



HELPING OTHERS: Whitsunday resident Pam Harrison putting others first to help those worse off in Zimbabwe.

Aid for Africa is project for Pam

WHITSUNDAY resident PAM HARRISON has a foot in another continent. Pam, who lives on Hamilton Island, is heavily involved in a project called 'Aid for Africa Down Under'. She spoke to SHARON SMALLWOOD about how the two worlds connect.

Whitsunday People

PAM Harrison has been a nurse "forever". In 2003, she found herself nursing a patient called Julie Routledge, who had just returned from a trip to Zimbabwe.

"While I was pumping her with antibiotics for three days, she gave me an earbashing about the fantastic children and community over there, and in particular, an Afrikaans woman called Ezelle Schimper," Pam said.

Ezelle was one of the very few

farmers left in Zimbabwe. The majority of her friends had fled the strife-ridden country, but for the sake of her workers and their children, Ezelle had decided to stay.

"HIV was a big problem and many of her workers had died from it," Pam said.

"So she decided to build an orphanage and Julie Routledge came back and told me about it. Julie said she was going to start a charity and send clothing, medical supplies, etc in a [shipping] container. I told her she was stark raving mad, but I made the mistake of asking her if I could help."

Since making this momentous offer, Pam has come a long way. Initially she used her nursing background to raise \$100,000 in medical supplies.

"And that was just the start."

Pam has now visited Zimbabwe four times, with her next trip scheduled for February 2012.

"I'm helping to build a school of nursing over there. The build-

ing has now been paid for by AFADU (Aid for Africa Down Under) donations, some of which were raised at a fund raising event at the Hamilton Island Yacht Club in December 2010," Pam said.

"We raised \$18,500 in one night. We had African drummers, food and an African theme - it was a great night," she said.

Pam described the support from her home community here in the Whitsundays as "amazing".

"Everybody just knows what I do and is so supportive. We even sponsor a child through our regular Sunday "Whine Club" sessions," Pam said.

Pam is always on the lookout for new recruits.

"Anyone can donate, sponsor an animal, sponsor a child, knit a bear or a beanie - there are so many ways to help," she said.

For more information visit www.afadu.com or contact Pam at learjet5@bigpond.net.au



CHANGING LIVES: Aid worker Pam Harrison with Zipporah and Ezelle Schimper, unwrapping a parcel sent by the 'Whine Club' ladies. Zipporah is the child sponsored by the 'Whine Club' on Hamilton Island.

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WHAT'S ON

This week

THURSDAY

Terraces Restaurant & Bar - Free Pool Tournament

KC'S - Live Music, David Cooke

Paddy's Shenanigans - Live Music - Rock Stars on Vacation (Melbourne) 10pm

Sorrento Restaurant & Bar - Live Music - Keaton 5.30pm

FRIDAY

Terraces Restaurant & Bar - Texas Hold em Poker 20/20

KC's - Live Music, Dylan Hammond

Paddy's Shenanigans - Live Music Dave Cook 8pm, Rock Stars on Vacation (Melbourne) 10.45pm

Banjo's Bar & Grill - Live Music Keaton

Sorrento Restaurant & Bar Live Music - Matty D 5.30pm

SATURDAY

Sorrento Restaurant & Bar - Live Music - John Godfrey 5pm

KC's - Live Music - Josh Notting

Paddy's Shenanigans - Open at 6pm for the Kieran McCarthy CD Launch. Dave Cook 8pm, Rock Stars on Vacation (Melbourne) 10.45pm

Banjo's Bar & Grill - Live Music Scratch from 6.30pm

SUNDAY

Terraces Restaurant & Bar - Free Pool Tournament

KC's - Live Music - Mark Roberts

Paddy's Shenanigans - Rock Stars on Vacation (Melbourne) Last Night - 10pm

Sorrento Restaurant & Bar Live Music - Mark Mac 4pm

MONDAY

KC'S - Live Music - Matty D

Paddy's Shenanigans - Hammond 10pm

TUESDAY

KC'S - Live Music - Mark Roberts

Paddy's Shenanigans - Live Music - Mikey 10pm

WEDNESDAY

KC'S - Live Music - Matty D

Paddy's Shenanigans - Live Music - Kieran McCarthy 10pm

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