

Dear all,

Since our last newsletter in May lots of exciting things have happened.

First of all, we decided to give our community group a more legal structure and are now a **“Victorian incorporated association”**. We are aiming for becoming a NGO (Non-Governmental Organization) in Australia as well as in Ethiopia, quite a lengthy, bureaucratic process but hopefully worth in the long run.

Madge Alexandra has finalised a **concept design** for the Hudad school (see attachment), which we will present to the Abuchagula community for consultation on our visit in September. The initial idea behind the design came from the historic stone churches in Lalibela, which were carved out of rock. Conrad and Madge have been pricing materials for the building with the help of Mario Balducci, an architect who is currently working on several other projects in Ethiopia and who was involved in building the Hudad ecolodge. We are hoping to build as much as possible from local sustainable materials with the help of local labour.

Our **ambassadors Selam, Jeanti, Miki and Louella** have been busy networking amongst their fellow students. Clifton Hill Primary's Junior School Council as well as Melbourne Girls' College are now on board dedicating fundraising days to our project. Our aim is to involve our children as much as possible in the project, not only by raising funds but also to raise awareness that "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world" - Nelson Mandela

Last week Jeanti was very fortunate to represent Melbourne Girls' College at a youth forum where Jane Goodall was the guest speaker. Afterwards Jeanti had the opportunity to meet Jane in person and she spoke about how the Hudad school project is aiming to provide education to both children and adults. Jeanti and Selam have joined the Jane Goodall's roots and shoots movement and proudly presented our project on their website. Have a read:

<https://rootsandshoots.org/project/friends-hudad>

Last but not least the **Friends of the Hudad Benefit**. We have a date **"23 August 4-8pm"** we have a venue **"72 On Reid, 72 Reid st North Fitzroy"** now we need **YOU** to join us on this community event. There will be a line up of some young Ethiopian talent that will entertain young and old, a silent auction, a mega raffle, Ethiopian food/coffee and lots and lots more. Tickets will go on sale soon, so stay tuned.

In the meantime there are several ways you could help us:

***Silent auction items:** giftware, toys, books/cd's, items for hampers, vouchers (hairdresser, dinner, get-aways), services (car washing, accounting, baby sitting), artwork, signed memorabilia, tickets for concert, etc, etc, etc

*We have **300 raffle tickets @ \$50** with a prize of \$5,000 !!! The winning ticket will be drawn at the Benefit event, Saturday 23 August

***Donations** to take on our **next visit** in September (kids' clothes, shoes, etc...)

*****100% of money raised is going towards building the school*****

Please note our visit in September is a self funded trip, all volunteers donate their time to this project

Thanks for your continuing support!

The Friends of the Hudad

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