

President's Report KwaYa Australia Inc - 2018



Marsha Gusti

I present the following report with appreciation. Over the past seven years Kwaya's membership has grown exponentially. Our volunteers are the backbone our organization.

They continue to allow KwaYa boasting rights. We remain an organisation that has no paid employees and allocates 100% of every dollar to the project for which it was raised.

My deepest thanks goes to anyone who has baked a cookie, hosted a visit to their area or sang a song on stage with us. Giving is indeed love in motion.



MAYBERRY MELDRUM ANDERSON
ACCOUNTANTS & TAXATION CONSULTANTS

Thanks to Brian Meldrum B.Bus CA JP (NSW) from Mayberry Meldrum Anderson - Accountants and Consultants for generously offering his services to undertake Kwaya's audit requirements as a registered charity.

20 King St Murwillumbah NSW 2484

Tel: (02) 6672 4044

<http://www.mmaacc.com>

UBUNTU Africa - “Make That Change” Tour - 2018

The UBUNTU Africa 2018 tour has, in a spectacular fashion, managed to surpass the success of the 2016 tour.



The tour consisted of 28 concerts, 17 workshops, 13 master classes and a one full day Sing Fest in metropolitan and regional areas of Australia. The tour commenced in Mornington Peninsula, Victoria and ended 1,612 kilometres and three months later in Maleny, Queensland.

The tour spanned from 6 April 2018 to 2 July 2018 raising a profit for ACC of over AUD\$90,000. 136 x US\$50 sponsorships were also signed. Twenty-two concerts were sold out with seating capacity ranging from 250 to 800. The workshops and master classes were also extremely well attended.

1. CONCERT

As with Ubuntu Africa 2016 tour, KwaYa requested a show exhibiting Africa’s culture for the 2018 tour. And, that is indeed what was delivered. We were delighted with the quality of the performance as well as the content.

The feedback from audiences was overwhelmingly one of elation. We had return customers from Ubuntu’s first tour and new attendees. Both were thrilled with the show.

Concert tickets prices:

ADULT - \$20 - \$35

CHILD/CONCESSION - \$12.50 - \$15

FAMILY OF 4 - \$50-\$75

Recommendation

We experienced repeat performance numbers this tour. Next tour, perhaps retain only one or two original numbers and the rest to be new.





2. WORKSHOPS

Workshops succeeded both in schools and with the public. Charging a nominal fee of \$1000 worked well with some schools giving more.

3. MASTERCLASSES

As recommended in our last report, we introduced Master Classes to our 2018 program. We offered school and community choirs the opportunity to learn and perfect a song up to performance standard. We offered four songs to choose from:

- Rising
- Africa
- Bolingo
- Nkosi Sikele

The song chosen by 12 participating choirs was Bolingo with one choosing Rising. This demonstrated that nearly all choirs were looking for a uniquely African experience.

With the classes lasting from one to one and a half hours, UBUNTU Africa taught the song from scratch or worked on perfecting the choir's performance. We had the songs transposed onto sheet music and also sent learning tracks ahead of time. This was so they could familiarise themselves with the piece before the class, plus continue to further perfect it after we leave.

We added simple choreography to the song, which was initially greeted with some reluctance but after encouragement from the Bunties was quickly embraced.

Where possible, we offered the participating choir to perform the song on stage with Ubuntu at their local concert.



4. SPONSORSHIPS

Sponsorship of the organisation and ACC students individually has been outstanding during the tour.



Corporate - After nurturing and fostering a relationship with CHU Insurance they were successfully signed as a tour partner securing a sponsorship of \$15,000.

We also received a number of sponsorships of \$500 from local businesses to host a local concert.

Child Sponsorship - We secured 136 x US\$50 sponsorships for the young adults on tour and many of their peers back home. We believe the reason behind such a success is the overall story of “Make That Change” woven on stage.

A story that:

- Demonstrates a quality partnership between KwaYa Australia and ACC with a long term proven record of impressive results.
- Evokes compassion in audience members and trust in both organisations.
- Proves that no matter the humblest of beginnings or the direst of circumstances there can exist a light at the end of a dark tunnel if committed people with integrity are at the helm.

As each tour evolves the ACC gains more recognition in Australia as a quality charity that achieves outstanding results. The Ubuntu Africa team is living proof that ACC gets the job done.

5. PERFORMERS

Ubuntu Africa 2018 comprised of 14 consummate and highly professional performers. Everyone who met them loved and admired everything about them. They were eager to learn and grateful for the opportunity given them. They represented ACC and Kwaya at a very high level. They were responsible, mature and appropriately inquisitive. Area hosts and billet families received them with open hearts and walked away from the exchange very impressed not only by Ubuntu but ACC and Kwaya as organisations.



Ubuntu performers benefit in visiting Australia by experiencing the following:

- Performing in a high-end cultural extravaganza

- Attending multiple job shadowing opportunities
- A cultural exchange with the people of Australia
- Visiting Parliament House and establishments such as The Brain Institute. They also visited a self-sustaining village that demonstrated how a community could operate independently and provide for themselves.
- A heightened awareness of how things are done in the West and what they might take or leave from that back to Africa
- The opportunity to contribute to all aspects of touring including show content, stage and sound set up, sale of product as well as marketing and public relations.
- Receiving one-on-one mentorship from Abraham and Barnett.

Although members of UBUNTU Africa 2018 possess unique qualities as individuals, they were a tight team who bonded and developed special relationships on tour. They supported each other and contributed to the tour in valuable ways.

6. SPONSORSHIPS

We are extremely pleased with the results of 136@US\$50 high school and university child sponsorships signed during the tour. As with the first UBUNTU Africa tour, we believe we achieved this by the impact of the “Make That Change” campaign being woven into songs and testimonies on stage. People responded positively to:

1. The connection to an Australian organisation like Kwaya, that prides itself on being run 100% by volunteers and guarantees that 100% of every dollar goes towards the project for which it was raised.
2. Every performer on stage being living proof that the ACC does succeed in providing an education from Primary School to University. Many people sponsor youngsters in other organizations without knowing what happens to them. People are inspired by the fact that ACC kids were recruited 10 years prior and have just finished high school through sponsorship. Many are keen to see them and their peers complete a tertiary education.
3. Audiences and host families are impressed by the fact that the organisation pumps out high calibre people such as Abraham and Barnett. They are keen to support more just like them.
4. Scott Lambie’s sponsorship appeal on stage is particularly fascinating to Australian audiences. His personal story about his relationship with ACC and how it began contributed greatly to the amount of sponsors signed up on this tour.



7. HOST CHOIRS and SCHOOLS

Nineteen schools/choirs were repeat hosts, some hosting for a third time.

Seven schools/choirs were new hosts. All have indicated they would be open to doing it again should the opportunity arise.

8. BUS

This is the third tour the KwaYa bus has attempted since receiving the grant in 2013. Buying a bus to transport KwaYa projects to locations and venues to conduct cultural exchange workshops in Australia is seen as something worth supporting by the Australian government.

The bus was overhauled mechanically before tour and performed brilliantly with some minor hiccups. It is now sleeping on a farm until the KwaYa Committee makes a decision as to what to do with it.

FINANCIALS

TOUR PROFIT - AUD \$91,140.661

SPONSORSHIPS in \$US

130 signed @ \$50 = US \$6500/mth

Estimated Value

\$6500 x 12mth = US \$78,000

\$6500 x 24mth = US \$163,200

\$6500 x 36mth = US \$244,800

\$6500 x 48mth = US \$326,400

CONCLUSION

I am immensely proud of what we have once again achieved during this fourth partnership ACC/KwaYa tour to Australia. Our members and followers are increasing each tour, which proves that the formula adopted has been a resounding success. The model is unique in that it is based around forming long-term and personal relationships.



KwaYa #7 Tour to Uganda 2019

Our next tour to Uganda is Sept/Oct 2019. As of October 3, 2018, twenty-two travellers have signed up. We have introduced new activities to the schedule, as a number of travellers are repeat guests. For one member, this will be her fifth trip to Uganda with KwaYa.



We are hoping that during our trip, the ACC/Empower secondary school will be completed and ready for its grand opening. This is an exciting time being that many Aussies across Australia have contributed in some way to making this dream a reality.

STITCH ME WARM PROJECT

<https://www.kwaya.org/stitch-me-warm>

Co ordinated by Jude Mapleson

Contributors

- Chris Ingram and friends, Melbourne
- Colleen Yuke and the Gold Coast knitters
- Di Bickett, Geelong
- Helen Boelens and the Dutch Care Farm Knitters, The Netherlands
- Judith Buchanan and the Holy Trinity Charity Knitters, Sebastopol, Victoria
- Lynne McHutchison and the Banyule Charity Group, Melbourne
- Mary Polidano, Mullumbimby
- Maureen Harmony, Queensland
- Pauline and Shirley, Sebastopol.

Recipients

- Western Desert Dialysis at The Purple House Alice Springs
- Alice Springs Hospital
- Remote outstation, Western Desert
- Alice Springs Women's Shelter
- Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir poignant stories

Freight

- Small and large parcels through the post
- Toll Transport

Precious Cargo - hundreds of kilos of beautifully handcrafted:

- Blankets of all sizes
Beanies and preemie beanies
Scarves and fingerless gloves
Toys and trauma teddies
Jumpers and cardigans
Socks
Special blankets for still births



REPORT - Jude Mapleson

Over a two year period we have received 34 packages and 200 kg of not only beanies and blankets, (as requested by the renal dialysis patients at Western Desert Dialysis, also known as Purple House) but also bootees, books about chooks, baby clothes, baby blankets, fingerless gloves, toys and dollies, scarves and ponchos, socks and lap rugs.

Points of Interest 2017:

1. Melbourne member Chris Ingram volunteered for a week at the Purple House, bringing with her a 'truckload' of excess baggage! Together we visited and donated to, the Women's Shelter and the Alice Springs Hospital. Chris with a patient at the Purple House.



One of the blankets from Sebastopol.

2. I was interviewed live on Ballarat Community Radio by Judith Buchanan.

3. The Dutch Knitters entered 7 beanies in The Alice Springs Beanie Festival Competition. (The usual limit is 2....a reprieve for Kwaya SMW.) All were sold and I was able to present a cheque for the total amount to the Board of Western Desert Dialysis. I was delighted to learn that the most beautiful blanket from Sebastopol was made by Judith's son, Sean!

Points of Interest 2018:

I spent a week in Mijdrecht, The Netherlands with Helen and Otto Boelens, a couple unknown to me until I became involved with Kwaya SMW. I was greeted by all the members of the Care Farm Knitting Group at an afternoon party in my honour. (A lot of cheese and raw fish!) What an eclectic bunch of women both youthful and elderly, all actively crafting. I discovered that one unseen knitter is schizophrenic, and produces all the scarves received from Holland in Alice Springs. Most I stitch together to make the ever-desired blankets.

The May newsletter for Purple House included a write-up and photos of Kwaya SMW's work.

In June we were able to outfit (beanies, gloves and scarves) the Central Australian Aboriginal Women's Choir before they left Alice Springs for sold-out concerts in Hamer Hall, Melbourne and the Sydney Opera House, performances in an indigenous choral festival at the John F. Kennedy Center, Washington DC, and a special performance in New York City.



Jude with Helen Boelens, stitching together at a Dutch beach.



The Aboriginal Choir choosing some warm knits!

Kwaya Stitch Me Warm gets around. The membership is vital, and I'll be sure to let the Board of Kwaya Australia know when it ceases to be so.

With pleasure,

Jude Mapleson

Thanks Jude for your incredible work in co-ordinating this project and making sure all the goodies are directed to the most needy areas. We value and appreciate you!

HUMBLE HAMPERS

<https://www.kwaya.org/humble-hampers>

What is Christmas truly about? Not giving gifts of little use to those who have everything, but giving essentials to those who have little to nothing.

A campaign we launched in 2015 to help ACC deliver over 400 food hampers to families in the slums and remote villages of Uganda, has taken a firm foothold and is feeding hundreds of families every Christmas. One food hamper @ \$25 feeds a family for two weeks.

When the donor's name is added to the accompanying gift card, it becomes a personal gift both for the recipient and the giver. With Karen Cunningham at the helm, we hope to exceed 500 hampers this upcoming Xmas in 2018.



BIG HEARTS

<https://www.kwaya.org/big-hearts>

We are proud to continue our **program** to extend emergency medical assistance to include the ACC kid's families **who live in the slums**.

Nine big-hearted Australians currently contribute \$2130 per annum.



KWAYA TRAINING PROGRAM



KwaYa has introduced a new concept whereby young African adults are given the opportunity to train in Australia.

The first participant is Amanda Rachael who has just finished her studies under the The African Children's Choir sponsorship program. Amanda will arrive on 1st June 2019 to commence an 18-month traineeship.

She will receive intensive coaching with an objective of taking on the duties of ACC/KwaYa Tour Co-ordinator. She will be employed by Music for Life/The African Children's Choir. Future ACC Australian tours will continue to operate under the KwaYa umbrella.

Public relations both at VIP and community levels on behalf of ACC and KwaYa will play a key part in her new role.