

MEDIA RELEASE

The Joseph Odeke Community Development Fund

FILM MADE IN KEITH

Excitement is in the camp for Dr Odeke and the committee of the Dr Joseph Odeke Community Development Fund.

Tom Zubrycki, an Australian filmmaker - whose award winning documentaries have earned an international reputation for their truthfulness, realism and humanity - has recently spent three days in the area filming various aspects of the ambitious project to help the villagers of Atirir in Uganda.

He became interested in the 'three wishes' project after hearing Chair of the committee, Mig Brookman interviewed on national ABC radio last month. Mr Zubrycki flew out from Sydney to meet Dr Odeke and the committee and to begin filming last week.

In 2005, Metro Magazine quoted Tom's filmmaking ethos, "A passion for social justice has always been my main motivation," he said. Metro Magazine went on to say that over his four decade career, Zubrycki has tackled contentious social and political issues in more than a dozen documentaries. "But I'm also inspired to tell stories about ordinary Australians – stories that have been traditionally ignored by the mainstream media, and that need to be told."

Thus, he has picked up on the 'three wishes' project, believing in its philosophy and long term success.

Chairperson of the Dr Joseph Odeke Community Development Fund, Mig Brookman said the possibility of a documentary has come along at an appropriate time.

"It will keep the enthusiasm up and the momentum going as well as the belief that the project will be ultimately successful," she said.

With only three days to cover various facets of the project, Tom had a jam packed time filming in the area.

He began at Naracoorte Primary School with the year 6/7 class who have been writing to children in Uganda. Dr Odeke recently brought back replies to the letters which were opened on the day.

The innocence of the Ugandan children shone through as letters were read with humorous comments like, *'if you will be my pen friend, I will give you a chicken'* and then the heartbreaking, *'do you have a Mum and a Dad, because I don't.'*

Replies to these letters will be sent back with Kate Brookman when she visits the village in December.

Mr Zubrycki also visited Padthaway Primary School to catch up with Stephen Edwards and his band of boys who have fixed and continue to repair bicycles to send over to the village in an ongoing project.

From here he filmed Ian Windebank, who gave him a cook's tour around the Padthaway vineyard where he works. Mr Windebank is one of two men who will be going to Uganda this year as soon as there is confirmation of the arrival of the container to educate the farmers in the use of the machinery and implements.

The Tintinara boys didn't miss out with a group of men who have helped out on the project, led by Frank Brock talking about all aspects of the machinery that has and will be sent.

Mr Zubrycki commented that he really enjoyed seeing the camaraderie of men from different generations but similar backgrounds working together.

Keith Area School, the Keith Surgery, Lyn Densley with plans for the proposed Medical Centre and Win Hunt and her band of workers sorting and packing donated clothing were also among the areas covered in the three days of filming.

Chairperson of the Dr Joseph Odeke Community Development Fund, Mig Brookman said the three days were jam packed and exciting.

"The highlight was the fact that Tom was prepared to fly over from Sydney especially to get to know us and that he had sufficient interest in the story to see that it could be of interest to others. It's humbling that he thought there was enough happening to make it a story interesting for him to follow with the possibility of it ending up in a documentary," she said.