



Arusha Kids Trust: Action for Growth and Education in Arusha, Tanzania

Arusha Kids Trust (AKT) Newsletter October 2019

News from Australia

Tax deductible status in Australia

We are pleased to inform you that as of **28 June 2019**, Arusha Kids Trust has attained the status of Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR). This means that any donation made to the Arusha Kids Trust by an Australian taxpayer is tax deductible. It is very heartening to have achieved this milestone within three years of registering with the Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC) as a fledgling volunteer organisation.

Fundraising

We've had two successful fundraising events in Sydney this year: a jazz event and a fitness and wellness seminar.

1. Jazz in the Afternoon at the Red Rattler Theatre, Sunday 16 June.

The Inside Out Quintet performed for us again, a year after their first appearance in 2018 as the Inside Out Quartet. Together with donations, entry fee and a raffle of items generously donated by local business, we raised over \$AUD 3000. Around 50 people came to watch the band and partake of some scrumptious afternoon tea. At the end of the afternoon, members of the audience invited the band to come back in 2020 for a third concert. Eric and his fellow musicians accepted with alacrity, receiving an enthusiastic round of applause.

2. Jeni Pattison's Fitness and Wellness Seminar at the Penshurst RSL, 21 September

Jeni Pattison is a registered personal fitness trainer who has supported AKT since we began. Jeni offered to run a fundraising event for AKT. She prepared an exciting and fun seminar with activities for all ages, but especially for those who were over 50. It was clear from watching the 25 participants how much they were enjoying the low impact aerobics class, the resistance bands instruction/practice class and the stretching and relaxing session at the end

Over morning tea we listened to Jeni's talk on fitness and wellness, with many very useful tips for staying well. Again, the fundraising was very successful raising over \$AUD1,650. Many attendees heard about AKT for the first time; we hope that they will stay in touch.



News from Arusha, Tanzania

The future of SAO at the Leganga building, home to the children for seven years

On our first day as we walked towards the SAO, we saw a large crane hovering in the distance. We asked about the construction on what used to be vacant land where the children were accustomed to play football every afternoon after school. The Catholic Order of Sisters of the Holy Spirit are building a private primary school right up against the fence of the SAO land. All the area shown in the photograph is now private land and the children are not permitted access.

SAO building at right of photo



To compound their problems, the government has informed the SAO management that the current unpaved road running past the property will soon be upgraded, widened and paved, since it will become a connecting road between two major highways. In order to widen the road, the government will be acquiring several metres of the SAO land, taking away the entry gates and the small vegetable garden. The road will be within one metre of bedroom windows.

There is an urgent need to move. We were told that construction of the road will happen within the next twelve months.

The farm area at Lakitatu, Arusha District



SAO owns a plot of agricultural land five km from the current site. It is a good place to grow vegetables and plant fruit trees to supplement the children's food supply. Francis the Director has also been slowly building on the land to prepare for a move of SAO. Positive infrastructure changes have been made since we first saw the land in 2016. A nearby major highway is now almost complete, town

water is connected and soon there will be electricity.

Francis has built a small pre-school on this land for local children. A former volunteer to SAO Tom from Melbourne, together with Carina from Austria, have assisted with the building and development of the property and fundraising. Tom is interested in AKT and our activities and is happy to cooperate in any project that could help make a move possible.



The staff at SAO are anxious to move now that their existing site has been diminished. The current plan is to buy more land in this area and build a safe and permanent home for the children of SAO. Of course much has to be done. Funds have to be raised, suitable buildings need to be designed and built and a school bus will be required to transport children to school.

News of our students and their schools

Haradali Primary School

The majority of our AKT sponsors provide education scholarships for children from SAO to attend Haradali Primary School.



Next year, 2020, Jesca and Rajabu will be the first Haradali students sponsored by AKT to sit their Class 7 National Exams. These exams determine which secondary schools they will be eligible to apply for; they are of great significance in the Tanzanian education system.

Other Schools

Three students are now studying at *Unambwe Secondary School*—Stephano, Elizabeth and recently Raymond, who will re-sit his Form 4 CSEE final exams. Elizabeth continues to excel in her studies, and has now successfully sat her Form 2 exams. Stephano has been boarding this year, to increase his study time. He sits the final secondary school CSEE exams this month.

While we were in Arusha we visited *Lakitatu Government Secondary School*, located in a beautiful rural environment. The Principal was very informative, explaining the details of how students apply for secondary entrance places in the Government system. We learned the extent to which Tanzania struggles to provide secondary education for all. It is only recently that at least the first two years of Secondary are, in theory at least, compulsory. Rural areas are the most difficult to resource, or to employ qualified teachers for all subjects.

Blue Sky Pre- and Primary School is located near the area we anticipate SAO will move to. It is a fairly new school and was recommended to us as a possible school to enroll children. The head teacher, Elena Ramos is capable and well qualified, and has instilled a nurturing and healthy environment. Her school now has about 500 pre and primary children, about 20% coming from local orphanages and children's homes. She has established good relations with SAO over the past two years. Four young boys from SAO already attend the school, with sponsors from Europe.

We visited the school to talk with Elena, and to look around the school, and were impressed. We have placed two girls at the school, Sharlom (aged 9) who recently arrived at SAO and desperately needed to get back to school after a disruption of nearly a year and Nayphat (aged 5) who needed to join her SAO friends at school. A new sponsor with AKT, Paton, has just placed a new little boy, Japhet at the school.



First day back at school for Sharlom

Nayphat (L) and Japhet



News of young people at SAO

Over the last year, twelve new children have arrived at SAO, aged between four and nine years old. The Director Francis has invited AKT to seek sponsors for the six primary aged children who have not yet been able to go to school to attend either Blue Sky or a local government primary school in the new year.

The youngest member of the SAO 'family'



When Kathy and Chris arrived in Arusha in mid July, we met little Jordon in the arms of his mother Violet. He was already walking around, if a little precariously, and was absolutely adored by all the children who took turns to keep him occupied while Violet was working in her capacity as Manager of SAO. They call him Jojo!

Supplementary Food Program (SFP)

When we started the SFP in late 2014, it was hoped that eventually the SAO would become self-sufficient in producing nutritious food. The SAO now rents farmland on which it grows two staples, beans and maize. The bean harvest was in full swing while we were in Arusha. It does still have to buy rice from the markets and also maize and beans when its own supplies are finished. The farmland at Lakitatu supplies some vegetables and there are now fruit trees growing. This is a good start, but in the meantime we believe we still need the SFP program.

The SFP provides meat, milk, eggs, fruit and vegetables to SAO weekly. Many amazing and caring friends in Australia have donated generously to the program each month, or annually (\$12 a month gives one child sufficient of these nutritious foods for healthy growth).

Since we started the program the number of children at the SAO has increased from around 40 children in 2015 to a total of 63 in August 2019. And the children are getting older and need more food to continue growing through the teenage years.

We are actively seeking more donors to this important feeding initiative so that we can increase the amount of nutritious food. Please email arushakidstrust@gmail.com if you would like to support this program with \$12 a month.



SAO teenagers harvesting beans

Website Our website documents our purpose, current programs, sponsorship, newsletters over the past four years and details of events coming up. Register your interest in school sponsorship or support for our other programs. The link is www.arushakidstrust.com

Facebook

To link with us on Facebook go to <https://www.facebook.com/arushakidstrust/>
We have posted news and photos of our visits to Arusha. Please like us on Facebook! A selection of photos gathered over the past years is there for you to browse.