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World
front



**Eco-cars:
the verdict**
DRIVE



**Ball games and
the brain**
WEEKEND SPORT



**Gail Kelly on
life at the top**
WEEKEND BUSINESS



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ves
ld

Ms Gillard. This gap has
ened since the days before
spill when Mr Rudd led by 58
cent to 34 per cent.

However, when the poll asked
ther there should be a lead-
ip change, 50 per cent
ed and 45 per cent opposed.
mong Labor voters, 68 per
were opposed and only 29
cent supportive.

When other possible leader-
contenders were added to
mix, Mr Rudd led with 42 per
cent, followed by Ms Gillard on
er cent, Stephen Smith on 12
cent, Simon Crean on 9 per
cent, Bill Shorten on 8 per cent
Greg Combet on 4 per cent.
The poll shows that in the past
weeks, Mr Abbott has
ched his lead as preferred
e minister by 5 points and
leads Ms Gillard by 50 per
cent to 42 per cent.

His approval rating rose 5
pts to 44 per cent and his dis-
approval rating fell 4 points to 52
cent. Ms Gillard's approval
g fell 1 point to 35 per cent
her disapproval rating rose 1
t to 60 per cent.

The budget started a class
are slanging match
ween Ms Gillard and Mr
ott after the opposition
to block the school chil-
's bonus, which promises
al payments to low- and
le-income families of \$420
primary school child and
per high school child.

Yesterday, Mr Abbott indic-
that, if elected, he would
se the other two cost-of-
g measures – a \$1.1 billion
lementary bonus for wel-
recipients and a \$1.8 billion
t to the family tax benefit
A payment. He said they
in effect, extra carbon tax
ensation and “if you don’t
the [carbon] tax, you don’t
the compensation”.

Tortured by a witch doctor, given new hope in Australia



“He’s a fighter. He’s gone through a lot of pain. He remembers vividly what happened to him” ... George Mukisa and Peter Sewakiryanga. Photo: Paul Harris

**Amy Fallon KAMPALA
and Amy Corderoy**

THE squeals of happiness from
George Mukisa hide the terrible
truth behind his trip to Australia
from Uganda.

George is a survivor of child
sacrifice. He was aged just two,
playing football with his broth-
ers, when a neighbour, John
Otebati, offered to take him into
town for sweets. Instead,
Otebati, a witch doctor, took him
to a nearby banana plantation

and removed his genitals with a
knife. In Uganda, children live in
fear of child sacrifice, driven by
unscrupulous witch doctors and
their accomplices or fraudulent
traditional healers who claim
they can bring power, prosperity
and money.

A report by the British charity
Jubilee Campaign and Kyampisi
Childcare Ministries last year
described the crime as a “relat-
ively recent phenomenon” that
was not a part of traditional
culture.

According to the research,
“greed and a growing middle
class in Uganda” have fuelled the
demand for child sacrificial ritu-
als, during which the young-
sters’ organs, blood and limbs
are used after they have been
killed.

George survived that brutal
day in February 2009 because
passers-by heard his cries and
interrupted Otebati, who fled,
leaving George in a pool of
blood.

He was rushed to hospital

where doctors used a flap from
his forearm to perform penile
replacement surgery.

“He’s a fighter. He’s gone
through a lot of pain. He remem-
bers vividly what happened to
him even though he was so
young,” said the founder and
executive director of Kyampisi
ministries, Peter Sewakiryanga.

When George’s artificial penis
stopped working two years ago, a
urethral catheter was inserted
into his abdomen. But he is an
active child and the tube con-

stantly became dislodged. It had
to be removed and replaced
weekly – causing him pain and
leading to dangerous infections.

In 2010 a chance meeting
between Pastor Sewakiryanga –
who was visiting Australia from
South Africa to talk to politicians
and church groups about child
sacrifice – and Geoff Mitchell, an
Australian professor of general
practice, changed his life. Pro-
fessor Mitchell approached a
friend, a urological surgeon

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Mutilated by a witch doctor

From Page 1

David Winkle. A week ago Dr Winkle and a plastic surgeon, Scott Ingram, performed an operation to re-route George's urethra. They also revised previous reconstructive surgeries, to make George look completely normal.

Dr Winkle was reluctant to claim credit. "George is the main game here. What we did was just help out," he said.

The surgeons were assisted by an anaesthetist, who also donated his time. Church groups in Australia, Britain and the US covered the rest of the costs.

Professor Mitchell said: "Without this surgery, George was likely to develop chronic urinary infections, renal failure and eventually die."

Otebati, who goes by the alias

Otege, was sentenced to 15 years' jail in November.

Lieutenant-General Kayihura, the inspector-general of the Ugandan police, said his force had "defeated" child sacrifice after forming a taskforce in 2009. There were 15 reported cases in 2009, nine in 2010 and seven last year, police statistics show.

But Pastor Sewakiryanga said there were hundreds of cases of missing children in Uganda, possibly linked to child sacrifice or trafficking, and they were not being investigated due to a lack of police resources.

As a result, the real number of victims was likely to be "considerably higher".

George, who arrived in Brisbane with Pastor Sewakiryanga three weeks ago, is expected to stay for another month or two.

He will never have children and, when he is older, will need hormone replacement therapy, which Pastor Sewakiryanga will facilitate through fund-raising.

But for now, George – whose surname means "blessing" in his native tongue – is looking forward to going to the beach for the first time and seeing a koala.

"He loves Australia. Often times he tells me 'you go back and I'll stay'," Pastor Sewakiryanga said. "His recovery is surprising everybody. He is talking and laughing and running and he even plays a bit of soccer."

George has made friends with local children, who raised the money to buy him a scooter. Pastor Sewakiryanga hopes they will stay friends for life.

www.kyampisi.org