

Habari Gani

'What's news?' with the Australia Tanzania Society

Rafiki Surgical Missions, Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors and Safina Foundation

Chairman's Message

The past 12 months have been very exciting for ATS, Rafiki Surgical Missions and Safina Foundation.

We started the year by donating 3 fully equipped ambulances to Government hospitals in Mwanza, Mtwara and Mfundu. With such a severe shortage of ambulances in Tanzania we were really pleased to be able to get them to Tanzania from Japan.

This was followed up by 3 surgical missions to Tanzania - 2 to Sekou Toure in Mwanza, and 1 to Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam. Thanks to our incredible volunteers, nearly 200 Tanzanians have received much needed operations. They will now go on to live the rest of their lives with a much brighter future.

The third mission this year was the first part of a very exciting project we've been working on to formally train plastic and reconstructive surgeons in Tanzania. With a population of 45 million people, Tanzania has no plastic surgeons, and the need is immense. This is an ambitious project (which you can read about further on page 4), but one that I feel is achievable. As well as being sustainable, it will have a huge impact on the Tanzanian health system.

Thanks to our army of packing volunteers we sent 3 containers of medical equipment to Tanzania this year. As well as medical equipment like hospital beds, a shipment in June included a huge supply of consumables, which have been distributed all across the country.

The Rafiki Ball in May was a great success as always, and secured most of the funding needed to continue Rafiki's work for the next 12 months. We are so grateful to our sponsors who are so generous in their support. All our auction items are 100% donations and the team who put the Ball together are all volunteers. This means every dollar we raise is used for our work in Tanzania. We've booked the date for next year's Ball, so save the date for June 10th 2017!

Safina Foundation completed the construction of the new dorm' house at NIRA orphanage. The girls now have somewhere much more comfortable and safe to sleep each night. The new water well and upgrades to the chicken farm now provide NIRA with a few sustainable sources of income. We also introduced the Chinese Malaika Charity, which has offered their continuing support to Edith from NIRA, so she can care for the children for many years to come.

On behalf of ATS and Rafiki, I would like to thank all our wonderful volunteers, supporters and sponsors. Without you, it would be impossible for us to achieve the things we do.

All the best for the New Year. 2017 is going to be a cracker!

Didier Murcia
ATS Chairman



Pictured from left: Nicola during mission 26, some of the consumables sent to Tanzania and the new dorm house at NIRA.

Rafiki

Surgical Missions

Mission 26, September 2016

Andrew Crocker, Brigid Corrigan, Andrew Wild, Stephen Hilmi, Alice Haydon, Cathy Lubrano, Viv Bilsborough, Lindy Crocker, Taka Wild and Nicola Ruty made up the team for the 26th Rafiki mission to Sekou Toure, Mwanza from September 30th to October 14th.

The team assessed more than 100 patients and operated on cases such as cleft lip repairs, burns contracture releases and burns related surgeries. 4 additional operations included the excision of a preauricular sinus and injections on large keloid.

The wound care sheets were used for the first time to explain post op care to patients.

Trainee Anaesthesiologist Dr Mwakisambwe from Bugando Medical and 2 medical students from the Netherlands also joined our surgeons for a day to assist. Many new theatre nurses were keen to learn and scrubbed for our surgeons several times under the guidance of our scrub nurses.



Pictured clockwise from top: Brigid about to start a burn contracture surgery, Steve and Andrew, Lindy with some post-op patients using a wound care sheet and Viv monitoring in recovery.

More from Mission 26



A Visit From Abel

The team had a visit from Abel Iddi, who received an operation 2 years ago from Rafiki. Prior to Brigid Corrigan operating on him, Abel had a severe burn which had fused his arm to his leg and he was unable to walk. He had to be carried everywhere.

As you can see from the photo, Abel is now walking around well and has a big smile on his face. It is so great to see our past patients doing so well and benefitting so much from Rafiki's help.

Oops

Usually known for his stealth and cat-like reflexes, our anaesthetist Andrew Wild accidentally knocked over an unstable oxygen bottle, which smashed into a window. The window suffered some battle scars, but luckily with its wire reinforcement and our patch up job, it will live to keep the mosquitoes out for another day. Andrew walked away unscathed (for a change).



Thank you from our Mission Coordinator

Once again, I'd like to say a special thanks to St John of God Subiaco Hospital for their commitment to funding consumables, pharmaceuticals and some instruments and the CSSD Department of St John of God Subiaco for sterilising gowns, packs, dabs, suction tubing and some instruments prior to the mission. Special thanks also to DS Biomedical for their continued sharpening/repairing of our surgical instruments, free of charge.

Big thanks to the community service team of Acacia Mining and Anglo Gold Ashanti, Sekou Toure Hospital and of course thank you to our hard-working volunteers.

Taka Wild

Rafiki Mission Coordinator



Capacity Building in Plastic Surgery

One of Rafiki's objectives has always been to build capacity in plastic and reconstructive surgery in Tanzania, a country with over 45 million people and not a single plastic surgeon. We've had some success in getting local surgeons to participate in our missions, but nowhere near as much as we would like, and nowhere near enough to build capacity.

Discussions with Tanzania's national hospital, Muhimbili National Hospital ("MNH"), pointed to the lack of a structured pathway in Tanzania to becoming a plastic surgeon as 1 of the factors holding back progress in this regard.

Over the past 6 months, Rafiki has been working with MNH, Tanzania's primary medical university, Muhimbili University for Health and Allied Services ("MUHAS"), and with the Tanzanian Minister for Health, Hon. Ummu Mwalimu with a view to assisting Tanzania develop a pathway for surgeons to specialise in plastics. This has identified a preference in Tanzania for a formal Master's Degree course in Plastic Surgery being established at MUHAS.

Rafiki has now presented MUHAS and MNH with a draft curriculum and course outline (based on a program introduced in Uganda) and work is underway to establish on-line material and course work to support the curriculum.

The curriculum will be tailored to the needs of Tanzanians, so it won't cover the cosmetic side of

Plastic Surgery, but will focus on the reconstructive and microsurgery skills needed for accidents like burns and major trauma.

Funding and volunteer numbers permitting, we aim to send a number of 4 person teaching missions each year, on top of the full team missions that we currently send twice a year. As well as training with visiting teams, both during the full missions and teaching missions, the students will connect on-line, through Skype and by video presentations to our local surgeons in Australia.

With a population so large, many clefts are left unrepaired and common injuries like motor vehicle accidents and burns mean we certainly won't run out of patients needing care. Our full team missions will always be a major focus, providing free medical care to people who would never be able to afford or access operations otherwise. In years to come, when we have experienced, qualified local plastic surgeons, we hope to support Tanzanian and Tanzanian/Australian Volunteer missions to other parts of the country, in addition to the areas we already service.

This exciting step-change in Rafiki's ability to capacity build in Tanzania and develop reconstructive surgery capabilities is anticipated to be launched in late 2017, with the first lot of surgeons commencing the course under the tutelage of Rafiki's plastic surgeons.

Mission 27, November 2016

As part of our efforts to get the Master's Degree up and running in Tanzania, we sent a third mission for the year in November. While the team of James Savundra, Christopher Lowry, Elizabeth Radford and Lyndon Hudson performed surgeries, the main focus of Mission 27 was to teach, generate interest in the Master's Course and attend meetings with stakeholders.

James said while MNH has a "Plastic Surgery Department" they are the first to admit they are not qualified and their skills are not up to standard; they just do what they can. Of course it's not the cosmetic side of plastic surgery that is needed, which is completely inaccessible to most Tanzanians, but the reconstructive skills, which are in huge demand. The surgeons simply don't have the

ability to deal with many severe burns, which means the mortality rate is extremely high. Road accidents are common and surgeons have to perform amputations, which could be avoided if they had the necessary skills in microsurgery and flaps.

Our team worked with the medical staff from MNH to perform the first successful microvascular surgery ever performed in Tanzania. James said they borrowed a very basic microscope from the Ear, Nose and Throat Department and performed the surgery on 35 year old man who had been in a car accident. He had an exposed bone in his leg, and having been in this state for months had surprisingly avoided infection, but was heading towards an amputation.

The local surgeons from the Plastics Department were encouraged by our team to work alongside the Orthopaedic Surgeons, an important and common practice in Australia not done in Tanzania. Our team worked alongside the Tanzanian staff with excellent cooperation.

The team also attended meetings with MNH, MUHAS and with the Tanzanian Minister for Health, Hon. Ummu Mwalimu, who are all very keen to get the course up and running. James also presented on Plastic Surgery to around 100 doctors and surgeons from MNH and worked with 2 of the lead surgeons who are very keen to apply for the first round of student intakes.

Going forward, these teaching missions will not only support the students in the Masters Degree course, but also provide an important teaching platform for anaesthetics and nursing as our other team members play an important role in capacity building. We may not be able to perform as many single operations as our intensive, full 2 week missions, but the potential for lives saved through skill building is very high.



From top: Elizabeth with burn patients, the collaborative microvascular surgery, James presenting, our team with local staff and surgery selfie.

Volunteer Profile: Cathy Lubrano

Scrub nurse, Cathy Lubrano has been volunteering for Rafiki for 4 years. She is a wonderful team member who, on top of working incredibly hard, always brings a smile to everybody's face. It's quite common for the team to say "that was the best mission ever" whenever Cathy has been on a mission, and we think that's largely due to the kind of person Cathy is.

How did you become involved with Rafiki?

I was first introduced to Rafiki Surgical Missions in 2012 by my good friend Gillian McCallum. It was at Mikocheni hospital in Dar es Salaam. Since then I have been on another 4 missions, all to Sekou Toure hospital in Mwanza.

What makes the work important to you?

I feel I live a very fortunate life and I have great empathy for those less fortunate. It's my way of giving back.

What are your favourite things about the missions and what keeps you coming back?

I enjoy the camaraderie and teamwork. Everyone has a vital role to play and when you work as a team it's never hard work! I love the Tanzanian people who are gentle and so appreciative. I feel so privileged I can help them. Such a small operation changes their life, as in a cleft lip or functionally as in releasing burn contractures.

How different are the working conditions in Perth and Tanzania?

No air conditioning (well sometimes), no bubble mats to stand on, no lazy lunches or tea breaks, no operating lights, no Stryker chairs, no platforms (for us short people) no smooth wheeling instrument trolleys, no in-house oxygen and suction, no paperwork (can be a blessing), no X-ray, Mini C Arm or image intensify machine, no counts, at times no electricity. However, there is no unhappiness. There is laughter, tears and a

sense of accomplishment. There is no whining, no precious surgeons and no hierarchy. We are all one - surgeons empty the days suction bottles, help dry the instruments. There is just good old fashioned nursing and skilful doctoring and a feeling of contentment I can't explain!

What are your favourite memories?

I have so many favourite memories that I wouldn't know where to begin. The clinic day is very powerful, up to 100 people wait patiently for the doctors to, hopefully, say yes they can help them. The final ward round is extremely overwhelming. You can see how grateful and thankful the patients and families are. Of course there is everything in between - good, bad and tragic. From the baby who crawled into the fire and had been sent home by local surgeons that, later, we managed to see her and operate on her to the young boy who lost most of his family but saved 2 of his siblings in a house fire. I can still hear him moaning in pain as we prepared to operate on him. But then there are the many adults and old patients who have their cleft lips repaired. The look and smile on their face is unforgettable. After years of taunting and, at times, isolation they go back to their community are accepted and even marry! I love working alongside the local nurses and doctors. They are extremely welcoming and helpful. I am so lucky to be part of a great organisation.

We are lucky to have you Cathy!



Left: Lindy and Cathy. Right: Cathy amusing the team during the struggles of the crowded airport.

Volunteer Profile: Cosato Chumi

For many of our team members (especially Taka), Cosato Chumi waiting to greet them at the airport has been a very welcome sight. Cosato supported the team through his role with Foreign Affairs for many years, and was recently elected a Member of Parliament for Mafinga Town, in Mufindi District Iringa. Even with his busy schedule, Cosato makes time to meet the team at the airport when he can as well as attend important Government meetings and ceremonies for Rafiki.

You have been a great friend of Rafiki Surgical Missions, can you please tell our readers how and when you got involved with Rafiki and the ways you have been supporting us over the years?

I got involved with Rafiki Surgical Mission when I was asked by my Boss Ambassador Mbelwa Kairuki to assist Didier Murcia our Honorary Consul and the team of medical doctors and nurses during their arrival and departure at the Julius Nyerere International Airport. I remember the arrival in Dar es Salaam was 1200hrs and departure to Mwanza was due at 1500hrs. Unfortunately, the flight into Dar was delayed, but after some necessary arrangements we got the team onto plane with a delay of only five minutes. I can recall that day Didier was sweating all over luggage, running from point A to B just to make sure that the team caught the Flight to Mwanza, with Fast Jet.

We have sent some ambulances and medical equipment to Tanzania, including to your local area, Mufindi. Can you tell our readers about what kind of benefits this brings to your constituency and other parts of Tanzania?

Oooh, it has helped a lot, first of all, half of the patients in the ward used to sleep on the ground as there were not enough beds. Then you supported us with beds, then with an ultrasound machine, then the ambulance, and many other medical equipment from gloves to everything, wheel chairs etc. It has benefited us a lot to improve health services in the Hospital of Mafinga which serves a population of more than 450,000 in the whole District of Mufindi and near by District like Kilolmbero and Iringa and Mbalari.

What kind of impact does Rafiki Surgical Missions have on the people in Tanzania that we are supporting and why is it important?

There is huge impact, I will just give one example, before support from Rafiki Surgical Mission, a monthly maternity rate (birth) was between 150-250, after your support with the mentioned items, especially the beds and ultrasound machine, which is used for pregnant women ward only, now the delivery has risen from 150-250 up to 400-450 per month. This is because everyone is assured with the quality of the services, hence even women from other district they come to Mafinga Hospital.

You are an extremely busy man, yet you always make time for Rafiki - meeting the teams and helping them through immigration and customs, participating in all the Rafiki meetings....Why do you choose to support Rafiki?

I know that Rafiki Surgical Mission give a lot of their time volunteering - imagine travelling all the way from Western Australia to Tanzania to help. So I think why not me to give little of my time to support and facilitate the teams when they are here.

Is there anything you'd like to say to our Rafiki family in Australia?

I know Rafiki Surgical Mission has done a lot to Mafinga, Mufindi and Tanzanian community at large, the name is well known to Mafinga and Mufindi people for the good job. Please keep on, I know sometimes you face some difficulties and hard work, but please do not be discouraged. What you are doing, is saving the lives of the people, for example the ambulance has been transferring patients for referral to Iringa Regional Hospital almost every day, imagine how many lives you have saved!

Because of congestion to the Mafinga Hospital, I am mobilizing from friends some funds so that we improve services at Ihongole Health centre so as some patient may get all service at this Health Centre. As of now we don't have children and male wards, but we want to start with building a laboratory.



Above: Didier Murcia, Hon. Umyy Mwalimu and Hon. Cosato Chumi.



Left: the ambulance arriving in Mafindi.

Our Tanzanian Volunteer Experience

Tom and Kristen Eadie were the winning bidders of the 'Volunteer Experience' at this year's Ball. Kristen and Tom very kindly kept us updated on Facebook during the mission and have written a few words about their experience. As you'll read here, they had an absolute blast.

A huge thank you to our sponsors Qatar, Corporate Traveller, Serena Hotels, Asillia Africa and TTT Worldwide for donating the trip, which allowed us to fund half of an entire mission with just one auction item.

Thank you so much Tom & Kristen for sharing your experience with us. We hope to have the Volunteer Experience up for grabs again next year.

Although thrilled to be the final bidders on "Lot Five: Tanzanian Volunteer Experience" at the 2016 Rafiki Ball in May this year, neither my husband Tom, nor I, had any idea what an incredible and totally unforgettable fortnight lay ahead for us, just a few short months from that night.

The first part of our adventure began in Mwanza where our arrival – and my first exposure to Africa – was far from auspicious. With two delayed flights contributing to a tiring 40 hour trip from Australia, and the resulting 4 am check in at the Tilapia Hotel not the best preparation for Day One of the Rafiki Surgical Mission. We were nonetheless full of enthusiasm and anticipation when our rickety local bus lumbered into the grounds of Sekou Toure Hospital a few hours later.

What an extraordinary time it was to become briefly immersed in volunteering, Rafiki-style. It was an occasion in Tom's and my life which delivered a maelstrom of emotions, both deeply heart-rending and incredibly up-lifting. The miracle-working Rafiki health professionals tirelessly operating on cleft lips and repairing contractures on badly burned children, are angels, each and every one

of them, and it was a true privilege to witness the transformations they were effecting and their extraordinary compassion and skills.

We knew we were spending time with exceptional people from the very moment we met them, and we couldn't have been welcomed more warmly nor integrated more comfortably into the team which was something we appreciated greatly. The indomitable Taka Wild, Rafiki Team Manager Extraordinaire, made sure we were briefed and informed of proceedings every step of the way. To watch Taka in action and managing the highly complex logistical operation of the Mission with such grace, good humour and expertise, was truly something to behold!

I will never forget what we saw and did during our few days with the Mission. Humbled, confronted, heartened, shocked, sickened and often, totally overwhelmed, doesn't quite encapsulate the impact of all that occurred. It was every bit the personal challenge I had expected it to be ... but a deeply enriching and satisfying one as well. I'm not sure most of my 'First World' problems will seem quite as pressing again ...



From left: Kristen with Rafiki patients, Tom and Kristen with a post-op baby and Kristen laying out surgical equipment.

From the top: Tom and Kristen on safari and jumping with the Masaai.

From the richly vibrant and multicoloured fabrics worn by the local women, to the stoic demeanours of literally everyone who attended the first day's triaging clinic, to the sticky cramped basic rooms where people were eventually seen, to the long queues of patient, suffering humanity wending their way past the remarkable doctors and nurses assessing their conditions, October 2016 will remain with us always. Incredible, moving, disturbing, inspiring, heart-warming, heart-rending, excruciating ... it had it all, and in the midst of all this Tom and I somehow managed to lend a hand and make - in our own very minor way - a small contribution to this year's Mission.

Whilst I lent a hand in drying and laying out surgical instruments between operations and helped with comforting and entertaining children before and after their surgery, Tom's main task was behind the lens of our camera, recording procedures - often at very close range - and providing a visual log of the precision and dexterity of the surgeons and the patience and professionalism of everyone else involved.

The second part of our 'Tanzanian Experience' - a 4 day safari - was a total salve to the soul and a wonderful antidote to the rigours - very short term as they were - of our medical immersion. The Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater are simply brimming and bursting with Africa's exquisite, intriguing, majestic, colourful, playful and glorious Animal Kingdom. "Animalia", "Lion King", "Out of Africa"eat your heart out! It was simply fabulous.... we loved every minute of our time there. Our accommodation throughout the safari was yet another unanticipated highlight of the trip. The three separate safari holiday 'resorts' we stayed in - each provided by the generosity of Serena Hotels - added a distinctly unique and indulgent character to our Grand Safari lodgings. From our luxury camping experience at Kirawira Serena Camp in the north-western corner of the Park (redolent of colonial opulence and gently paced decadence), to the funky thatched and traditionally domed 'rondavels' at the Serengeti Serena Safari Lodge and the rim-clinging stone lodges on the edge of the breathtaking Ngorongoro Crater, we were continuously dazzled by magnificent surroundings, the friendliest and most attentive staff, and an insight into stunning African wildlife presented to us in the most pleasurable settings imaginable.



A very special highlight during the last day of our safari was visiting a Maasai village and dancing with the elder of the tribe and his extended family.

Tom's skills as quite an accomplished (senior) basketballer proved useful as he managed to leap almost as high as the Maasai teenage boys who were keen to demonstrate their freakish body bouncing ability with seemingly little effort at all.

We ended the safari determined to return to Australia and spread the word to friends and family that an African safari should definitely be a 'bucket list' item, if it wasn't one already.

The last very memorable and most exotic part of our trip comprised four days of tropical splendour at coastal resorts on the beautiful island of Zanzibar. Our first accommodation – a luxurious private villa at the Matemwe Retreat – overlooked a sparkling aqua lagoon and the dhow-dotted Indian Ocean in the distance. Matemwe was replete with every possible creature comfort including our very own butler, Zuberi, a private sun terrace and plunge pool, stunning décor and amenities, and a smorgasbord of water-based activities, which included a sublime swim amongst a dolphin pod, snorkelling, canoeing, sailing a dhow and feasting on delicious local seafood.

We were again treated like royalty and our hosts, the Asilia management and staff, were keen to ensure everything we did, saw and experienced during our stay was sumptuous, carefree and as pleasure-focused as possible. Wow, what an absolute treat!

Our last night at Matemwe coincided with our first wedding anniversary and how will we ever top our

celebration that night? It began with a delicious candle-lit dinner on the beach – just for the two of us – gently fanned by the warm ocean breeze, the swaying palm tree fringe and the lapping of waves on the soft white sand. Later in the evening we were joined by a troupe of our wonderful catering and waiting staff who encircled us in full voice, filling the evening with a gutsy rendition of “Hakuna Matata”. Oh simply magic and a very special and never-to-be-forgotten finale to our Tanzanian adventure.

Each part of the trip was unique and extraordinary for different reasons and Tom and I feel so fortunate to have been the 2016 ‘Rafiki Volunteers’. To have been the recipients of, and to have made a small contribution to supporting, promoting and ensuring continuity in the exceptional work performed in Tanzania by the Rafiki Surgical Mission, has been such a joy thank you so much for the opportunity.

Kristen & Tom Eadie



Save the Date!

2017
Rafiki Ball

10th June
Palladium 3, Crown Perth

Safina Foundation

Didier's House

Find us on 

On August 15th, the new girls' house at NIRA Orphanage was officially opened. The building has 6 large bedrooms, bathrooms and a large sitting room. It will accommodate up to 30 girls in a comfortable and safe environment. It's a big improvement on their cramped old dorm rooms, which had no fly screens to protect from mosquitoes, and a leaking roof.

The old dorm buildings, which have already been renovated by Safina, will now be used for different purposes, such as a dining room and study areas.

Edith decided to call the new building 'Didier's House' to thank him for all the work he has put in to make the project possible.

Thank you to Penrhos College and the Walsh Family for their financial contribution and Hon. Cosato Chumi for your support and for attending the ceremony.



From the top: the completed house; Didier, Cosato, the builder, Boneventura, Edith, Julia and Ambassador Chialo at the opening ceremony; bedrooms.



Internet

Penrhos College has sponsored internet at NIRA for 6 months and it is now up and running. Along with the donated laptop computers the children will now be able to connect to the world and learn so much more.

Australian Visitors to NIRA

While in Tanzania in October, supporters Richard and Fleur, with their children Heidi and Harry, visited NIRA. Thank you to James Chialo for hosting our visitors and to Richard and Fleur for sharing your experience with us.

One of the major highlights of our recent family trip to Africa was a visit to the NIRA Orphanage in Dar es Salaam kindly hosted by ATS Director, James Chialo, and his crew.

After a drive through the chaos and dust of suburban Dar we arrived at the gates of NIRA and entered the relative sanctuary of the high-walled orphanage grounds. We were greeted by a bunch of big smiles from the kids and staff and welcomed in to look around the buildings and grounds.

Our kids (Heidi, 11 and Harry, 8) immediately connected with the NIRA kids and when Harry pulled out a small footy it was game on as he proceeded to show the locals how to handball and kick which morphed into a hybrid version of touch rugby in the orphanage grounds. Leaving the local kids to teach our kids a lesson in ball skills, Fleur and I were shown the layout and facilities of NIRA and the innovative approach to self-sustainability and income generation. Through access to bore water (the result of a previous fundraising initiative) the orphanage maintains a fruit and vegie patch and livestock for their own use and sale to the surrounding community.

We were also shown around the recently constructed dormitory known as "Didier's House" and designed to house all of the kids under one

roof with significantly improved sleeping and washing facilities.

Another ongoing funding initiative is the planned construction of a technology centre in one corner of the grounds which will service the local community and generate income for NIRA.

As a family (read Heidi our animal lover) we decided to go for a simple "chicken initiative" by donating a bunch of laying chickens to populate the newly constructed hen house and add to existing protein sources and income generation.

What struck me from conversations we had and seeing what had been achieved by the founders and different donors, was how little funding is required to have a massive and long lasting impact on the occupants and surrounding community.

The founder, Edith and all that have been involved in the building of this safe, self-sustaining sanctuary for homeless children should be very proud and I commend others to visit and get involved. We look forward to remaining involved for many years to come!

Richard & Fleur.



Left: Harry and Heidi with some of the kids from NIRA. Right; Heidi checking out the hen house.

What's Next for Safina?

Huge improvements have been made to NIRA since we met Edith and started supporting her orphanage in 2014. We concentrated on infrastructure support by repairing the water well, upgrading all the existing buildings, and of course the construction of the new dorm house. They now also have internet connection, and sustainable income streams from selling water and their chicken farm.

This year we linked the Chinese Mailaka Foundation with NIRA and they are well placed to support the next stage, which is the construction of a training centre. The centre will be another sustainable source of income for NIRA, which will help Edith to continue her amazing work for the children she cares for.

We have learnt a lot from our first big project through Safina Foundation, and now that NIRA is well-supported and improved, we're looking forward to continuing our support and also helping other orphanages in need of support.

Thank you to everyone who has supported Safina Foundation and helped us make the improvements that have greatly enhanced the lives of the girls and boys at NIRA. A special mention to James Chialo for being our man on the ground and ATS Director and Didier and Thierry Murcia, who spent countless hours keeping the projects on track.



Ambassador Isaya Chialo

It was with a heavy heart that in September we said good bye to ATS and Rafiki Surgical Missions Director, Ambassador Chialo, who passed away in Tanzania.

Ambassador Chialo was a founder of ATS and Rafiki and he worked tirelessly with these charities, and many other organisations, to help those in need. His favourite saying was "A luta continua ... a vitória é certa" ("the struggle continues... victory is certain"), and he never stopped working for his beloved Tanzanians.

His integrity, generosity and friendship will be greatly missed. It was an honour and a privilege to have the Ambassador as part of the ATS/Rafiki/Safina family and we know he will live on in the hearts of the thousands of people he has guided, mentored and helped throughout his life.

Pictured: Before and after. Big changes to the old dorm house, renovated to be used as a study room and dining hall.



Pictured: The Ambassador with his son James, and children from NIRA.

Please Support those who Support us!

Our organisation is incredibly lucky to have loyal sponsors who come to the table each year with amazing donations and support. Here's a little introduction to some of our Tanzanite Sponsors, and what they have helped out with over the years.

Qatar

For many years, Qatar has donated flights for our auctions, every dollar of which has gone directly to fund Rafiki missions. Qatar also waives the excess baggage fees on the equipment the missions take to Tanzania. As you can imagine there is a lot of equipment and supplies needed for the missions and while the team leave a lot in Tanzania, the consumables must be brought in baggage each time. With two to three missions each year, the cost would very quickly add up!



Qatar is the fastest growing airline in the world and connects 150 destinations every day. They are our preferred airline for our missions to Tanzania and for business and personal travel. www.qatarairways.com

Manu Feildel

For those who have been to the Rafiki Balls Manu has attended, you'll know he adds a certain fun and flair to the evening. Manu is very generous to us with his time, attending the Ball when his schedule permits and also donating the 'Manu's Cooking School' experiences. We don't pay Manu for his attendance or time, and last year he even carried (heavy!) boxes of his cooking books over from Sydney for us! www.manufeildel.com.au



St John of God Subiaco Hospital

The support of St John of God is vital to our missions. The organisation funds the Missions' consumables, pharmaceuticals and some instruments and the CSSD department of St John of God Subiaco sterilises gowns, packs, dabs, suction tubing and some instruments prior to the mission. www.sjog.org.au



Stefan Diamonds

Fiona and Josh from Stefan Diamonds have been supporting Rafiki since day one. Every year their generous 100% donations of beautiful jewellery pieces are auctioned off at the Ball. For 13 years and with an average of \$15,000 raised each year, they've nearly funded 2 whole years' worth of Rafiki's work!!



Josh and Fiona are passionate about gemstones and jewellery, from engagement rings and gift jewellery, right up to exquisite high end pieces. You can see their range at 731 Hay Street Mall or on line at www.stefandiamonds.com

Freight Forwarders Tanzania

Long time supporters, Freight Forwarders Tanzania handle all our customs clearance and logistics when it comes to sending medical equipment to Tanzania. They also store and transport the equipment and containers we leave in Tanzania between missions.

We've sent millions of dollars' worth of much-needed equipment to Tanzania and without FFT, we simply couldn't have done it. www.freightforwarderstz.com



Bromley & Co

We were very lucky to have David and Yuge Bromley donate a beautiful artwork at this year's Ball. David and Yuge donated the piece 100% and arrange for the shipping and transport. This generous donation raised \$16,000 and it is looking magnificent hanging on one of our Rafiki supporters' walls! www.bromleyandco.com



Thank you so much to our Tanzanite Sponsors!

Australia Tanzania Society



ATS Structure

While many of you will know of Rafiki well, it is just one of the organisations under the **Australia Tanzania Society** banner. Over the past 12 years, while keeping each group separate, we have branched out from health, to include, education and youth support with the establishment of Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors and, more recently, Safina Foundation. *All money raised for each individual group is used solely for that organisation and there is no cross-over of funds.*

Rafiki Surgical Missions is the biggest, longest running and most well known arm of our NGO. Since our first mission in 2004, Rafiki Surgical Missions has changed the lives of more than 1,300 Tanzanian children and adults with conditions such as cleft lip, cleft palate and burns injuries. We also pack and send containers of medical equipment to clinics and hospitals all across Tanzania.

In 2006 **Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors** was formed. ATYA provides a platform for young Australians to establish links with their peers in Tanzania. These links help students in Tanzania and Australia build a better understanding of the world beyond their own borders. ATYA also raises funds to build classrooms, drill water wells, buy curriculum text books and send school supplies and equipment to Tanzania.

After a request for support from an orphanage in Geita, where a lot of our Rafiki patients come from, we established **Safina Foundation** in 2014. 'Safina' means 'arc' in Swahili and embodies the spirit of supporting young orphaned and poverty-stricken children. We have been helping the orphanage in Geita and also started a second project, which is extensive renovations and building works to a small orphanage in Dar es Salaam.