

# KENYA KIDS INTERNATIONAL

## *Annual Report* 2019/20



### *Giving Young Kenyans a Brighter Future*

#### 2019/2020 president's Report

On behalf of the Board of KKI I am pleased to report on our work for the 12 months ending 30 June 2020. KKI is a young organization and it is pleasing to record another year of progress with our existing programs plus some new initiatives.

#### Student Sponsorship program



2019 marked a wonderful milestone in our student sponsorship program with two of our students commencing University studies. Sara and Sharon were part of the original group of 6 students first sponsored in 2017. They were successful in gaining access to tertiary studies: Sara is undertaking a Bachelor of Education degree and Sharon, a Diploma in Business Studies.

During the year 11 new students joined the student sponsorship program whilst 2 students left the program after completing secondary school. We currently have a total of 27 sponsored students continuing their studies.

#### First Fruits Program

A new initiative trialled this year was a microfinance program to increase the income of those in need, such as widows and the unemployed. Some families were given a female goat to breed from whilst others were given an interest-free loan to buy products to sell. A total of 7 families took part in the pilot project over a 6-month period.

In 2019 Rikki and I met the selected families in the pilot program. Whilst the participants were enthusiastic about the benefits of the program it was clear that participants could benefit from additional training in goat care and/or running a small business.

We again visited Kenya in early 2020 and during this visit Rikki arranged to hold a small business training program called "5000+". The program is run by Kenyans for Kenyans and consists of a day-long seminar held once a week over 5 weeks. Chief Elijah (Patron of the ASSG, our Kenyan partners) selected 30 individuals he felt would most benefit from the course. We look forward to hearing the results of this training when the next First Fruits program is held.

#### Corporate Support

We are very grateful for the in-kind donations given by corporates. Blue Gum Australia, a clothing company based in Victoria, continues to support our work. As they have done previously Blue Gum donated a considerable quantity of new clothing, including seconds and over-runs, for the benefit of families in Kenya.

Melbourne based KMT Group (Managed IT & Cybersecurity MSP) also provided in-kind support. The donation of 2 laptop computers for use by our Kenyan partners, the ASSG, was much appreciated. The ASSG could not afford to purchase even one computer but now both the Chairman and Secretary each have a laptop computer to help them in their voluntary work with the ASSG and KKI.

#### School Feeding program

After a prolonged drought in the region, the Agolomuok Primary School started a feeding program for its students some 3 years ago. The school endeavours to provide millet porridge for breakfast and beans for lunch for 400 pupils and from time-to-time KKI helps to purchase millet and beans.

This year we were also able to help Obondi Primary School provide meals for its 380 students. Unlike Agolomuok Primary School Obondi doesn't have access to water so cannot easily grow vegetables or maize to generate income for the feeding program.



## 2019 Visit to Kenya

Rikki and I visited Kenya in August/September 2019 and spent 4.5 weeks there. We were extremely busy and undertook the following activities:

- Met with our Kenyan partners the ASSG (Agolomuok Students Support Group),
- Visited a number of sponsored students and their families,
- Assisted 3 individuals to receive medical care,
- Distributed clothes, teaching resources and sporting goods sent in a container from Australia earlier in the year,
- Met with beneficiaries of the First Fruits Program,
- Visited Agolomuok and Obondi Primary Schools,
- Met key local officials including a Social Worker, Health Worker, District Veterinary Officer and Water Engineer,
- Met all sponsored students as a group,
- Held numerous discussions with individual ASSG members, and
- Visited Macalder Mines Babies Home to distribute clothing and toys.

Members of the ASSG invited us to attend services at 5 different churches in the area. Unlike Australia, Kenya is a predominantly Christian country with 82.7% of the population identifying as Christian.

On this occasion we rented a self-contained apartment at St. Camillus Mission Hospital near the town of Sori. The quality of accommodation at St. Camillus meant we could now prepare our own meals and avoid the poor quality food at the hotel we previously used.

## 2020 Visit to Kenya

Our second visit to Kenya in January/February 2020 lasted for 4 weeks but fortunately was not as busy as our previous visit. We deliberately allowed plenty of time for meeting local people informally and also doing some research.

In Nairobi we visited a government run rabbit breeding project before travelling to Sori. From Sori we visited a large animal market in a nearby town to better understand how local trade is conducted.

We also explored several possible locations to establish an agricultural Training and Education Centre and decided to lease some land adjacent to Lake Victoria. As we are uncertain when we can again visit Kenya, we have sub-leased the land to a local farmer.

## Days For Girls

One of the problems affecting adolescent Kenyan girls is how to deal with their periods. Each month they miss school and stay at home because they don't have sanitary pads. This is a big problem but an international charity has a solution. Days for Girls is the name of the charity and it has a local branch in nearby Lismore, NSW.

Days for Girls' volunteers make reusable cloth sanitary pads that can be washed and reused. The sanitary pads are assembled and placed in a cloth bag together with a pair of undies and a bar of soap and given to girls in developing countries. KKI was given 100 cloth kits to distribute in Kenya. We took 40 kits to Kenya for our female sponsored students and other girls at Agolomuok Primary School. We will take more kits to distribute each time we return to Kenya.

As we did on our previous visit, we rented an apartment at St Camillus Mission Hospital. The Priest in charge, Fr. Emilio, always helpful, allowed us to store some equipment and goods we need in Kenya at the hospital.

We arrived back in Australia just after the start of the COVID-19 pandemic. As infections spread across the globe, Kenya responded by imposing a night-time curfew, travel restrictions, the banning of meetings and closing all schools. The advice we received from the ASSG at the end of June indicated the

restrictions were making life very difficult for Kenyans and obtaining sufficient food was becoming a problem.

## Board Changes

Earlier this year we welcomed Keith Berry to the KKI Board. Keith has a deep knowledge of literacy and translation with a people group in West Papua and considerable cross cultural experience in both West Papua and Indonesia. Importantly Keith brings much needed knowledge and skills in book keeping and has taken on the role of Treasurer.

During the year we said goodbye to one of our original Board members, John Paterson. Thank you very much John for your years of service to KKI, particularly in the formative years. Without the support of yourself and the other original Board members, Jim Gallagher and Robert McCheyne, KKI could not have developed as it has. We are indebted to all of you.

The KKI Board now meets bi-monthly electronically as Board members are spread across Australia. Rikki and myself now reside in Mullumbimby in northern NSW. Ann Backhaus lives in WA while Keith Berry and Jacob O'Sullivan reside in Victoria. I want to express my sincere appreciation to all of our Board members for their interest, enthusiasm and contribution to the success of Kenya Kids International.

Finally let me say a big Thank You to all our members, sponsors, donors and corporate partners. Because of your generous support we will continue to achieve our goal of Giving young Kenyans a brighter future.

Rob Fisher  
President

***The 2019/2020 financial report is available on request.***