

Rafiki Surgical Missions



Habari Gani

APRIL 2011

What's new from Rafiki Surgical Missions

'Mlipokea' Welcome to our newsletter

This is the third edition of our newsletter that will keep you up to date with the activities of Rafiki Surgical Missions. We hope that you will find it interesting and informative!

SPECIAL 2011 RAFIKI BALL AUCTION ITEM

There is a priceless opportunity heading our major auction items this year. Up for bidding is the opportunity for two people to travel along with one of our surgical mission teams to Tanzania in 2011/2012.

Included in the prize will be return flights from Perth to Tanzania for two people, one week travelling with the surgical team to experience what it is like for the medical volunteers on the missions, a flight from Dar es Salaam to Mafia Island to spend four nights at the Chole Mjini Lodge to enjoy daily snorkelling, and dhow trips in Mafia Bay plus much more. This is a once in a lifetime chance for two people to experience.



Everyone should now start planning their bids.

Spend time with the Rafiki patients and medical team and see what Rafiki is all about, then relax at the Chole Mijini Lodge on Mafia Island.

RAFIKI BALL 2011

Tables

It is time to start putting your tables together for this year's Rafiki Ball being held on Saturday 18th June 2011 at the Burswood Grand Ballroom. Tables consist of ten people so you should start organising your tables now.

Ball Gowns

Anyone who is a regular Rafiki Ball attendee would know that Ruth Tarvydas is one of our major Rafiki sponsors. This year Ruth has very kindly offered 20% off the price of her beautiful gowns for anyone that mentions Rafiki Surgical Missions to her. Please ask for Ruth when viewing the gowns in her King St premises.

Auction Items

We're still looking for people to donate anything big or small to the list of major or silent auction items, if you would like to donate anything please contact Lily Balfour at

info@asanterafiki.com

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VOLUNTEER FOCUS GILLIAN McCALLUM

As a new addition to our Rafiki updates, in each issue we are going to introduce to you some of our treasured volunteers. To kick off the profiles we thought there was no one more suitable than Gillian McCallum, Clinical Nurse for Plastic Surgery, Acting Clinical Nurse Manager of Theatre at St John of God Hospital and invaluable Rafiki volunteer.



This edition's volunteer:
Gillian McCallum
working with a
Tanzanian nurse

How many missions have you participated in?

I have been the Mission coordinator for Rafiki since 2006 and have organised all the missions since then, I have been to Tanzania with Rafiki 5 times and have also been away 5 times with other groups to Indonesia and the South Pacific.

Why did you decide to become involved with Rafiki Surgical Missions?

From the very first mission I ever went on I was hooked. I love

the people, they are so friendly and welcoming. I love Tanzania and I like being able to help out wherever I can.

Most memorable event whilst in Tanzania?

There are so many it's hard to choose but one of the many fantastic people we met was a man who was in his mid fifties, he wanted us to fix his cleft lip so he could get a wife. He had a huge unilateral cleft lip when we showed him his face in the mirror he was so excited and

happy because he said " I am so handsome now"!

We were fortunate to have been able to have caught up with him on a subsequent mission. Not only did he have a new wife but a new baby and he had become chief of his village.

Is there anything you would like to see happen in Rafiki's future?

I would like to see the development of several partner hospitals that we can develop on going relationships with I would like to increase our commitment and delivery of education.

If there is anything more you would like to add for our readers?

Yes I'd like to add a very warm thank-you to everyone who has participated and contributed in whatever way to Rafiki Surgical Missions, it is such a great organisation because people are so willing to give a little of themselves.





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CONTAINERS OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

Following our last newsletter in December, our supply of donated medical equipment to Tanzanian hospitals has continued at great pace with another 4 containers being packed (in record time) by our heavy lifting volunteers. An example of some of the equipment we are sending across are numerous items of general hospital supplies, birthing tables, hospital beds, wheel chairs, mattresses and different types of walking aids. We would like to thank Administration Manager Tracy Hollwarth, WA Health Department and Neil Anderson of GKR Transport for all their support.

If you are aware of any equipment that can be donated to Rafiki and sent to Tanzania, please contact Tracy Hollwarth on ashcott@upnaway.com



Four containers full of hospital equipment will be heading to Tanzania

MISSION UPDATE

Our surgical missions for this year have been booked in for May, August and November. For our May trip we have been invited back for a second expedition to Sekou Toure Hospital which is a small hospital in Mwanza. We are very much looking forward to the opportunity to return to this hospital.

GHAWA TANZANIAN TRIP NOVEMBER 2010

In the December issue of Habari Gani we reported on the formal launch of Global Health Alliance Western Australia which supports the World Health Organisation's Millennium Goals. A group of WA student nurses who took part in the first trip in November 2010, lead by Professor Mark Jones. Professor Jones said that "every student should be proud of their achievement." He also commented that "the experience tested everything these student nurses have learnt over their entire university careers."

WA Health Chief Nurse and Midwifery Officer, Adjunct Associate Professor Catherine Stoddart was also in Tanzania during the students' trip. With the Tanzanian Chief Nurse, Ms Stoddart lead workshops with senior nursing colleagues to plan strategic initiatives in education, clinical training, research and leadership development that could help support and improve nursing and midwifery in Tanzania over the coming years.