

Rafiki Surgical Missions

Habari Gani DECEMBER 2013 What's new from Rafiki Surgical Missions

RAFIKI DINNER IN TANZANIA

The Annual Rafiki Dinner in Tanzania took place on Saturday 23 November 2013 at The Terrace, Slipway in Dar es Salaam. Guests were entertained throughout the evening with performances by Circus Mama Africa and Wakwetu Jazz Vibes.

Special guest, the Honourable Stephen Masele, Deputy Minister of Energy and Minerals, provided some strong words of appreciation and support from the Tanzanian Government.

There were some amazing items up for auction which included a trip to Perth for two people donated by Qatar Airways; Asilia Matemwe Retreat for two, Zanzibar; safari for two in the Selous donated by Kilombero North Safaris;

& Beyond Ngorongoro Crater Lodge for two; beautiful Tanzanite gem stones from Tanzanite One and Benetton Gems; and accommodation in The Manta Underwater Room with Privately Perfectly Pemba, Zanzibar.

Big thanks needs to go to Double Platinum Sponsor African Barrick Gold, Platinum sponsors AKO, AngloGold Ashanti, Freight Forwarders Tanzania Limited, Fuchs and Oryx Energies; Gold Sponsors Sandvik, Samsung, Qatar Airways, Komatsu, The Riskshaw and Capital Drilling; and Silver Sponsors Maurel et Prom (T) Limited, Tanzanian Air Services Limited and Toyota Tanzania Limited and; all of our Bronze sponsors.

A massive thank you to everyone who attended the dinner, very kindly donated auction items, and assisted with the set up and preparations, as without your help the night wouldn't have been possible. Thanks also to our MC Abby Platjes and event committee members Lathifa Sykes, Didier Murcia, Thierry Murcia, Stephen Kisakye, Nector Foya, Barry Logan and Julia Logan for all their hard work in making the night a memorable one.

More photos from the night are on our Facebook page Rafiki Surgical Missions so please visit and 'like' our page.

Pictured left to right: Rafiki Chairman, Didier Murcia and ABG's Vice President Deo Mwanyika; Circus Mama Africa Performers; Mark Jones, Shelley Gower and Jenni Ng from GHAWA; Deputy Minister Hon Stephen Masele; fireworks display





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MISSION UPDATE – OCTOBER SURGICAL MISSION

Our most recent and final surgical mission for 2013 took place from 18 October - 1 November 2013 at Sekou Toure Hospital in Mwanza.

It was the busiest mission ever, breaking all previous records. The team saw more than 108 patients in total and completed 74 procedures. They operated on 69 patients with five patients returning to the theatre for changes of dressings and removal of K-wire under general anaesthesia. The procedures included repairs to cleft lips and palates, burn contractures and grafts over the 10 days of surgeries.

There was an incredible turn-out after patients from the community heard the radio announcements about the mission.

We wish to thank Sekou Toure Hospital for its assistance again, in particular for making its facilities available to us during the mission, and its staff for their continued support. We also wish to thank Geita Gold for their remarkable work especially in sourcing and transporting patients, providing nutritional meals for patients and in assisting with translating and generally running of the clinic. Finally a big thank you to **Barry O'Sullivan, Andrew Crocker, Steve Crocker, Andrew Wild, Taka Wild, Alice Haydon, Lindy Crocker, Catherine Lubrano, Sieh-Ling Dickson, Michelle Kelleher and David Crocker** for volunteering their time and skills towards the mission.



Pictured: pre and post op patients

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Pictured: The team of Barry O'Sullivan, Andrew Crocker, Steve Crocker, Andrew Wild, Taka Wild, Alice Haydon, Lindy Crocker, Catherine Lubrano, Sieh-Ling Dickson, Michelle Kelleher and David Crocker.

NEXT SURGICAL MISSION – APRIL 2014

Our next surgical mission will be held from 4 – 18 April 2014 at Sekou Toure Hospital in Mwanza. The team will consist of Mathew Hansen, Anthony Williams, Ross Boulter, Andrew Miller, Alice Haydon, Mellisa Chambers, James Smith, Shannon Muir and Taka Wild. We wish the team well and look forward to providing everyone with an update in the next newsletter.



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VOLUNTEER PROFILE: MYRIAD IMAGES

Myriad Images has been a part of Rafiki almost since its inception and has donated all our web design, graphic design, photography and video production services. They have had an enormous involvement in seeing the transformations and growth over the past 10 years and many of us have been fortunate enough to view or be a part of the videos that are generated. We hope that you will be able to learn some more about Myriad and the part that they play in the continuation of Rafiki Surgical Missions.

Who makes up the Myriad Images team and how did you become involved with Rafiki?

Our key team is made up of Julia and myself (Barry) who look after our video and photographic services, and Sarah and Tenille who work on our graphic design projects, but there's quite a lot of cross over so everyone pitches in when they need to.

We first got involved with Rafiki before the second Ball was held, making up a short video from photos and video filmed by the surgical team on one of the first missions. It grew from there, we produced a 10 year anniversary video for the Ball this year, which Julia and I filmed in Tanzania last November, and just finished a whole load of graphic design work for the recent Rafiki Dinner in Dar es Salaam. It seems to have gone very quickly.

What does this work mean for you?

Engagement in Community Social Responsibility is becoming a big thing, but as a comparatively small business, we're not really in a position to be a big charity supporter. Rafiki gives us the opportunity to contribute our time and skills to a very worthwhile cause. I was in Tanzania last month and the people from another Australian based charity working over there told us they wanted to lift their profile to Rafiki's level. RSM is highly respected both for the work it does and how it does it. It makes me feel proud both personally and professionally to be part of it.

How does it feel being able to see the difference that RSM's assistance has made to the people of Tanzania?

Apart from Tenille, (who's telling us how important it is that she gets to go over too) we've seen missions in action and also been lucky enough to get out and visit many of the patients in their villages. Seeing and experiencing it first hand is amazing. It's a privilege to be able to support to the surgical Team's work, which is life-changing in every sense. We hope that our videos help other supporters here in WA to feel an important part of Rafiki too.

After 10 years, what keeps you coming back?

There are at least a thousand reasons why we keep coming back – a 1000+ is the number of patients that Rafiki has helped over the past ten years. And there are 1,000's more reasons – the patients' families and friends in the communities where Rafiki is working. Life can be tough in rural Tanzania, add a facial deformity or a disfiguring burn and it's even tougher. By supporting Rafiki Surgical Missions we are helping to make life better for people who might otherwise be marginalised for their entire lives.

MYRIAD
IMAGES



Pictured: Barry and Julia with past patient Jumane and his mother, Sarah with a group near Geita





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VOLUNTEER PROFILE: BLAKE JOHNSON

Blake Johnson is a journalist and weekend presenter with Channel 7 and Rafiki has been fortunate enough to have him act as the MC at our annual Rafiki Ball in Perth for the last two years. During that time Blake has assisted Rafiki with speeches, ball preparations and has also been a big part in garnering sponsorship.

Why did you choose to get involved with Rafiki?

The chance to be the centre of attention as MC for three hours was one I couldn't pass up. I also admire the incredible work that goes into getting the medical teams to Tanzania - if I can help out by rattling a microphone for one evening, I'm doing the easy part!

You have been the MC for the Rafiki Ball for two years now and always have a lot of fun. What keeps you coming back?

I'm blown away by the generosity shown on the night - especially from the anonymous donors. That takes a special kind of giving. I also happen to enjoy the sighs of disappointment on each table as I pop the balloons in the reverse raffle. It's a fantastic power-trip.

What does this work mean for you?

I can claim my dry cleaning for the night on tax. Plus the fact I get to tag along as a small part of such an amazing operation; both in the surgeries in Tanzania and on the night of the ball. It's a great honour and I thoroughly enjoy telling people what Rafiki is about - it's a mission worth pursuing.

Pictured: Blake hard at work as MC at the 2021 Ball



CONTAINERS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Since our last newsletter update in September, another two containers of equipment have been transported to Tanzania. These containers included wheelchairs and other supplies which arrived in Tanzania in late November and December. The equipment is currently being cleared through customs and will be distributed to various hospitals and schools in remote areas of Tanzania.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have come down and assisted with the packing; without you this wouldn't be possible.

We are always looking for more people to assist in packing the containers. Please contact Lily on info@asanterafiki.com if you are interested in volunteering a few hours of your time.



LIKE US!

Help build the Rafiki Surgical Missions on-line community. Search 'Rafiki Surgical Missions' on Facebook and 'like' the page. We'll share photographs from the missions and events, and you keep you up to date with the latest news.

<https://www.facebook.com/rafikisurgicalmissions>



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MANU COOKING SCHOOL

The winning bidders of the cooking school with Manu Feidel auction item from this year's Rafiki ball were wined and dined by Manu at the Duxton's Firewater Grille late last month.

The afternoon started with drinks and plenty of friendly banter between Manu and the group. Manu then demonstrated his dish "Boudin St Jacques" whilst chatting to the winners, answering questions and providing a few secret tips!

Guests were then treated to an amazing dinner at the Firewater Grille's Chefs Table, and spent the rest of the evening with Manu as their special guests.

Many thanks to the Duxton for supporting Rafiki Surgical Missions, and a special thank you to Manu who once again donated his time and charm and flew over specifically for the event.



MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

We would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a happy and safe New Year. We look forward to 2014 being even bigger and better.

JOIN OUR MAILING LIST

If you would like to join our mailing list or need to update your contact details then please email Lily at info@asanterafiki.com