



PRESIDENT'S REPORT KAMPUCHEA HOUSE (AUSTRALIA) INC AGM 2019

It gives me great pleasure to present my first report as President of Kampuchea House. As many of you know I was one of the original founders of this organisation back in 2007 being instrumental in raising the funds to purchase the land and build the facility at Dom Dek. As Fundraising Secretary for the past 11 years I continued to organise events and provide funding to sustain the running of Kampuchea House. It has been wonderful over the years to see our children grow into adults and further their education or find apprenticeships and employment. Our mission has always been to provide a family environment that will allow them to progress into independence.

I would sincerely like to thank Chris Penman who retired from his position of President last November 2018. Chris provided professional and ongoing expertise over the past 5 years, particularly regarding the legal aspects of our organisation. He worked tirelessly over those years and was able to visit and enjoy meeting our children and staff on a couple of occasions in Siem Reap.

There have been many changes over the past 12 years. A significant one was the cessation of a longstanding fundraising arrangement with Kids Off The Kerb (KOTK) on 31 December 2018 which had provided a tax deductible status for our supporters. We are very grateful for the ongoing support of Nathan Sterling and his organisation over the past 8 years. We are delighted that, despite losing this tax concession, many of our supporters have continued to provide funds for the education of our older children who are proceeding successfully with their university courses.

In late December 2018 we moved our children into one residential home in Siem Reap. We now have our office and accommodation set up all in the one facility where our children live. We also provided accommodation for 3 of our girls, Yim, Chanrey and Rina during their continuation of their tertiary studies in Siem Reap. Our young men, Chinh and Minea continue to share together in an apartment in Phnom Penh whilst studying in 5th and 3rd year of Medicine.

This year Yim will continue with the 2nd year of her university course whilst Noch will commence her 1st year of a Bachelor of Accountancy. Both Rina and Chanrey passed their hospitality courses with very high marks and they will continue on to work in their field. We have one of our boys in year 12 whilst the remaining 6 children are continuing on with their studies at school. Our education costs continue to be a significant factor in our budgeting for the running of Kampuchea House.

In April of this year I spent a week in Siem Reap to visit our kids and staff. It was so pleasing to see how they are growing up, speaking English, enjoying their family life at Kampuchea House and approaching life with greater confidence. During my visit Westbourne Grammar School had one of their 2 annual trips to visit us. The interaction between their students, staff and our children was wonderful to see. Yim gave a very moving speech about her life before coming to Kampuchea House. The relationship between KH and the Westbourne students just continues to grow stronger each year and the Westbourne students provide a fabulous role model for our children. We are so grateful to have Westbourne Grammar School as our major sponsor with their continued financial support for our children in Cambodia.



I would like to thank our hard-working committee here in Melbourne – Lyn Laister, our Treasurer, Chris Phillips, our Secretary, Ann Darwent, our Media and Communications Officer and in particular Belinda Lightfoot, our Vice President. Belinda spends considerable time in Cambodia working with our amazing Director, Sour Sokleng. Belinda and Leng work together addressing all the many different administrative issues that are required on the ground there. They also continue to maintain excellent relationships with the authorities in Cambodia. Leng completed the extension of an updated Memorandum of Understanding earlier this year. Belinda also keeps all of us informed on the children and staff in Cambodia. Special thanks to both Belinda and Leng for all the wonderful work they do for our children and staff at KH. Also thanks go to our staff working with our children Hom, Sreymom and Hak.

Our financial position for the year ended 30 June 2019 shows reserves of \$321,986 with an operating surplus of \$44,489. Our total remittances to Kampuchea House, Cambodia during the past financial year totalled \$113,084. Our final contribution through funds from KOTK at 31 December 2018 was \$35,000. Kampuchea House (Aust) Inc contributed \$78,084. 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.

As previously mentioned in the past reports we now operate under a Cambodian government regulatory system that prevents us from taking any more children into our care. We are presently responsible for 13 young adults including 7 who are still attending school and 6 others studying in various tertiary environments. We are grateful to those dedicated sponsors who continue to provide financial assistance for these young adults during their further studies. Our mission has always been to provide a caring family environment and to provide the best possible education that will allow our children to have an independent lifestyle in the future.

We have had some great success stories over the past 12 years some of which I would like to elaborate on.

- Two of our girls, Sophary and Duong graduated from the Paul Dubrulle (Sofitel) Hospitality Training School in Siem Reap. Sophary now works in a five star hotel in Phnom Penh as a chef and Duong works in a café in Siem Reap.
- Sor qualified as an electrician in Cambodian and Western techniques.
- Yeth qualified with a four year Accounting Degree and she is working in Siem Reap.
- Ros and Sak work in the hospitality industry and Youen is a qualified chef working in Battambang.
- Kenh is a talented and highly qualified jeweller receiving private commissions.

I would like to thank all of our 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.

Libby McCann
President
20 November 2019