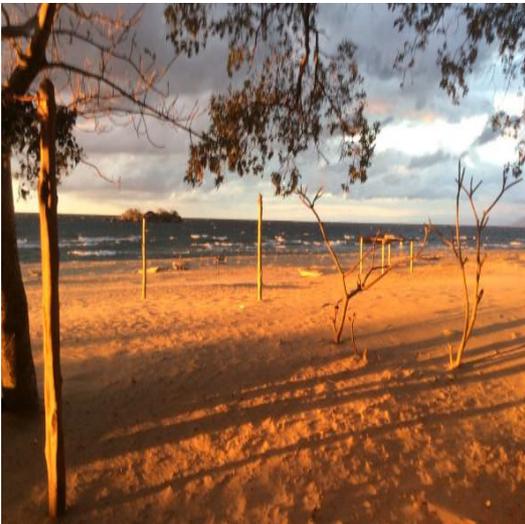


Mphatso

May Newsletter

Robyn is back on the ground! **And things are moving quickly**



You know that feeling when you're in the middle of a hurricane and you get hit by a tornado? That's pretty much Robyn's return to Africa. The rains came...and came and came! The wet season and the extended time Robyn had been away seemed to make the fine line poverty draws between life and death even more confronting. But amidst difficulties and loss Robyn maintains a positive outlook - sending through beautiful pictures of sunrises and sunsets. Most importantly of course are the football updates from our team the Home Sweepers! Malawi continues to be a place of abundant joy and beauty despite immeasurable need.

Some of the more pressing needs that required attention upon Robyn's arrival included:

- Hospital transportation
- Emergency care
- New babies in life or death situations needing to be added to the feeding program
- Countless families in desperate need of more black plastic for their leaking roofs after a very long and very wet season
- Attending to those who had walked hours from the sponsored Nursery schools to request new cups and bowls as rats had eaten so many

The immediate call went out on Facebook and people gave generously - some kids even took to the streets in order to raise the much needed emergency care money. The funds needed to cover these extra expenses were all generously donated allowing Mphatso Children's Foundation to cover taking people to hospital, purchasing 50 rolls of black roofing plastic and hundreds of new cups and bowls. All of this on top of the well established feeding and well being programs! We're so grateful for the support everyone showed.. thank you for helping us to help others.

- Moving forward, Robyn is now working hard to gather tools and build a road into the land that has been put aside for the Mphatso Education Centre being built this year, but the weather has meant work is currently impossible.
- We are in the process of putting together some information packs for visitors coming to help establish ground works and start the building later this year.
- We all also in the throws of preparing for a Gala night, which should be very entertaining on August 18th - Save the Date!
- Also, another car boot sale is planned for Oct/Nov this year.

From Zarah & Laura (Editors)



Presidents Report

Hello to all of our Mphatso family,

First of all I'd like to say a BIG THANK YOU to everyone for their on-going support. It has been an exciting yet challenging 6 months with the formation of our new committee and Robyn returning to Malawi. We all thought (even Robyn) that things might "settle down" a little once she was back in Malawi but we couldn't have been more wrong! Technology, however, has made it a lot easier to stay in contact with Robyn on a regular basis, when it works that is!

With a lot more rain than usual over the last few months it has been a very challenging time for Robyn and the general running of Mphatso, not to mention the local people and the living conditions they endure. Further, the Toyota Hilux finally succumbed to the pressures of Africa making the day to day operation of the foundation even harder. On a positive note however, Robyn's mechanics got the old Land Rover going for short trips around the village. This doesn't replace the need for a good, safe and reliable vehicle which we still currently need to source. The nature of Africa means working through the options to determine the best way to purchase another vehicle for Robyn is quite a minefield!

The shipping container is currently somewhere on the Indian Ocean and we anticipate it will arrive in Tanzania at the end of this month. Once arrived it will be trucked to Malawi. Can't imagine unpacking that thing! Can you imagine all those happy faces and the lives it will bless!

We also have had some great response to fund raising efforts in the last few months. Most recently was the movie night which raised \$700. We are now working towards some other events including a Gala Dinner in August and the Car Boot sale in October /

November. Both these great events will also help continue to broaden our support base.

These next few months will be busy for Robyn as she has a stream of visitors through June, July and August. For many of these people it will be their first visit to Malawi, exciting times! I'm sure they'll come home with many stories to share.

Please keep Mphatso in your thoughts & prayers.

On behalf of the committee,

Liz Pounder

(President)



Robyn's Report

Some things just don't change and there is something comforting in that. My return to Mkuonda Village was as always, kids running behind the car calling out, Ama Robbee echoing through the bush. Their little legs barely touching the ground trying to get down to our compound. Tears from me...many little hugs around my legs and some wonderful smiling bigger people with firm welcoming handshakes. My tribe, love them all.

Then reality! First the car dies. Oh man how we have come to rely on transport as we need it. Seeing William walking many kilometres with tins of baby formula on his head, smiling, is humbling. Then a two week old baby bleed to death within 24

hours. Not long after one of our Positive Living group mums came with her 'fitting' malnourished, anaemic baby. Thankfully I was in the village and able to provide transport money (only because you made that possible) to get them to medical help.

We now have many rolls of plastic in storage for the next wet season. The plastic isn't put on the houses now because the sun will make it weak before the rains come. Houses have been re-roofed but many more will be done at the start of the next wet season. Again a big thank you to you giving and generous people. The difference a roll of black plastic can make is amazing. Consider trying to sleep with rain constantly coming through your roof. For me that would be torture, I get annoyed at little noises or little inconvenient drips through my iron sheets.

No one complains, no one says "Why me?". I'm not that person.. and it is confronting to be in a community of grateful people who are thankful for the smallest gift. I just had a whinge on Facebook about my lack of cherryrises. I had a funny experience in Mzuzu (city), with a bike taxi. He couldn't stop in time at the main road and he was trying to brake with his foot but we ended up out on the road into traffic coming from the right. The big fat lady (aka me) just sat on the bike taxi with the 'driver' laughing. My taxi 'driver' told me I need to reduce (my weight) I told him I'd reduce him and to go get some brakes!

The container, at this stage, is coming next week. Can't wait to get my hands on the baby formula, sewing machines for the ladies Positive Living sewing group, shoes for the kids and just to be able to bless our faithful workers, teachers and cooks with clothes, tools, books etc etc etc.

Our local football team now have their own Facebook page called Home Sweepers. Bichai and his little team have done an amazing research job and traced the history of the team. If you can, have a read it is a wonderful history and a great connection between villages. They are playing in finals at the moment but I suspect that there is corruption involved and we will not let that happen because our HS/Magpies have been winning fair and square. Watch this space.....

For me personally there have been times of great struggle. Village life is not always easy. You know that a normal marriage can be hard blending two ideas together

well that is bigger I think when you are respecting two cultures. There is a lot of love and acceptance from both sides so that smooths out potential problems. There is much to tell, but you will just get bored. Please keep praying, unless God has ordained it nothing lasting or of any great value is possible. Otherwise we are just doing a good work with no eternal value - No thanks!! I am motivated by my faith, which is nothing new to any of you, but if you are moved to help just because you want people to have the basics in life, food, shelter and medicine then thank you from the bottom of my heart for your response.

There is such a sense of excitement here in the village and beyond, hard to put into words. The nursery school is being built at Chituka. We have split one of our larger nursery schools and made it more accessible to our little guys down near the lake. This means more babies growing and happy happy nursery school children. Why and how is this all possible? Because people give! People give in many ways; An email to me, phone calls, financially and of course the committee working their little tails off to maintain everything that is happening and still to come. And you...everywhere you look it is never ending the people asking for money for a good cause and yet you chose Malawi. Thank you for choosing to support Mphatso Children's Foundation.

We are indeed Feeding the Children, Growing the Community and Impacting the future.

LFJ
Ama Robbee.

August 18th - Gala Night

Zarah

Save the Date - Friday 18th August

Gala Night

7:30pm Waterfront Kitchen, Western Beach rd,
Geelong

Live Music, Guest speakers, Prize
giveaways and Silent Auction. A Fun, Fun
night and all for a good cause.

Join Us for a Great Night of fun with Fabulous Live Music,
Exciting Silent Auctions & Inspiring Speakers.

Mphatso Presents

Waterfront Kitchen
Deakin Uni,
Western Beach
Road, Geelong

FRIDAY
18th
AUGUST

7.30pm to
11.30pm

Silent
Auction
and Door Prizes

**\$70.00
Per Person**

- Finger Food
- Drinks on Arrival
- Drinks at Bar
Prices

Live Music By
Good Faces 4 Radio

Inspiring Guest Speaker
Cam Greenwood
Founder of Monsta Surf &
Live Passionately Foundation

Help us to raise funds to ...
Feed the children, Grow the community, Impact the future - in Malawi

Book your tickets - www.trybooking.com
For more information: Marg Connors - 0418 570 229

The importance of prayer cannot be overstated. Our great God is powerful and merciful, hearing us when we call on Him (Psalm 145:18). Please keep Robyn and the work the Mphatso Children's Foundation is doing in Malawi, in your prayers. If you feel led to contribute financially, there are many options. You can make a direct deposit into the bank account (listed in the next column) or download our direct deposit form [here](#).

Mphatso Children's
Foundation:
BSB: 633 000
ACC: 1278 61631
Robyn's Personal Account:
BSB: 633 000
ACC: 1234 83422



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Mphatso Childrens Foundation · 28 Hodgons Street · Ocean Grove, Vic 3225 · Australia

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