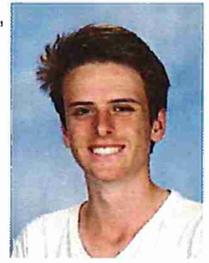


NOVEMBER CAS UPDATE: *BOOTS4KIDS* PROJECT

This year, my friend Anna Kubat [studying at Queensland Academy of Creative Industries (QACI)], and I, Calum Rutter, have been fundraising boots for children on a little island of Northern Papua New Guinea called Lihir Island. Lihir Island is about 70 square kilometres in size and 1000km north east of the capital Port Moresby and, although it is home to one of the largest gold mines in the world, many of the Papua New Guinean children go without novelties that we take for granted. Our connection to the island is that both Anna and I spent the majority of our primary schooling at Lihir International Primary School.



Calum

Since coming back to Australia, both of us had been looking for an opportunity to give back to the community which gave us so much. So, last year, during my Year 10 subject, Innovation In Action, I came up with a plan to collect as many boots as I could from schools and soccer clubs, and send them over to Lihir Island and have my old primary school distribute them accordingly. By the end of Year 10 I had all the logistical difficulties sorted out and the operation could become a reality, as opposed to a hypothetical idea which, at that time, was just made to fulfil the requirements of a subject.

So, at the start of May this year, I began my search across wardrobes of families predominantly in the Indooroopilly, Chapel Hill and Kenmore areas, and my friend Anna worked in the areas of Samford and Kelvin Grove. I was very grateful to three schools for the assistance in collecting the boots through their schools' newsletters and notices; Chapel Hill State School, Our Lady of the Rosary and, of course, Indooroopilly State High School. In addition to this, The University of Queensland Football Club (UQFC), also contributed to the fundraising, collecting a monumental total of over 60 pairs of boots in just two 3-hour mornings. We collected and cleaned a total of 186 pairs of football boots, ranging in sizes of teeny tiny baby feet, all the way to size 13 and 14! The cleaning having been completed earlier in August, the boots were shipped off to Lihir on the 25th and, after being misplaced at the docks at arrival on the Island, finally made their way to Lihir International Primary School earlier this month where the school held an AFL and Rugby Gala Day with all the other schools across Lihir Island and distributed the boots to the Papua New Guinean children.

The boots were a huge success! Every teacher who I have had contact with on the Island said that all the children were eternally grateful and some even cried when told they could keep their boots! From a simple idea formulated in a school activity, to making a difference to children that I, more than likely, have never met in my life, is something that I never believed that I would have been given the opportunity to do on my own terms. Because of this, Anna and I would like to say thank you to all who donated a pair of boots and, although it may have been an insignificant gesture to you, your generosity has gone a very long way. Also a huge thank you to Lihir Newcrest Mining Limited for assisting Anna and me with the transportation of our collected boots. Below are photographs of some of the students receiving their boots.

Calum Rutter
Year 11 Student

