



The School of St Jude

St Jude's News

Thank you for sharing our newsletter with your family and friends

ISSUE 2, 2014

Make Your Mark

At St Jude's, we believe that giving our students a great education is the best way to help them escape the poverty cycle, and we rely on our many supporters around the world to achieve this. As you know, our students come from the poorest homes in Arusha and they have shown that they have real academic potential. With a free, high-quality education, our students and their families have a real chance of breaking the cycle of generational poverty and it's all because of people like you.

Providing over 1,800 Tanzanian children with a free, high quality education requires a large amount of resources. That's why we've just launched the **Make Your Mark Appeal** and set ourselves the big goal of raising over \$1million—and we need your help! You can choose to purchase textbooks for students to learn from, electricity to light up classrooms and buses to see them to and from school safely. Educating our students also means providing food for daily lunches so students can concentrate in class and develop brilliant brains, excursions so they can learn about the world they live in, medical and welfare support so they grow into strong healthy adults.

By providing students with one of these resources you will give them the best chance at success, and empower them to be leaders in their community where they can create real change.

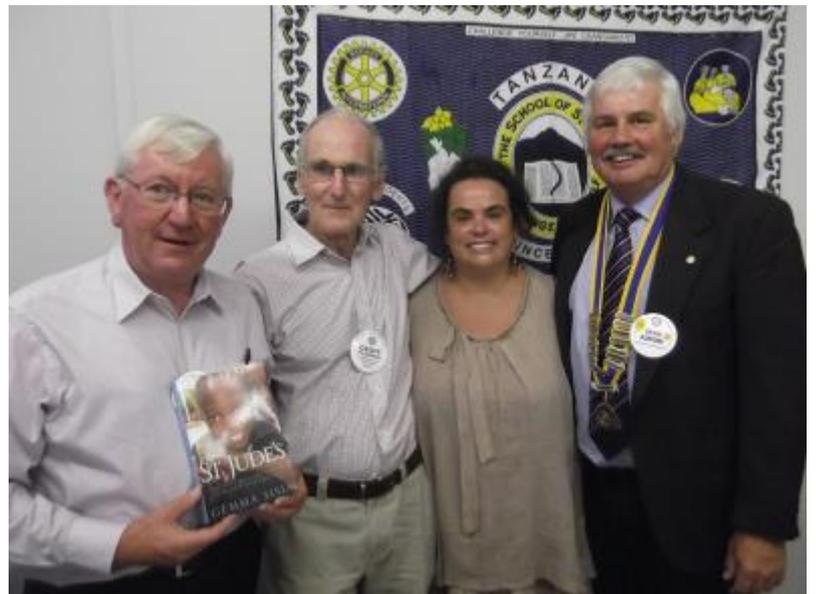
Read more about the Make Your Mark Appeal on page 3.





Gemma's Australian Tour

March 2014



Thanks to everyone who is supporting Gemma's Australian tour.

Check out the calendar on our website for all of Gemma's public events.

www.schoolofstjude.org/about-us/calendar.html

She would love to see you there.

Top of page: Display at the yLead Movie night in Brisbane; Top row—left: Gemma with Belinda from yLead; Top row—right: Bernie Kelly and the gang from Golden Key Society; Second row—left: at the Rotary Club of Turramurra; Second row—right: Rotary Club of Bateman's Bay; Above: Gemma with Natarsha and James on the set of Wake Up.

MAKE YOUR MARK

Make Your Mark on the lives of our students by purchasing much needed resources

Please have a look at the list of things you can give our students below. Your gift will ensure our students have everything they need to go on to be future leaders and make a real difference in the lives of their families, their community and Tanzania.

 <p>Careers Guidance \$5,500</p>	 <p>Medical and welfare pack \$80</p>	 <p>Fruit and vegetables \$150</p>	 <p>A seat on a bus \$1,300</p>	
 <p>Excursions for a class \$300</p>	 <p>Power a campus for two days \$200</p>	 <p>Help with cooks' wages \$10,000</p>		
 <p>Textbooks for three classes \$2,500</p>	 <p>Fire Hydrant \$3,000</p>	 <p>Teacher resources and tools \$2,000</p>	 <p>Library Pack \$1,000</p>	 <p>A Computer for students \$500</p>
 <p>Bus \$50,000</p>	 <p>Maintenance Pack \$40,000</p>	 <p>Meat for a year \$35,000</p>	 <p>Lentils, beans & ugali \$25,000</p>	 <p>IT pack \$45,000</p>

Head to our Make Your Mark page on our website at www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/annual-appeal-2014.html

We would love it if you could tell your friends and family about how they can make their mark at St Jude's as well.

A huge thank you to all the people who have shown their support so far!

Top marks for St Jude's Form 4 Students in National Exam

The School of St Jude performed outstandingly well in the Form IV Tanzanian national exam, ranking 3rd in the Arusha region.

Overall regionally, the class earned high marks in all subjects including Physics, Chemistry, History, Geography, IT and English. St Jude's placed in the top 20 nationally in Physics, Chemistry and IT.

Impressively, 90 students out of 143 scored Division I and over 98 per cent achieved Division I or II at St Jude's. A larger proportion of the class achieved Division 1 this year and they'll continue on to do their A level secondary studies in May. The Tanzania Ministry of Education and Vocational Training requires students to score either Division I, II or III in order to advance to Form 5 for A

Level courses. The students do a series of 'mock exams' as preparation in the leadup to the final exam.

"I'm incredibly proud of the students and really excited by the results and what they've achieved," said School Director Jon Ford. "Their parents are very happy with their results and I'd also like to congratulate our secondary Headmaster Rasul Abdul and the hardworking Tanzanian teachers who are committed to helping our students do their best."

Below are photos from their graduation which was held in November last year.



Meet Benson, one of our new students

Benson is a new Standard One student and demonstrates the power of a free high-quality education transforming the lives of our students and their families. His family lives in a basic mud and brick home, with Benson sharing a room with his parents while his older sister and brother sleep in another. They own a few goats and a small shamba (farm) which they use to grow maize to feed the family. His Dad worked as a casual builder for a long time but last year injured his hand which affected his ability to work for a few months. He has often struggled to find his next job and would sometimes go for weeks without an income. Benson's mother grows green vegetables on rented land and walks around selling them. The small amount of money they each earn goes towards providing for their family and it couldn't cover the costs of sending him to school.

Benson's family were keen for him to apply for a place at St Jude's so he could eventually make a better life for himself and one day help them too. The team at St Jude's were really excited to offer Benson the opportunity to join our Standard 1 class after meeting him during the student selection process. Benson has flourished since then, and is excited to learn how to read and write in English, count numbers, do fun activities in science and much more. His favourite subject so far is mathematics and he hopes to one day become a builder so he can construct homes (we love that he is inspired by his father).



Benson is currently unsponsored. If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a sponsor, we'd love to hear from you. Email info@schoolofstjude.co.tz

Making Lifelong Friends at St Jude's

Last year the group who joined our September tour hit it off while visiting St Jude's and touring Tanzania. They created friendships that will last a lifetime. We were so excited to hear that the group caught up in Australia for a reunion.

Our Cultural Tours offer people the opportunity to see St Jude's and meet the students, staff and families who make up our community. While here, a trip to the famous Serengeti National Park along with other iconic tourist attractions are also on the agenda. What comes as a pleasant surprise to visitors though is the friendships that are made along the way.

We were so excited to hear that our 2013 September tour group had organised a reunion in Australia so they could catch up with each other. When at St Jude's, the team here could see that they had formed a very strong connection with all of the banter and laughter that was going on.

Ten of the group met in the quaint town of Hepburn Springs in Victoria—it was the first time they had all seen each other since they returned to Australia.

We are grateful to the group for sending through this update and some photos of their reunion. They tell us that the next catch up is due in Easter 2015 in Brisbane and we can't wait to hear all about it.



Have you stayed in touch with your St Jude's tour group? If so, we'd love to hear your stories of friendships formed.

Email us at info@schoolofstjude.co.tz with your story.

"The St Jude's tour was an amazing experience that brought together a group of people from so many different backgrounds and ages. The group easily bonded over our common passion - St Jude's - and have formed a friendship that is special, and rare."

- Amy Williams



Celebrating International Women's Day

Empowering girls and women through education is a major driving force behind St Jude's and it's what we were passionate about on International Women's Day which was held on March 8. The day is a global celebration for the economic, political and social achievements of women in the past, present and future.

As part of International Women's Day celebrations, Gemma was interviewed on Channel 10's 'Wake Up' last week. We were so excited that she had the opportunity to share the St Jude's story with a national audience. Here's some excerpts from her interview:

"Growing up with seven brothers and I think my mum bought herself a dress once every ten years as school fees were always a priority and Mum and Dad used to say education is everything. If you have got a good education, you can get yourself a good job and you're independent and you have more power so I think that belief has gone through all of my brothers and myself. I just wanted a good private school in Tanzania which is accessible to the poor and we are not biased whether it's girls, boys or what religion or what tribe the children are and it's to give the kids the tools to have a good education and tools in life so they can all get good jobs after they finish school and university..."

"...The Chairman of our parent's committee is a woman and looks after 1,800 parents and grandparents and aunts and uncles and the Chairman of our school Board is a woman. We have a lot of deputies and academic leaders who are women. It's really good and it's good for the kids to see that it doesn't matter what tribe you are or religion you are, if you're really passionate about your job, you will be promoted... It's exciting."

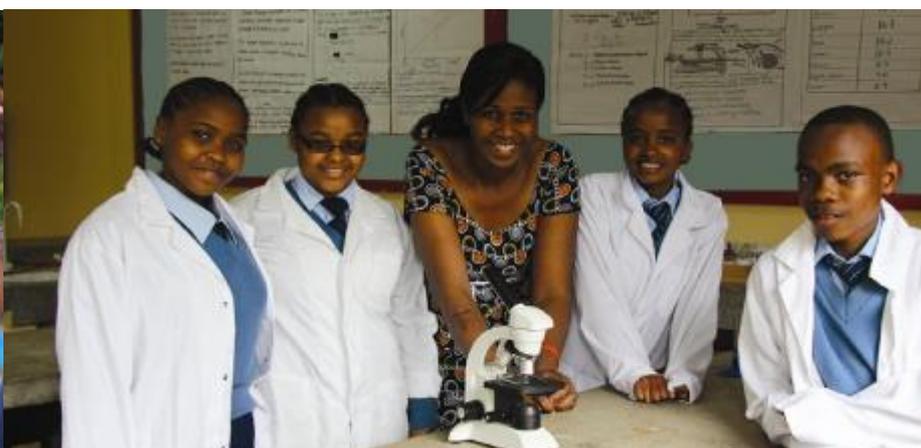
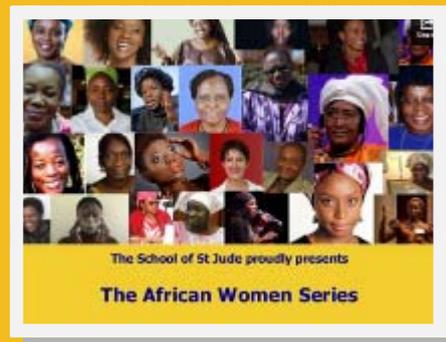
"Without quality schools, girls won't have a fighting chance"

Read Gemma's blog post on our website about giving girls an equal playing field so they can break down barriers:

<http://bit.ly/NR5GL3> will take you to the post.

St Jude's celebrates African women in this special presentation on slideshare:

<http://slidesha.re/PjlabG>



New Website Launched

Over the past year we've had a group of volunteers working away to redesign the St Jude's website. The team are very proud to present the fresh design to you and hope that it allows you to find information easily while exciting you with interesting articles and stories about St Jude's. Read about some of the features of the new-look site below.

Responsive design for all types of devices

One of the things we have noticed (we're sure you have too) is how many people are looking at our website from a tablet (iPads for example) or mobile phones. It's an increasing trend and we were really keen to make sure that everyone who was looking at the St Jude's website could do it with ease. So, our new site is now responsive to your device which means that the look of it adjusts to suit you. You can see here:



View from a regular desktop computer



View from a tablet like an iPad



Mobile phone view

Gifts for friends

This brand new feature allows you to turn a sponsorship, donation or Make Your Mark appeal item into a gift for a friend. All you need to do is click on the button that says 'Gift this for a friend' and then at the checkout stage, you will be able to write a special message to your friend.

We'll take care of the rest!

St Jude's in Action

This is one of our favourite new features which merges our blog posts, photo galleries, media releases, press articles and newsletters. It's like your very own St Jude's online newspaper.

Global Calendar

Keep up to date with all of the important dates, school breaks and promotional events all over the world with the new calendar. You can look at it by month or listed events.

Tell us what you think!

Like any big project at St Jude's, we rely on our supporters to get involved and help us along our way. Thank you to all of the people who have already provided feedback and helped out with testing the new site. Feel free to send your comments to marketing@schoolofstjude.co.tz



Fundraising for St Jude's

St Jude's is proud to have dedicated supporters across Australia and the world selflessly giving their time to host fundraisers to raise money for our school. They include children who busk, people who hold a cake stall, get their school involved with our cause plus many more individuals and groups who back us in a range of ways. Read more about yLead's involvement in our fundraising efforts.

yLead delivers a range of positive education and leadership development experiences for young people across Australia. Four years ago, a yLead group first came to St Jude's and committed to raise enough money to build a boarding house and they haven't stopped there. yLead held a 'movie night' recently, inviting Gemma along and managed to raise \$2,000 which will go towards buying vital resources for our school.

As well as hosting fundraisers, some of their members sponsor students while others regularly visit the school. yLead, Rotary Clubs and other supporters always make Gemma feel welcome on her tour by hosting events or coming along to hear one of her inspirational talks.

"We continue to support the school as we see Gemma embodying what we stand for at yLead - a young ordinary Australian doing extraordinary things. Our messages are very congruent in the belief we have in young people and the will to inspire them to be the best they can be," said yLead's Belinda Yorston. "Gemma and her team's hard work and inspiring attitudes do not go unrecognised over here."

We are so grateful to yLead and for all of our supporters' ongoing contributions! Find out more about holding your own fundraiser for St Jude's or how to get involved, on our website:

www.schoolofstjude.org/support-us/fundraising-events.html

Rotary Convention, Sydney

Last month we mentioned that Gemma would be hosting a break out session at the 2014 Rotary International Convention. Thank you to everyone who responded to our request for support. If you're heading along to the Convention, be sure to let us know by emailing info@schoolofstjude.co.tz

Expanding Our Network

We're excited to now be sharing beautiful photos from St Jude's with you on Instagram. The social network allows users to share photos and we just couldn't wait to show everyone the great pics that come from our school.



If you're on Instagram be sure to follow us [@schoolofstjude](https://www.instagram.com/schoolofstjude)

In Other News

Welcome Medical Check Team

Each year we are so lucky to welcome Dr Pip and the medical check team who volunteer at St Jude's for two weeks. They are a busy bunch who have the huge task of checking each of our 1,800 students. The team arrived this week and we're looking forward to giving you more of an update on their visit in next month's newsletter.