



Kampuchea  
House

## **KAMPUCHEA HOUSE (AUSTRALIA) INC. 2015 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Kampuchea House (Australia) Inc (KHA) continues to oversee the operations of Kampuchea House Organisation in Cambodia (KHC) and provide the sole means of financial support. We receive no government support and need to take into account the changing landscape in Cambodia governing the future of orphanages generally.

With an annual operating surplus to 30 June 2015 of \$104,496, and drawing on limited reserves and also funds received through Kids off the Kerb (KotK), \$159,027 was remitted over that period to cover the costs of KHC. With growing costs and a weaker exchange rate, an annual fundraising and income target of \$200,000 is now needed.

The KHA committee discussed a number of strategic options at a specially convened meeting in June 2015, the outcomes from which provide the framework for our operations in the short to medium term, both as we assess ongoing fundraising options, and any indication from government in Cambodia on the future of orphanages there, particularly given their apparent longer term preference for more local community based educational facilities, which is different from our model of operation. In the meantime, KHC continues to be among the highest quality providers in Cambodia, and is a reference point used by government and other bodies for that reason.

The uncertainty has meant we have halted intakes of new children to SKK, whilst a further six children have now moved to the accommodation in Siam Reap to further their studies, leaving excess capacity in SKK with staffing being adjusted accordingly.

We have been fortunate in having excellent leadership from Sour Sokleng, our director at KHC, and our sincere thanks go to her and all her team at both locations for their hard work and dedication during the course of the year.

Our children continue to progress at their various levels, and they are all fortunate to be in such a caring environment. Our special thanks also to Sean White who has provided tuition and mentoring to all the students over the last few years, particularly in English and communication skills. He will be missed from the end of this year, and we look forward to seeing him on any future visit to Cambodia.



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We thank our various supporters, those who have responded to our fundraising appeals with donations, whether directly or through KotK for the Kampuchea House Project. Our relationship with KotK is very important for this purpose, and we thank them for their contribution and willingness to support our program in this way.

Our fundraising committee has continued to be active during the year with a number of functions, including the golf day at Frankston in March, movie nights, dinners and the recent Trivia night. Similar events are planned going forward, including a golf tour to Cambodia in 2016.

We are grateful for support from Balwyn Rotary and from the Lane family in the recent installation of five further water tanks, given the precarious water situation at SKK.

We continue to enjoy special support from some schools in Victoria, both in fundraising and interaction with the children on visits to Cambodia, particularly from Westbourne Grammar who continue to be a core part of our being able to continue to operate and provide the financial support for the operations of KHC.

We have a very hard working committee, none more so than Belinda Lightfoot, our Vice President and regular visitor to KHC and in assisting Leng there, and also Libby McCann, our fundraising secretary and all she does both here and in Cambodia. Others on committee, including Richard Fyffe (Treasurer), Chris Phillips (Secretary), Ann Darwent and Lyn Laister all play key roles, and many thanks to all of you.

The KHA committee will continue to monitor closely the KHC operations, particularly as to what is a feasible model for the future, and given the ongoing challenges we face in Australia generally to raise the necessary funds for the operations of KHC. We would benefit from some form of government or corporate support, or major philanthropy, but other organisations no doubt seek similar funds and our future is largely tied into how much we can realistically raise on an annual basis through our various fundraising initiatives.

We seek to make a difference to the lives of the children whose future would be far less promising than what is available to them as a result of the special family and learning environment at KHC.

Thank you to all who have joined with us in sharing the vision and providing ongoing financial and other support. May it continue for the sake of our children under the care of KHC.

**Chris Penman –President**  
**23 November 2015**