



Award-winning film about love in Kabul  
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## Message from Mahboba

"I am in Afghanistan at the moment visiting our projects. My visit to my homeland is always tied with a busy schedule of meetings and reports. To me, however, the most important purpose is to spend time with the widows and orphans and show them some love. This is priceless to them to have someone listen to their stories and care.

"I don't always have answers or solutions. Where we can help, we do our best. I met an old sick widow who is having some difficulty with moving. We will buy her a washing machine to make her life easier. Recently we also distributed food and rice during Ramadan.

**"The most important thing I can do is show them that someone listens and someone cares."**

"The orphans are doing very well in Hope House. They have some great activities organised like skateboards, soccer, tae kwon do. We even have made a partnership with a nearby gym that lets them go there for free.

"We also took the children from Kabul and Panjshir Hope House for a picnic day out. The children loved kebab for lunch, and they had fun swimming and playing. I want my children to be happy, strong and self-confident!

"There is still nevertheless plenty of poverty, uncertainty and sad stories. There is a water shortage at the moment. It hasn't rained very much and the wells are running dry.

"The small successes and smiles on people's faces are things that make me happy. I am so grateful to all of the supporters, donors and volunteers who help make such miracles possible."

**Love, Mahboba**



## Afghan Spirit Dinner

In May this year, bountiful women of the Muslim community organised a 'women's only' dinner in collaboration with *Mahboba's Promise* to raise awareness and funds for Mahboba's Hope House in Takhar.

The vibrant event, Afghan Spirit, engaged and entertained everybody with auction stalls, Afghan delicacies and Afghan music and dancing.

The evening also inspired 30 new sponsorships to support orphans in the Takhar region and brought together different cultures for a good cause.

## Film: Love, Kabul-style



*Love Marriage in Kabul* screened at the 2014 Sydney film festival and was a huge hit, winning the *People's Choice* award at the festival.

**Mahboba defies conventions to unite a lovestruck couple**

The film tells the story of Mahboba's determination to help a young

Afghan orphan, Abdul, marry Fatmeh, the love of his life.

When Abdul is unable to afford the marriage dowry demanded by the girl's father, Mahboba steps in to unite the couple.

The film is now set for wider release in Australia, so watch out for this moving film that wowed Sydney crowds. Visit the website for dates: [www.lovemarriageinkabul.com.au](http://www.lovemarriageinkabul.com.au).

# Celebrating Ramadan



*Mahboba's Promise* and the Muslim women Association (MWA) joined forces to host a bumper dinner to celebrate Ramadan and His Excellency the Ambassador for Afghanistan, community leaders and the Muslim community showed up in force and to show their support.

Recitation of the Quran by the Mufti emphasised Ramadan's message of compassion, peace and work for humanity. For many guests the highlight of the event was a hypnotizing Bashir and Nasheed musical performance (top photo) which created a moment of peace and helped hearts and minds to soak in the spirit of Ramadan.

## A moving musical performance allowed everyone to reflect on the message of Ramadan

And despite difficulties in Afghanistan, the children in Hope House enjoyed Ramadan. The United Arab Emirates embassy (see photo above) sent celebratory boxes of dates, the Australian embassy organised a barbeque and the local community provided new clothing for the children of Kabul Hope House. Further donations raised in Sydney during Ramadan contributed to the purchase of rice, clothes and other necessary materials for widows and orphans in different locations across Afghanistan.

To everyone involved, we say a heartfelt THANK YOU!

# Cast your vote!



Philanthropist Dick Smith (right) has pledged \$1M to charity and has already given away a half million dollars in his 2014 *Charity Breakthrough* pledge.

As part of the pledge, Smith will donate money to charity based on based on votes received.

And voting for the second round is now open. Votes can be made by taking a photograph of any Dick Smith Foods product in your pantry and emailing via the link, <http://www.dicksmithfoods.com.au/charity-breakthrough> with your nomination for the charity you wish to support. Please join in and help us to raise much-needed funds.

# Make a Bequest

Help us keep the promise alive by including *Mahboba's Promise Inc* in your will. Your will ensures that your estate is divided in accordance with your wishes, and it also serves as your legacy.



By leaving a bequest to *Mahboba's Promise*, you enable the priceless gift of hope to grow.

## How to leave a bequest

If you are making or amending your will, there are several ways you can support the aid and development work of *Mahboba's Promise*:

- **Specific bequest** – a gift of a specific amount of money or specific property, such as real estate or shares.
- **Residuary bequest** – a gift of the whole of your residuary estate (the remainder of your estate after your specific bequests to your family, dependants and other beneficiaries have been provided for)
- **Whole estate** – a gift of your entire estate – usually left by those without dependents or favoured beneficiaries or those wanting to achieve something very significant.
- **Share** – a gift of a specified percentage or share of your residuary estate or your whole estate.

If you already have a will, you may not need to rewrite it: it may be possible to add a bequest to *Mahboba's Promise* with an additional document, known as a codicil. Please discuss what is best for your situation with your solicitor or a trustee.



AUSTRALIAN  
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## SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

Would your school like to become a 'sister' or 'brother' school to one in Afghanistan? Call us!

## VOLUNTEER

We have a team of people in our N Ryde offices with energy, 'can do' and commitment – join us if you can volunteer your time, or perhaps hold a fund-raiser with friends. Yes, you can make a difference!

## CONTACT US

Call 02 9887 1665 or visit [www.mahbobaspromise.org](http://www.mahbobaspromise.org)

