

Kenyan school project building up momentum



ANOTHER BRICK IN THE WALL: Architectural philanthropists Georgia Bowen, CC Ip, Kirstin Hume-Grimm, Amber Lush and Harriet Stone from bricks + cartwheels are one step closer to fulfilling their dream of helping a community in need.

Photo: MARGARET FULLICH 0614mfbrick1

By TRACEY PRISK

ARCHITECT Harriet Stone and a team of her philanthropic friends, known as bricks + cartwheels, are one step closer to fulfilling their dream of opening a secondary school for girls in the Kenyan village of Katolo following a successful fundraiser held at the Park View Hotel on Saturday night.

With some \$40,000 needed to start stage one of the school's development, the \$5000 raised will go a long way towards ensuring a bore hole is drilled and building commenced, according to Ms Stone who says the group is now only \$15,000 shy of its first-stage target.

"Only 12 per cent of local girls get a secondary school education so we hope we can help these girls get an education," she said.

Formed in 2006 while Stone, Amber Lush, Georgia Bowen, CC Ip and Kirstin Hume-Grimm were all studying at the University of Sydney, the group has big plans for the future.

"Since starting the organisation we have begun fundraising, holding events in Sydney and events in conjunction with the university," said Ms Stone.

"... we were happy to tackle a shed or something smaller but we ended up with a whole school!"

"We have a growing number of volunteers that help with fundraising and research for the project and we are also a project registered with Rotary, working closely with the local Rotary club of Kisumu in Kenya.

"It was our dream to do a building project for a community as we feel that good design needs to be available to

everyone, we were happy to tackle a shed or something smaller but we ended up with a whole school!

"It will be a community run school with the emphasis on generating activities that strengthen the knowledge, abilities and skills of the community," said Ms Stone.

The group will be heading to Kenya in January to start site works and to do some community surveys and workshops which will involve design solutions and training for the locals.

"We see the project being a prototype for future building in the local area," said Ms Stone.

"It is imperative that the community takes ownership of the project so that we aren't just going in and imposing our ideas on how it should be done! This in turn will create a sustainable future for the school and the community."

Anyone interested in donating to the school can do so online via <http://www.bricksandcartwheels.org/donate.html>.



The Diary

Olivia Sargent

Phone 6391 2916

ourtown.orange@ruralpress.com

WEDNESDAY

□ Orange Bird Society meets in the committee room at Orange Civic Centre, 7.30pm.

□ Canobolas Apex Club meets at the Victoria Hotel, 6.30pm for 7pm. Contact James 6361-7721.

□ North Orange Probus Club meets at Duntryleague, 10am. Contact 6362-6916.

□ Legacy Laurel Club meets at Legacy House, McNamara St, 2pm. Contact Marjorie Parish 6362-9847.

□ Little Fishes Playgroup, West Orange Baptist Church, 85 Molong Rd. 10am to noon. Contact Meriam Johnson 0409 814 617.

□ Orange Needlecraft Group meets at 9.30am. Contact Frances 6362-2645 or Ruth 6366-3025.

□ Immunisation clinic, Community Health Centre, 129 Sale Street, 2pm to 6pm. Contact 6393-3300.

□ Heart Foundation Walking, 9am, Gosling Creek. Contact John 6362-1893.

□ Mustard Tree Cafe, Wesley Uniting Church Parish Centre, noon. Bookings 6362-5788.

□ Orange Lacemakers meet at the Cultural Centre, Sale St, 2pm to 5pm. Contact Sandy 6362-7938.

□ Legacy meets for bingo at Legacy House, McNamara Street, 2pm. Contact 6360-0016.

□ Lapidary Club meets for classes at the Cultural Centre, 9am to noon or 7pm to 9pm.

□ Free, confidential women's health clinic at the Community Health Centre, 96 Kite St, 3pm to 7pm. Appointments necessary. Contact 6392-8600.

□ Orange Senior Citizens Association social morning, 9.30am, bingo, 1pm, at the centre, 77 Kite St. Contact 6362-6592.

□ Orange Playgroup, Five Ways Uniting Church, 10am to noon. Contact Tonya 6369-1448.

□ Storytime at Orange City Library, 11am, Contact Peter Douglass 6393-8132.

□ West Orange Playgroup, Girl Guide Hall, 10am to noon. Contact Amanda 6369-0686.

□ Little Fishes Playgroup, West Orange Baptist Church, 85 Molong Rd. 10am to noon. Contact Meriam 0409 814 617.

□ Friends of the Orange Botanic Gardens weeding, planting and potting at the gardens, Kearneys Drive, 9am to noon. Come with gloves, fork and secateurs.

□ Self-management and recovery training from problematic drug or alcohol use, 7pm to 8.30pm, Cadia House, 89 March Street. Contact 6369-1566 or 0429 158 171.

□ Rotary Club of Orange CBD meets at 6pm in the Park View Hotel. Contact Allison 0416 251 774.

□ For free, confidential tenants' advice call the South West Tenants' Advice Service on 1800 642 609.

□ Bingo at Hotel Orange, 11am to 1pm, includes tea/coffee. Everyone welcome, proceeds go to Ronald McDonald House Central West.

□ Free Sahaja Yoga Meditation classes are held at 7.30p in the HACC Centre, 256 Lords Place. Contact 6368-2368.

□ The Royal Hotel hosts trivia at 7.30pm, raising money for Camp Quality.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO START A BUSINESS?

Are you going to start your own business?

Expand your existing business?

Run your existing business better?

Then contact the team at the **Business Enterprise Centre** for confidential and professional advice. Ring and make an appointment today on **1300 650058** or call into our offices at **144 Lords Place ORANGE**



Central West Business Advisory Service
1300 650 058



Department of State and Regional Development

Queen's Birthday honours for local identities

SEVERAL people throughout the electorate have been recognised for their work through the Queen's Birthday honours list.

It is great to see so many local people recognised for such a variety of work. The fact that people who live in smaller regional and rural areas can be acknowledged for their outstanding community work in the same way as those who are more high profile has always been something that I have taken great pride in as an Australian.

Testing the water

WITH a shorter working week due to the Queen's Birthday long weekend, I took the opportunity to meet with some of our irrigators and water users in NSW and South



Federal View

John Cobb

Australia.

As the shadow minister responsible for rural and regional water, it is essential I get on the ground at some of these important irrigation areas in the Murray Darling Basin and talk to the people affected first-hand.

I know that there are a lot of people in the electorate, including Orange, who are also suffering from both a lack of water and a lack of direction in government water policy. These visits as part of my portfolio responsibilities also help to strengthen the arguments I

am able to put for local water users.

While there has been good rain in areas such as Bourke and Cowra over the past week or so and there will be a lot of sowing start and in some cases finish on the back of it, it certainly isn't enough to make any impact whatsoever on storage levels.

We can only hope this changes quickly and that we are able to make the most of the water we do have available in a sensible and sustainable way.

Blow to farmers

The announcement by Agriculture Minister Tony Burke that exception circumstances funding will be taken from Bourke and Brewarrina was a devastating blow. However news that the Bourke

RLPB has been re-instated is excellent. It must be said that I do appreciate the minister's efforts to work with his state counterpart to redraw some boundaries so that some farmers in that area can become EC eligible again. However, I maintain my long held stand, that some rain doesn't give farmers and their families and communities an immediate leg up and get them bringing in the cash.

At the same time, a report into a review of the rural lands protection boards was released and has been met with concern also. If the government accepts the report recommendation for the 47 boards to be amalgamated into 14 there will be some huge areas for staff - which I'm certain will be less than currently employed - to cover.

www.orange.yourguide.com.au