

September 2017

# Habari Gani

## 'What's news?' with the Australia Tanzania Society

Rafiki Surgical Missions, Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors and Safina Foundation

**The 2017 Rafiki Ball** was held in June at the new ballroom at Crown Perth. The money raised through the main auction and silent auction will fund our work in Tanzania for the next 12 months. Thank you so much to the people who supported, donated and attended this year's ball, making it the biggest and most successful yet.

Not only did we raise money and recognise our volunteers, but we had a great time doing it! MC Blake Johnson kicked off the evening with 10 spot prizes of beautiful South Sea pearls thanks to Stefan Diamonds. Anaesthetist, and AMAWA President, Andrew Miller, gave a very entertaining and emotional speech and awarded Taka Wild with her 20 Mission award. Frank Torre launched into the auction at 10pm and generated some deep pocketed bids from our amazing supporters.

The major auction got off to a great start thanks to Di Taylor and her painting 'Arrival into Warburton', which I'm sure looks fantastic in its new home. Thanks to Brooks Hire, four lucky people are going to be flying down to Margaret River for a wine tour and lunch at Amelia Park Winery. Our Qatar business class tickets were snapped up by a silent bidder who is taking his wife to Italy this month to celebrate their wedding anniversary.. awwwww. Another lucky lady was surprised by her man on the night with the beautiful Stefan Diamonds diamond studs with detachable pearls.

The yummy Italian food and wine will be a plenty for a special party at Bellissimo Restaurant later in the year, and the drinks will also be flowing when Manu Feildel comes to town to celebrate with the winning bidders of the 'Ooh la la' party.

When the weather warms up in February there will be a very fancy dinner party for 10 people catered for by chef Leif Huru and wine aficionado Peter Forrestal and a boat charter thanks to Strzelecki Group – we have a feeling there will be a few medical personnel on board that day!

Finally, in April two people will have the experience of a lifetime when they fly to Tanzania to join the

team on the 30th Rafiki mission then off on a luxury safari thanks to Asilia, &Beyond, Corporate Traveller, Mauly Tours and Serena Hotels.

The support of our sponsors is a vital component in keeping our missions to Tanzania going, so we'd like to say a huge thank you to our Tanzanite sponsors; Qatar Airways, Stefan Diamonds, Strzelecki Group, and Murcia Pestell Hillard Lawyers. Another big thanks to our gold sponsors; V&V Walsh, Di Taylor, Corporate Traveller, OpenDNA, Boost Health and Fitness and Bellissimo Restaurant.

The teams of Graphic Source, Owl & Bear, Maple & Wren, Lumière Media, Jasmine Sky Photography, Kiss and Tell Photobooths and our event committee volunteers make the night happen and we couldn't do it without them, so thank you.

Please support the companies who support us! You can check out our 2017 sponsors [here](#).

## Save the Date!

FOR THE 2018 RAFIKI BALL

June 8th

AT CROWN PERTH



# 2017 Rafiki Ball



[View the full gallery here](#)

Thanks to [Jasmine Skye Photography](#)

jasmine skye  
PHOTOGRAPHY



# Mission 28, May 2017

**Rafiki Mission 28** was held at Sekou Toure between the 12th and 26th of May this year and included the team of Plastic Surgeons, Matthew Hansen and Ian Timms; Anaesthetists, Jamie Stevens and Volker Mitteregger; Scrub Nurses, Alice Haydon and Jennifer Wishart; Recovery Nurse, Pamela Carmichael; Ward Nurse, Shannon Muir; Anaesthetic Nurse and Team Leader, Taka Wild, Physiotherapist, David Crocker; and Nurse/Self-funded Volunteer Matthew Murcia. It was the first Rafiki mission for Volker, Pam and Matthew Murcia.

The team assessed a total of 103 patients. The majority came to the clinic day and a further 17 patients arrived throughout the rest of the mission. Of these, 41 were assisted by Acacia, 29 by AngloGold Ashanti's Geita Gold Mine region and 33 made their own way to Mwanza for treatment.

The team worked tirelessly to get through a huge surgery list, operating well into the evening and was able to perform a total of 66 surgeries ranging from cleft lip repairs, cleft palate repairs, burns contracture releases and a tumor excision. We had a huge turn out of patients and those who didn't receive operations this time will be on the top of the list for the next mission.

Capacity building is such an important part of Rafiki's goals and it was great to have Dr Laurean Rwanyuma and Dr Edwin Mrema, both Tanzanian Surgeons from Muhimbili National Hospital, join the team. Dr Victor Msafiri showed great dedication and took a very, very long bus trip from Iringa to gain experience. Laurean, Edwin and Victor assisted our surgeons and were able to gain valuable hands-on surgical training throughout the mission.

Thank you for your fantastic work team!

There are lots more photos [here](#) and you can view a video from the Mission [here](#).



Clockwise from the top: Matt Hansen with patients, the team on clinic day, Matt Murcia and Jen with patients and Alice with a patient.

# Mission 29, November 2018

**Our next mission** will be held in Mwanza between November 5th and 15th this year. We welcome a new team member, Occupational Therapist, Lisa Browne, and returning team members Plastic Surgeons, Barry O'Sullivan and James Savundra; Anaesthetists, Andrew Wild and Stephen Hilmi; Nurses, Alice Haydon, Sharon Ndossi, James Smith, Elizabeth Radford and Taka Wild and; self-funded volunteer nurse Seih-Ling Dickson.

We wish you the best of luck and will look forward to the updates on Facebook in November.

## Taka's 20 Missions Award



**Congratulations to Taka Wild** for completing her 20th mission with Rafiki in April this year. Not only has Taka spent more than 40 weeks in total volunteering with Rafiki in Tanzania, but she spends countless hours in Perth coordinating the missions and supplies and handling mountains of paperwork.

The November mission later this year will be Taka's 21st mission.

Thank you Taka for all your hard work and dedication, you are an integral part of our organisation and your contribution goes above and beyond.

You can watch a video with some of Taka's memories [here](#).



## Patient Update

**After Mary suffered burns** to 20 per cent of her body, the contractures made simple tasks nearly impossible. She struggled to carry water and school attendance was challenging.

Care for Africa, a charity based in Tanzania, linked Mary with Rafiki in 2011 and since then we have operated on her twice to release her contractures.

Recently Care for Africa sent an update that Mary is very happy with the results; it has changed her life. She is being sponsored to attend St Jude's school and we wish her all the best for her brighter future.



## Container Pack

**This month** we sent a 40 foot container to Tanzania filled with medical equipment and child education and sporting goods that will be put to good use in Tanzania. As well as hospital beds, trolleys and a theatre table, we were very lucky to have a valuable anaesthetic machine and theatre lights by Dr Chan from his West Perth surgery, and plastic surgery books from Dr Allbrook.

Thank you to our donors and to our volunteers for helping out once again to pick up the gear and pack the container.

Thanks also to Thierry Murcia for travelling to Tanzania last week with a very heavy Autoclave machine. Sourced by James Savundra it will replace the team's sterilising machine that blew up on the May mission because of problems with the power.

# Volunteer Profile: Owl & Bear

**Matt and Chiara Milford** have been styling the Rafiki balls for 10 years, originally as Bridal Creations and now as Owl & Bear. Each year they have styled the silent auction areas and table settings, set up the room and lent us the decorations (all for free!). You might also recognise Matt as the consistent base player and singer from the different incarnations of the bands that have played at our balls over the past few years. Matt and Chiara run their successful business and have very busy lives (especially during the wedding season) but they always come through with an amazing set up for the ball and rocking tunes at the end of the night.

## Please give us a little bit of info about Owl & Bear as a business and the people behind it.

We create custom made furniture and lighting pieces for weddings and special events - with 10 years industry experience we know how to throw epic parties!

## Can you tell us a bit about what Owl & Bear has contributed to Rafiki over the years?

Owl & Bear has contributed to the decorations of the Rafiki ball. In previous years we provided all of the table centre pieces, however as our business model has changed this year we provided cocktail lounge seating and the tables for the silent auction items.

## What is it about Rafiki that keeps you supporting us year after year?

The generosity of the Perth people and the fact that every single dollar raised actually goes into the Rafiki missions. We love to support this cause because we know you are genuine and help a lot of people to change their lives in Tanzania!

## What do you think is important personally, and for your business, to be partnered with Rafiki?

Personally, it's our good deed to the community to be a part of Rafiki: for the business, because we can network and meet a lot of new people and friends. :)

## You've helped us raise funds for thousands of operations, which has changed the lives of all those people and their families. How does that make you feel?

This feeling is incredible to know we have played a small part in helping to change the lives of others and their families. All the warm and fuzzy feels!

Thank you Matt and Chiara and congratulations for your wedding in August.

Please check out their awesome businesses at  
[www.owlandbear.com.au](http://www.owlandbear.com.au) and  
[www.mattmilfordmusic.com](http://www.mattmilfordmusic.com)



From the left: An epic wedding set up by Owl & Bear, Matt playing at the 2017 Rafiki Ball and Chiara & Matt get hitched!

# Volunteer Profile: Andrew Crocker

We are very lucky to have had Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeon, Andrew Crocker, volunteering for Rafiki since 2008. He is also part of the 'Crocker Clan' who have adopted our charity into their family. It's not unusual for a mission to be dubbed 'A Crocker Mission' because half the team all share the same last name!



## When did you become involved with Rafiki?

I have done six Rafiki Missions over about the last nine years. My initial mission went to Dar es Salaam with another plastic surgeon from Sydney, but the other missions have all been in Mwanza.

## How different is the work you do in Tanzania to your normal work day in Perth?

I am one of two surgeons that go on each mission and enjoy the variety of work that is certainly completely different to our work in Perth. The work in Tanzania is predominately cleft lip and palate, and burn contractures. In Perth we hardly see burn contractures as burn are treated much more expeditiously in first-world countries. Cleft work is not part of my normal routine as it is attended to by sub specialty plastic surgeons in the Children's Hospital. The work in Tanzania however, is much more intrinsically rewarding than work in western society, when we are often dealing with first world problems that have much less functional or aesthetic significance.

Rafiki has become a bit of a family affair! Can you tell us a little bit about the role you and your family have with Rafiki and what Rafiki means to you as a group?

Rafiki certainly has become a family affair in that my brother Stephen (an anaesthetist) has been on the same number of Rafiki missions. His wife Lindy has been a nurse on several missions and my son, David, volunteered as the first physiotherapist to go on a mission and, subsequent to that, a physiotherapist has been included on every mission. He also doubles as the IT expert in addition to his splint making skills.

We all enjoy the nature of the work albeit long and arduous, but really it is a team effort with everyone pitching in no matter what work is required. We love the fact that Rafiki is a charitable organisation where 100% of the funds raised goes towards the end user and there are no administrative fees.

## What is your favourite memory from your trips to Tanzania?

My favourite memory from the Rafiki missions would be the look, particularly on adult cleft lip patients, when they see the outcome of their surgery for the first time. That's what keeps you coming back.



Above: Andrew with the team of the 26th Rafiki Mission, in surgery, and more relaxed times, having a (probably not that great) vino in Tanzania with brother Steve and nurse Cathy.

# Greg & Kathy Visit Tanzania

For many years Greg and Kathy Walsh with their children Jason, Max and Caris, have been funding projects like the construction of classrooms and water wells, renovations to NIRA orphanage, and since day one, have been big sponsors of Rafiki.

Greg's link to Tanzania goes back to 1996 when, with a group of friends, he accompanied Didier Murcia to visit Tanzania for the first time to assess business opportunities. Since then, the Walsh's have been huge supporters of ATS, but had never made it back to Tanzania to see some of the amazing work they have done, until April this year when they finally made it back.

**On day one** of their Tanzanian adventure Greg and Kathy visited NIRA orphanage where they have contributed to the renovation of the old dorms rooms and the construction of a new dorm house for the girls. Since the renovation, and with addition of the new dorm house, the old rooms are use as the dining hall and for study areas.

The children performed a song and dance and Kathy made some new friends, who were loving the attention and tickles. Some stickers and some clothes donated by Shamim Farnham were handed out to the little boys, who might take a little bit more time to grow into them.

On the second day Greg and Kathy visited some primary schools and the first stop was Mtambani Primary School to see 'The Walsh Building', which is now a classroom for the very cute pre-primary children. Greg and Kathy were given a tour of the school and were treated like rock stars! The kids wanted a 'selfie' with Kathy and a high-five from Greg.

Next stop was the beautifully maintained Buza Primary School, where The Walshes have funded a water well and the construction of a double classroom.

Finally, a visit to Juhudi to see another classroom and be treated to the third performance of the day. The Tanzanian schools love to put on performances for their guests!

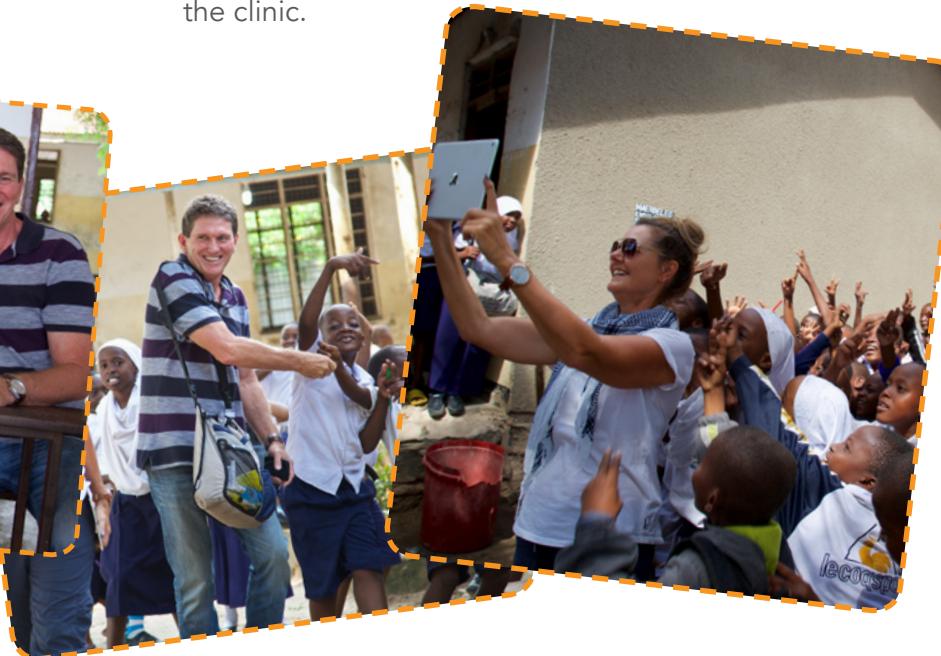
"We loved the happy, vibrant, beautiful kids and quite overwhelmed by all the attention they gave us," said Kathy. "We were also quite chuffed to see the classrooms and water wells."

Greg and Kathy then joined the Rafiki team in Mwanza for the clinic day and first two days of surgery. Working in close quarters and in cramped rooms, and given we are guests in the local hospitals, Rafiki keeps our volunteer team numbers to a minimum. For us mere mortal non-medicos, to join a mission is a privilege only reserved for very special self-funded volunteers, like Greg and Kathy, or the winners of our 'Volunteer Experience' auction prize.

Clinic day can be overwhelming for the first time, there are so many hopeful patients and their family members waiting for the team to arrive. It's a hectic day and Greg and Kathy helped out by unpacking the equipment in the morning and running paperwork between the consulting rooms during the clinic.



From left: Kathy and Greg go back to pre-primary, high-fives and selfies.



"Even though we felt we couldn't do much to help the team and were probably a bit of a hindrance, they made us feel very welcome," said Kathy. "We were so lucky to be accepted by this special bunch of human beings."

Kathy loved watching the surgeries and joining Pam in the recovery room when the patients would wake up with their cleft lips fixed and looking wonderful.

Having mostly come long distances to see the team, the patients stay in the hospital for the duration of the mission. The children generally don't complain, even though it can be a scary, boring wait. Greg and Kathy spent time with them and helped keep them smiling by drawing with chalk and blowing up balloons, which were in hot demand! They also helped the team out by making it easy for them to fit in a quick cup of coffee or bite to eat between surgeries.

Greg bonded with 11 year old Nickson, who had very bravely come to Mwanza without a family member for a burn contracture release. Nickson's English was pretty good and he was able to use Greg's phone to call his parents and let them know how the surgery had gone.

A special patient for Kathy was 41 year old Nyonopwe, who had a large cleft lip. Seeing her transformation really tugged at Kathy's heart strings.

"I've known about Rafiki since day one, I've attended the balls and watched the videos, but no words can actually describe the experience first-hand," said Kathy. "The dedication of the medical team is amazing. They are hard-working, skillful, exceptional bunch of people who are working miracles."

*Thank you Greg and Kathy for being some of our biggest supporters over the past 14 years. We are so happy that you were able to see the work that you have made such huge contributions to.*

*From the top: Kathy and Greg with Angela on clinic day, watching an operation, keeping the kids occupied and Greg with Nickson calling his mum after surgery.*



# Splint Care Sheet

The Wound Care sheets, illustrated by Bec Hopson, have been a great help in explaining to patients how to care for their wounds post-surgery. Bec was kind enough to add a Splint Care sheet to the set to help our patients understand how to care for their burn contracture and splints.

The have been very kindly printed by [Graphic Source](#).

Thank you to new Rafiki member Lisa Browne for your instruction and thank you to Bec for your work and congratulations on your recent wedding!

You can check out Bec's digital artwork and custom illustrations [here](#).



## The Rafiki App

During missions, and especially on clinic day, the team has to deal with a huge amount of time-consuming paper work. On top of that, collecting patient information in the first place is much trickier than here at home. There's a language barrier and many patients don't know information such as their birth date. Currently the information collected for our own records and for the local hospital is all handwritten and later entered into our data-base.

With the aim of reducing double-handling, speeding up our processes and collecting more patient information and photographs for our record-keeping, we have been working with IT guru Ramzi Bahbah who has volunteered to help us get very high tech and develop our very own App.

Using the existing database created by Dr Andrew Miller, the App will enhance our capabilities when

planning surgery lists and cross-referencing patients for multiple or call back surgeries.

Our team will be able to use iPads to take identity photos and capture pre and post operation photos. The identification images will help our ward nurses track down patients and the surgery images will be a valuable resource for our surgeons.

We're hoping to be up and running with our App very soon.

Thank you to Ramzi for volunteering many hours of your time to develop the app and to Andrew and Shannon for your input.

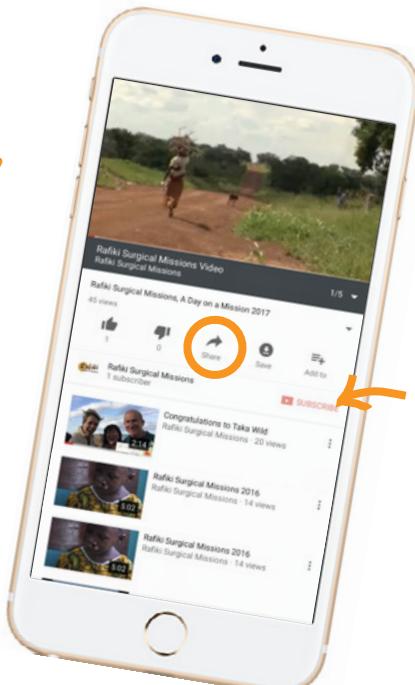
Need business IT support? Contact Ramzi at First Focus [here](#).

## Rafiki's YouTube Channel

Rafiki now has a [YouTube page](#)! We've loaded some of the videos produced over the years for Rafiki by Myriad Images and Lumière Media. It's easy to send a link email or text message from your phone – please share the story of Rafiki and our wonderful patients and volunteers! You can also subscribe to [our channel](#).

### How to share a video from your phone

1. Download the YouTube App
2. Open and search 'Rafiki Surgical Missions'
3. Click on the video you want to share
4. Click 'share'



# Thank you to our 2017 sponsors

## TANZANITE



## GOLD



## SILVER



# Australia Tanzania Society



## ATS Structure

While many of you will know of Rafiki well, it is just one of the organisations under the **Australia Tanzania Society** banner. Over the past 12 years, while keeping each group separate, we have branched out from health, to include, education and youth support with the establishment of Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors and, more recently, Safina Foundation. *All money raised for each individual group is used solely for that organisation and there is no cross-over of funds.*

**Rafiki Surgical Missions** is the biggest, longest running and most well known arm of our NGO. Since our first mission in 2004, Rafiki Surgical Missions has changed the lives of more than 1,300 Tanzanian children and adults with conditions such as cleft lip, cleft palate and burns injuries. We also pack and send containers of medical equipment to clinics and hospitals all across Tanzania.

In 2006 **Australia Tanzania Young Ambassadors** was formed. ATYA provides a platform for young Australians to establish links with their peers in Tanzania. These links help students in Tanzania and Australia build a better understanding of the world beyond their own borders. ATYA also raises funds to build classrooms, drill water wells, buy curriculum text books and send school supplies and equipment to Tanzania.

After a request for support from an orphanage in Geita, where a lot of our Rafiki patients come from, we established **Safina Foundation** in 2014. 'Safina' means 'arc' in Swahili and embodies the spirit of supporting young orphaned and poverty-stricken children. We have been helping the orphanage in Geita and also started a second project, which is extensive renovations and building works to a small orphanage in Dar es Salaam.