

## **The Rotaract Club of Swinburne Inc.**

**MADIBA'S LITERACY AND VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTRE, GOMBE, GOMBE STATE, NIGERIA.**

A number of our members have met many of our Swinburne Rotaractors during the last 12 months and we have enjoyed their company at our meetings, at the Farmers' market and on the bread run.

Within 6 months of the Club being chartered, the Rotaractors adopted their first International project: The establishment of a Basic Literacy & Vocational Training Centre in Gombe, Nigeria.

The proposal was put forward by Ishaku Lemu Haruna, a double Masters student at Swinburne. Ishaku, who is a Biotechnologist with interest in Sustainability and Global leadership, completed his further studies at the end of 2014 & returned to Nigeria, where he continues to work at the Gombe University.

President Nkem Gatt-Rutter, together with Ishaku, met with our Don Heath and an International District Grant application was prepared and was successful. Both our Rotary Club and that of Yarra Bend joined with the Rotaractors to support & contribute to the project.

The establishment of the training centre, under the project management of Ishaku, is all but complete & was commissioned on 7th May, 2015 "by His Royal Highness, Dr Abdu Buba Maisheru II, the Mai of Tangle who was represented by His Royal Highness Mathew Andrew, the Binnin Tangale." Government dignitaries too were in attendance and the President of the Rotary Club of Kaltungo, our Nigerian Rotary partner for the project.

The project entailed acquiring premises, furniture, equipment, tools etc & recruiting 4 qualified tutors who will provide their services for a small monthly token.

President Nkem is managing the project from this end & we look forward to the enrolment of our first students. Great work from our Rotaractors!

There are many illiterate & poor people in Gombe & the opportunity to learn to read & write, together with vocational training in carpentry or tailoring, provide hope for these citizens.

The centre will be operated by the Gombe YMCA.



Ishaku & the President of the RC Kaltungo



HRH Mathew Andrew, Binnin Tangale



*Jan Twite 17 May 2015*