

10.6 Community Donations.DOC

Sandra Bailey

From: Samantha Handley on behalf of Ballina Shire Council
Sent: Monday, 12 May 2014 8:35 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: TRIM: FW: Hope Road: Walk for South Sudan - A request for Council support
Attachments: HopeRoadIntinerary[PublicDistribution_Final].doc; QuickFacts-SSOE-Zacharia_Final.doc

HP TRIM Record Number: 14/29968

From: Chris Geagea [mailto:chris.gea@bigpond.com]
Sent: Friday, 9 May 2014 4:38 PM
To: Ballina Shire Council; Councillor David Wright
Subject: Hope Road: Walk for South Sudan - A request for Council support

May 9, 2014

Chris Geagea, Hope Road Committee Member,
South Sudan Orphan Education
chris.gea@bigpond.com or soesprogram@gmail.com 0425 212 518

Dear Councillor David Wright, Mayor of Ballina Shire
and Councillors

I am writing to ask for your support for a charitable event called the **Hope Road Walk** that I'm helping to organise for South Sudan Orphan Education (SSOE). The Hope Road Walk is a forty day walk, by Zacharia Machiek and walking companions, through the cities and towns of northern New South Wales during June and July of this year. The walk will take Zacharia and his companions from Tweed Heads to Sydney. The walkers will be in your council region on the 20th, 21th and 22th of June.

SSOE, made up of teachers, media and business professionals and others supports the vision of Zacharia to build a school in the area where he was born.

Zacharia is one of the "lost boys" of South Sudan who as a child was separated from his family and barely survived while fleeing from the terrible conflicts that racked his country. A little of his story is told in the attached Quick Facts page.

Recently, after years of separation, Zacharia was able to re-establish contacts with family and community. The people in Zacharia's village of Abyei Achok impressed upon him the importance of a greatly increased provision of educational services, especially for girls, to meet current needs there. In his consultations with local people, the idea of building a primary school was born. The villagers of Abyei Achok have enthusiastically embraced the idea and have already manufactured 20,000 bricks to be used in school construction.

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The Hope Road Walk is motivated by Zacharia's vision of hope for his homeland and belief in the good will and generosity of ordinary Australians. On the Hope Road walk, Zacharia will be meeting with Australians from all walks of life and talking to them about his vision.

A fuller picture of the goals of the Hope Road Walk and project can be gained by consulting the public announcement of the project found at <http://www.ssoe.org.au/the-hope-road-project/>.

Hope Road will attract strong media interest. An acclaimed Australian documentary film-maker is part of the Hope Road crew and will be recording the Walk. We also have the services of a professional publicist who will be communicating with media, education institutions and supporters throughout.

Any Council sponsored activity will figure prominently in our public statements, media releases, on our website and the Facebook page for the Walk.

There are some things that your Council could consider which would be a great support to us.

- Host a civic reception, public event or fundraiser in either Lennox Head (June 20), Ballina (June 21) or Alstonville (June 22) or several of these locations for the Hope Road project – Zacharia would be glad to give a presentation. An early evening schedule would be best for such events.
- Offer the free use of a hall or venue for the conduct of a public event.
- Provide a PA or AV system and a skilled operator for it.
- Make a monetary contribution to the project (we will announce a special webpage to accept contributions soon).
- Promote the Hope Road project and any special public event hosted by Council in informational and promotional material issued by Council.
- Write articles for the press in your area about the Hope Road Walk.

SSOE is able to give support to any reception or event that you may host.

A Study Guide about the Hope Road Walk and project has been widely distributed to schools in northern New South Wales. We expect a lot of interest about the Walk from that sector. We will also be making contact with other local organisations and churches along the way.

The Hope Road Walk project is supported by Rotary. Donations greater than \$2 are tax deductible.

Yours sincerely
Christopher Geagea
Hope Road Committee Member

Attachments:

Hope Road Itinerary
Quick Facts about Hope Road

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Hope Road Contacts and Other Information

www.ssoe.org.au

soesprogram@gmail.com

Janet Dyne, Hope Road Co-ordinator, South Sudan Orphan Education

janet.dyne@gmail.com 0402 722 053

Chris Geagea, Secretary, South Sudan Orphan Education and

Hope Road Committee Member

chris.gea@bigpond.com or soesprogram@gmail.com 0425 212 518



This email is free from viruses and malware because [avast! Antivirus](#) protection is active.

Quick Facts on South Sudan Orphan Education and Zacharia Machiek

South Sudan Orphan Education, the organisation behind the walk.

South Sudan Orphan Education (SSOE, formerly known as SOES) was incorporated as a community association and is governed by a volunteer management committee. Over the last few years the group has been conducting regular fundraising projects such as dinners, auctions and concerts. In 2012 the funds generated enabled Zacharia to embark on the initial phase of the project. By the end of 2013 local people in the village of Abyei Achok had manufactured 20,000 bricks, and drawings (currently under review) for building work had been prepared. At the moment, perimeter fences are being erected and the drilling of a bore to provide water for the school will follow. With the sinking of the bore the initial phase will be complete. The next stage will be to commence work on the school buildings.

Zacharia's story

Zacharia Machiek is lucky to be alive. His life began in a cattle camp, and his duties, as a young child, included taking the cattle out all day to water and pasture. He also had to defend the cattle from wild animals, including lions, bringing them back to the camp at night. In 1985 when the army from the North arrived – burning villages and killing civilians, Zacharia and other people fled and began a long walk into Ethiopia with men, women and children making their way along on this perilous trek. The hardships of the walk were too much for some and despite having escaped the violence that had engulfed their villages there were many people who could not survive the walk and perished along the way. Many "Lost Boys", orphaned during the war were collected together in Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) training camps to form the Red Army made up of child soldiers. Zacharia didn't feel safe in this environment, so with the other surviving boy from his village, he decided to set off back to his home. He barely survived, but eventually found his way to Kenya along with many other Lost Boys, to the UN run Kakuma refugee camp. Despite life in Kakuma being very tough, Zacharia was able to continue his interrupted schooling. From the group of six boys from his village he was now the last one to survive. Eventually after spending 11 years in refugee camps, Zacharia was resettled Australia.

Hope Road Walk Itinerary

Day	Date	Departing	Arriving	Other
1	Mon 16 th June	Tweed River High School, Tweed Heads	Murwillumbah	
2	Tue 17 th June	Murwillumbah	Crabbes Creek	
3	Wed 18 th June	Crabbes Creek	Mullumbimby	
4	Thur 19 th June	Mullumbimby	Byron Bay	
5	Fri 20 th June	Byron Bay	Lennox Head	
6	Sat 21 st June	Lennox Head	Ballina	
7	Sun 22 nd June	Ballina	Alstonville	
8	Mon 23 rd June	Alstonville	Lismore	
9	Tue 24 th June	Lismore	Coraki	
10	Wed 25 th June	Coraki	Woodburn	
11	Thur 26 th June	Woodburn	Clarence River region	
12	Fri 27 th June	Clarence River region	Yamba	

13	Sat 28 th June	Yamba	Lawrence
14	Sun 29 th June	Lawrence	Grafton
15	Mon 30 th June	Grafton	Grafton region
16	Tue 1 st July	Grafton region	Grafton region
17	Wed 2 nd July	Grafton region	Corindi Beach
18	Thur 3 rd July	Corindi Beach	Woolgoolga
19	Fri 4 th July	Woolgoolga	Coffs Harbour
20	Sat 5 th July	Coffs Harbour	Urunga
21	Sun 6 th July	Urunga	Nambucca
22	Mon 7 th July	Nambucca	Macksville
23	Tue 8 th July	Macksville	Kempsey region
24	Wed 9 th July	Kempsey region	Kempsey region
25	Thur 10 th July	Kempsey	Crescent Head
26	Fri 11 th July	Crescent Head	Port Macquarie region
27	Sat 12 th July	Port Macquarie region	Port Macquarie
28	Sun 13 th July	Port Macquarie	Laurieton

29	Mon 14 th July	Laurieton	Lansdowne Area
30	Tue 15 th July	Lansdowne Area	Taree
31	Wed 16 th July	Taree	Forster
32	Thur 17 th July	Forster	Smith's Lake
33	Fri 18 th July	Smith's Lake	Bulahdelah
34	Sat 19 th July	Bulahdelah	Tea Gardens
35	Sun 20 th July	Tea Gardens	Nelson's Bay Area
36	Mon 21 st July	Nelson's Bay Area	Newcastle
37	Tue 22 nd July	Newcastle	Caves Beach
38	Wed 23 rd July	Caves Beach	Budgewoi
39	Thur 24 th July	Budgewoi	Terrigal
40	Fri 25 th July	Terrigal	Pittwater Area
41	Sat 26 th July	Pittwater Area	North Sydney
42	Sun 27 th July	North Sydney	St Mary's Cathedral, Sydney

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Sandra Bailey

From: Sandra Bailey
Sent: Wednesday, 14 May 2014 9:55 AM
To: Sandra Bailey
Subject: FW: Empower U course for teenagers.
Attachments: Application for Room Sponsorship to Ballina Council.doc

HP TRIM Record Number: 14/29901

From: Warzecha Bozena [<mailto:bowarzecha@yahoo.com>]
Sent: Tuesday, 13 May 2014 4:26 PM
To: Sarah Carden
Subject: TRIM: Re: Empower U course for teenagers.

Hi Sarah.

Together with Tim Apps, I am the Empower U course organizer for the teenagers on the 27th - 29th June.

We have receive your form and read all through it, but could not find a category we fall under since we are not asking for money or repairs to the hall etc, just a loan of the room for 3 days while we run the course. There will be absolutely no funds required from the council, only the space.

I have written the the letter explaining what we are planning to do, which I am attaching.

We are prepared to contact all the councillors if necessary to get this use of the hall approved in time, as the course has to run on the dates above because those are the only ones which suit the presenter before he flies out of the country.

Please help us to do this MASSIVE educational event for the local youth, since we have worked **so hard** to organize this workshop and so many of local community are involved.

Please just let us know how we can make it happen with the hall so that we can extend this education to kids who cannot afford to access it otherwise.

I hope to hear from you soon
Boshena Warzecha

To: Ballina Shire Council

Cherry St

Ballina 2478 NSW

Application for Room Sponsorship for 27th-29th of June

Would you like to be a part of a change of a massive scale in Ballina Shire?

Dear Ballina Councillors

We are two local residents, Boshena Warzecha and Tim Apps, who have been **working with young people** for the last 7 years, both as foster parents and Tim volunteering in RSL Sub Branch youth club and as a Superintendent for the past 2 years.

Through our work we have seen not only the **wonderful potential** that young people in the Ballina area possess but also how that potential is dissipated by a **perceived lack of opportunities and direction** that is prevalent in a large section of the local youth.

While we have been struggling for years to help kids with this feeling of hopelessness about their future and Employment, we have finally got a stroke of luck with discovering a 2 ½ days program which is run in an atmosphere of fun, challenge and solid learning. It is an **education which totally changes kids' attitudes and outlook for their future.**

The program is "Empower U" and is run by a young businessman and a filmmaker Brent Williams (www.tomorrowyouth.com.au) who has been running the youth courses worldwide for the last 10 years now with outstanding results. The program teaches things like:

- Goal setting
- How to research and choose a career
- Wealth creation
- How to set up your own business
- Advanced communication skills

To date we have sent 3 kids to the course and have seen a **HUGE change** in their attitude including improved study habits, better relationships with parents and teachers, disinterest in alcohol and drugs and taking responsibility for own life.

The results are SO impressive, that **we decided to bring the course to Ballina Shire** and instead of changing the lives of few kids, give a chance to 60 of them!

There is no doubt in our mind that improving the attitude of 60 young people over such a short period of time will bring MASSIVE benefits to the Ballina Shire. Not only will they have learned those New Advanced Living Skills themselves, but they will have a ready-made peer support group to keep them “in the zone”. There is no monetary value you can put on benefits it will create for all the young people in the area.

To bring this change about we have teamed up with Northern NSW Lions Clubs who are heavily contributing to the cost of the course so that we were able to reduce the cost of the course from \$495/participant to \$50 each.

We have had **an amazing response** and half of the places are gone already, many to **disadvantaged youth**.

The course will be run on Friday 27th to Sunday 29th June. We are aware that the rooms at Ballina – Lismore Surf Life Saving Club are available on those days and we would like to run the course there.

To date, **everybody who is involved with the course is donating their hours and effort for free** or greatly reduced fee.

In fact, the only people who will be paid (fee reduced by 2/3) will be the presenter – Brent Williams and his 3 assistants, who will take time out of their weekend family time to run the course for us.

- Lions have not only given us a grant but will be providing lunches on 2 days for all the kids and helpers.
- The 3 foster teenagers whom we previously sent to Sydney to attend the course and who came back with totally changed outlook on life will be volunteering as helpers.
- It goes even without saying that both of us have put many hours and effort totally free to bring this life-changing education to the youth of Northern Rivers.

Since so many community members will be not only deeply involved with making the course happen, but will also benefit from its results, **we would love to be able to advertise** to the parents and the local press and radio that **Ballina council has also taken a large part in supporting the local youth** by donating the venue at the Surf Life Saving Club for the duration of the course.

Please help us to help ourselves and make the future of our kids and AWESOME one by approving this application.

Sincerely

Boshena Warzecha and Tim Apps

Ph. 0412734454

13th May 2014 Ballina