



May 2023

Neville's OAM Awarded



Lill and the whole Muir family are doing well. It was a thrill for them - Lill, Brent, Erik, David and Ian - to visit government house to receive the Order of Australia on behalf of Neville last month. The award was presented by The Hon Linda Desau AC CVO, Governor of Victoria, and Mr Anthony Howard AM KC. The Order of Australia is presented to outstanding Australians for "meritorious, distinguished and conspicuous service" and for their significant impact at the local, national and international level. This award is, of course, a great honour for Neville and the Muir family, but it also honours the work that we support and do amongst the Deaf all around the world, and we can be proud of the role that we have played as representatives, volunteers and supporters.

Video of the award ceremony can be seen here:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M4ga7lv7cno&t=7s/>
Lill receives the award at 50:20.

Lill remains strongly connected to DMI and Deaf Action and all the developments in the field. She attends our board meetings, church deputations and joins the volunteers in their work. She loves to see the work of DMI and DA continue. It's a source of great joy for her. Ian, Neville and Lill's youngest son, also continues to support DMI through student sponsorship. Ian sponsors Hastings and is happy to see him doing well at school.



Deaf Action held a fundraising dinner at the Northbridge Golf Club on April 14. The night was a great success, raising \$6,388.85. \$4,400 was raised through the games and silent auction items. The proceeds from the evening will go to support a new self-sustainability project for the Deaf in



guests participated in games and a silent auction with goods

Rwanda. The guests were inspired by guest speaker Andrew Fisher from Jesus Racing. He spoke well, and challenged the guests to find God's true purpose for their lives and strive towards it. Andrew Miller, our IOC, also spoke about our sustainability project in Burundi which was funded by last year's dinner, and the proposed project in Rwanda. Dinner was a sumptuous 3-course meal, and the



and services kindly donated from local businesses. Amy Jack, our Communications Coordinator came up from Melbourne for the event as MC and chief decorator did a sensational job. The most hotly contested item was the Crowne Plaza Terrigal Pacific accommodation which went for \$450! The most popular items were Tyrell's VIP Premium Tasting Experience for Two, an Escape Room session from Central Coast Virtual Reality, and 4 tickets to Luna Park Sydney. A special thank you to all who attended and supported the event and gave so generously.



THANK YOU TO THE BUSINESSES THAT SUPPORTED THE FUNDRAISER:



KENYA - Immanuel Integrated Christian School

At the Immanuel Integrated Christian School, parents have been supportive and paying the school fees on time. It helped with the financial gap, enabling the school to continue delivering its services when inflation is high, affecting food and fuel prices. The school also stepped in to help needy Deaf students and their families by providing free uniforms, pullovers, shoes and personal items.

We would like to say a big thank you to our generous donors and supporters for purchasing the two-acre plot of land! The campaign was a success! The school was able to plough the new farmland and started planting corn and beans. They aim to harvest around 20 bags of corn which will help reduce the

costs of feeding the students. Next season they will be planting sweet potatoes and have high expectations for a good harvest as it is one of the most commonly grown crops in the region.



There have been some major challenges. More teachers and an interpreter had to be hired for the Junior Secondary School program, which has meant an increase in wages. The other challenge has been the cost of food which has tripled, affecting even the staples – corn flour, beef, vegetables, seafood, rice and beans! Most boarding schools have been forced to close due to outbreaks of contaminated food or water but we're thankful that IICS was able to survive to the end of the term break! A Parents Day will be held in the new term which will include ball games, music and drama activities. The school will be the only school in this region to present an integrated team of students to compete against

regular schools. They believe they are a force to be reckoned with and the students will not disappoint!



UGANDA



Ugandan National Association for the Deaf Vocational College

Solome is now attending UNAD and is undertaking a course in knitting and sweater making. Brian, Jordan, Kenneth and Samuel returned to school to continue their final year course in Carpentry and Joinery.

7 Months Scholarship in Carpentry for Allan

Allan has completed his Carpentry and Joinery course at UNAD. His graduation will be held next year. He is now studying at The Ideas Workshop, an organisation which has a high-end vocational school, and is studying on a 7-month scholarship, continuing his vocational skills in carpentry. He is doing well at the school.



Ruti Rehabilitation

Simon has completed his course in shoe and handbag making at Ruti Rehabilitation. He completed his assessment exams on 27th February 2023. He was awarded a certificate of attendance. He has returned home to Kiboga. Stephen will be following up on his future plans.

A Chance for a Child

Yubu has completed his studies at A Chance for a Child. Stephen will be following up on his wellbeing.

Update on Uganda Electricity Campaign

We would like to say a big thank you to a supporter who was able to help out setting up the electricity for Neville Muir Comprehensive School in Lira. They installed the electricity and it will support many classroom activities including computer studies, sewing and carpentry.



D.R. CONGO

At Beni School for the Deaf, their secondary school furnishing project is going well. They have bought additional school supplies and teaching materials including maps, chairs and office equipment. They also bought desks, tables and classroom chairs for the secondary school classrooms.

Beni students were able to eat 3 school lunches a week due to a good harvest. Meals include rice and beans, cassava bread and bean sauce, cassava bread and cassava leaves, sweet potatoes and beans. Other portions of sweet potatoes are distributed to the students and teachers to take home. The students are being taught how to prepare the land for crops.



WE URGENTLY NEED SPONSORS TO SUPPORT THESE STUDENTS!



John Buere
Grade 7
Ligao, Philippines



Anastasie Kahambu
Grade 5
Beni, D.R. Congo



Gael Irakoze
Grade 6
Burundi



Ysabelle Borjal
Grade Kinder
Ligao, Philippines

To sponsor any of these students, please go to our website: <https://deafmin.org/child-sponsorship/> or email: info@deafaction.org.au

ZAMBIA

Hastings has been accepted at Munali Secondary School to re-sit his exams from 26th July to 11th August this year. We wish him all the best as he prepares to study for his final exams. Maliza is improving each month and learning well. Unfortunately, his tutor may stop working with him to work with his brother-in-law at a community school. Our Director, Lewis will need to look for a replacement tutor to work with Maliza if this happens.

MYANMAR - Muir School for the Deaf

The students are now on holidays and will return on 1st June 2023 for the new academic year. It is expected that more students will come in the next academic year. There are seven classes and five teachers. They plan to recruit a new graduate teacher and we have provided funding for this. There are still tensions between the Army and the People's Defence Force. On a happier note, one of the teachers got married on 23rd March 2023. Congratulations to Biak Lian Mang!





DONATE TODAY!

CONSIDER MAKING A TAX DEDUCTIBLE DONATION BEFORE JUNE 30

We would like to say thank you so much for your generosity towards our campaigns, operations and general fund over the last year. We simply cannot do the work we are doing without your help. Every month we have sizeable budgets to send to the fields to cover salaries, rents, equipment purchase and maintenance, project development and so on. These expenses are paid from our general fund, not a sexy area of giving, but it's at the core of our operations. Would you please consider giving a generous tax deductible donation to our general fund before June 30 to help us keep as many Deaf students as possible in school and in work?

For Tax deductible donations, transactions need to be made through the **Deaf Action Account**. Details can be found on the back or our website: <https://deafmin.org/donate/>

AUSTRALIA - Volunteers at Bayside Christian College Community Market



The van Namen family along with one of our supporters, Faye Kendall, helped man a stall selling Deaf Ministries International crafts and goods and promoting Student Sponsorships. We were able to sell some items from Hearts and Hands China. If you would like to support us by managing a stall or selling DMI items through your organisation or school, we would love to hear from you!

How are you receiving your newsletter?

We spend approximately \$6,900AUD a year on hardcopy newsletters. This is a good use of funds if readers don't have email addresses or find the hardcopy easier to read. We love being able to bring you the news from the fields as regularly as possible. But for those who do have email, we can save some of that money and send more of it to the Deaf in need.

Can you make the change from hard copy newsletters to email versions? If you can, send us an email to info@deafaction.org.au with your preferred mail address, requesting to make the change to e-newsletters. Thank you for your ongoing support of Deaf Action.



Ambassadors, Members and Volunteers Needed!

On the back of this newsletter, there are 5 faces that we claim are running DMI and DA. That's not quite true. There is actually a legion of volunteers, advisors, members and ambassadors – and of course supporters! – who help keep DMI and DA operating. For 2023, we need more volunteers, ambassadors and members. Volunteers typically help in the office preparing newsletters. Ambassadors represent DMI at various conferences and events throughout the year. Members serve as advisors at the AGM (and other meetings). If you are interested in serving DMI and DA as a volunteer, ambassador or member, or knowing more about these roles, please contact Andrew at:

andrew.miller@deafmin.org

We would love to have your help.





International Conference August 2023!

Registrations are now open!

Time to jump online and start registering for the 8th DMI conference. The conference will take place in Mombasa, Kenya, on August 7-11, 2023. The speaker will be Heo In Yeong from South Korea and the theme will be based on John 17:21 "That all of them may be one, Father, just as you are in me and I am in you".

Usually held every 3 years, due to Covid, it has been 6 years since we've gathered together for an international conference. These conferences are always such an inspiration and a blessing to those who attend, as we hear what God is doing through DMI all around the world. Everyone is invited to attend so bring a friend and come along. Both Deaf and hearing attend these conferences with each country attending providing their own interpreter. The conference will be held at the Mombasa Continental Resort which is also one of the accommodation options for the duration of the conference. The resort contains a 4-star hotel right on the water boasting beautiful ocean views, a large swimming pool, lounges, bar, recreational facilities, health club, Wi-Fi and airconditioned rooms. The other option is the Shanzu Girls Guide Hostel which is a budget accommodation option not too far from the resort. Breakfasts will be separate (by accommodation) but for lunches and dinners, we will all be together.

The program will consist of sessions with our keynote speaker, Heo In Yeong, mission reports from our fields, group activities, testimonies, time for leisure or to explore the surroundings and a day tour. The day tour will be a choice of 3 locations: Haller Park, Fort Jesus or Crocodile Farm.

There will be optional opportunities for tourism after the conference. This conference is an opportunity for the DMI family from the fields and supporting countries to come together in one place for fellowship, fun, and to connect and build relationships.

For more details and registration, head to our conference website:
<https://dmiconferencekenya.com>



'Sponsor a worker to go to Deaf Ministries International Conference'

DMI's 8th International Conference will be held in Kenya in August this year. The conference is open to all DMI supporters and workers. The conference will provide an exceptional opportunity for DMI supporters and workers to share an enriching time together through presentations, trainings, workshops and social events, all aimed to strengthen our capacity to achieve our mission goals.

Western staff will all be paying for their own transport and accommodation of course, and we have set aside a modest budget to help as many local workers as possible to attend. Yet many field workers will not have the support or the means to join us. Would you consider sponsoring a field worker (in part or in full) to attend the conference? It would mean the world to them. Sponsorship costs per person are listed below by country. The sponsorships will not be tax deductible. See the following link for sponsorship costs per person:

<https://deafmin.org/conference/>



Andrew Miller
International Operations
Coordinator



Matthijs Terpstra
International
Development Coordinator



Susi Tjhai
Finance Coordinator



Amy Jack
Communications
Coordinator



Kay van Namen
Sponsorship &
Administration
Coordinator



www.deafmin.org/deaf-action/

Tax-deductible

Donations:

Please make cheques payable to:
Deaf Action

Details for EFT:

BSB: 633-000

Account: 145834263

Credit Card facility available at office

Paypal facility (secure) on website

www.deafmin.org/donate

Deaf Action

P O Box 395

Beaconsfield, Victoria 3807

Australia

Phone: 03 5940 5431

SMS or WhatsApp:

0487 209 881

email: info@deafaction.org.au



Sponsorship Coordinator:

Kay van Namen

kay.vannamen@deafmin.org



Neville Muir (OAM)
& Lill Muir
DMI & DA Founders

Thank you for continuing to support our school students,
teachers and self-sustainability projects.

Warm regards,

Kay

Sponsorship Coordinator