



# The School of St Jude

FIGHTING POVERTY THROUGH EDUCATION

## Welcome to our August Newsletter!

August has been a month all about our students getting out into the environment that is to be experienced beyond the St Jude's school walls. Away from the school there is an amazing range of opportunities for our students to gain a greater and first hand experience of their own hometown and countryside.

We are also announcing that Gemma will be making a long awaited return tour to Australia in March 2012. Flip the pages and learn all about what happens beyond our school for our students, their families, our visitors and supporters.

**Thank you for passing this newsletter onto your family and friends.**

## St Jude's Students beyond the school walls

Students love going on educational excursions and for the vast majority this will have been the very first time for them to witness the rich diversity of their cultural and natural heritage. It is only thanks to our generous supporters that it is possible to send our students on excursions. General donations help pay the cost of fuel, park fees, food and drink for all the excursions our students go on which assist in broadening their educational and cultural experiences.



### Newsletter Highlights

- Student Excursions
- Gemma's 2012 Tour
- Solar Lights
- St Jude's January Tour 2012
- 3 Peaks in 3 Weeks
- St Jude's Blanket Drive 2011
- Our Visitors
- Volunteer Opportunities



## **Grade 4 Students learning about life in a local environment**



All the Grade 4 St Jude's students recently went on an excursion to the local area of Meserani. The visit was in connection with one of their units of study - Mission to Mars and Beyond. Some of our students live in this area. The idea was to show all students how people manage to live in a harsh, semi-desert area and to document how the residents get shelter and obtain water and food.

The students visited a Maasai village. The Maasai people live a traditional lifestyle in round mud houses thatched with grass and keep herds of goats, raise chickens and use donkeys for transporting water and goods. The people who live in Meserani receive medical services from other organizations (NGOs) operating there, as well as education on hygiene and disease prevention. They have also received training to allow them to diversify their livelihoods in order to cope with impact of drought while still continuing their traditional lifestyle.





## Form 3 Geography students explore the state of the local environment



St Jude's Form 3 Geography class students have been studying the many different 'places', or environments, which make up our world. They are seeking answers to questions about why places have their particular environmental and human characteristics; how and why these characteristics vary from place to place; how places are connected; and how and why they are changing.

By visiting local waterways they can explore ways of influencing and managing the future of places including their environmental, economic and social sustainability. Our students benefit greatly from getting out in the field, putting theory to practice and learning about their future role as environmental caretakers.



## Grade 2 students road trip to Lake Manyara National Park

We all love a road trip and thanks to the support of our wonderful donors, bus loads of St Jude's Grade 2 students have climbed on board our buses and ventured into the wilderness to enjoy Tanzania's National Parks. It is worth remembering that so very few of our students have ever visited these world renowned national treasures even though they are, literally, in their own backyards. Even though local residents do pay lower park entrance fees, for our students it is beyond the household income to pay these fees, not to mention being able to afford transport and fuel. We are very grateful to our donors who make these trips possible.





## Grade 3 students wildlife encounters at Tarangire National Park

To be up close and personal with the world renowned African wildlife is a life long dream for so many of us. It is no different for our St Jude's Grade 3 students. The looks of amazement on the faces of the children when faced with the majesty of an African elephant, right outside the window of the bus, were unforgettable.

Tarangire National Park is one of the few parks with a permanent water supply, therefore you are always guaranteed to be able to see a wide range of wildlife, even now at the end of the dry season.





## Harvey World Travel Visitors

Sue Moffat together with her son Andrew recently visited St Jude's, spending an action packed week both inside and beyond the school walls. The thrill of seeing a leopard with its kill up a tree while on safari and a sunset cruise on the crystal clear waters of Zanzibar were very special. They both agreed however, that the highlights of their trip, by far, were the times they spent with the students and staff of St Jude's.

Sue created many wonderful memories during the time she spent with her sponsored student and teacher. Andrew had a brilliant time helping with P.E. classes and together they visited their sponsored student's home and helped out with the student selection process currently underway at St Jude's. Sue has already been approached to speak at a couple of service clubs in the Orange district, back home in Australia, to spread the word about our school. Sue wrote in her email to us when she reached home, "We had the BEST time at St Jude's".



## Visitors at play



The most consistent highlight reported to us in the feedback we receive from our visitors to St Jude's is the opportunity to just have fun with the students and staff. Whether it's recalling their own childhood fun playing elastics, strutting their stuff to an African beat or zooming around on the basketball and netball courts, our visitors have created memories that will stay close to their hearts long after they return home.



## We love visitors at St Jude's!

### Join our January 2012 Tour Group

As you are no doubt aware 2012 will be a very special year for The School of St Jude. We have come a long way since first opening our doors back in 2002. We will be pulling out all stops as we celebrate our 10th Anniversary - and haven't we grown in those ten short years! From one teacher and three students to over 1500 students and a local staff of over 350 Tanzanians. In 2012 St Jude's will be sharing our spectacular success with all of our supporters across the globe!

Our hugely popular Cultural Tours also kick off in January and nothing could be better than joining this tour and being the first cab off the rank to enjoy the fun and festivities that will continue all year long. You will receive the warmest of welcomes when you journey to the heart of the world's most diverse and richly cultured continent by joining one of our tours. This is a truly unique experience and gives you the opportunity to meet our students and staff plus get to know the real Tanzania.

Enrich your tour with visits to the world renowned African National Parks of the Serengeti and Ngorongoro Crater and the timelessness and exotic beauty that is the historic spice archipelago of Zanzibar, with its exquisite architecture. To find out more about the adventure of a lifetime please visit our website and click on the 'Visit Us' tab. **Karibuni!** ("You are warmly welcome" in Swahili)





## Gemma is on tour in 2012!



Gemma is planning her upcoming promotional tour scheduled for around March 2012. This will be a very big year for The School of St Jude as we celebrate our 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary.

Gemma is looking forward to passing on her personal thank you to all our current St Jude's sponsors and donors and also spreading the word about the extraordinary success and growth of the school over the past 10 years.

She would love to hear about potential speaking events that she can attend and if any of our wonderful St Jude's supporters have any connections to high profiled media please send details through to us. Also if you know of any community or business group who would be interested in hearing the St Jude's success story firsthand, again please let us know. The School of St Jude owes its success to the power drawn from a team effort and we are calling on the team to pull together to fill Gemma's tour diary.

International Women's Day is celebrated on the 8th March next year, and she would love to speak at your event during that week. Gemma's March tour will be relatively short, however she is also looking at possibly touring again later in the year. If anyone has any possible event ideas/contacts for later in the year please also let us know as soon as possible date are yet to be set for this tour.

Many of you may remember Sarah Henry who accompanied Gemma on her 2009 and 2010 tours. Sarah has come back on board to assist with the organisation of the 2012 tour so please email her at [australia@schoolofstjude.org](mailto:australia@schoolofstjude.org) with any assistance you can provide.

## 3 Peaks 3 Weeks Africa Challenge 2013

The Peaks Foundation organise global mountain challenges for women who seek adventure, a sense of personal achievement, and an opportunity to make a positive difference in the world. They support and empower women and girls in communities where the mountain challenges take place, through initiatives such as education, maternal healthcare and community-led conservation.

The Peaks Foundation supports The School of St Jude in ensuring local girls and boys receive a free quality education. As part of the 3 Peaks 3 Weeks Africa Challenge, they trek the jagged slopes of Mount Meru, which stands tall as a physical guardian over St Jude's. Amazingly they have raised over a quarter of a million dollars in support of The School of St Jude. The Peaks Foundation are now recruiting for the next climb which is scheduled to take place from January 5 to January 30 2013. For further information please visit: [www.peaksfoundation.org/](http://www.peaksfoundation.org/)





## Kili Climbers call in to say hi.



Jadd, Damien and Brendon tested their limits by successfully climbing Mount Kilimanjaro in August. They called in to visit us and to share the good news about the funds raised from their mammoth climb and donated to St Jude's.

Looking amazingly fit and well after their climb they took time to meet with Gemma to hear how their generous donation will be used to support our students. We are so very glad that the trio called in to say hi on their way to have a well earned rest.

## \*\*\* St Jude's Blanket Drive 2011 UPDATE \*\*\*

Did you know that it actually gets quite cold during the night at St Jude's? Because Arusha is at a relatively high altitude our nights can get very chilly, therefore we need more good quality woollen blankets to keep our boarding students warm.



### The appeal for blankets is now Australia wide!!

If you can help please contact:

Lloyd Flemming - The Rotary Club of Rocklea

Email: [Iff@uq.net.au](mailto:Iff@uq.net.au)

Phone: (07) 3344 3020 Mobile: 0407 719 335

Lloyd will let you know where to send blankets and once we have a container load they will be sent to us here in Arusha thanks to the wonderful support of a number of our Rotary Club St Jude's family members.

Please help us make sure we have sufficient blankets to keep our growing number of boarding students warm in preparation for the chilly winds in 2012.





## Spreading the benefits of solar power

There are more than a billion people in the world that can't turn on a switch to light their homes. Many have to burn kerosene which is expensive, an extreme fire risk and the fumes can cause health problems. Enter the ingenious Mandarin LED solar light and the free power of the sun.

Due to the ever present struggles with Tanzania's electricity supply, St Jude's has enabled staff to purchase solar lights, called 'Mandarins', for home lighting, thanks to a partnership with *illumination*. They are selling like hot cakes with staff buying them as gifts for family and friends as well as for their own homes. When sponsors visit St Jude's they also have the option of including the lights in the home packs they purchase to take when visiting their sponsored students' homes. Our Askari (Guards) have also purchased the lights to take home to their Maasai villages. It doesn't take much for a good idea to catch on!



Immediate savings were experienced by all. "No longer is there a need to buy candles at TSH200/= each and TSH500/= of kerosene that would last two days. Instead we now enjoy four little mandarins that illuminate our sitting room and two bedrooms, and we can even take one outside to feed the dog", says a very thrilled Felista, one of our administration volunteers, who lives off campus. *illumination* CEO, Shane Thatcher, visited the school to set up the joint venture. During his visit Shane was able to show his company's sponsored student, Bakari, how the innovative lights operate. For more information please visit: <http://illuminationhq.com/>



## Visitor becomes a Volunteer

"The July Tour really did exceed all of my expectations due to the diversity of every moment. Each day was a new, unique experience, from kissing a giraffe, to wandering through coffee plantations in the tranquility of Mount Meru. We had the opportunity to learn the history of the Maasai people exploring the Monduli Markets and were invited inside a traditional boma (home). Within minutes of entering the Ngorongoro Crater we were surrounded by hundreds of delightful Zebras and nothing will compare to the cuddles we received at the orphanage in Arusha and the way we were welcomed by the children's families during our home visits. The trip was life changing as it really demonstrated the power of the human spirit and the resilience of people far less fortunate than ourselves.

I was so impressed by the vision of St Jude's and the fabulous team of people ensuring a quality education for the poorest children in Africa, that I applied for a position as a Teacher Mentor and will be returning in November."

**Michelle Conlon**





## WE NEED YOU NOW!!

### Secondary Teacher Mentors (in particular Maths and English) and ESL Teachers

St Jude's is committed to supporting the community and provides employment to over 350 Tanzanians creating a widespread ripple effect. However, for specialised positions, where we are not able to employ a Tanzanian, we rely on volunteers from abroad. As a volunteer you have the opportunity of using your skills and experience in an environment where they contribute to the fundamental change that is taking place in the lives of almost 1500 academically bright and desperately poor students. If you are looking to recharge your soul, have some time out or feel like giving back, please have a look at our list of vacancies. We know you will love joining the St Jude's family of volunteers.

#### To be a successful St Jude's volunteer, you will:

- Be flexible, open-minded, tolerant and appreciate the complexities of working in a rapidly growing charity in a developing country
- Have a passion for our mission and a strong desire to make a positive difference performing a variety of tasks; from the mundane to the fun and interesting!
- Work well independently and as part of a team of Tanzanian staff and international volunteers
- Have good emotional and physical health and the energy and drive to take on new and rewarding challenges.

#### Current volunteer positions available include:

- Secondary Teacher Mentors
- Primary Teacher Mentors
- ESL Teachers
- Marketing Strategy Manager
- General Administration positions and various short term positions.



#### WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR??

**Come join  
the  
St Jude's  
volunteer  
family!**



For further details and information about all of our volunteer positions,  
please visit: [www.schoolofstjude.co.tz](http://www.schoolofstjude.co.tz)  
or contact St Jude's at [info@schoolofstjude.co.tz](mailto:info@schoolofstjude.co.tz)

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