

The Hunger Project – Heidi

Earlier this year I came across The Hunger Project (THP), a charity committed to ending world hunger and poverty by 2030, in line with the UN commitments. THP is an international organisation, with an Australian arm, working with communities in developing countries around the world.

Their model is one of partnership, they see people as the solution, not the problem, and empower them to envision and deliver a better future for their communities. It is long term, cost effective and sustainable.

Inspired by their work, I undertook to fundraise a minimum of \$10,000 (this ended up being almost \$17,000) and then to cover my own travel costs to travel to Uganda to learn more about the work they do over there.

Uganda is a beautiful country. On the equator, and subtropical, complete with lush banana palms.

The people are welcoming, and charming 'You are most welcome' is a common greeting.

However life for the people of Uganda is not easy. The average income is less than US\$2 per day.

In Uganda, THP works with groups of villages, communities of 10,000 - 30,000 people, to build community hubs called epicentres. Epicentres provide essential services such as education, health, microfinance, food bank, demonstration gardens and more.

The process takes between 7-15 years from commencement to self-reliance.

This model was developed in Africa by Africans.

We went into communities who have just started their journey with THP, and those who are almost self-reliant.

The difference was stark.

The people in the latter community were proud of what they have achieved, children were in school, they were growing a good range of food for their families, able to store and even sell some, eating balanced meals at least twice a day, and able to access good health outcomes.

In the community where they have recently engaged, there were some pretty tough stories to hear. Families eating every second or third day, children dying from preventable and treatable diseases, crops failing from pest infestation and drought.

I learned many things on this trip, but most importantly, that THP model works. That people's lives are fundamentally changed as a result of the work they do.

www.thp.org.au



Arts and Community

Montalto Sculpture Prize 2017

Congratulations to Ben Carroll for taking out the \$30,000 MSP Acquisitive Prize for his work *The Bush of Ghosts*. Ben's work now joins the permanent collection at Montalto. The work of all 23 finalists is on display at the Estate until October 29.

Montalto in Town

After a successful launch in 2016, Montalto in Town will return to Melbourne this year. Once again we'll be bringing a taste of our Peninsula to the inner city for a short run of dinners during spring. Keep an eye on our website for details.

The Winemakers' Philosophy

In June, we teamed up with our neighbours Willow Creek and Polperro to host the inaugural Winemakers' Philosophy dinner. The three winemakers discussed Art versus Science in winemaking while guests enjoyed a four-course dinner with 12 matched wines from our featured producers.

Books and Ideas with The Wheeler Centre

Half way through 2017 and this series of Books and Ideas has proved the most popular to date. Highlights so far include visits by novelist Jane Harper, journalist David Marr and actor turned writer William McNnes.

Visit our website or sign up to our email news to stay up to date and get first access to tickets – they sell fast.

