“Fighting poverty through education”

GEMMA SISIA
Founder of The School of St Jude, Arusha Tanzania

12.30-1pm
Thursday 12 March
Lecture theatre 1

Gemma will speak about how The School of St Jude is actively living out their mission of ‘fighting poverty through education’ and educating the future leaders of Tanzania. She will explain how a high-quality education was out of reach of most Tanzanian children and the reality of life without an education in East Africa. The School of St Jude is one of a kind, what started 14 years ago with one teacher and three students is now a school with over 1,900 students, 350 local Tanzanian staff, three campuses and a fleet of over 20 school buses.

Come along and be inspired by the story of St Jude’s and learn how you can support their mission.

About Gemma:

Gemma Sisia spent her early years in rural northern New South Wales. With postgraduate degrees in science and education and a passion and zeal inherited from her ancestor, Edmund Rice (founder of the Christian Brothers movement), Gemma travelled to Uganda to work for three years as a volunteer teacher. This experience led to a fervent belief that a free, high-quality education should be the right of all children in the world, and that education is the strongest weapon in the fight against poverty, corruption and political instability.

Gemma’s achievements have been honoured through a Sapphire Paul Harris Fellowship by Rotary International, an Order of Australia medal, being named one of The Australian Financial Review and Westpac’s 100 Women of Influence, and as a finalist in NSW for Australian of the Year. Gemma’s autobiography, St Jude’s, remained on the Best Sellers List for over two months in 2007 and her story has been featured twice in the ABC TV documentary program Australian Story.