

Rafiki Surgical Missions

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

10TH ANNUAL RAFIKI BALL

The 10th Annual Rafiki ball was held on Saturday 25 May 2013 at the Grand Ballroom, Crown Perth. The night was a celebration of a rewarding 10 years and had an incredible turnout of over 400 guests kicking up their heels for a fun filled night of food, drink and dancing. Those lucky enough were able to get close enough to dance with Manu!

Special guests on the night included Hon Dr Kim Hames MLA, Deputy Premier, Minister for Health and Minister for Tourism and Parliamentary Secretary, the Hon Alyssa Hayden MLA. Celebrity chef Manu Feidel was a big hit on the night and was snapped in many photos with excited ladies.

Big thanks also needs to go to our Gold Sponsors AngloGold Ashanti, Murcia Pestell Hillard, Centaurus Metals Limited & V & V Walsh and Tanzanite Sponsors Verona Capital – Panda Hill Project, AusGroup Limited & Rift Valley Resources Limited.

Rafiki was also very fortunate to receive a personal message of support from His Excellency Jakaya Kikwete the President of the United Republic of Tanzania. To view President Kikwete's message please go to

www.asanterafiki.com/?page=27

Auctioneer Frank Torre managed to get everyone bidding by auctioning off some amazing items which included accommodation in Phuket, a volunteer experience with the surgical mission in Tanzania, stunning jewellery by AngloGold Ashanti, a beautiful and very rare Tanzanite & Diamond Ring from Stefan the Diamond Centre and a "cooking school" with Manu at the Firewater Grille at the Duxton Hotel.

A massive thank you needs to be extended to everyone who attended the ball,

very kindly donated auction items and assisted with the set up and preparations as without your help the night wouldn't have been possible. A personal thank you does need to be extended to our MC, Blake Johnson, Manu Feidel, our auctioneer, Frank Torre and sponsors Stefan the Diamond Centre, Corporate Traveller, Qatar Airways and the Firewater Grille at the Duxton Hotel.

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



Jakaya Kikwete the President of the United Republic of Tanzania





Rafiki Surgical Missions

MISSION UPDATE – APRIL SURGICAL MISSION

Our first surgical mission for 2013 took place from 5 – 19 April 2013 at Sekou Toure Hospital in Mwanza.

During the mission the team saw a total of 81 patients with 44 of them receiving a total of 55 procedures for repairs to cleft lip and palate, burn contracture and grafts over the 10 days of surgeries. Geita Gold provided assistance for 9 patients from the community to be transferred to the hospital with the remainder of the patients from the surrounding communities.

There was an incredible turn-out for the mission 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 and finally a big thank you to James Savundra, Brigid Corrigan, Bernard Cresswell, David Borshoff, Alice Haydon, Sharon Ndossi, Elizabeth Hughes, Lisa Thompson, Taka Wild and Curtis Harmer for volunteering their time and skills towards the mission.



Rafiki Surgical Missions

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: STEVE CROCKER



Why did you become involved with Rafiki?

I was originally asked by Gill McCallum some years ago at St John of God Hospital in Subiaco. I was aware of their work through previous discussions with Tony Baker and Taka and Andrew Wild and was keen to get involved from early on.

What is your role with Rafiki?

I am one of two anaesthetists that accompany each mission. Equipment is limited and facilities are very basic, so it is incumbent upon us to provide appropriate good and more importantly safe, anaesthesia and operating conditions. We also have a limited role in post-operative care, as well as equipment and drug stocktake and inventory.

How long have you been volunteering for Rafiki?

This will be my sixth mission with Rafiki.

What does this work mean for you?

I think all of us have been very blessed to live and grow up where we have. Most of us have far more than we need, so the opportunity to give a little back in a humanitarian sense, is I think, too good

to refuse. My wife Lindy has come on the last couple of missions as a burns/plastics nurse which makes the journey a little easier. Our kids have all grown up and left home so our time is our own and this dovetails nicely into our work life.

What keeps you coming back?

The company and camaraderie are always good on these trips, and though the end point is obviously about the patients, it must be said a lot of fun is had along the way. We are very appreciative of the opportunities that Rafiki has given us, to help others less fortunate. I often feel that the fundraisers work a lot harder than we do, all year round, and we come in at the business end of the project. Hopefully the work we do, and the humanitarian benefits that result in Tanzania, are reward enough for all.

VOLUNTEER PROFILE: NEIL ANDERSON

Why did you become involved with Rafiki?

Initially got involved through Didier Murcia and saw a way that I could help.

What is your role with Rafiki?

I help collect hospital beds and equipment from the various hospitals that donate them. Along with a team of other volunteers I help pack the equipment into containers for transport to Tanzania.

How long have you been volunteering for Rafiki?

Since the beginning of the equipment collections, about 4 years ago.

What does this work mean for you?

Satisfaction of being able to assist in a small way to help with the improvement of someones life, especially the children.



What keeps you coming back?

It's very rewarding to be able to help people in need. The surgeons, anaesthetists and other medical volunteers do such an amazing job for Rafiki, and it's really gratifying for the rest of us to support Rafiki in other ways. One of the great things is to be able to have a direct impact on the lives of people less fortunate, and to be able to see the results of that assistance.



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.

DONATIONS

Information in relation to making a donation to Rafiki can be obtained from our website www.asanterafiki.com or alternatively please contact Lily Balfour on +61 8 9221 0033 or info@asanterafiki.com

Rafiki Surgical Missions

CONTAINERS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Since our last newsletter update in December, another 2 x 40 foot containers of medical equipment have been transported to Tanzania. These containers included hospital beds, theatre tables, mattresses, wheelchairs, walking frames, school supplies and hospital consumables which arrived in Tanzania in April and July. The equipment has been distributed to various hospitals and schools in remote areas in Tanzania.

Thank you to all of the volunteers that have come down and assisted with the packing of the containers as 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 volunteering a few hours of your time.



Pictured: Volunteers packing the containers for shipment to Tanzania

WHEELCHAIRS FOR KIDS

In addition to the containers above, we have also been able to send 166 wheelchairs through the support of the charity Wheelchairs for Kids.

These wheelchairs were distributed to Mbeya, Songwe, Mbalizi, Mtwara, Jangwani and Pugu Secondary School.

We would like to thank Wheelchairs for Kids for all their time in constructing the wheelchairs that will greatly assist many children in Tanzania to become more mobile.



NEXT SURGICAL MISSION

Our next surgical mission will be held from 18 October to 1 November 2013 at Sekou Toure Hospital in Mwanza. The team consists of Barry O'Sullivan, Andrew Crocker, Steve Crocker, Andrew Wild, Lindy Crocker, Taka Wild, Alice Haydon, Cathy Lubrano, Michelle Kelleher, Sieh-Ling Dickson and David Crocker. We wish the team well and look forward to providing everyone with an update in the next newsletter.

