

ATFSI newsletter, August 2016

2015 – 2016 AGM

Last month saw ATFSI's sixth Annual General Meeting – held on 9th July at St Matthew's Anglican Church, Kensington Road, Marryatville. It was a most successful evening, with the business meeting followed by a presentation from Drs. Derrick and Susan Selby, currently back from Tanzania, and a sumptuous BBQ meal featuring an amazing variety of salad dishes provided by our culinary talented committee members. In between we were once more privileged to enjoy genuine African entertainment provided by *African Soul*. As previously, this featured some physically demanding improvised dancing to the accompaniment of an eclectic musical ensemble.



While the obligatory grass skirt dance-wear was definitely more fetching on some than others, it was an opportunity to showcase the wide and rare talents of our ATFSI members – perhaps better for the rarer for some of us!



My sincere thanks to the heaps of 'behind the scenes' work by ATFSI

members that made the evening such a great success, and to St Matt's for again kindly providing such a great venue.

ATFSI AGM's are always an exciting event, open to all our supporters, so if you missed this year's, make sure you try to catch the 2016 – 2017 meeting!

The Abyssinian Restaurant fundraiser

In May ATFSI held a major fundraising event – a night of genuine Ethiopian fare and dancing, also featuring a traditional coffee ceremony, at the Abyssinian Restaurant on Henley Beach Road at Torrensville. It was a memorable evening with great food and yet another opportunity to participate in 'free movement' dancing! We all left feeling it had been good to eat well, enjoy each others' company, and learn some new facts about ATFSI's work.

It was also financially successful, raising in excess of \$2,700 to support ATFSI's objectives.



Restaurant fundraising will definitely be added to ATSF's arsenal of events, so watch out for the next date and location!

Container shipping

Meanwhile ATSF is on the cusp of sending a further container to Dar es Salaam, filled with donated medical equipment, particularly featuring:

- 5 ultrasound machines donated by Jones & Partners
- 5 sets of Operating Theatre Lights donated by Burnside War Memorial Hospital (one set is shown at *right*)
- A number of other items from Burnside, including amongst other items; 2 operating theatre tables, several obstetric delivery beds, a stand microscope, an eye laser, suction unit, and endoscopy unit.



These items are destined for Nzega and Siha Hospitals, and for Yombo Vituka Health Centre.

In a substantial set of exercises, most of these goods have been already transferred by truck to Rotary DIK, Edinburgh, and the ultrasound machines will require transporting in the near future.

We also thank Edwardstown Rotary for their recent generous donation of \$2,000 towards shipping ATSF's containers.



Other projects

ATSF is currently a partner in an application by Loxton Rotary to Rotary International for the provision of additional training for assistant nurses and midwives at Yombo Vituka Hospital.

This health facility in Dar es Salaam has a labour ward providing anywhere from 100 to 160 births per month. Using the local knowledge of Dr Joseph Masika, on behalf of ATSF, Loxton Rotary is keen to fund existing facilities there to enable the training of medical personnel involved in the deliveries, assisting in the continued reduction of high levels of maternal and infant mortality rates in the local district.

The project will also provide ATSF with important new contacts and open up possible new 'on-going' worthy projects linked to this scheme.

By the time this newsletter goes to print, ATSF's new website will be up and running. Our huge thanks to Andrew Green for his work in getting this established. Over time it should make a substantial difference to our work and communication.

ATSF continues to be represented at the ground floor in the administrative work for the disbursement of medical goods from the existing Royal Adelaide Hospital. This will be an enormous exercise stretching over at least 9 months from about March of 2017. Currently the administrative committee is seeking corporate- and government-sponsored financial assistance for the project, which, if successful, will make a considerable difference to the number of containers ATSF will be able to send.

We are also continuing to liaise and communicate with the appropriate authorities for ATSF to obtain another ambulance from the SA Government. This is an exciting (and a little daunting) project. Stay posted for further news.



Congratulations

ATSF has sent a congratulatory letter to our Patron, His Excellency the Hon. Hieu Van Le AC, Governor of South Australia (*right*), who was appointed a Companion of the Order of Australia in the 2016 Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Vern Marshall (ATSF Chair)

If you would like to donate to ATSF, learn more about our activities or support our cause in any other way, please contact us at PO Box 197, Kensington Park SA 5068, or atsfoun@gmail.com, or Vern Marshall on (08) 8339 7992 or vernandra@internode.on.net. You can also find us on our new website at www.atsfi.org.au or on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/AustralianTanzanianServicesFoundationInc>.