



## Editorial

Nick Molnar, Captain of Faith & Outreach

On athletics tracks and marathon routes all over the world, it is Kenyan runners, with their mental endurance, high-altitude training and outstanding grit, who consistently dominate the competition. One of the many unique traits, however, that set these extraordinary Kenyan athletes apart from their contenders is their drive to speed up when they reach hills. Whereas the instinct of many is to slow while trudging up a slope, Kenyans possess the hard-earned strength and perseverance to accelerate on their athletic crusades through the formidable highlands of Africa's breathtaking mountainous regions.

2020 has undoubtedly had a sharp incline and it has been easy for people to slow on their runs to the summit. However, where others saw an obstacle, Harambee saw an opportunity. This is what the hill represents to the Kenyan runners – a chance to work harder, to do something different and to improve their performance.

In adapting to new and changing circumstances, the team seized the opportunity to think outside the box. Born out of adversity were creativity and innovation, and this led to the inception of two raffle fundraisers, a partnership to spread comfort through Letters Against Iso, and the reshaping of Homework Club to run despite the barriers of lockdown.

For the Class of 2020, we are on the homestretch of our run. The seeds of Harambee were sown when we were in Year 7 and, as such, we will be the first cohort to graduate having walked with Harambee for the entirety of our school journey. With not long to go, we're approaching the mountain's peak and together we're going to have to speed up, like the Kenyans, to conquer the hill and complete the run. To all the Year 12s, I hope Harambee has given you as much as you have given it.

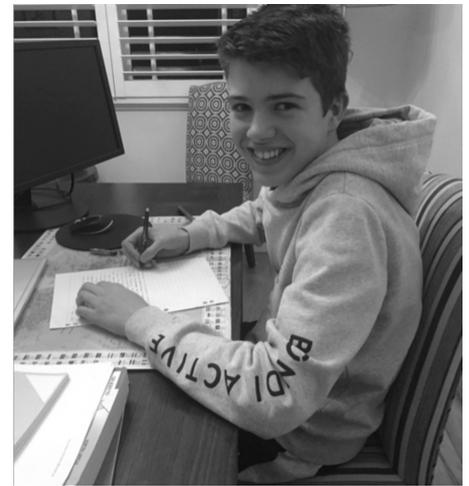


## Tackling isolation with pen & paper: Letters Against Iso

Ben Rosenberg

Started at Mac.Robertson Girls' School, Letters Against Iso is an initiative that sees 550 students from fourteen different schools write letters to aged care facilities each week during these challenging times. The reason this is so important is that we have to remember that we are not the only people in a tough situation, and others are doing it much harder than us. In this time of isolation, it gives us the opportunity to reach out to those in need and spread some hope and positivity.

So far, around 25 different boys from Years 7, 8 and 9 have signed up and started writing letters each week to those in nursing homes doing it tough. Why nursing homes, you may ask? In some, people are stuck in their rooms with nothing to do and no visitors allowed, so it would be saddening and lonely. Through Letters Against Iso, we are trying to brighten their day, with handwritten letters to give a personal touch. It is a great cause, because to know that someone has taken the time to sit down and write you a letter would be quite a nice feeling.



## News from Homework Club

Oscar Howard

Since recent changes to daily life, Africa Homework Club has, like everything else, had to readjust. Currently, the program runs every Tuesday and Friday and sees students from Trinity, Ruyton and St Kevin's log on via Zoom, where we are able to tutor refugee children living in Melbourne's housing commissions. There have been a few hiccups along the way, as can be expected when doing new things, but, now that the kids (who are using old laptops donated by Trinity) have grown accustomed to this new style of learning, they are beginning to thrive. There's great excitement for when we can return to normality at Homework Club, however, for now, we are adapting and growing.

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***"I don't think I've met a more courageous or selfless group of men for the 31 years I've been teaching because of the work you've done this year and what you've given up for our community. I hope the spirit of Africa and the work we do there has inspired you to be the men you are today."***

**- Mr Tom Purcell addresses the Class of 2020 at the Year 12 raffle fundraiser -**

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## Changing with the times

Nick Fallaw

As the year progresses and Term 3 draws to a close, 2020 is playing out to be a particularly foreign and challenging time here at Trinity, not least in the realm of outreach. It too is a time that presents issues to us, yet sees these issues accentuated all the more overseas for our family in Harambee's East Africa programs. Knowing this, however, there exists a unique opportunity to capitalise and make the most of our "at home" status for their much-needed benefit. Indeed, it was this opportunity that inspired the Harambee team to put together two raffle fundraisers over the duration of Term 3.

Following many months without face-to-face interaction with our international programs and those who rely upon them, we were quick to throw our support behind two events, setting about considering the best way in which funds could be raised in this trying time, and it was here that the online raffle concept was initiated. With an idea in place, focus turned to the challenges associated with the online context of such an event and the collection of a great set of prizes to promote the cause and raise the much-needed funds.

The first raffle was for the Year 12s and staff, and tickets went on sale as we rolled into August, with the proceeds from all \$10 purchases flowing directly to those most in need at Uganda's Village of Hope and Kenya's Harambee Vocation Centre, enabling them to run food programs to support their communities. The second raffle was organised for the Year 10s and 11s, with another great batch of prizes up for grabs. This time, the funds raised also went towards the Homework Club in Collingwood.

The drive and contribution from those within and outside the school community culminated in special Teams events to draw each raffle. Students and staff pulled together online to hear Harambee boys recount their fond memories from time spent on East Africa immersions, with Mr Brown drawing both raffles in his customarily entertaining way. In testament to the generosity of the Trinity community, we can reveal that, through these two raffles alone, we have been able to raise a total of \$3,780 for the chosen programs.

We'd love to acknowledge and extend our thanks to all those who ensured this ambition became a reality. Thank you to the various sports teams and players (including a number of OTGs) who contributed the amazing prizes. For the nearly 400 boys and staff that purchased tickets in support, truly a massive difference has been made, so thank you for your meaningful contribution. We couldn't have done all this without the leadership of Anton Ruiz-Pedley, Jack Stewart, Michael Forwood and the wider Harambee team.

Despite an incredibly challenging few months for us all, this event truly does embody the reality that indeed all together we can make a difference.

