



HOPE FLOATS!

AUSSIE swim star Michael Klim and TV favourite Simone Buchanan brought hope to an endangered culture and thousands of desperately poor Indonesian villagers with the launch of the Sumba Water Project.

Patron of the Sumba Water Project Michael Klim joined forces with Simone Buchanan, Patron of the Jodie O'Shea Orphanage, which has many children from Sumba as a direct result of the water crisis, to launch the project to business & community leaders at the Villas Hotel & Spa Bali in Seminyak. Part of a network of small, dynamic and highly efficient charities, the Sumba Water Project seeks to help beleaguered Sumba Islanders escape from grinding poverty and establish a sustainable positive future.

With supporters including The Villas Hotel & Spa Bali, international currency giant Travelex and Rotary Bali this addition to the MUM Bali Foundation (Manusia untuk Masyarakat) aims to arrest and reverse years of decline in a traditional society devastated by foreign exploitation and neglect.

Launching the Sumba Water Project, Chairman Richard Flax explained:

"Alison Chester and I have championed the Bantul Kindergarten project and Jodie O'Shea Children's Home where many children, once without hope of education or a decent future, reside.

"Not all are orphans but come from large families who are desperately poor. Many of the children are from the island of Sumba and there is one ray of light on an island with many problems. Building wells is a solution that will have an immediate effect on a large number of desperately poor villages and communities.

"Sumba used to be known as the Sandalwood Island and was famed for the fragrance of its trees. The island has been raped of this precious resource by foreign agents and now the parched island is covered in savannah like grasslands. Problems the people of Sumba face lead to an unending cycle of poverty.

"The key to breaking this cycle is water. For many people the day revolves around obtaining enough water to survive and starts with a walk of up to 5 Kms to fill one bucket and then walk back. This is a daily routine during the dry season and even in the wet there are no effective systems to store water. This lack of water leads to serious health issues including malnutrition.

"For many the diet revolves around rice, corn and pig fat, I leave it to you to consider the effects of such a diet. Other effects are dire. Malaria is rife and water issues create massive problems. To children in Sumba's traditional villages a small bottle of packaged water is the most precious gift.

"The Sumba Well Project opens a range of solutions - a new life for villages where wells are dug. Wells break the poverty cycle by developing decent food supplies and providing new standards of hygiene for people unused to the simple luxury of a decent wash or shower. Our ability to make a tremendous impact by

digging a well in a village for about US\$1200 provides relief out of all proportion to its cost, affecting many people and changing their entire lives for the better.

"Wells open the door to more simple and sustainable programs. To borrow from the old proverb: give a man a fish and feed him for a day - give him a well and feed him forever."

The wells will allow for village development and planning from the bottom up and the benefits from the wells such as the creation of fruit and vegetable gardens adjacent to the wells will be realized by the villagers with the help of mentorship from MUM but without the need for further financial assistance.

If you would like to help please donate to the main MUM bank account and mark your donation: Sumba Well Project.

If you would like further information on the orphanage please contact Alison Chester:

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If you would like orphanage or Sumba Water Launch images please contact either

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