

## Update



### *Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future*

#### Fundraising News

Early last year Rikki asked an elderly local, Robin Moore, if she could paint her portrait. Robin was a textile artist working with felt and was a great supporter of the Blue Knob Hall Gallery. Robin agreed and work began. However after just a few months Robin was hospitalised and died.

This year Rikki completed her portrait of Robin and offered it as a gift to the Blue Knob Hall Gallery. The Gallery committee accepted Rikki's gift at the Opening of the annual Textile Exhibition at the end of May. In return the Gallery agreed to encourage visitors to make a donation to KKI. Information about KKI's work was displayed alongside Robin's portrait for 6 weeks and raised \$540 for KKI.



old Esther and 11-year-old Charlotte collected and bagged sheep manure at the family farm.

Over a period of months the bags of manure were sold for \$5 each from the front garden of the family home in Richmond (where the famous bridge is). Rob and Rikki visited their grandchildren in June. The children happily presented them with the results of their labour: a total of \$130. What an inspiration to all of us. Thanks kids!



ASSG chairman Calvince Ochoda (LHS) with John Odenge - with a delivery of fruit and maize.

#### Vale John Odenge

It is with sadness that we record the death of John Odenge, father of sponsored student Winny. Despite our best efforts in providing medical support and food assistance, John died in late 2018.

We first became aware of John's situation when we visited Kenya in March 2018. He was living by himself as his daughter Winny was at boarding school. However John was in poor health as Winny was not available to prepare meals or care for him. We saw that John had a very bad skin condition that we assumed was leprosy, so we arranged and paid for him to attend hospital to be examined.

The specialist leprosy hospital was about 40kms away so we hired a motorbike taxi to transport him there and back. Our suspicions were confirmed when John was diagnosed as having leprosy. However he also had Type 2 Diabetes and his poor diet would have been the main reason for this.

John was very happy to receive the medicine and food KKI provided through the Special Needs Fund. However, despite our best efforts John died just prior to Christmas 2018. If you would like to assist people like John, please send your gifts to Kenya Kids International at Summerland Credit Union BSB 728-728 Account #22314767. Your support is much appreciated. Thank you.

Another fundraiser took place in Tasmania. Rob and Rikki's 2 granddaughters wanted to support the Feeding Program at Agolomuok Primary School. With their Dad's help 8-year-

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Fr Alec and Rob Fisher at the shipping container

### Shipping container finally arrives

Last year we had the opportunity to use some space in a shipping container to send goods to Kenya. We appealed for clothing, sporting goods, educational resources, mobile phones and laptop computers and had a fantastic response. A total of 36 large boxes of goods were dispatched early in 2019, arriving in Nairobi in June.

When we visit Kenya in August the goods will be released from storage and dispatched to Sori. Someone from the Agolomuok community will travel to Nairobi and accompany the boxes as they are transported to Sori. Thank you to everyone who donated goods for the Agolomuok community.

### In-service Training

Earlier this year whilst visiting Melbourne, a mutual friend introduced Rob to Jan and Ken Wigley. Jan and Ken are primary and secondary teachers respectively and Ken is also a teacher of the deaf. They have a professional development ministry to teachers in developing countries through an organisation called Iris Ministries.

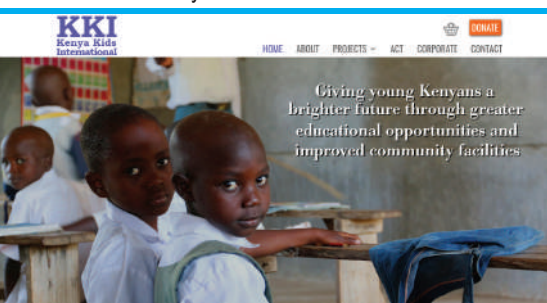
Rob talked about the work of KKI and shared his passion to assist the people of Agolomuok. In response Jan and Ken told him of their upcoming trip to a school in eastern Kenya where they will conduct professional development training for teachers. The school is about 1,000kms from Agolomuok.

Much to Rob's surprise Jan and Ken offered to travel to Sori and conduct an in-service



Boxes packed ready to go in the shipping container

professional development seminar for the teachers of Agolomuok Primary School. After liaising with Richard, Head Teacher at Agolomuok Primary School, the in-service seminar was held on 19 July 2019. We look forward to hearing feedback on the success of the seminar when we visit Kenya shortly.



### A New Website for KKI

An old workmate from World Vision whom Rikki and I worked with in the mid-1980's came to visit. When we told Judy the KKI website needed updating, she offered to introduce us to a friend in America who designed websites.

Rikki emailed BJ who immediately offered to redesign and update the website free of charge. In just a few weeks our new website was up and running. We are very grateful to BJ for her generous gift of a professionally designed website.

Have a look at

[www.kenyakidsinternattional.org.au](http://www.kenyakidsinternattional.org.au) and let us know what you think. You can also keep up-to-date on the latest news from our Group Facebook site. [www.facebook.com/groups/424600111327095/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/424600111327095/)



Ken taking part in the tree planting ceremony



Jan sharing a story with the kids. Top Meeting with students at Agolomuok Primary.





Goats for breeding were given to 3 families for the First Fruits Program



Sharon, one of two graduates, with her father Elly

### A Bump in the Road

In July 2018 Rikki was diagnosed with Stage 4c Bowel cancer. The prognosis was 1 to 2 years to live. Surgery followed a month later with the removal of 20cm of bowel, various tissues and infected organs in her abdomen and lymph nodes. She then commenced a 6-month regime of chemotherapy. A few hiccups along the way meant Rikki returned to hospital 3 times with blockages in her upper bowel and constipation.

Given the seriousness of Rikki's condition and ongoing treatment we cancelled our planned January trip to Kenya. Our travel insurance company promptly refunded our airfares on receipt of the Oncologist's report, saving us \$1,200 in airline and travel agent cancellation fees.

Just before Christmas Rikki had blood tests and a PET scan to see how things were going. To our delight her Oncologist told us there was no sign of the cancer. With prayer warriors across Australia and overseas we believe this was God's healing miracle. For those who don't know, Rikki and I are Bible believing Christians.

We then asked the Oncologist should we go on the European holiday we had planned 12 months earlier. The answer was Yes. So in mid-April we embarked on a wonderful 4 weeks in France, Germany and Hungary including a 15-day cruise from Amsterdam to Budapest.

Returning to Australia in mid-May Rikki had more blood tests and another PET scan. The results were the same as before. No sign of cancer. We then confidently booked our flights to Kenya leaving on 12 August. We will spend a month with our Kenyan fiends in Agolomuok and have a busy schedule checking on all the good work KKI is doing.

Sara, one of two graduates going onto University

### Our first 2 students to go to University

Last year two of our sponsored students successfully passed their final exams to be awarded the Kenya Certificate of Secondary Education (KCSE). We are delighted that both students have been offered places at University.

Sara will study at Maseno University, a highly regarded tertiary institution in Kenya's capital city Nairobi. Sara commences 4 years study for a Bachelor of Education (Science, with IT) Degree in September. Sara hopes to become a teacher after completing her studies.

Sara's sponsor was delighted with this result and has enlisted the support of her cousin to share the higher cost of University sponsorship.

The other successful student, Sharon, has been accepted for study at Masinde Muliro University of Science and Technology. This University is near Kenya's 2nd largest city Kisumu and is considered to be the best University in Western Kenya

Sharon will study for a 2-year Diploma of Business Management. Depending on her results she may extend her studies to complete an Undergraduate Degree. The One-In-Christ-Fellowship in Lismore has sponsored Sharon since 2017 and will continue to support her.

What a great outcome for each student and their families.



### First Fruits Program

For a long time Rikki and I have been thinking about how KKI might improve the financial situation of people in Agolomuok. Whilst some people sell products at local markets, some grow vegetables while others fish in Lake Victoria, the majority are subsistence farmers with small plots of land. Everyone struggles to survive after 4 years of inadequate rainfall leading to drought like conditions.

Thinking about the difficulties of life in Kenya we felt that giving people a hand up, rather than a hand out, was the best way to help them generate income for themselves. Earlier this year we discussed the idea with Richard and Elijah, both members of the ASSG committee we work through in Kenya.

We suggested KKI provide interest free loans to enable people to buy animals to breed from or buy products to sell. The loans will then be repaid from the profits of the sale of animals or goods and fresh loans made to new borrowers. A generous donation made the First Fruits Program possible.

We asked Elijah and Richard to select suitable people to participate in a trial project. Both men are in a position to know which families to choose as Richard is the Head Teacher at Agolomuok Primary School and Elijah is the local Chief appointed by the Government of Kenya. Richard and Elijah were excited by our proposal and agreed to run a trial program and 7 families benefitted.

We plan to expand the program once we are in Kenya and are sure the trial was successful.

Thank you for your continued support in **Giving young Kenyans a brighter future.**

Rob & Rikki Fisher

