



The Rotary Club of Adelaide South (RCAS) is raising funds to enable construction of three twin Birkats (cisterns or underground water storage systems) in the AFAR region of Ethiopia. The host sponsor is the Rotary club of Addis Ababa Bole (RC of AA Bole)

Background

This project started in 2012 following an address given to the annual Conference of District 9500 by Valerie Browning AO, the co-founder of APDA (the Afar Pastoralist Development Association). The project is RAWCS registered project 21 - 2012/2013. Contributions and donations are tax deductible.

Where is Ethiopia?

Ethiopia is Africa's oldest independent country and its second largest in terms of population. It served as a symbol of African independence throughout the colonial period, and was a founder member of the United Nations and the African base for many international organisations. Ethiopia has suffered periodic droughts and famines that led to a long civil conflict in the 20th Century and a border war with Eritrea.

Some facts about the AFAR region of Ethiopia:

The Afar Region of Ethiopia is one of the most arid, and hottest inhabited places on the planet, with temperatures regularly exceeding 50 degrees centigrade. The region is home to around two million nomadic or pastoralist people.

Women frequently walk up to twelve hours to collect water, and drought threatens their survival. About one third of the children die before the age of five and meeting basic health and sanitation levels is a struggle.



The Inspiration for the Project: Valerie Browning

In 1972 Valerie Browning was a young graduate nurse who went to Africa as a volunteer. Valerie worked in a Sudanese refugee camp and conflict-torn Eritrea and Djibouti for some time. Her experiences in Africa moved her greatly. She later moved to Ethiopia where she met her husband Ismael. Ismael is an Afar elder.

Valerie has addressed members of District 9500 on a number of occasions. The last such visit was in August 2017 when she addressed the District at a meeting organised by RC Adelaide South. Her address attracted interest from members of other clubs and from the District Executive.

If Rotarians can raise an additional \$AU6,500 three new Birkats costing \$US33,500 (\$AU42,900) can be built.



A Birkat is an underground water storage facility. A double Birkat can hold up to 220m³ of water for community use. Local community members carry out much of the work but materials need to be purchased. Because it is covered, the usual loss through evaporation is minimised and the water supply is protected against outside contamination.





Each Birkat costs \$11,000 US. With funds already raised by RCAS and some private pledges we have \$8,000.

We need \$14,500.

We are more than half way to providing three more Birkats in Ethiopia.

Where will the money come from?

Each Birkat costs \$US11,000. For three Birkats we need \$US33,000. Rotary (local & International) will provide various grants for \$23,000 US.

The balance needed is \$AU14,500 (depending on exchange rates) of which RC Adelaide South has allocated \$8,500, leaving only \$6,500 to be donated so the project can proceed.

"...any new cistern/Birkat is both lifesaving and adding to the ability to live a secure life with health and education - water means everything!"

Valerie Browning

Teshome Kebede (of RC of AA Bole) assured us that his club will ***".. make sure the resources you raise and entrust to us are expended 100% on the purposes you aspire to make the difference in the lives of the people in AFAR."***

HOW TO MAKE A DONATION

Go to RAWCS website: rawcs.org.au
Click on 'donate'
Click on 'Donate to a specific project'
Enter project number: "21"
Enter year: "2012-2013"
'Ethiopia Water Capture and Storage Project Afar Region' project will come up
click Donate

Add Donor details and amount of contribution

"Every single Birkat that is put in secures better safety for the pastoralists. Therefore we would deeply appreciate whatever is possible."

- Valerie Browning

RCAS acknowledges and thanks clubs which have contributed in the past, especially:

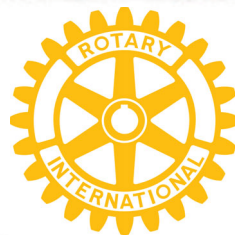
- I. Rotary Club of Morialta
- II. Rotary Club of Mt Barker
- III. Rotary Club of Adelaide
- IV. Rotary Club of Adelaide East
- V. Rotary Club of Adelaide West
- VI. Rotary Club of Largs Bay

NOTE these donations are tax deductible but only if the donation is paid directly to RAWCS. The deductibility will be lost if for example you were to pay into the RCAS charity account then to be passed on to the RAWCS.

Donations received from Clubs will be acknowledged publicly. Donations received from individuals will be treated as private and not for publication unless the donor authorises such disclosure. All donations will be the subject of a receipt from RAWCS.

RCAS has already provided 3 Birkats from our Charity fund raising activities and we are almost there with another three!

This brochure is issued by the Rotary Club of Adelaide South District 9500 and authorised by Club President Robert Gunn.
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***Birkat Funded by Rotary
implemented by APDA***

