



Habari Gani



MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRPERSON

*Hello Rafiki Supporters,
I hope that you have been well and are staying safe.*

Unfortunately, due to COVID19 we cancelled Rafiki Team 34, a teaching team for Muhimbili National Hospital, and Team 35, a service team for Sekou Toure, Mwanza. While we hope we can resume our trips later in the year, we will just have to wait and see how the year plays out.

Rafiki Ball 2020 was also cancelled, which was due to take place on June 8. On the bright side you've got plenty of time to get ready for the next Rafiki Ball on May 29 2021!

While we can't physically be in Tanzania, our work hasn't stopped. Universities in Tanzania reopened last week, and our Masters' Degree Students have gone back to study. We have also been sending a steady stream of ambulances and hospital and school equipment to Tanzania and have a small group continuing to support primary school children in Kilwa.

We are so grateful that 100% of our "staff" are volunteers, and thanks to our generous sponsors, we don't rely on any Government funding. Australia Tanzania Society is in a strong position to weather the storm and do what we can from Australia until we can get our teams back to Tanzania.

If you are interested in getting involved in our current projects, you can help with:

- Collection and sourcing of second-hand hospital and medical equipment
- Collection and sourcing of high-value school equipment, such as laptop computers in good working order
- Contribute financially to the donation of an ambulance
- Provide a scholarship to a promising, underprivileged primary student so they can receive a better education
- Keep an eye on our [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) pages and like and share our story.

We are doing our best not to lose too much momentum during this time and thank you all for your continued support. It's also great to look back on some of our achievements over the past 16 years, so please check out the info at the back of this newsletter.

Didier Murcia
ATS Chairperson





AMBULANCES 5 & 6

Ambulance 5, sponsored by Maiolo Wines, and Ambulance 6, sponsored by Greg & Kathy Walsh, Burswood Seafood and Carcionne Foundation, were donated to Muhimbili National Hospital in Dar es Salaam and Dodoma General Hospital.

The handover ceremony was attended by a small group, due to social distancing rules. Thank you to ATS Director James Chialo and Rafiki Ambassador Banana Zorro for attending the ceremony to represent ATS and present the ambulances to the hospitals.

Immediately after the ceremony the Dodoma General Hospital ambulance was driven the 450km-8hour drive straight to Dodoma, the Tanzania's capital and put to work straight away. It just shows how much in need these ambulances are!

Thank you so much to [Denise and Charlie Maiolo](#), Greg and Kathy Walsh, [Burswood Seafood](#) and Carcionne Foundation for generously sponsoring the donation of these ambulances.

You can watch a news article from Tanzania [here](#).



AMBULANCES 7 & 8

Ambulance 7, sponsored by Geita Gold Mine (GGM), and Ambulance 8, sponsored by ARA Petroleum, were packed and shipped on April 5 and are due to land in Dar es Salaam port next week.

The GGM vehicle will be sent to the Geita region, which is in the North West of Tanzania and where many of our Rafiki patients come from. The ARA ambulance will go to the Mtwara region in the South. Along with the ambulances, we shipped 25 hospital beds to be donated to the Mafinga region and various medical equipment and consumables.



AMBULANCE 9

Ambulance 9, sponsored by Caspian, was packed on April 18 and due to arrive in Tanzania on June 14.

Included in the container are hundreds of wide-brimmed hats donated by [Headwear Stockists \(WA & SA\)](#) and sunscreen and sunglasses donated by [Pharmacy777](#). These items will be donated to the Mwanza region to help protect people with Albinism. Our teams see a number of Albinos with skin cancers needing to be removed, hopefully this donation will go some way towards prevention.

Big thank you also to Dr Tony Davis for donating the medical equipment from his retiring surgery, which was also shipped in this container.





AMBULANCE 10

A second ambulance sponsored by Caspian will soon be on the way to Tanzania, also to the Nzega region.

It will be shipped with some educational whiteboards and projectors collected thanks to Tidy Up. Huge thank you to the team from [Tidy Up](#), who have been keeping an eye out for medical and school equipment and donating and delivering it to our storage unit.

AMBULANCES 11+

We have 2-3 more ambulances being prepared for us right now. The most cost-effective way to send the ambulances is in a 40-foot container and the ambulances take up 21 feet! We hate sending air, and our storage unit is looking very bare at the moment, so please keep an eye out for:

- Hospital equipment like beds, walkers, wheelchairs etc
- Medical consumables (must have at least 6 months BEFORE expiry from the date of arrival in Tanzania)
- High-value school equipment.



THANK YOU!

Huge thank you to Sheri, Lee (and Skye) from [Graphic Source](#) who volunteer their time to design and install the signage for all of the ambulances.

Along with Lee and Sheri, thank you to [Tidy Up](#), Didier Murcia, Matthew Murcia, Julia Murcia, Ken Bell, Grant Bell, Steve Bell, Peter Bell, Glenn Bell, Darren Gordon, Alice Haydon, Taka Wild, Jen Wishart, Sarah Jarvis and Juliet Honour for helping to source and collect equipment and pack the containers.

Thank you also to [Freight Forwarders Tanzania](#) for taking care of our ambulances and equipment when they reach Tanzania.

Scholarships

PEC SCHOOL



PEC Students in front of their classroom, funded by ATS

Through a small group of supporters, ATS is providing 20 promising, under-privileged primary school students with education scholarships. The students all come from extremely poor families, single parents or are orphans and cannot afford an education.

PEC School is a tiny school in Kilwa on the south coast that, thanks to dedicated team of teachers led by Director Sultan Sultan, punches way above its weight in school test results, achieving some of the best results in the country! The cost of a student to attend PEC as a full-time boarder, including board, meals, education, education materials, all uniforms, excursions and transport is just \$1,200 per year. We hope that by providing some of the brightest students from the neighbouring villages with a chance to attend PEC as a boarder or day student, we will help break the cycle of poverty.

The schools in Tanzania have only just re-opened and, as you can imagine, this has been a very difficult time for our PEC scholarship recipients who only just started at their new school when it was closed due to COVID19. It was made worse by flooding a few days after (photo top right), but the silver lining was that the kids were home when the flooding happened.

During the time the school was closed, there was no such thing as on-line learning so the PEC team did everything they could to get school work and lessons to their 250 children who were staying at home. This included hiring 3 motorbikes and riders to go door-to-door to deliver lesson paperwork, which was made even more difficult by the heavy rains! Our scholarship students also received extra help with English lessons, as pictured on the right.

ATS sponsored the purchase of a new photocopier machine as teachers were struggling to provide photocopies of the activities and lessons because their (very old) photocopier was ruined in the flood.

Congratulations the teachers at PEC, who are working under very difficult circumstances, and we hope that the situation is improving. Our sponsors are looking forward to receiving letters from the students and hearing about their progress.

If you're interested in knowing more about the scholarship program, please [get in touch](#) or [visit the website here](#).



Our Achievements



33 SURGICAL TRIPS

Providing free, life-changing, operations for more than 4,000 Tanzanians with conditions such as congenital deformities and burns injuries.

SKILLS & FACILITY UPGRADES

Focusing on skills transfer between Australian medical teams and local staff. Renovation of Sekou Toure Hospital theatre and donation of high-value equipment including 2 x \$25,000 anaesthetic machines.



MASTERS' DEGREE COURSE

Collaboration between Muhimbili National Hospital, Muhimbili University of Health and Allied Sciences and Volunteer Rafiki Surgeons to deliver a Masters' Degree Course in Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. First students to graduate in 2021.





9 AMBULANCES

9 ambulances donated, including 6 Mercedes vehicles to Mwanza, Nzega, Dar es Salaam, Dodoma, Geita Mufindi and Mtwara.

\$8M MEDICAL EQUIPMENT

50 shipping containers of medical and school equipment donated with estimated replacement value of \$8,000,000.



SCHOOL PROGRAM

Constructed 29 double classrooms, drilled 19 waterwells and rehabilitated 3 waterwells in the Dar es Salaam region. Donated school equipment such as desks, computers, books and teaching aids. Facilitated 3 professional development courses in Tanzania and 1 in Australia.

VULNERABLE CHILDREN

Renovated Nira Orphanage in Mbagala and constructed a new dorm house. Supporting PEC School in Kilwa including providing 20 scholarships to vulnerable children.

