

Dream to open school takes shape

JARRAD BEVAN

A NEW TOWN man who came to Australia as a refugee from Sudan will return home to build a primary school for his country's poorest people.

Awak Mathok hopes to start building next year.

"Tasmanians probably don't know much about the civil war in Sudan," Mr Mathok said.

"But when they find out I am sure they will want to help."

With his friend Dominik Ziomek, Mr Mathok, 29, has set up the World Without Boundaries Foundation and secured a land donation at Pan-Nyok in the south of Sudan.

The next step in their mission is to raise awareness about the plight of the southern Sudanese people and to gather community support and donations to make the school dream a reality.

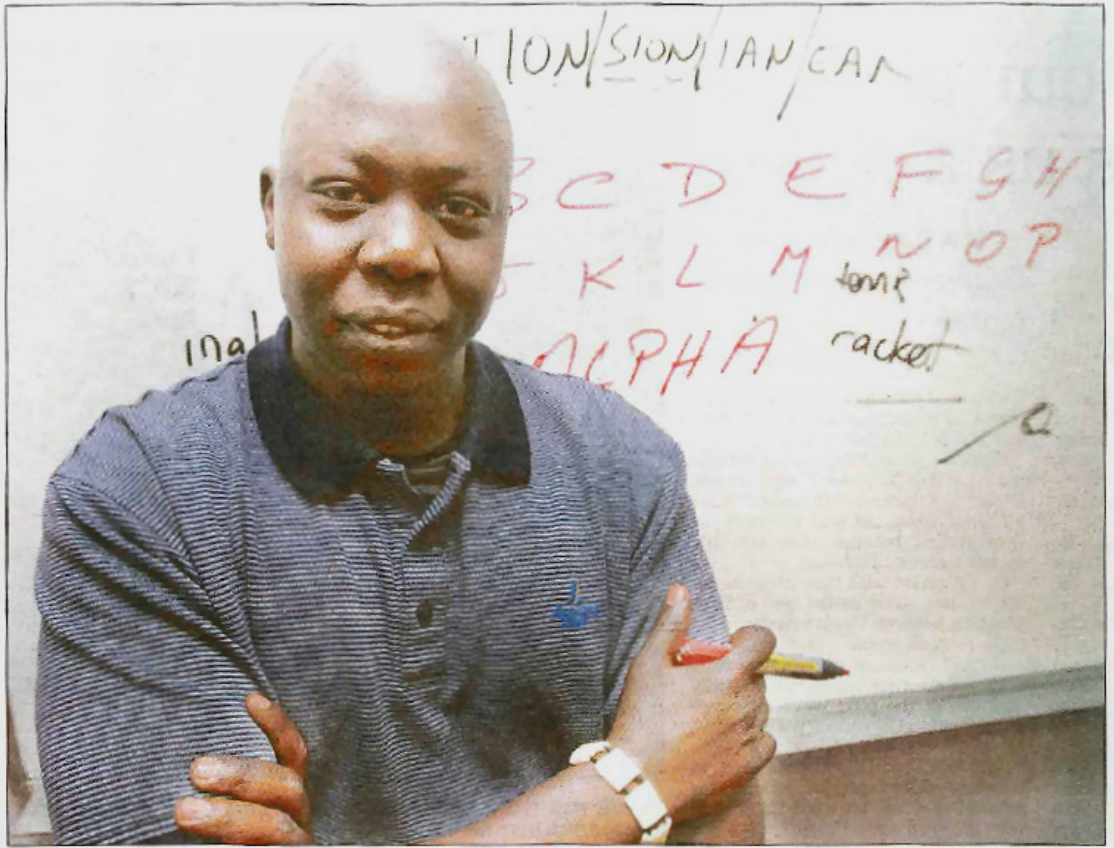
"Education is the best asset to liberate yourself and fight poverty," Mr Mathok said.

"The war made me a refugee at five years old.

"I walked for three months to get to Ethiopia after our village was destroyed by the north's army.

"I lived in a lot of countries before coming to Australia.

"Here, people believed in



GIVING BACK: Awak Mathok, of New Town, is helping the homeland he fled as a child. Picture: RAOUL KOCHANOWSKI

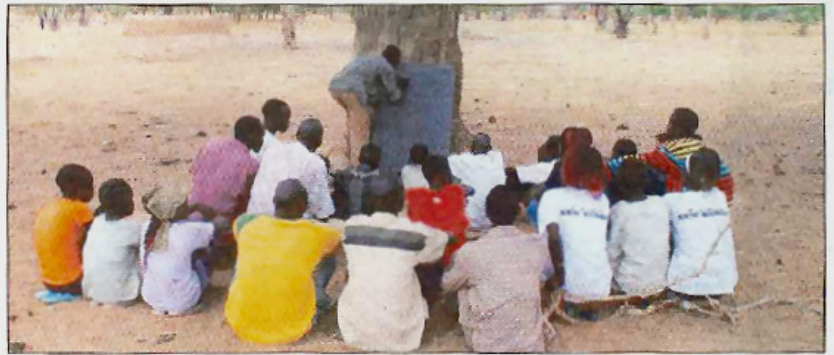
me and supported me — that is what I want to do for others.

"I had the chance to finish high school, study engineering at UTAS and last year I finished my Masters in Business Administration. For three years I've worked at Aurora Energy in a graduate engineer position."

Mr Mathok recognises the uphill battle ahead of him.

"There will be a lot of challenges but somebody has got to do something to make a difference," he said.

Mr Mathok is available to speak to schools and groups about Sudan.



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WANTED: POLICE NURSE

APPLY TO

PLANNING

RESEARCH

TECHNICAL

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RESEARCH

TECHNICAL

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