



IMPORTANT DATES

**March 31: 3rd
volunteer team
leaves for Kenya**

**July 19: Umoja
Annual Gala Dinner**

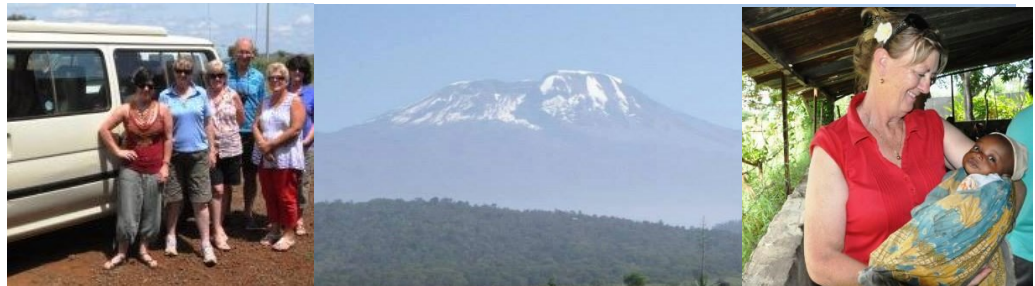
**September 14:
Umoja Golf Day
(Bargara Golf Club)**

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TRISH CONQUERS THE MOUNTAIN

Located in the East African nation of Tanzania, Mt. Kilimanjaro is the tallest mountain in Africa ranging over 19 000 ft. And **Trish Gilluley** is one of the lucky ones who knows the exhilarating feeling of standing on the very top of the snow-capped peak.



While volunteering with Umoja in January last year Trish enjoyed a four-day safari. Amboseli National Park features a stunning view of Mt. Kilimanjaro, which was enough to prompt Trish's promise to return to Africa to tackle the mountain. 'It was always on my bucket list to conquer Kilimanjaro,' says Trish, 'it was only a matter of when'. Little did she know that she would return within 12 months to summit the magical wonder.

Trish trekked Kokoda in 2011 so she knew that she would need to begin training as soon as her and a friend decided they would take up the challenge. To physically prepare herself, Trish ran up and down the 52 steps of an overpass in town and climbed Mt Archer. 'While working full time, we got a group together and tackled the mountain every Friday after work,' says Trish. Her training was interrupted when she had to travel to Scotland to take care of her mother; however, she simply incorporated her training into her daily trips to the hospital. 'My training then consisted of walking to the hospital every day, 3 miles, and stopping off about half way to climb 17 floors of a tower building where my best friend lived on the 17th floor.' Sadly, Trish's mum passed away in November, but we're sure she would have been proud of what her daughter achieved in the following months.

With the assistance of her trekking team, Escape Trekking Adventures, Trish finally stood at the top of Mt Kilimanjaro on Saturday, January 11 after 6 days of walking. Fortunately, Trish didn't suffer from the altitude sickness that forces many hopeful climbers to turn back each year. Trish considers Kili to be the toughest physical and mental challenge she has ever done, and she wishes to acknowledge her wonderful climbing team for their support.



'Through teamwork we beat the challenge of the mountain, and through hard work and fundraising I was able to raise well deserved dollars for the Umoja Children's Home'

Thank you Trish for all your hard work. We are so very proud of you, and the entire Umoja Team wish you all the best with your next challenge: The Great Wall of China.



**RAWCS Project No:
51/2011-2012**



**Proudly supported by
Rotary Club of
Bundaberg Sunrise**

UMOJA ORPHANAGE

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PERMACULTURE TRAINING IN KENYA

We are excited to announce that we have partnered with the **Permaculture Research Institute of Kenya** to help achieve our self-sustainable agriculture projects.

PRI Kenya is a non-profit organisation dedicated to promoting permaculture ethics and techniques through education. Their aim is to give East African communities the tools they need to build empowered, self sufficient, climate change resilient, healthy and food secure communities.



Permaculture is a contraction of 'permanent' + 'agriculture', meaning that it creates self-maintained agricultural systems that allow humans and nature to work together harmoniously.

Umoja's vision is to help children and communities break the cycle of poverty. So not only will we use Permaculture practices to make the most of our farming and food production for our children and staff, but we will also educate the locals. Providing local communities with employment opportunities and life-saving farming skills will give them food security for the future. This is a very important initiative for our team.



Joseph from PRI Kenya visiting the Umoja site in Kenya

The next group of volunteers will pair up with locals to undergo Permaculture training. We will also be planting fruit trees, setting up a nursery, erecting sheds for cows and chickens, and building a dry composting toilet and shower block.

MEET MATT HILLS

Matt Hills, from Alexandra Headlands, is our latest volunteer to undertake a sponsored climb of Mt Kilimanjaro.

He was inspired by his mother's trip to Africa as one of the first Umoja volunteers. He will join his mum Leoni Hills in March when they head to Kenya for the next voluntourism tour. Matt hopes to reach the summit of Kili on April 22nd.



To donate to Matt's Kili Challenge, please visit <http://umojahome.com/kenya/matts-kili-challenge/>

You can follow Matt's progress by liking the **Climb Kili For Kenyan Kids** Facebook page.

If you think you have what it takes to take on the mountain, please e-mail info@umojahome.com

CATHY AND LESLEY INDUCTED INTO NEW ROTARY CLUB

On Saturday, 15th February, Cathy and Lesley were inducted into their new Rotary Club: Rotary E-Club NextGen.

They enjoyed a lovely morning at the Palm Beach Surf Club along with Shepparton Central Rotarian Wayne Limbrick and his wife Pam who were visiting from Victoria.



The Umoja team wish to thank the following people for their support:

- **Norma Tanna** (Gladstone) for her donation of second-hand reading glasses
- **Mrs. Mullane** for donating toothbrushes, toothpaste, children's underwear, and baby towels.
- **Bunny Realf** for donating children's underwear
- **Soni & Narelle** (Gladstone Power Station) for donating first aid equipment
- **Daryl Shaw** (Tannum Sands) for donating two sets of soccer shirts
- **Biloela Rotary Club** for all the boxes and boxes of paints. The kids will love it!
- **Robyn Edgar** for donating choir uniforms
- **Beryl Taite** for knitting over 50 baby suits
- **Annette Newsham** for 3rd donation of baby clothes
- **Michelle Dowling** for giving balloons and bubble blowers to take to Kenya
- **Dr, John Quale** for his project advice



There have been some very busy ladies knitting some very beautiful dolls over the last few months for children in Kenya.

A special thank you must go to **Yvonne Sharkie, Julie Gudgeon, Mrs. W Willis, Merrian Ross,** and the lovely ladies from **Settlers in Gladstone** for taking the time to hand make these dolls and stuffed animals.



The children who are lucky enough to receive these dolls will cherish them with all their hearts. You have made so many children very, very happy. Thank you for sharing your talents and your kindness. *Asante.*

UMOJA GALA DINNER TO CELEBRATE THE AFRICAN SPIRIT

It's that time of year again when the Umoja Team start organising the Gala Dinner, our biggest fundraiser for the year.

Last year's theme was *Casino Royale*, and our 150 guests enjoyed a lovely three-course dinner and some great local entertainment and casino fun.

This year's event has been inspired by *Harambee*—a Swahili tradition of all pulling together for one cause. To celebrate the

community spirit of Africa and of us all working together to achieve the extraordinary in Kenya, we have named this year's event **The Spirit of Africa Gala Dinner**.

The Gala Dinner will be held on **19 July at Brothers Sports Club**. Please join us as we take you to Africa for the evening and celebrate our success. It is sure to be a great night out, so mark the date in your calendars.



We are currently seeking event **sponsors and prizes for our auction**. If you would like a sponsorship proposal, please e-mail info@umojahome.com

Thank you to **Jetset Travel** in Gladstone for their donation of our great travel prize, **Penny Curd** for her offer to decorate our event again this year, and Adam Barton for designing our flyer.

So start getting together a group of friends for your table of 10 and thinking about how you can best show your tribal spirit—remember there will be prizes for best dressed. Ticket info will be available soon...

UMOJA WRITING COMPETITION

Future volunteer Donna Munroe has created the Umoja Writing Competition to help fund her June Volunteer Trip and to raise money for Umoja Orphanage.

Donna has a love of Africa and the written word so she decided to combine the two for Umoja. She has a background in the publishing industry as an editor and publicist and is looking forward to reading the entries.

To enter the writing contest, you must write \$1000 words on the theme of Africa as either:

- A travel article
- An essay
- Or short fiction.

First place receives a trophy and \$150, while 2nd receives \$50. The top three entries will also be published online.



An entry fee of \$25 is required. The competition closes on April 30, 2014.

For more information on the writing competition and to download the rules and entry form, please visit <http://umojawritingcomp.wordpress.com/>

Good luck!

UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

ABN: 90165041649

Charity No: CH2110

133 Barolin Esplanade

Coral Cove QLD 4670

Mobile: 0409 476 44

E-mail: info@umojahome.com

Website: <http://umojahome.com/>

**Together we achieve the
extraordinary**



Umoja Orphanage Kenya will offer a real alternative to child abandonment. Through a holistic care approach, we will give children a second chance at life and help communities break the cycle of poverty.

On 15 acres of fertile land in Ukunda, we are building a children's village to accommodate up to six children's homes and a small school. We hope to be self-sustainable by sourcing our own food from fruit and vegetable gardens, a piggery, and chicken and dairy farms. We also have our own safari side-business, which will generate profits back into the orphanage project. Donate to Umoja today and help orphaned and vulnerable children reach their full potential.



Find us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/umojakneya



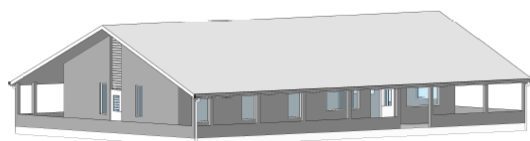
CATHY'S CORNER

Last year a lovely Rotarian Carol Gorton from Rockhampton South Rotary Club took the initiative and asked Russell Girle from **Thompson Adsett Architects** if they would be interested in designing our first children's home pro bono. Russell is the Regional Director (Rockhampton), and Thomson Adsett has had an office in Rockhampton since 1994, and has carried out a broad range of health care, aged care, education, retail, and residential projects—many of which have attracted widespread recognition. The Regional Queensland architecture studio is at the cutting-edge of regional design in Queensland and has received several design awards in recent years.

In August I met Russell and the wonderful Irish architect **Elvire Callaghan**. We discussed what our vision was for the children's homes: each individual house holding up to 10–12 children depending on ages and the African design style we would like for each home. Kenyan coastal climate is very similar to us here in Bundaberg; so, we wanted to harness the breezes, keep the building aesthetic as close to the land as possible, and use our Queensland style of open verandahs for outside living. Elvire opted to take on the challenge and she did a fantastic job for us, collaborating with our architect David Wambua in Mombasa, Kenya, as to structural and building requirements in Kenya. David is very thrilled to have had the opportunity to work with Australian designs, which are very new to him in Kenya. This relationship exemplifies true meaning of Umoja—working in unity for one cause. Elvire went above and beyond the project task, even organising where and how the houses would be placed on the land (as this design will be the same for all our children's homes). Words cannot express the thanks we have for these two wonderful people and are so proud to have had Elvire, Russell, and Thompson Adsett behind our children's home design. A huge Asante Sana from the entire Umoja Team.



PRELIMINARY 3D VIEW FRONT



Elvire Callaghan, Austin Grillmeier,
(past volunteer to Kenya for Umoja),
Jenny Grillmeier, Cathy Booth, Carol
Gorton, and **Russell Girle**

