

# Degrees of Change

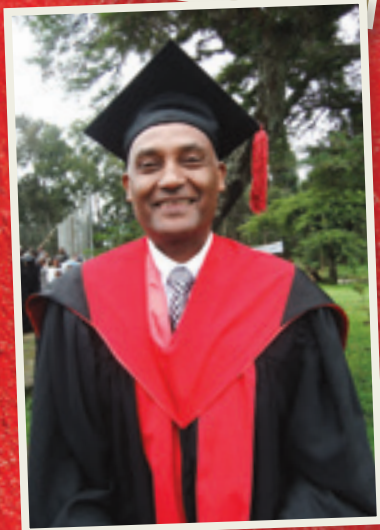
**O**n 15 July 2017, twenty young women graduated receiving their Bachelor of Science Degree (Midwifery). This wonderful celebration was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia and these women now start their careers as amazing Hamlin Midwives.

## Who was the proudest?

- *The students?* – who have studied hard for 4 years, away from home, and have met all the required academic and clinical aspects of their training, including a minimum of 40 infant deliveries.
  - *Their families in rural Ethiopia?* – who have made sacrifices so their daughters who dared to have big dreams could achieve them.
  - *The lecturers, tutors, and staff?* – who have taught, nurtured and encouraged the students to study hard and to do their best.
  - *Dr Catherine Hamlin?* – whose dream has been to see every pregnant woman in Ethiopia have access to a midwife. The first graduates in 2010 were placed in clinics in close proximity to the regional Hamlin hospitals (for full support from the obstetrician/ gynaecologist there and ambulance accessibility). Now newly graduated midwives are deployed back to the rural
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The 20 graduands for 2017 awaiting the graduation ceremony.



A proud day for Dean Ato Zelalem, Dean of the Hamlin College of Midwives.



*cover story continued ...*

provinces they came from where they are familiar with the people and the language. There are currently 34 clinics staffed by Hamlin midwives in rural Ethiopia and no maternal deaths have occurred with these women in attendance.

- *The donors?* – who from all around the world have given generously to make this Hamlin College of Midwives a success and a blessing. It costs \$4500 per year to accommodate and train each midwife.
- *Some special quilters in Queensland, Australia?* – These talented people have given their time and lovingly crafted a gift of a patchwork quilt, one for each graduate to treasure and enjoy, in honour of this achievement.

They may all be proud and rightly so. As it takes many pieces of carefully chosen material to be meticulously stitched to make a special quilt, likewise, it takes many people and 4 years to produce a genuine hero, a Hamlin Midwife. Congratulations and thank you to all involved in the making of a midwife. Sometimes changes can be measured by degrees!

By Joanne Millar

*Mrs Joanne Millar is a niece of Dr Catherine Hamlin and a Director of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited. Joanne and her husband Glen visited the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and some regional centres during early July. At the graduation of Hamlin Midwives on 15 July 2017, Joanne had the honour of making a presentation to each graduate.*



The graduates taking their oath holding a lit candle.



College staff leading the graduates in singing the midwives anthem.



Graduates being given their degree and gifts from UK and Australian directors.



Mamitu presenting an award to the student who delivered the most babies during their training.



The speech given on behalf of the graduates.



Dr Hamlin speaking to the graduates with the college Dean Ato Zelalem, and Fikirte.

## *Catherine Hamlin* ferry soon set for service

In late 2015 a new fleet of six ferries was commissioned for Sydney. The ferries were manufactured by Incat in Tasmania and a competition was held to name the new ferries after prominent Australians. We were thrilled that one of them was named “Catherine Hamlin” in honour of the great work Dr Hamlin has done in Ethiopia.





# Legacy of a New Building

Several years ago HFA received a legacy of almost \$1.4 million from the estate of the late Miss Ruth Lily Gledhill who had been a long standing supporter of Dr Hamlin. Miss Gledhill was keen that her estate should be used to benefit the many needy women of Ethiopia suffering from the effects of obstetric fistulas, ideally by funding the

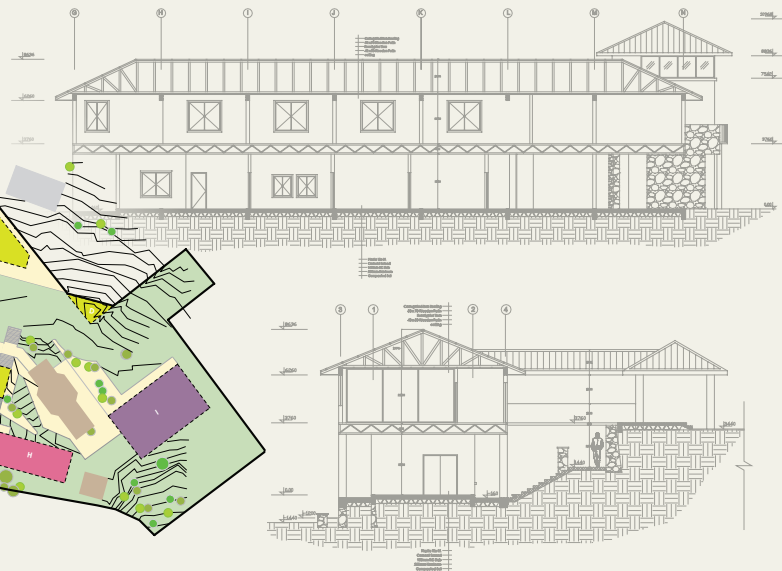
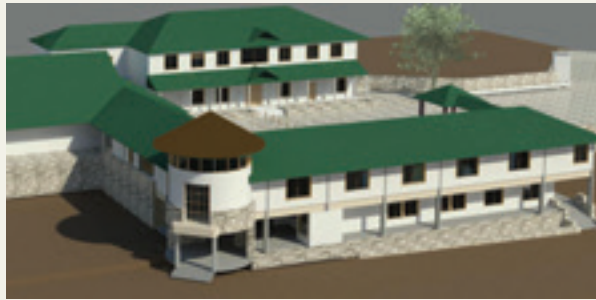
construction of a much needed new building at the hospital.

Following the development and adoption of a Master Plan for the hospital site, work will soon begin on extensions to the main hospital wing. The new building will provide up-to-date facilities for the pathology, out patients, pharmacy and

administrative departments of HFE.

The legacy from Miss Gledhill will provide approximately two thirds of the construction and fitout costs. Are you able to make a donation to HFA to support this wonderful new development?

Have you thought of including Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited in your will? Our office would be happy to provide your legal advisor with suggested wording for your will to ensure your support is used in the best way.



One of our regular donors, Mary Smith from Hobart, was also excited by the news and watched eagerly as the ferry was completed and trialled along the Derwent River in Hobart. Mrs Smith encouraged her local tennis club, Rosny Park Tennis Club to donate funds raised at their Christmas luncheon to Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited.

In January 2017, the ferry arrived in Sydney and has been undergoing further trials for the past few months. It will soon commence regular services on Sydney Harbour.

At 93, Dr Catherine Hamlin was not able to be in Sydney for the official tour of the ferry, but on 22nd May 2017, her niece and great-niece (also both named Catherine) were able to board the ferry for the first time along with Andrew Constance MP (NSW Minister for Transport and Infrastructure).

So in the coming months, if you are in Sydney, why not plan to take a trip aboard the "Catherine Hamlin" ferry?



# International Meeting

For more than 20 years Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited (HFA) has been raising funds to support the amazing work of Dr Catherine Hamlin. Historically, most financial support for the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital has been provided by our company but there are similar organisations raising funds in other countries. Each of these organisations promotes the work of Dr Hamlin in their own country and language.

For two days from 2 to 3 June 2017 representatives of the various international partners gathered at the hospital to meet with the Trustees of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia (HFE) and receive face to face reports from senior hospital staff. It was a delight for all present when Dr Hamlin joined the group for lunch each day.

Representing HFA at the meeting were Dr Robert Tong (Chairman of Directors), Dr John Scott (Director) and Mr Doug Marr (Executive Officer). In addition to participating in the group sessions, the HFA representatives were able to have further meetings with the architect who has prepared a master plan for the development of the site and with HFE Trustees and senior staff.

The HFA representatives returned to Australia greatly encouraged by their visit and keen to see the work of HFE, and the vision of Dr Hamlin go from strength to strength.



Robert Tong presents a gift to Dr Hamlin.

## RECOGNISING THE INTERNATIONAL DAY TO END OBSTETRIC FISTULA

Each year on the 23 May, the World Health Organisation and the United Nations call on the international community to use the day to significantly raise awareness and intensify actions towards ending obstetric fistula.

At Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited, it is our year-round goal to promote awareness of the serious and tragic injuries that can occur during prolonged and obstructed

labour. We also rejoice in the progress that has been made in recent years in Ethiopia in reducing the number of fistulas occurring through both treatment and prevention programs at the Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital and its regional centres.

On 23 May 2017, the staff at HFA celebrated the progress made by having a special morning tea in the Hornsby office.

# VISIT BY DR TESFAYE YACOB

Dr Tesfaye Yacob, the Chief Executive Officer of Hamlin Fistula Ethiopia, will be visiting Sydney to attend the meeting of the Directors of Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited on 12 August 2017. Each year the CEO of HFE is invited to join the HFA Directors for an indepth discussion of the work in Ethiopia and to make sure our Directors are fully informed about the progress and needs of HFE. During his time in Sydney it is expected Dr Tesfaye will be available to meet with supporters on Sunday afternoon 13 August.

If you are interested in attending this meeting, please contact our office so we can make sure you are provided with the details. Email to [emailus@hamlinfistula.org.au](mailto:emailus@hamlinfistula.org.au) or phone 02 8007 7435.



Dr Tesfaye CEO of Addis Ababa Fistula Hospital at the graduation of midwives.



Patients happily making a bead bangle in the school room.

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Thank you for supporting of the work of Dr Catherine Hamlin through the Hamlin Fistula Relief and Aid Fund and Hamlin Fistula Australia Limited.