



THE SCHOOL OF  
**ST. YARED**

# St Yared Newsletter

Issue 34, July 2018

## GRADUATION



On Sunday, 15th July, we celebrated the end of the 2017/2018 Academic School Year and would you believe our very first intake of Kindy Kids graduated from Primary School! Grade 8 marks the end of primary education in Ethiopia and we are super proud and beyond excited for our inaugural class of St Yared students as they celebrate this very important milestone.

Our graduation day was filled with beautiful celebrations by all students and was a special day for the proud parents. To start proceedings, Yared, Dawit and Hirut each addressed the assembly with words of congratulations and praise for effort.



Look at these bright sparks back in 2009 - can you spot any familiar faces?

During the celebrations, there were performances by students from every grade. These consisted of poetry readings, cultural dancing and drama performances. Also, to mark the end of year there was an exhibition of the magnificent art work by the Grade 1 – 4 students.

Towards the end of the day's celebrations, merit awards for high achieving students were presented.

Finally, our Grade 8's were presented with certificates of completion

The school has now closed and all students have finished for the year.

## AND THE RESULTS ARE IN...

"Our Grade 8 students, teachers and parents gathered with anticipation and excitement as everyone eagerly awaited their exam results. It was incredibly moving to be a part of the presentation day as it was very clear how hard all these students have worked right up until this point. It is also an especially significant moment for the School of St Yared as these students are the first year group to start at the school, therefore their results reflect far more than the sheer hard work that has got them to this point, it also represents the journey and the impact our school has made over the past ten years and how our vision has become a wonderful reality, which continues to unfold as our students continue on their academic path.

Watching the gratitude of not only the students, but the parents towards Yared, Hirut, Gayle, Dawit and the other Grade 8 teachers was a truly humbling experience. Parents showered us all in hugs and kisses and it was so clear just how much this opportunity has meant for their children and their families."

As reported by Caitlin Gooch





**As for the results:** half of the cohort of 56 achieved results which placed them in the top 20% of students in Addis Ababa. Nine St Yared's students were in the top 5%.

Alazar Abebe was our best performing student closely followed by Kalkidan Desalegn; both of them placing in the top 1%. Our top 5 performing students are Alazar, Kalkidan, Hannan Demelash, Natenael Sisay and Etsubdink Arega.

Congratulations to all students for the magnificent results and to the teachers at the school for the encouragement, support and direction provided to the students.

To see photos of our students receiving their marks click [here](#)



## June 2018 Australia Tour

Thank you to everyone who supported Yared over the past month on his Australian Tour. Yared started this tour in Perth and was able to catch up with some committed supporters and sponsors as well as many new and potential friends of St Yared.

Yared was welcomed at a Rotary Club of Attadale meeting where he was able to thank the members for their generous support and also to inform them of the progress being made because of their donation.



Attadale Rotary Presentation

Yared spent time addressing small groups, visiting a few schools, and meeting with individuals interested to hear his story. Yared also found some time for a little rest and recreation and was thrilled at his first encounter with dolphins in the Mandurah Estuary, Perth.

Yared's trip to the East Coast of Australia was an absolute whirlwind! Many thanks to all of our supporters in Melbourne and Sydney who came to hear Yared's story and support our school. We welcome you on this journey of Fighting Poverty through Education!

A special thank you to author Liz Deep-Jones for everything she arranged while Yared was in Sydney. Liz interviewed

Yared for the Living Black program which will be broadcast on NITV and SBS Australia later this year. We can't wait to see it!

Yared finished his tour in Perth, engaged over a few days in intensive planning sessions before participating in a Hope For Children board meeting where future plans and directions were discussed and ratified.

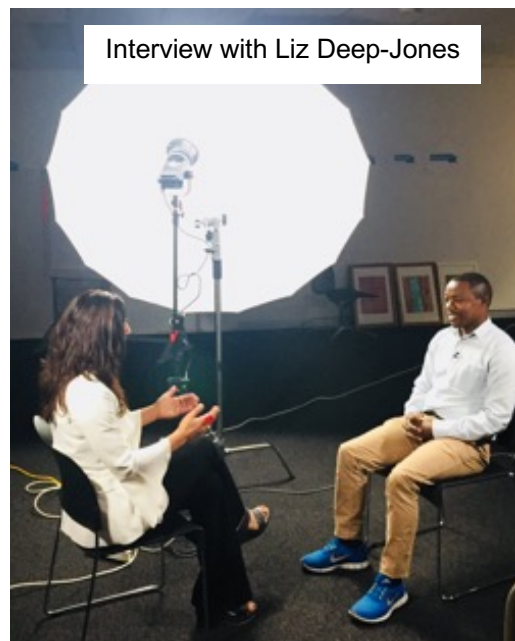
4th time in Sydney



Many people were inspired by Yared's story and the incredible work at the school. As a result we have managed to have about half of our 40 unsponsored students receive the benefit of a scholarship to assist in covering the costs associated with their education at The School of St Yared.

Should there be any readers wishing to help make this trip even more successful by taking up a sponsorship or making a donation, just follow the link to our secure payments page!

<https://schoolofstyared.platform.com/>



Interview with Liz Deep-Jones

At the Three Sisters, Blue Mountains, Sydney



With friends at Mundaring Weir, Perth

For more pictures of Yared's time in Australia click [here](#).



## KIDS HELPING KIDS

During his brief visit to Australia, Yared was able to visit and revisit some schools who have expressed an interest in hearing Yared's story. Some of the schools have already helped by raising funds for different projects, while others have indicated that they will look at fund raising avenues for the future.

Year 11 students, Santa Maria College, Perth



Yared visited Santa Maria College, Orana Catholic Primary and Yidarra Catholic Primary in Perth as well as Brigidine College and Mount Sinai College in Sydney.

Thank you all for your hospitality and support!!



Year 6, Santa Maria College, Perth



Orana Catholic Primary, Perth



Brigidine College, Sydney

## VOLUNTEERING IN ETHIOPIA

### UWA STUDENTS



Compass is a fledgling Australian NGO

founded by a group of compassionate University of Western Australia change-makers and medical students, wanting to contribute to change and education, with a focus on health.



Two founding members, Clare Bradley and Katie Wang recently visited The School of St Yared and Hope for Children in Addis Ababa. It was their first visit to Africa where they learnt more about Ethiopia, its people and of course The School of St Yared.

With gum boots and rain gear, the girls battled the tough terrain

and poor weather conditions to visit students and their families in their homes so that they could update student profiles. As the girls stated on their blog, "We find these visits truly eye-opening as we visit the homes of the students, meet their parents, and learn more about their lives, and dreams for the future."



Students took part in Compass' Healthy Living Program, which explored various healthy and unhealthy foods, introduced the students to the Healthy Eating Pyramid, and they learnt about the digestive system. Older students completed Part 1 of the Sexual Health Program.

St Yared students were also taught some basic first aid and basic life support. This was done by simulating a car accident with the students, and each student got to practice checking for danger, sending for help, and splinting and putting a sling on their peers.

The school students participated enthusiastically in the training and, given that it was presented from a younger perspective, found it more relatable.

To check out the girls' time in Ethiopia, visit their blog at <http://compass.net.au/blog/>

You can also see a video of their trip at <https://youtu.be/cdPnOFg1RNk>

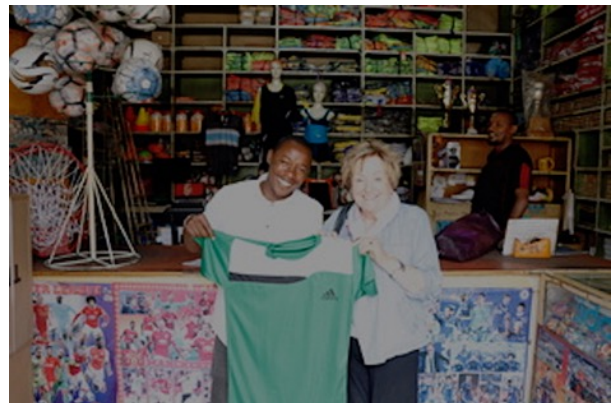
We look forward to an ongoing relationship with Compass and anticipate welcoming visits from more members in the near future.





## **DIANNE and GEORGIA**

Di Roberts has made another visit to St Yared's and her granddaughter, Georgia Douglas, accompanied her on this trip. Di had some donated funds and went on a small spending spree with Yared to acquire various items which the school needed. Di and Georgia also purchased and donated some reusable sanitary pads which were distributed among the senior girls at the school. As can be seen in the photos, both Di and Georgia spent some enjoyable time with the students. We thank both ladies for giving of themselves and their time to support The School of St Yared.



## **GIRLS2WOMEN**

### **Life Lessons for our Grade 8 Girls**

The School of St Yared's year 8 girls were lucky enough to sit down with two amazing Ethiopian women, Momona Hailemariam and Loza Tsegaye who have resolved to transform the lives of women and young girls in the Tigray and Addis Ababa region.

Through their organization, Girls2Women, Columbia University School of Nursing Professor Mary Moran has developed an innovative sanitary pad-making program in Mekelle. Their rationale was to design a reusable sanitary pad so that there would be a reduction in the amount of time young girls were spending away from school.

These extremely talented ladies came to the Hope for Children country office to donate and teach the Grade 8 girls how to use the reusable sanitary pads. The two women were so empowering to the young girls that our students quickly asked how they themselves could become involved in the organisation. Some of our students will now volunteer during their school break and help distribute the pads to disadvantaged girls in orphanages around Addis Ababa.

Valuable information and training was provided with packs distributed to each student. All St Yared female students will progressively receive these reusable necessities.

The School of St Yared thanks Momona and Loza (pictured below) and Girls2Women for their extraordinary sensitivity and kindness and we look forward to the bright future working together.



## A Huge Thank You

We would like to thank Nick Nofal from Experimac Perth, who initiated and coordinates donations of preloved Apple products to both Hope for Children and The School of St Yared

Due to Nick's generosity we have a number of MacBooks heading to Ethiopia which will be used by support staff and teachers at The School of St Yared.

Why not check out their website if you need anything Mac. [www.experimac.com.au](http://www.experimac.com.au)