

SASA

Sasa means **NOW** or **WHAT'S UP** in Kiswahili

every child deserves an opportunity.

- 01 LEAF'S 10TH BIRTHDAY
A BRIEF HISTORY
- 02 LETTERS FROM OUR LEAF CHILDREN
- 03 FUNDRAISING UPDATE
- 04 FUNDRAISING UPDATE CONT ...
GIVER OF HOPE
KISWAHALI CORNER LESSON



Lisa Hunt

LISA HUNT TO PLAY LEAF'S 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY!

Top local and international artist Lisa Hunt will play at a special 'African (l.e.a.f) Dance Party' event at Byron Bay Golf Club on Friday, 2nd October, to celebrate African LEAF's 10th anniversary this year.

Lisa visited our African Leaf kids at the Rudolf Steiner Farm School in Nairobi during a visit to Kenya in 2013 and immediately said she wanted to bring them all home with her! She's been wanting to do something to help us raise funds for them ever since – and now the occasion has finally arrived!

The performance will be Lisa's first show

back in Byron after her annual tour of Europe and the USA, so it's bound to include a few new surprises and is not to be missed! Tickets are \$20 each (available only at the door on the night) and every ticket will include a free \$5 ticket in a mega-affle to be drawn on the night for the major prize of 2 x 5day Bluesfest 2016 passes, kindly donated by the Byron Bay Bluesfest team.

The show will start at 8.00pm and meals can be purchased at the Club's restaurant from 5.30pm (bookings strongly recommended – ph (02) 6685 6470). All ticket sale proceeds will go to African LEAF. This will be an indoor event and not on an outdoor stage as with past Melbourne Cup lunches and other band events we've held at the Golf Club.

A BRIEF HISTORY OF LEAF ...

African Leaf was registered as an incorporated association on 7th March 2005, following Paul Kelly's return from a trip to Kenya late in 2004 during which he'd visited the opening of 'Credo Rescue Centre' (day care centre) in Nairobi's Kawangware Slum. The experience was something of a life-changer for Paul and several friends he told about the project when he got home readily offered to help him to provide some badly needed resources and general financial support for the 40 or so infants - many of them orphans - who the Centre was caring for each day.

Soon after, some of these friends travelled to Kenya also and with help from a social worker and staff at the Centre, identified those children regularly being left at the centre who were considered most 'at risk' through either malnutrition caused by downright poverty or through evidence of neglect or abuse. With the consent of relevant parents and guardians, arrangements were made for the 14 considered to be most in need to be enrolled as full-time boarders at the Rudolf Steiner Farm School Mbagathi and the group then set about finding sponsors for each of these children from among their friends and families.

The founding members of African LEAF were Kristina Brodie, John Adam, Susan Perrow, Ed Ahern, Paul Kelly, Quentin Proctor and Charlotte Campbell-Stephen. The current directors are Paul Kelly, Eva Schaefer, Ed Ahern (leave of absence, 2015), John Adam, Mike McAuley, Susan Perrow (leave of absence, 2015) and Lynda Dean, OAM.

LETTERS FROM OUR LEAF CHILDREN

In this newsletter we want to bring you a bit closer to Sheila and Purity who stay on a farm with a family and two other LEAF children during the holidays. They both were happy to write a letter to us about what they are up to.



Sheila at Catering College.

SHEILA

Sheila is our oldest girl amongst the African LEAF family and will be the first one to finish off her training after school at the end of this year. She had a very hard life before she was sponsored at the age of 8 by African LEAF. Her brother Brian and herself had to survive in the slums of Nairobi on their own wits and they were malnourished and neglected when they came into our care. Both of them had no English and could not read or write. So we are very proud of Sheila in what she has achieved so far and her determination to make a good life for herself. She continues to study in order to become self-sufficient and independent in the future. Here is her letter.

Greetings to all,

My name is Sheila Carolyn aged 21 years old. I would like to appreciate you all from the time you started supporting me since class three all the way to high school. Now I have joined college, in fact I am loss of words in appreciation for all the support of African Leaf.

As from year 2015, I'm currently studying and training to do my passionate desire which is catering. I study at St Joseph's vocational training institute in Ngong town. The college offers several courses like hair dressing, beauty, knitting, catering, computer and entrepreneurship among others.

My teacher is a good person who is free to mingle with. I love how she teaches us

with passion. We have learned different types of topics like: introduction to catering, food knowledge, menu and menu planning and food costing.

Mostly, I enjoy the college. It is a better place and it has good environment for learning. I really like the college and also being there makes me happy. But not only enjoying it, the college gives me the motivation of knowing what I want to achieve in life.

My colleagues whom I study with are good and friendly people. Furthermore we are nine catering students. I really enjoy being with them. Never the less I have my colleague who has her own restaurant and we usually go there after class and help her as we also get more knowledge on how

to handle customers.

In my view, this is a beneficial training of which I would really wish to practice soon after the course which ends in February 2016. Through studying I expect to learn more about different types of dish preparation. I wish to explore the world nutrition by gaining knowledge on local meals. Right now I can prepare some local foods like: matoke, pork Indian curry source, vegetable rice with chicken tandoon.

My first priority is to get experience to a hotel or restaurant after completing the college to get employed. If funds are available I would like to go for further studies in diploma or degree level.

Once again I thank African leaf.
Cheers. Sheila.



Purity helps out on the farm during holidays

PURITY

Purity is the sister of Cate who has been sponsored by African LEAF since she was seven. At the age of 8 and 14 respectively, Purity and Cate lost their mother. African LEAF immediately took care of Purity and brought her to the Steiner school to join her sister there. Their father is totally unreliable and it is impossible for the girls to stay with him in Karangware, one of the slums of Nairobi and they only meet him occasionally during the holidays. So when the schools close, Purity and Cate stay with Alice Wekesa and her family near the town of Ngong, on their farm. Purity especially has taken to the family and feels very much at home there. She is a very capable child. Her resilience and adaptability are astounding. She has made many friends at Steiner and loves going to school there.

To All African Leaf,

I greet you all. My name is Purity Shilievo. I am ten years old and I am in grade five.

I would like to take this time to thank all of you for your support in my education since I joined Steiner School until now. I am so happy because I have grown I am now a big girl. I like school and my best subjects are math's and English.

In school I like playing with my friends like skipping the rope. I hope to work hard and even go up to university.

Thank you all for supporting me.

Love, Purity.

TRIVIA NIGHT

What a great atmosphere there was in the room at the Byron Bay Bowling Club on Saturday 27th June ... the room was abuzz as 19 tables took up the challenge of a night of trivia. It was full house so the competition was hot.

As always, MC Mick O'Regan entertained the room with his wonderful humour, and questions were once again skilfully prepared by Queen of Trivia, Alison Mackay.

The evening was a huge success raising \$4,472 on the night. Congratulations to the winning team La Triviata who each received a \$50 voucher for a local

restaurant. It was a close contest with only 1 point between the winners and the runners up ... Free Radicals.

We were delighted that the winning ticket drawn for first prize in the raffle was one of our sponsors, Linda Lee. Linda and her husband Hans Klippert have been sponsoring Saumu for many years now so it was wonderful to be able to give something back to them. The fabulous first prize was donated by the luxurious Byron at Byron Resort & Spa ... 2 night's accommodation in a Deluxe Spa Suite including buffet breakfast for two in their Restaurant and valued at \$1,150.

Our thanks to all who supported us by attending. Special thanks to Mick O'Regan

and Alison Mackay and her helpers. Also of course our thanks to all the businesses who contributed prizes: restaurants (in alphabetical order) Aquarius Café & Dining; Balcony Bar & Restaurant; Byron Beach Café; Orient Express; Sabi Japanese Restaurant Ocean Shores; The Italian Place, Mullumbimby. Also to Cocomangas; Lynda & Christopher Dean; Greg Lyon; Palace Cinema; Pighthouse Flicks; Susan Perrow; The Cellar, Byron Bay and Torakina Café for donating other prizes. Our grateful thanks also to Byron Bay Bowling Club for donating their premises for the fundraiser.

Special thanks also to the businesses who donated prizes for the raffle: Byron at Byron Resort & Spa; Crystal Castle and Byron Bay Writer's Festival.



Paul Kelly, Judy Rymer, Marden Dean and Angela Catterns at the screening

DOCUMENTARY SCREENING

If you weren't able to make it along to our screening of "I Will Not Be Silenced" at the Byron Theatre in July then you missed a very special and thought-provoking cinema experience.

The documentary opened this year's Human Rights, Arts and Film Festival (HRAFF) in Melbourne to a sell-out audience, where it received a standing ovation and additional screenings had to be added due to overwhelming public demand. It went on to win the HRAFF Impact Award for Best Feature Film before moving on to Sydney and more sell-out showings in other Australian state capitals. It is a powerful and impactful story of Charlotte Campbell-Stephen's 7.5 year ordeal in the Kenyan judicial system, after being gang raped by four men in Nairobi in 2006.

Much more than just a documentary about a woman's fight for justice, it presented a revealing insight into modern day Kenya, the plight of women, the poor, the uneducated and the flaws inherent in

Kenya's patriarchal criminal justice system.

Just under 100 people attended the showing and we raised over \$1,300. The general feedback was that it was a very powerful and moving story. Our grateful thanks to Lorraine Saintclair for her invaluable help with promoting the event, and to the co-producers Judy Rymer and Lois Harris for granting African LEAF the right to screen the film as a fundraiser. Our thanks also to director Judy Rymer, cinematographer Marden Dean and broadcaster Angela Catterns who all travelled from Sydney to Byron at their own expense to attend the event and take part in a Q & A session which followed the screening.

Here's what one of our sponsors, Kristin Ellis, had to say about the documentary ...

Watching the film I Will Not Be Silenced was a powerfully moving experience for me. Having visited Kenya and met some of the African LEAF sponsored children in their lovely school and at safe tourist resorts,

it was heartbreaking to witness the squalor of the shantytowns that some of these children were born into. It was devastating to hear about girls being raped and men walking free to continue raping. Tourists are generally shielded from the brutal truth of life for many Kenyans. African LEAF can't save all these kids. For girls especially, life in the slums can be bleak and without hope. Sexual violence against women and girls is commonplace in Kenya and it's difficult for us to imagine that rape is just accepted by both victims and perpetrators.

Charlotte Campbell Stephen's courageous determination to obtain justice from a corrupt Kenyan legal system after she is gang raped is both frustrating and infuriating. However, the faith that Charlotte has in the strength of the Kenyan women and their ability to make a change in their society is beautiful. Most people would probably relinquish the fight after 7 years of tireless battle but Charlotte is determined to use her ordeal to raise women's awareness of their rights and to prove that justice is achievable. Charlotte could have escaped to Australia but she remained in Kenya and fought hard for change. I think Charlotte is amazing and this inspiring film is important as both an educative and advocacy tool. Rape is an uncomfortable topic but if we can support people like Charlotte as she supports the Kenyan people, we can be part of real change in the world.

Kristin Ellis

The film is now available to rent or purchase as a download at <https://www.indiereign.com/video/i-will-not-be-silenced>

MELBOURNE CUP LUNCH 'SCRATCHED' FOR 2015

As a consequence of our 10th Anniversary Party this year (see story p1) and for various other reasons we will not be holding our Melbourne Cup Luncheon & Fashion Parade this coming November.

The Byron Bay Golf Club have very kindly agreed to keep the booking available for us again in 2016, when we plan to resume the function with a fresh new format.

We apologise to all our loyal regular Melbourne Cup Lunch patrons and we hope to see you back again next year.



Photo of Bakery



First batch of Bread

GIVER OF HOPE UPDATE

Apart from specific child sponsorship, one of our other projects is Familia Moja Children's Home.

Familia Moja means 'one family' and they have been running an orphanage for six years now. African LEAF has contributed to their latest project, the building of a bakery. This is a low risk Income Generating Activity that looks towards the future by providing a practical business today. The bakery has the potential to cover over 75% of the orphanage running costs, plus it will enrich the diet of the children and provide great work experience for the teenagers as potential trainee bakers.

This is a first step by African LEAF in an ongoing relationship with 'Familia Moja' that may lead to another avenue of support for LEAF children in the future.

We're pleased to advise that the bakery is now up and running. You can read more about the bakery project on <http://famiIAMoja.org/projects/bakery>.

We are most grateful to our Givers of Hope whose donations help us to give assistance to Familia Moja as well as sponsoring Esther through high school. Givers of Hope generally donate \$40 per month (\$480 per year) though some contribute more and some less. If you are interested in becoming a regular Giver of Hope, please contact Susan on admin@africanleaf.org.au.

LESSON 15 LEARNING KISWAHILI

Mguu Leg/Foot

Bega Shoulder

Tumbo Stomach

Uso Face

Sikio Ear

Mkono Hand/Arm

Koo Throat

Moyo Heart

Pua Nose

Macho Eyes