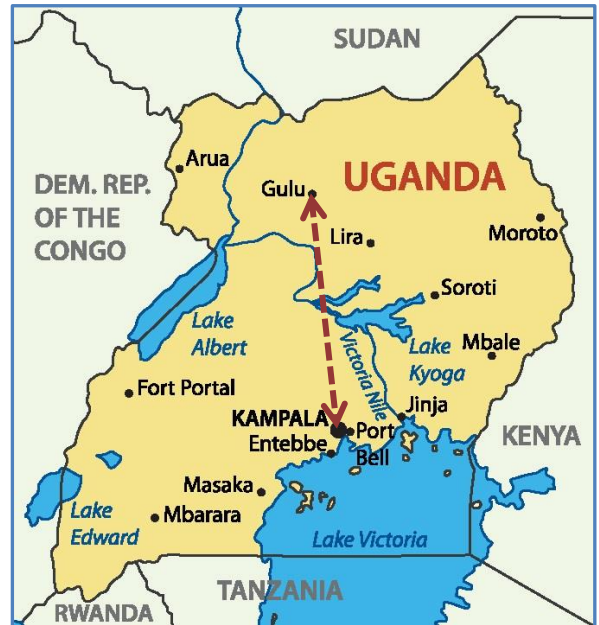


MY AMAZING JOURNEY TO UGANDA

by Michael Redding

I arrived in Uganda on October 25. Chris met me at Entebbe Airport which is in Kampala, the capital city of Uganda. He had travelled 400km south from his home in Gulu, a major town in northern Uganda.



I stayed 5 nights in Gulu in a house adjacent to Chris and his wife Sarah (Knight) and spent lots of time with the family. They have 3 children - Zack (5 yrs), Eli (4 yrs) and Lillie (4 yrs).



Chris showed me a lot of the country and the various interests and projects in which he is actively involved.

Chris and Sarah are focusing their efforts in working to improve the lives and opportunities for the very poor people living in the villages who survive by farming the land.



After the first night in Kampala we set off to Hoima and visited the nearby Sir Tito Winyi Senior Secondary School - a boarding school which Chris attended and which was also the location for the Werribee Rotary Water Project. This has been a wonderfully successful project and greatly appreciated by everyone at the school. Funding for schools is very limited in Uganda.



Chris took me to the 3 sites around Gulu owned by the Tamarind charitable organisation, through which Chris and Sarah do all their work in Uganda.

The Operations Centre is 1.3 ha in area and about 6km from Gulu. Here there is a large training facility with family accommodation, now at lock-up stage - this is being funded by Tamarind supporters in Sydney. This centre will enable Chris to instruct, guide and motivate villagers to farm more productively with the aim of increasing their income.



There is a substantial water supply facility with a well, solar panel, pump house, two water tanks on a tower and two nearby water taps used by local villagers for fresh water - assisted by a gift from the Meredith goat farmer who was visited by Chris in 2016.



There is also a new goat shed nearby.

Chris has designed and project-managed all of these buildings - a most impressive achievement!

Near to the water towers, Chris showed me the site for the Chicken Shed Project which is being funded by Werribee Rotary.

He already has the poles for the chicken shed which have been drying for a year, together with piles of sand for the concrete.



Nearby, villagers break the stones for the concrete by hand.

I quickly got used to the typical Ugandan food and some Nile beer!



On Thursday November 2 the whole family drove me back to Entebbe airport for my return to London. Very sad farewells after my amazing adventure in Uganda.