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### YOU ARE INVITED!

1ST WEDNESDAY OF THE  
MONTH

5.15 PM

BOWLING CLUB COOMA,  
NSW, TO DISCUSS AND  
PLAN STRATEGIES AND  
MARKETING.



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["MAMA WIMBI"](#)



ROTARY AUSTRALIA  
WORLD COMMUNITY  
SERVICE

# MAMA WIMBI



## End of an Era

With sadness I learned that the board of Cooma Rotary Club decided that it doesn't want to have any long-term projects, so Mama Wimbi has had to find another Rotary home.

This is a heavy loss but, as it can't be helped, I have applied to another club in order to maintain our valued connections with Rotary and with RAWCS. These things take time, so we must be patient and stay hopeful while in limbo.

The club we hope to join has several exciting, long-term overseas aid projects so

Welcome to the  
third edition of our  
monthly **Mama  
Wimbi** newsletter!

perhaps this is for the best.

Our profound thanks to all those at Cooma who helped and encouraged, and most especially to Jan, Geoff and Carlo whose sponsorship of medical and engineering students in Goma is on-going.

I will still be having a drink at the Bowlo at 5.15 pm on the first Wednesday of the month, and if you would like to continue subscribing to this newsletter, we would be delighted to keep the connection.

A simple “unsubscribe” reply will take you off the list.

## Facebook Fundraiser

Our experimental first Facebook Fundraiser did meet its \$300 target. The funds have gone into the school fees account and I will provide \$300 for fabric to make sure that the donors did achieve the advertised goal, as well as sending 3 more children to school next year.

## Nimitabel

We noticed that the little town of Nimitabel had a few shops sporting bunting which had seen better days. Two were very happy to upgrade to Mama Wimbi buntings and one bought four to resell at cost to support the project. The new \$25 price doesn't seem to be a problem, so these sales will help even more than before.



## Cobargo Folk Festival

The Cobargo Folk festival was a flutter with buntings of all kinds and quite a bundle of buntings found new homes during the weekend.

Our friends Ivan and Dawn bought some, some performers bought some, and we are hoping to get a photo of them in Tennessee, for our “Where will you Wimbi?” collection.

This stallholder was selling amazing jewellery from old copper, including a church roof!

## Awesome Volunteers



Dawn Newell took some bunting to her rug-hooking class and got another eight orders!

Ingrid Reyne-Williams volunteered to help distribute buntings after the Numeralla folk festival and her efforts have made the difference between school and none for several children now.



Thank you Dawn and Ingrid!



## “School in a Bag”

“School in a Bag” distributes school bags full of school supplies. The bags are paid for by Australians who like to know exactly who is carrying their \$40 bag of goodies.

We are still waiting on a reply from the London office but the Australian office (which serves only Timor Leste and PNG) has been encouraging. Perhaps in time our team can provide a purchasing and packing service for Eastern Congo. We have 15 years of experience to offer!

Meanwhile, we are experimenting with our own small-scale version of the program. Students from Amy Vos’s class at Elodea Montessori school are keen to correspond with children in Goma.

Amy thinks that the contact will provide useful global perspective, practice in communication skills, and some protection from “affluenza”.

She says that the children in her class enjoy fund-raising, and certainly our Congolese children need school supplies so it seems like a good match.

Pictured are Judith, Innocent, Israel, Benediction, Rebecca, Vainquer, Josiane, Joyce, Aser and Chrinovic ... some of the first to volunteer as penpals for the Australian children.



Eric Baeni and Moise Cirimwani will manage the Goma end of the project. Both young men are sponsored in their tertiary studies by Cooma Rotarians.

Judith’s school fees for next year have been secured by customers of PD Murphy’s in Cooma, donating a coin (or a note) when they buy their coffee.

Thank you Mark John-Natley for facilitating this!

## Fundraising Opportunity

Do you know a club or group who would like to raise some money for its own projects by retailing Mama Wimbi buntings?

This is a wonderful opportunity to do well by doing good!

Contact Penny on 0429170739 or [penny@mondeto.com](mailto:penny@mondeto.com) if you think you might.

## Adventures in Computer Transport

Thanks to the wise and generous advice of Rotarians Lucy Hobgood-Brown and Barry Barford, we have found a couple of good options for the transport of the excellent computers donated by Phil Isaacs and his RAWCS project 31 of 2011-12.

One involves an offer from Sonic Healthcare to transport the computers from Sydney to Goma in a shipment of medical supplies going to HEAL Africa hospital in November.

The other offer comes from Bendigo-based “Computers for Congo” and would take the computers as far as Uvira, in the neighbouring province of South Kivu as soon as June.

“Computers for Congo” is doing outstanding work in providing reconditioned computers to establish computer training centres in Congo and we look forward to collaborating in future.

We need to do some research into the likely customs duty due and transport costs Sydney-Bendigo and Uvira to Goma to know which is best.

We are applying for a grant of \$390 from District 9710 to cover the cost of software for the 13 best of the available computers. Grants normally involve advancement of funds by a club and reimbursement but perhaps an exception might be made this time because it is going to a RAWCS project in NSW.

The computers will be used for public access internet and for teaching courses in internet use, especially marketing and business.

We are grateful to Phil Isaacs and “Low Power consuming Computers for Developing Countries, Worldwide” for the use of their expertise in preparing the computers so very well for reuse and for delivering them to the HEERA warehouse in Lane Cove where they are safely awaiting transport.

It is delightful how all these puzzle-pieces come together in the context of Rotary service. Heartfelt thanks again to all concerned.



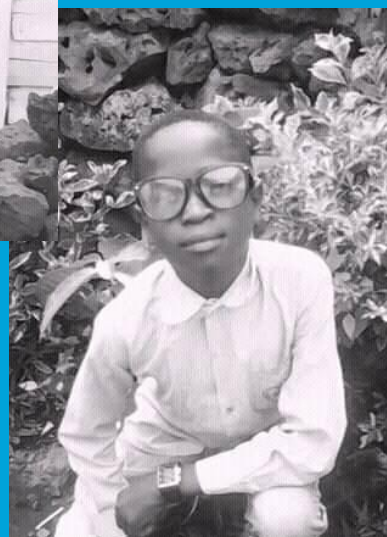
Eric Baeni is successfully studying engineering, thanks to the sponsorship of Geoff and Helen Bowland.

Eric's six younger siblings were about to be thrown out of school for the third year running, for lack of the fees to study.

The twins, Rachel and Lea, have already repeated the first half of grade 1 twice, despite being intelligent. It is very frustrating for them and heart-breaking for their mother, who simply has no way to pay.

However, this year is going to be different, because all the children will be sponsored and have a chance to graduate and progress!

Eric's mother lives an unfeasible distance from Goma to participate in Mama Wimbi like the other Mums. We'll see what we can think of to help in the longer term!



No, they don't have identical glasses, just modelling Eric's with pizzaz!

# Kijana Wimbi Computer Education Update



Last month, we mentioned that Jacques is starting our internet education classes, using equipment funded by Australian donors. His project is called Kijana Wimbi (Boy Wave) in recognition of the launching role played by the Mama Wimbi project.

Jacques' first 2-week courses in internet usage and banking has made a good start and his detailed report is attached below.

We are very excited about the combination of his teaching program, the donation of the computers for our training centre and the support of our Kara An on behalf of our Korean supporters, who have expressed a readiness to rent a suitable venue for the program.

## Kijana Wimbi Project Progress Report

by Salama Palya Jacques

### What is Kijana Wimbi ?

Kijana Wimbi is a project aimed at improving the use of the Internet and the understanding of the financial system by Congolese people, the inhabitants of the city of Goma. Now the project works thanks to dear Penelope Vos.

## About the Internet

In my city there are more than one million people who do not benefit from all the services that the internet offers, and most of them think that everything they read on Facebook or Whatsapp is true. Some people confuse Facebook with the entire network, they do not know that it is vast. We thought that we should inform of the other things, and how to use them well. Therefore, we have decided to establish a structure that will evolve to teach the internet to local people.

There comes a time when talking with the same person on two different social sites at the same moment, becomes clearly a waste of connection and a waste of time. This happens often today because that is what they think that is what the internet is about. We want local people to reach some level of criticism about what they see on the internet.

In this program we show students all the services that the Internet offers, the advantages and the disadvantages of the internet, they will understand that all the messages they read on the internet are not true, they know what to read and what they do not read, they understand that they can also have a website.

About a financial system, we have noticed that, until now, some concepts like a bank that should be known by local people are not so much, but we think that all citizens should have a little knowledge of this. It seems that Congolese are not good customers of banks, not because they do not need their services but because they do not know why banks are important. Goma people do not realize that we need credit to finance activities, to save money that will fund upcoming projects, or save money for taking care of old lives. We do not do this as propaganda for the banks, we do it because our customers are beneficiaries.

In this program we explain what the financial system is, what are banks and how they work, becoming a bank client, what banks they can choose, why keep their money to the bank, how to borrow money (certainly banks do not lend to people who do not have a guarantee but we think that when they understand that local people are mature they may alleviate the burden). In the end we integrate the internet and the financial system to see what they both give (internet loans and online banking).



## What We've Done

We organized a weekly seminar for two weeks, this month (March) is our first experience now we are planning to run another at the beginning of April. At first we had a twenty students but ended up with only ten people who really appreciated us. In teaching we realized that our training had its place in society. Some students did not know what an internet link was, others did not know that you can buy online merchandise.

Now our students are able to:

- Discover many windows in their navigators on a phone or on a computer and browsing with all windows
- Gain information from a website knowing what to read (visit an official website) and what not to read (advertisements etc)
- Buy online
- Make criticism and comments on articles online
- Subscribe to a website

## Our Goal

I studied computer science for three years, I know how important the internet is in the economic development of nations. Working online, jobs are created.

In the meantime, we aim for locals to understand that, on the Internet, they can have a shop, office, money, albums, and we want local people to benefit the customers on the internet by selling their goods, so that they understand that a virtual system is real.

In the long term we aim to become great in the creation of applications for phones and computers, we hope that the students we are teaching will become our close clients. We want to create webshops that will serve local people as well as those further away. We want to be reference experts, which we can not be if we do not teach the people who will be our customers. Finally, in

the long term we want the great percentage of Goma people to really enjoy the services that the internet offers.

## Our Resources

Now, thanks to the help of dear Penelope we have:

- materials to teach (computer, projector)
- solar system energy
- three teachers: Joseph Kalema Shango, Nickson Kasolene and I (Salama Palya Jacques),
- we have a place to teach our program

## Our Needs

Normally, the project will pay us in the long term. The people we teach now are our comrades and may not be able to pay money to participate in training but we are willing to instruct them to achieve our goals.

We invite help from all the benefactors who think we are doing a good job.

We have some needs like:

- Our own computer laboratory for teaching
- A fund to pay for interaction connection whilst our clients cannot pay.

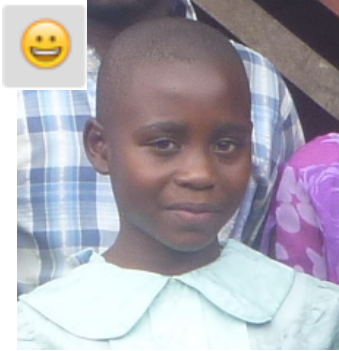
Thank you for reading my report.

Salama Palya Jacques

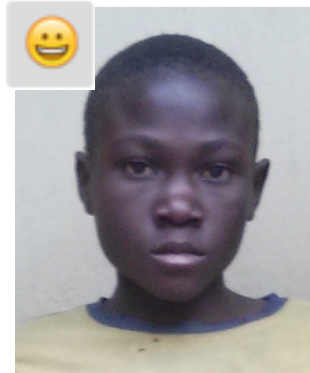


## March's Children

March was a tough month, but still we funded seven children to go back to school in September, by the sale of buntings and the PD Murphy moneybox.



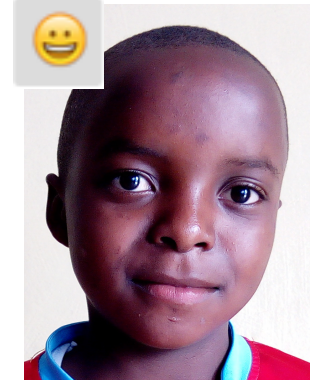
Judith de Christine



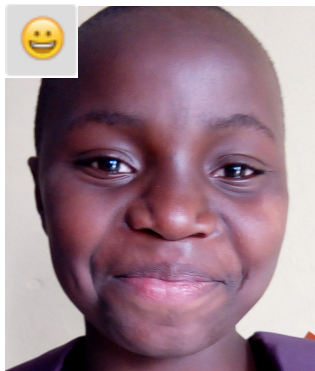
Delapaix de Wivine



Uriel de Bernadette



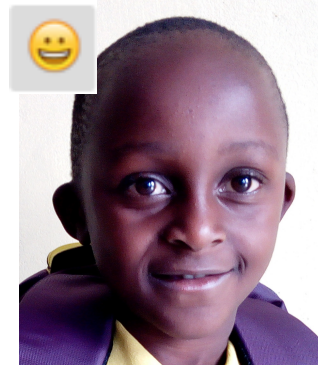
Joas de Via



Sharufa de Kahambu



Sarah de Kahambu



Salomon de Kahambu

Thank you for reading our newsletter, we hope you enjoyed it.

Please share with your friends.

**Happy April from all at Mama Wimbi!**

**Penny Vos**