

THE HORN



HARDAQUARTERLYNEWSLETTER

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MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Readers, Supporters and Members,
Firstly, let me congratulate all those involved in producing the first edition of the HORN. HARDA will continue to inform our supporters and members on the happenings in their agency.

The last few years have been very busy in HARDA with some flagship programs growing and attaining popularity in the communities we serve. Swim & Survive, Employment Program, Outreach for Youth involving Sports and Mentoring, Connecting with other cultures and Assistance to Overseas Communities are among those. HARDA is grateful to organisations who support us financially and in kind in delivering these programmes. These organisations are listed elsewhere in this edition. We are also grateful to our volunteers who dedicate their time and resources and form the engine that drives these programs.

I have a personal appeal to make to the communities that HARDA serves through these programs. Firstly, I implore the leaders of the Horn of Africa communities to remain in contact with us. It is through communication that we can understand the communities' needs and, provide access to a wide variety of services that HARDA is made aware of by the government authorities and other organisations. Where beneficial, HARDA is ready to work in partnership with community organisations. So please, talk to us. Our contact details are provided in this newsletter or call me personally on 0409 467-549, Secondly, HARDA would like community-based volunteers to get involved with our programs. So if you have the will and the urge to help your community, please contact us. Finally, my big thank you to all those who make it possible for HARDA to provide the programmes to the communities. I wish you and your families the very best in life.

Sajjad Versi
President

HARDA SECRETARIAT

President: Sajjad Versi
Vice President: Carmel Clark
Treasurer: Linda Lin
Secretary: Michael Muhlbauer
Committee Members:
Anna Dimo; Abdllhi Farah,
Mohammed Omar, Abdibasid
Khatib, Michael Power and Abrar
Ahmad.
Executive Director: Ahmed
Mohamed
Associate Members: Cindy Larson,
Faduma Geddi, Abrar Ahmed,
Girma Dabi
Manager of Policy: Fiona Carr

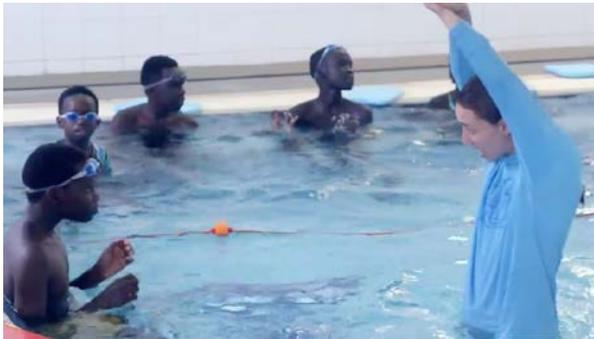
In addition to the above, the following have also given volunteer service to HARDA:

Georgina Clark
Jordan Lau
Prapti Fatima
Krishna Valabjee
Deepak Parbhoo
Jennifer Druce
Lorima Cook
John Cornwall
All mentors in the AWEP program

HARDA LOCAL PROJECTS

In the last twelve months, HARDA has run a number of programs with local communities to fulfil its mission. HARDA has also supported and participated in several initiatives overseas designed to alleviate some of the urgent needs in East Africa. The delivery of these projects has been made possible through the work of a small group of volunteers and by the generosity of organisations and individual benefactors who have provided the funds by way of grants and donations. HARDA also acknowledges the ongoing support of the Edmund Rice Centre that provides free facilities to the volunteers.

SWIM, SURVIVE AND SOCIALISE:



In January 2018, HARDA conducted its 7th successive water based program at the aquatic centre in Seven Hills. This very successful annual program has seen increased demand for places each successive year. This year's sessions were our biggest yet with 80 boys and girls attending, with several families missing out as we reached maximum numbers. HARDA has sought and received funding from multiple sources in an attempt to increase the budget that would enable us to expand the project in 2019. HARDA is once more grateful to the DOOLEYS Lidcombe Catholic Club and Sydney Motorway Corporation for funding the program in 2018. Fiona Carr was the driving force behind this program.

CONNECTING COMMUNITIES:

HARDA's Connecting Communities Program is run in partnership with Kids Giving Back, a group that provides volunteer opportunities for children who hail mainly from the Eastern suburbs of Sydney. Connecting Communities connects kids aged 6-12 from our Horn of Africa communities (who live mainly in Sydney's west) with the Kids Giving Back kids, allowing them to learn about each other while participating in fun activities together. In 2017, a total of around 100 kids met on three separate Sundays throughout the year. They had fun learning new skills together at rock climbing in St Peters and doing sports and an inflatables course followed by trampolining in Alexandria. The program culminated in a great day out at Coogee Beach, where the kids learned about water safety from the Coogee Surf LifeSaving Club and then had fun in the surf. 2018 will be the third year of this successful program and HARDA and Kids Giving Back have more fun activities in store! We will go rock climbing again, enjoy sports and pottery and have another fun day out at the ocean. Thanks to Dooleys for their generosity in providing the buses that took us to these activities.





FOOD FOR THE HOMELESS:

Assisted by a group of young men from Brothers in Need, HARDA delivered food and hygiene packs to 'homeless' persons in Martin Place and Parramatta Park. A donation of \$5000 from the Global Aid Foundation enabled this initiative.

AFRICAN AND CALD YOUTH MENTORING (OUTREACH) PROGRAM:

Some 60 youths from Western Sydney took part in this mixture of workshops and sport program. This has proved a successful formula for Mohammed Omar, the driving force behind this project. His objective is "to demonstrate to African and CALD youth that they can be supported to gain pride and satisfaction from participation within the wider society". The workshops covered a number of topics such as Cyber Safety, Young People and the Police, conducted by liaison officers from the local Area Command and the Australian Federal Police. The highlight of the program was the African Soccer Tournament held in Auburn from October to December 2016 involving 11 teams and over 300 players. This project was organised in partnership with the Auburn Sports Club. Grants were provided by the NSW Department of Family and Community Services and Multicultural NSW.

The objective of this program was to assist South Sudanese women living in Western Sydney find employment after in most cases many years without paid work. A group of 16 ladies commenced the program early 2017; they attended a series of workshops designed to get them job-ready and were paired with mentors who would assist and support them with job applications and interviews. The original group lost a few members along the way for various reasons but were replaced by others who became aware of the program. The program underwent a significant change in approach when it became clear that the ladies required a much greater one-on-one support than anticipated in the initial stages. The revised method has worked and, as the program neared completion, it is pleasing to report that 9 women are now in full time/part time permanent employment. We congratulate the ladies who persevered with the program and found jobs. Fiona Carr and Georgina Clark drove this project with tenacity and patience; it has paid off. The project is funded by a grant from the Scanlon Foundation.

AFRICAN WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (AWEP):



HARDA OVERSEAS PROJECTS



COMPUTERS AND BEDS TO ETHIOPIA:

This was the second phase of a project planned and delivered by Girma Dabi and Michael Power. 216 computers and 28 hospital beds were shipped to Ethiopia. Some of the costs were funded through an appeal (Chuffed.org) that raised \$ 5600.

BEDS AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT TO SOMALIA:

The Australian Somali community of NSW has worked very hard to bring some relief to their country of origin. It organised the shipment of 300 beds and other medical equipment to hospitals in Somalia. The freight cost was covered by a donation from the Global Aid Foundation; monies raised by community members.

PROJECTS FUNDED BY GLOBAL AID FOUNDATION:

HARDA supports and facilitates projects in the Horn Of Africa that provide emergency relief or sustainable long-term benefits to vulnerable communities. In the year to 30 June 2017, the Global Aid Foundation has funded several projects meeting the above criteria.

They are:

- Water wells in South-Central Ethiopia. Potable water for 5000 persons.
- Iftar Food Relief in North East Kenya. Assistance to communities displaced due to the prolonged drought.
- South Ethiopia Emergency Food relief.
- Kenya Famine Emergency Appeal.

On the ground, the Siltie Aid Development Organisation (SADO) in Ethiopia; and Waso Resource Development Agency (WARDA) in Kenya implemented the projects.

HARDA expresses its gratitude to the Global Aid Foundation and all the donors associated with the Foundation for these humanitarian initiatives.

HARDA also wishes to thank the following for their much appreciated and needed support:

The Edmund Rice Centre

Dooleys Lidcombe

Catholic Club

Scanlon Foundation

Global Aid Foundation and
associated donors

Shabir Kharodia

St Bakhita Centre

The Clark Family Foundation

Kids Giving Back

Auburn Sports Club

Aquatic Safety & Training

Academy at Seven Hills

Work Ventures

Brothers in Need

Australian Somali Community
Association

NSWHealth

Rotary International

Dept. of Social Services

NSW Government

Girma Dabi

Colleen Moloney

Ayoob Bhayat

Imtiaz Bhayat

Danny Long

Sydney Forex

J Glass & D Cohen

Phil Waugh

Commonwealth Bank of
Australia

Sydney Grammar School