alison and Eva".

Jan's husband Tony is a Rotarian and they are making their eighth trip to the Solomons later this year. Denise has been there with them five times and she and Jan travelled to Cambodia in 2015 with Rotary's Helping Hand project.

ROTARY: Service above self

Rotary International embraces a worldwide network of members, committed to their communities and their fellow man. The upcoming Rotary International Convention in Atlanta will mark the one hundredth year of such service.

Several years ago, our charity was fortunate to have a stall at the Rotary World Convention in Sydney. This showed Alison and her small team of helpers the depth of support, the diversity of amazing Rotary projects. Peter and “Wheelchairs for Kids” were an example.

Peter and his friend Russell live in Melbourne and support the Perth based “Wheelchairs for Kids”, a Rotary project. The volunteers in Perth make three hundred wheelchairs a month and send them to over seventy countries. To date over twenty-eight thousand children have been assisted. The chairs are all made by volunteers, cost one hundred and fifty dollars each and are given away free.

Peter and Russell are kept busy doing fundraising “Wheelathongs” and presentations at schools and other organisations in Melbourne. They do a lot of networking whenever the opportunity comes their way. Alison has enjoyed the hospitality of Peter and his wife when visiting Melbourne since that time.



Lusaka Central Rotary Club has taken a keen interest in our school. Alison has enjoyed attending their meetings and pictured above are Daljeet and Yunike enjoying a visit to our school during our birthday celebrations.

The very significant financial contribution from this club has provided the mealie meal for our staff and students during each school term for a three year period. We are incredibly grateful.

Other Clubs, such as the **Port of Mackay Rotary Club**, have made generous donations and welcomed our members to their meetings.

Last year, the **Siovanga Rotary Club** of Zambia donated a pair of shoes for each student. The students were delighted, and we were too!



The **Rotary Club of Townsville** has donated the cost of our internet usage for the past three years. The internet is a most essential part of communication between the Australian office and that at the school.

Using the computers donated by Grammar Global, our staff are able to forward computer generated weekly reports and other essential material to our office in Emerald.



Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise. Alison and Terry attended a recent meeting of this club (membership nine) as they farewelled the outgoing exchange student who is travelling to Taiwan. Also joining the function were two members of the **Emerald Rotaract Club.**

The Rotary Club of Emerald Sunrise has sponsored a student at our school for the past four years. They have given cash donations and supported our Capella Ball. We wish to acknowledge their assistance to our charity and the community, and to congratulate them on the completion of their new clubhouse.

Meanwhile **Rotaract**, Rotary's youth service partner, has an Emerald membership of twenty-two and is actively engaged in fundraising activities. A movie premiere of "Beauty and the Beast" is planned for 23rd March. Please support this club of enthusiastic young adults by purchasing your ticket today from Stiletto's shoe store in the Coles shopping centre, Emerald.



Our Director Alison would welcome an opportunity to speak to further clubs about our charity. Should you wish to invite her along to chat to your club or organisation about the Our Rainbow House project, kindly email her. alisonjray@bigpond.com

Pictured here giving a presentation to a Melbourne Rotary Club, Alison tells that she speaks from her heart and shares her love of the project and the students. Why not invite her along?



Our Rotary sponsor club

The Rotary Australian World Community Services (RAWCS) scheme supports Australian Rotarians and Rotary Clubs in assisting disadvantaged communities and individuals with humanitarian aid projects. RAWCS supports sustainable, developmental and relief projects. Our Rainbow House charity is a project sponsored through the RAWCS scheme by the **Rotary Club of Toowoomba Garden City**, under the leadership of Rotarian John Cutler.

Our Director Alison explains *"We respect enormously the assistance our RAWCS project manager John gives us. Together with his team members from Toowoomba Garden City Rotary Club, an annual function is held to cover the costs of teacher Jannipher's wages and three of our caregivers' bonuses. I would like to acknowledge John as there have been times when there have been situations when I have needed his urgent advice and he is always at the end of his phone for us"*.

John and club colleagues Brian and Claire spent time at our project during 2015. Brian was busy doing repairs and maintenance to the school and the houses of the guardians. John organised a major cleanup of the village, eventually moving two hundred and sixty tonnes of garbage to Lusaka dump! Claire was concerned about the limited toilet facilities for many of the local families. She discussed building options with locals and on returning to Australia successfully applied for a grant from Rotary District 9630. With a little financial "top up" from the Rotary Club of Toowoomba Garden City and the Maluba Rotary Club of Lusaka, there were sufficient funds to build four toilets.

The funds were sent the **Maluba Rotary Club** who oversaw the construction. Now four of Our Rainbow House families have much better facilities. Former project manager Nicole had been a member of the Maluba Rotary Club during her time at our school.



At work or at play, the members of this Rotary Club have given so much to support our charity.

Accessing continuing teacher education

Both teacher Susan and teacher Jannipher have been upgrading their primary school teacher qualifications from a Certificate to a Diploma. Their study has been done externally, with time spent at College during school holidays. We are delighted to tell you that both of the teachers have been successful in gaining this qualification. While the graduation ceremony will be conducted later in the year, our students have the benefit of better trained teachers.

We are grateful to our sponsors Capella Rodeo Committee, J.T. Murphy Plant Hire Pty Ltd. and Glenda Keating for providing the financial support to allow the Susan and Jannipher to complete their studies.

The Board Room

The Annual General Meeting of Our Rainbow House Inc. was held on January 19th 2017. Alison thanked the members and board members for their incredible dedication and commitment to the project in 2016.



The 2016 board members from left: Liz, Alison, Bernardine, Peg, Suzie, Eva and Pam

The Our Rainbow House Annual Report, including financial status for the 2015-16 financial year, was presented to inform all stakeholders of the progress of the project for 2016. A copy of the annual report is available on request.

The Director's Report detailed activities at the school, fund raising and social activities, volunteers, visitors and administrative matters throughout 2016. It acknowledged many of the outstanding contributions and highlights of the past year.



An extract from Alison's report: *"A special thanks to our Sponsors, without whom there would not be a Project. The support shown to us is incredible and together we are making a huge difference, not only to the staff and students of the school, but to the Community in which they live. Thank you, sincerely for your fantastic support"*.

An extract from student sponsorship coordinator Suzie's report: *"Guardians continue to attend adult literacy classes which is fantastic. They are being supported by the students at home with their homework and they are so thankful for being given the opportunity to learn at this stage of their lives"*.

Election of office bearers was conducted and we welcome those who have volunteered to work for our charity during 2017.

Director Alison Ray

Treasurer Sandra Corfield

Secretary Sandra Hobbs

Assistant Secretary Eva Hagstrom

Chair Person Bernardine Frawley

Compliance Officer Mary-Anne Uren

Student Sponsorship Co-ordinator Suzie Duff



Administrative Assistant Liz Connolly

Human Resources/Payroll Manager Doug Core

Zambian Volunteer Placement Co-ordinator Liz Connolly (pictured above with her husband Mick)

Legal Advisor Neil Peacey

Book-keeper Shae Stokes and Liz Connolly

Insurance Officer Katrina Goldsworthy

Accountant Sarah Challacombe from Central Force

Auditor Anthony Tang

Social Media Facebook, office staff

Website Michael Connolly

Newsletter Editor Pam Quinn

Non-Student Sponsorship Co-ordinator Alison Ray with office staff

Handmade with Love Peg Pearl and her Team

RAWCS Project Manager John Cutler of the Toowoomba Garden City Rotary Club



Pictured above from back left, Sam and Peg, front left, Bernardine and Shae.

Our Rainbow House would like to welcome Shae Stokes to our team. Shae is going to replace Sam as our Executive Assistant in the Australian Office, from the March 1st., 2017. We look forward to working with Shae and thank Sam sincerely for her dedication to our Charity as a Volunteer and Employee over the past two and a half years. Once again, we are blessed to have such people involved who keep the cogs turning. Welcome Shae.



Suzie, Alison, Bernardine and Sandra Hobbs are members of the 2017 board.

Positions vacant

There remain several positions that we would love to have filled. If you think you can assist, or would like more details, please contact our director Alison alisonjray@bigpond.com

Events Planners. This would be a good position for a group of friends, planning fund-raising etc. Support is assured from members and there is a lot of fun to be had.

Publicity Officer. Alison and the office staff would work with this person to help spread the word about our wonderful charity and upcoming events.

Grants Officer Responsible for researching and applying for government and philanthropic grants.



Thank you to the members who continue to offer their time and expertise to assist the charity. Here is Doug who again will be the the Human Resources and Payroll Manager.

Thank you to Tim Maguire from the Emerald Rotary Club for being our meeting chairperson. Rotary again came to our assistance.



New members and friends of our charity are always welcome and their contribution is never underestimated. If you have family or friend who is interested in joining our dynamic team, please encourage them to contact Alison.

Gemma, pictured below, came along to our meeting and offered her assistance. This was gratefully accepted and Alison asked if she would be kind enough to give our readers a little

"My name is Gemma and I am a very new face to Emerald having only moved here in October 2016 to start a new job. My first encounter with Our Rainbow House was at the famous Emerald State School Craft Fair where I chatted to volunteers about the school and was taken aback to find out it was a charity started in Emerald."



Earlier in 2016 I had been travelling through Zambia and other southern African countries. I remember passing through various villages and realising that the concept of 'opportunities' in terms of career, travel and lifestyle was a great privileged I had been born into as an Australian. The various opportunities that many young Australians worry over are a mere dream to so many children and young people around the world, including Zambia."

I am so grateful for the education I was able to receive throughout my younger years as it has enabled me to build a life out of choice rather than necessity only. All children should be able to receive an education irrespective of their birthplace or circumstance so that they may live life to their full potential. I hope through my assistance in grant research and publicity I can help Our Rainbow House fill many more students with knowledge and confidence. I have felt so welcomed by the Our Rainbow House community. I am excited to start working with Alison and all the great volunteers over the year".



What was Matt Collins from Tourica Tours doing on Christmas Day?



Our supporters have been involved in many and varied fund raising activities but nobody, until Christmas Day that is, had skied down the Murray River, wearing a mankini, for Our Rainbow House! After a morning spent with his family, enjoying some Christmas treats, Matt was on the river for our benefit. Later on Christmas Day, he was rewarded with a glorious sunset as he looked across the river from the small town of Echuca, Victoria.

Monies raised from this successful fund raising effort by Matt will be used to cover our annual motor vehicle expenses. The school car plays a vital role and the maintenance and road costs are not insignificant.

Fuel is expensive in Zambia. Our school is twenty one kilometres from the city of Lusaka, where the Government Offices, Banks, Post Offices and business houses are situated. Trips to Rotary meetings, the airport to collect volunteers and guests and to the grocery store are done in our trusty vehicle. In emergency medical situations, the car is used as transport to the clinics and hospitals. In inclement weather, the car is used to collect the bags of charcoal and mealie meal.

Thank you Matt for all that you do for our charity, especially this fund raising effort on Christmas Day! It is very reassuring to know that the motor vehicle costs for 2017 are covered.

Should you be thinking of a visit to Africa, Matt is considering doing an African tour to our school. Plans are in their infancy, but who better to guide the participants than Matt? Further details will come but this is just a little tempter to start saving for a trip to Africa.

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Down to business



While Denise and Jan were in Emerald, they had the pleasure of checking out Peg's factory. They were very impressed. Jan presented Peg with some beautiful knitted shoulder bags in the most brilliant colours. Thank you so much Jan for the hours and hours of work. These bags are for sale so please take a look at Peg's Our Rainbow House Handmade with Love Facebook page



Thank you to Senator Claire Moore who makes a donation to our charity each month.

We are most grateful to the Peninsula Art Society, under the presidency of Peter Bush, for the generous contribution towards the cost of the art materials for the students. Artist and former volunteer Catherine Hamilton is hoping to revisit the school later this year and she will enjoy using these beautiful art materials in school art lessons which are very much enjoyed by the students.



Our member Liz Connolly was a singer at the recent Gindie Music day. This monthly get together is not complete without a request for Alison to detail the latest happenings at the school. We do appreciate their interest and their music.



Until recently, we had the privilege of a weekly visit from Lusaka resident Diane. Here she is, helping the students with their reading



Diane has now moved to Nigeria and we miss her but her support for the charity continues with a recent generous donation. This, together with a donation from Lady, pictured left, has been used to purchase text books for the year one and two students and stationery requirements for the school. Diane and Lady are both citizens of the United States.

Can you help?

With so much spontaneous generosity afforded our charity, we are always very hesitant to ask for specific support or donations. However, there are opportunities to consider for those readers who would like to contribute.

The purchase of three new desks, the supply of Friday fruit and sponsorships of seven new year one students are "up for grabs"!



Friday fruit delivery



The new desks, at a cost of \$320Aud have been purchased for the year five/six classroom. It has been a tight squeeze, but the desks are in and students are snugly accommodated in the shipping container classroom. Learning has begun. We would love one of our supporters to fund these new desks.

Meanwhile, the provision of fruit for lunch on Friday is quite a treat and those who have sponsored this in the past have helped keep our students healthy and well nourished. Again we are seeking sponsors of Friday fruit. the weekly cost is \$50Aud. One week or five, contributions to sponsor this will be greatly appreciated.

An offer of education

We are delighted to welcome ten new students to our school. There are seven students commencing grade one and three students commencing year three. This will give the school a full complement of fifty students. The process of student selection has been quite involved with many considerations. The opportunity to sponsor a student at the school is here. Of our ten newbies, seven are unsponsored. Suzie is our student sponsorship coordinator and would welcome your email to enquire about sponsorship costs and more. suzieqduff@gmail.com



If you would like to make a tax deductible donation to our charity, follow the donation tab on the website ourrainbowhouse.org.au

Kindly email Alison if you can help with new desks or Friday fruit. alisonjray@bigpond.com

During my short stay at the project in Zambia in 2016, I had the chance to see first hand the work being done at our school, giving the enrolled students access to an education. My heart would miss a beat as I saw little brown eyes peer longingly through the front gate. I wished to offer them the chance to access an education too. This inequality was a part of my stay that I found difficult to rationalise. Alison helped me to realise that our charity can't fix it for all of the children in the village. However, for our fifty, the combined efforts of our staff, members and supporters, under the direction of Alison and her board, such an opportunity is available. Pam Quinn Editor