

*Knitting for the Vulnerable Children of the World*

**Newsletter 2 for 2010**

Thanks to all of you who are continuing to support this project both with supplying knitted goods and also in a monetary manner. Without those that give money donations we could not continue.

**Foundations World Wide – Ford and Joyce Pratt**, have just sent another container to Romania and hundreds of your knitted jumpers, hats, socks, blankets and dolls were in it. Ford hopes it will arrive in four weeks. Can you imagine the joy of the children when the container is unpacked.

It is so good to know that your knitted goods go to such a worthwhile cause and we thank Ford for continually sending these containers to those less fortunate than ourselves.

Patti Cotton has also taken many bags of your knitting. Patti has a team of people in Bendigo who sort, pack and sew squares into blankets. She is involved in sending many containers to East Timor throughout the year.

If you hear of any containers going overseas or if you are visiting a country and would like to take some items with you let me know.

Thank you to Barbara and her helpers for looking after the project whilst I am away.

**Greetings from SEFHARE - Botswana**

Sr. Frances Boston had a short visit to her family here in Victoria and on her return she sent family and friends a letter. The following is some of the content that I thought you might find interesting.

Although Frances sent a number of parcels back, her luggage was still overweight but fortunately she was waved through.

“On driving to Sefhare it became obvious that the promising rains of November had petered out in December, now all you could see was withered corn and sorghum stalks in the fields. But what was in abundance was water melons. For months truck loads and donkey carts laden with produce have been trundling into the village. Throughout the village you can see people sitting in a circle sharing a water melon which has been cut in a special way and every bite is relished.

An area south of Tswapong is renowned for brewing water melon beer. If you see a crowd gathered under a tree with a 50 – 100 litre drum in the middle you can be sure this is a water melon beer outlet.

Paper Bead making is still in full production. A special order came from a football club in America to make 300 guest bracelets to be given out at the football World cup in SA in honor of Archbishop Desmond Tutu

Sponsors have been found for some students to study Form 3 through Botswana’s distance learning program. It will take them approximately 2 years to do Form 3. Each week the students spend afternoons weeding and clearing to earn money to buy a uniform.

Frances has been running a program of a supplementary feeding scheme for undernourished babies, some families are HIV positive. This year Frances is shifting from buying basic food items and formula supplements to a new supplementary food formula produced in Botswana. Though expensive, it promises to suit the needs of approximately 60 who are on the scheme.

For the last two years a construction team has dug open drains across the village to take off the excess water especially during heavy storms. A tremendous downpour causing extensive flooding and filled the drains which carried the raging water out of the village. Now we know they work.”

**News from Oasis – Ethiopia**

His mother died last October, never knew his Dad, alone and in a refugee camp – but who is he? Could he be resettled in another country, was he refugee or Ethiopian? No one seemed to know, his care givers were leaving for USA, but what of Henock? He came to us. One young man who has lived for six years in the refugee camp visited to say goodbye. The man wept the little boy stroked his hands telling him all

would be well. "Thank you and this is a good place- there is food, blankets and other children" the house is called Cherenet- kindness. May kindness be found therein.

A motorbike has been purchased for the childcare worker so that he can go and visit the schools and children in their homes with greater ease.

Children everywhere, in shelters, on the road, in the playing fields, in the houses and still more arrive between 20-30 youngsters per week. Tents were put up but were not safe. now the older teens have moved to start building their own houses, thus making room for the newcomers. They have now purchased a cow and ate meat-what luxury. The usual diet is ground pulses over Injera bread, onions and potatoes.

### **Women for Women in Africa**

Marguerite reports that Annette Kuleska and her husband visited Kenya and spent a day in Nairobi visiting the school and spending time with the staff. Annette says seeing Kibera with our own eyes and meeting the amazing people that call Kibera home, the sewing ladies and seeing the difference that WFWIA makes to many lives was an inspiration to us.

Despite the heartbreak and disastrous living conditions these people still manage to smile. Driving to the Safari Parks, from Nairobi was a hugh eye-opener. The extent of human struggle is overwhelming. Annette came back feeling in awe of these amazing people and feels privileged that she was able to see firsthand how we make a difference to a few.

If you would like to read the full newsletter go to [www.womenforwomenin africa](http://www.womenforwomenin africa)

U3A have a link on their website for the knitting project. The latest newsletter can be seen there. [www.u3anunawading.com.au](http://www.u3anunawading.com.au)

Remember if you wish to make a donation for the *knitting project* please make your cheque or money order payable to U3A Nunawading and a receipt will be issued accordingly.

**Blankets, Jumpers for primary age children,** Hats, scarves, ponchos, blankets, socks, dolls or teddies is what is required. Feel free to use any pattern or the large jumper pattern that we can supply.

If you are not on email and would like to receive the quarterly newsletter, enclose a stamped addressed envelope with your knitting or ask for one from the office staff at U3A when you drop your bags in.

### **Knitting Deliveries**

**Knitting from within Victoria (delivery & postage) to be sent to Nunawading University of the Third Age. Nunawading Community Centre, 16-20 Silver Grove. Nunawading. 3131. Melways ref 48/E/9. Between the hours of 9.30 am to 3pm Monday to Thursday, 9.30 – 12.00 Friday. During the school term. If you are unable to deliver during these times please telephone 03 9878 3898 to make other arrangements.**

**If you would like to know about any of the drop off points we have either in Victoria or interstate please call the office or email [elsiem@bigpond.net.au](mailto:elsiem@bigpond.net.au)**

**Thank you from Elsie and U3A Nunawading for the Vulnerable Children of the world project.**

