



Kampuchea
House

PRESIDENT'S REPORT KAMPUCHEA HOUSE (AUSTRALIA) INC AGM 2021

When I wrote last year's President's report I never imagined that this year we would still be dealing with the fallout of a global pandemic. Once again in Cambodia, all schools, colleges and universities have been closed for most of the year, but during this year remote learning has finally been established. This necessitated the purchase of more laptops to facilitate the children's individual online learning. On the whole they have dealt remarkably well with the stresses and changing study habits. Poor internet connections and regular power outages occur often in Cambodia which meant remote learning lessons were frequently interrupted and there was a lot of downtime for the kids. These difficulties have fostered greater support for each other and have encouraged resilience.

The generous spirit of our Kampuchea House children has been evident with Yim, now in the 4th year of her English degree and Noch, in the 4th year of a Bachelor of Accountancy, along with Rina, who continues to live with us, providing assistance by packaging rice parcels for poverty-stricken families in the community. Meanwhile Chinh, in his 7th year of Medicine and Minea, in his 5th year of Medicine in Phnom Penh both volunteered to assist with a vaccination campaign in the rural Kampong Thom province some 3 hours drive from Phnom Penh. Chayna will complete year 12 next year, whilst Net and Rea are in year 11, and our 2 younger boys, Ban and Somnang, are in years 8 and 4 respectively.

Lockdowns this year in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh have been extremely strict, with movement between different suburbs at times prohibited, even for work or for shopping, Police guards and road blocks were common and people were often not allowed to leave their homes. These measures resulted in much hardship, especially for families not living close to a market. Thankfully our manager Leng, and her assistant Hom, always managed to stock up on sufficient supplies in between lockdowns and SreyMom (house mother) did a wonderful job ensuring the kids were well fed despite limited access to fresh food. The availability of vaccinations in Cambodia was initially limited, but once large supplies of the Sinopharm vaccine arrived from China, the rollout was largely efficient. All our students and staff, including those under 18, are now fully vaccinated.

To alleviate the monotony of the continued lockdown, Leng took the children on a number of excursions which were strictly in accordance with the regulations. This gave the children a welcome change of scenery and a chance to celebrate some of their birthdays with picnics in the fresh country air.

Leng rose to the challenge of the aggravated situation and severe restrictions with her usual efficiency and determination to achieve the best outcome for our kids. We are deeply indebted to her, especially in the light of the fact that no committee member has been able to travel to Cambodia in the past 2 years.

Our committee members have held regular zoom meetings throughout this period and I would like to thank Belinda Lightfoot – Vice President, Chris Phillips – Secretary, Lyn Laister – Treasurer and Ann Darwent – Media and Communications for their ongoing commitment to Kampuchea House.

Our sincere thanks go to our staff in Siem Reap, Leng, our Director, Hom and Srey Mom.

Westbourne Grammar School continues to be our long term and major sponsor, as it has for the past 14 years. The Prefect Group of 2021 showed ingenuity and dedication by organising a virtual trivia night fundraiser which achieved amazing results. We are sad to farewell the Principal, Meg Hansen who has always shown strong enthusiasm and support for our cause since the beginning. We wish her all the very best for the future.

Our financial position for the year ended 30 June 2021 shows reserves of \$271,104 with an operating deficit of \$23,628. Our total remittances to Kampuchea House, Cambodia during the past financial year totalled \$69,064. The funds provided by KH Australia cover all facets of our children's requirements, including their well-being and personal expenses, food, medical, education, rent and staff payments. Our mission has always been to provide a caring family environment with the best possible education that will allow our children to have an independent lifestyle in the future. The education costs continue to be a significant factor in our budgeting for the running of Kampuchea House.

I would like to thank all of our sponsors and supporters over the years and I hope that you remain with us on our journey during the gradual wind down of our organisation, which will take place over forthcoming years. We are in a healthy

position to continue to provide a caring and learning environment for those children that are still with us.

Hubb, McCann

President

2 December 2021