



5TH SUCCESSFUL VOLUNTEER TOUR TO UMOJA PROJECT

On the 21st September 11 volunteers from various parts of Australia arrived in Kenya to work at the Umoja Project. Rotarians and non-Rotarians from Victoria, South Australia, Queensland & New South Wales worked extremely hard in many tasks at the project. In this issue we showcase photographically the fantastic work achieved.



On this page photographs of:

Training 6 locals in fencing with barbed wire

We now have 6 men in our community who can successfully fence unaided thanks to our volunteers.

Training 6 locals to erect an electric fence

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Three free health clinics were conducted to assist our local community. One of our volunteers Julie Andrew is a nurse and was assisted by another of our volunteers Kate Creswell who is a vet. They saw and were able to treat some of the approximately 181 patients over 3 morning clinics. The worst cases were advanced breast cancer, severe skin & fungal problems which had affected patients for years, mothers seeking help for their disabled children, eye problems, severe tinea in feet, and jiggers in feet (burrowing worm like creatures). All treatments and eye glasses were donated from Australia. Unfortunately further clinics could not be held as we ran short of supplies. Many patients were advised to seek doctor's assistance or dentist urgently, but with no money, the likelihood of this happening is remote. People had walked long distances to come and see us. It sure opened the eyes of our volunteers of the health problems here and we only touched the tip of the iceberg.



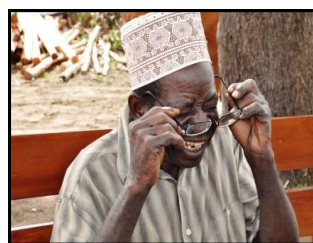
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Cathy proudly a member of Rotary NextGen E-Club

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Having a vet and nurse onsite to check the health of our animals was great. Kate & Julie were able to demonstrate basic health care and treatment to our employees and show them how to give injections to our cows, goats and guard dogs.

A huge problem here in Kenya are ticks. Tropical skin problems both for animals and humans are a huge problem as well. Most dairy cows are what is called 'zero grazing' here to help eliminate the acquisition of ticks. Our cows are not zero grazed but will now be confined to 1 area of the land which now has an electrified fence. The girls improvised and made a halter for each of the cows and goats. Many laughs were had watching Mzera our employee try to work out how to put the halter on the animals and give injections.



COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT WITH VOLUNTEERS—AN IMPORTANT PART OF THE PROJECT

Since the beginning of the project we have involved our local community in what we do. From the contractors we hire to do work on the project, it is a pre-requisite that they employ labour from our community, mamas to cook the food for the labour, and when we require casual labour we employ from our local community. When our volunteers come, we train members of our local community in the tasks we are undertaking, and have them interact so they can learn more English and feel they are valued in this project. To date we have involved well over 100 locals who have received casual income and skills which they otherwise would not have had. The interactions between our volunteers and locals is extremely rewarding for both cultures. This trip our local community invited our volunteers to visit their village, houses and their gardens (to show the skills they had learnt through our prior permaculture training.) and to welcome them to their community. It was a lovely gesture and one I'm sure our volunteers won't forget. With what little they had the villagers offered us all a coconut drink as part of our welcome.



PROGRESS ON FIRST CHILDREN'S HOUSE

UMOJA ORPHANAGE KENYA

ABN: 90165041649
Charity No: CH2110

133 Barolin Esplanade
Coral Cove QLD 4670

Mobile: 0409 476 444
E-mail: info@umojahome.com
Website: <http://umojahome.com/>

**Together we achieve the
extraordinary**



The first children's house currently is having its septic system constructed, electrical wiring and plumbing also is occurring. We still need \$17,000 USD to complete the first home. Our septic system will accommodate the first 3 children's houses. 3 Rotary Clubs have contributed to our septic system. A huge thank you to the Rotary Club of Numerkah in Victoria, Rotary Club of Gladstone, and the Rotary Club of Des Moines in USA.



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CATHY'S CORNER

Community involvement is imperative for a project like Umoja to function and progress long term. Not only are friendships built, but also skills to be learnt, and fun to be had. Bringing volunteers to Umoja takes a lot of planning and organisation and we now have had 53 volunteers work at the project. After the hard work on the land at the project, we take the volunteers on safari. More memorable moments are created here and our volunteers were treated to a spectacular amount of animals in Massai Mara National Park. A fitting way to end their time here in Kenya. A huge thank you to 'Team E' for your contribution to Umoja Orphanage Kenya Project. Words cannot express my thanks to you, your hard work for the project and the friendships we have built.

