



The Tithing Tree Summer 2009

“Creating a simpler, more humanitarian Christmas”

www.thetithingtree.org

Log On! Branch Out!

Help spread The Tithing Tree message this Christmas by telling your friends, family, colleagues and the media all about our very own Youtube Animation.



Seamus Spilsbury, an up-and-coming young animator collaborated with the TTT team and Drew Heriot to create this light-hearted and humorous story about the excesses of Christmas. We acknowledge and thank Seamus for supporting our vision with his creativity and passion.

However, having an animation is just the first step. We need lots of help from our supporters to spread the word via email, blog and twitter. Please also take the time to give the animation a 5-star rating on Youtube, then it will get a higher ranking!

Website updates

Along with additions of new organisations on our database, we have continued to fine-tune the website, finding more ways to make it user-friendly to you. Once again we invite your feedback and suggestions to assist us in getting the message across. Here is a quick guide to some of the recent updates.

World At A Glance Check out our updated World At A Glance pages (on the “How to Tithe” page of TTT website) for some alarming facts and figures on how people in more well-off countries spend money and waste resources that are then compared with what that money could provide for people living in less fortunate circumstances...

Making it Work Under the link for “young children” we direct you to some great websites that explore sustainability on our planet. [Aardman Animations](#) are very clever and funny animations of the planet from the perspective of animals. [BigPictureSmallWorld](#) is a fascinating and highly educational site full of short movies, facts and games. Great resource for kids, parents and teachers.

Supporters Page We have added TTT “gift tags” that can be downloaded and printed out for your Christmas-tithe messages then attached to your home-made goodies.

Karunya Trust Children’s Home Event

This year we had the pleasure of supporting one of our listed organisations more directly. The co-founder of Karunya Trust Children’s Home in Southern India came to Melbourne in May to speak at a fundraiser for the Home. Sharyn, along with her two daughters Lovi and Rami, shared with 100 guests some of the stories and dances of the children of Karunya. Sharyn humbled us with her delight at finally having hot water “on tap” at the Home, courtesy of the solar hot water system purchased with last year’s fundraiser money.

Nearly \$4000 was raised to buy an industrial washing machine for the children’s clothes – all done daily *by hand* up until now - with any additional money used to make repairs on the school bus. Congratulations to Rose Witherow and her team for a great night at **Lentil As Anything**.

Time for a Change

In 2009 we farewelled Jen Davies from the TTT committee as she launched into exciting new projects of her own, including a comprehensive history of Flinders Street Railway Station and its influence on the development of Melbourne. Jen has been our Treasurer and newsletter producer and we thank her for her support, commitment and expertise over the last six years.

Watering the Tree

We are always on the lookout for new ways to get our message to the public. Along with printed articles, **radio** has consistently produced good results, with immediate spikes in our website visitor statistics. Jo Heriot is available for interviews (03 9853 3362). Our office can supply press releases and a small pdf ad for insertion in newsletters and magazines. **Web links** via your organisation, personal websites, blogs and Twitter are quick ways to help build our network.

Acknowledgments

The Tithing Tree is able to continue its through the generosity of those who support our work

InfoXchange for their continued support!
<http://www.infoxchange.net.au>

Jacqui Mott at SLOW Magazine for donating ad space
<http://www.slowmagazine.com.au>

Cherie & Chris Ross for sponsoring a TTT message in the 2010 Sophia Mundi School Calendar

And of course, ALL of YOU for spreading the word

The organizations listed on **The Tithing Tree** database tend not to have a high public profile, and need support to continue expanding and fulfilling their goals. Here are some recent additions to our website:



<http://www.futurecambodiafund.org>

STOP PRESS: Leigh Mathews has been acknowledged as Victoria's Young Australian of the Year 2009 for her work founding the charity Future Cambodia Fund.

"After travelling the world Leigh was struck by both the beauty of Cambodia and the tragic circumstances of its people. At just 23 years of age she founded the Future Cambodia Fund, an organisation working with disadvantaged children and their families in Cambodia. Programs include remedial education; health and dental support; and activities for children. Water, sanitation and health program help educate women. FCF has built a children's centre that now has 160 children in attendance.

However, even such a prestigious award does not guarantee regular funding and she is currently faced with the challenge of raising \$100,000 in order to continue the work.

"Despite devastating setbacks and enormous hurdles to overcome Leigh has never wavered in her vision and commitment. She demonstrates that when you truly believe in what you are doing you can achieve anything." National Australia Day Council website

The Rajasthan Women's Clinic

<http://www.rajasthanwomensclinic.yolasite.com>



The clinic aims to sustain a health education centre and a small hospital with a mobile rural dispensary. Homeopathic first aid and growing herbal medicines is a vital part of our project. The concept of supplying micro-credits for families interested in starting their own business growing medicines or dispensing first aid is also a key component. International volunteer therapists with experience in naturopathy, homeopathy, herbal medicine, Traditional Chinese Medicine and massage supervise the clinic throughout the year.

Kindy Boxes Project

<http://www.kindyboxes.com>



An initiative of the Rotary Club in Richmond (Melbourne) 'Kindy Boxes' are distributed directly to village kindergarten teachers in Timor Leste, the youngest and poorest nation in Asia. Each Kindy Box supplies much needed resources. There are four different Kindy Boxes planned: consumables; wooden educational toys; fine motor-coordination resources and a handwriting kit in Tetun.

Victorian Bushfire aftermath

February 2009 in Victoria will be remembered for its horrific bushfires that all but obliterated several townships, took the lives of so many and left so many families homeless and devastated. Australians responded with immense generosity to the bushfire victims, with millions of dollars raised to support the rebuilding of townships and livelihoods.

The loss to the wildlife populations from the bushfires is incalculable, from mammals to birds, reptiles to insects. No species would have been safe from the ferocity of the fires. Now, almost nine months later, while trees may be sprouting bravely, there is still almost nothing growing at ground level for animals, like wombats and kangaroos, to eat.

Wildlife Victoria is a not-for-profit and volunteer-based organization that utilizes a comprehensive networking system of wildlife shelters to rescue and rehabilitate injured wildlife. With their own rescue teams they worked tirelessly alongside emergency services personnel right throughout the fires.



photos courtesy of Wildlife Victoria



Tragically seven volunteer Wildlife Shelter Centres were lost to these terrible fires - *in most cases the volunteers have lost their homes* as well as the animal shelters that they have built up tirelessly over many years.

Your support leading up to this Summer's fire season would be greatly appreciated as they rebuild their network of carers and facilities, and continue their food drops for wildlife in fire-ravaged areas.

<http://www.wildlifelifevictoria.org.au/>

Luckily, **Kingbilli Wildlife Rescue** narrowly escaped the horrific bushfires of Black Saturday in February 2009, but have had a heart-breaking job dealing with wildlife survivors.

<http://www.kingbilli.com.au>

