



Kampuchea
House

President's Report - 2010

It gives me great pleasure in presenting the President's Report for 2010.

The past year has been one of much change for Kampuchea House. While founder and CEO Les Stott decided to resign twelve months ago, it has been extremely rewarding on how Kampuchea House has continued to grow and develop under the directorship of Son Sokhoeun and his dedicated staff. We are most appreciative of their dedication and commitment to the children and philosophy of Kampuchea House.

Committee: Once again, the sterling work which is achieved in Cambodia could not occur without the time and efforts so tirelessly given by a supportive committee. I take this opportunity in thanking:

- Jen Connelly (Vice President)
- Belinda Lightfoot (Secretary)
- Martin Soutter (Treasurer)
- Libby McCann (Fundraising Secretary)
- Karen Connelly (Minutes)
- Sue Stubs
- Bev Edwards
- Tom Wilkins
- Norm Clark
- Eli Firestone
- Sharyn May

I would also like to acknowledge Annie Perkins, Vanessa Sherd and Eileen Crewes, who have also served on the committee and still assist us.

Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR): We have made much progress over the year in submitting our application for DGR status. Mary Edquist, a partner at Monahan & Rowell has been fantastic in reviewing our application as well as being instrumental in the rewriting of the constitution. Mary's time as well as her staff's has been on a pro bono basis. Once the final audit is complete, applications will be submitted. Thank you to Belinda and Sharyn for their time and collaboration on this.



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Fundraising: Once again, we have seen some great events run by Libby and her team.

The annual shopping bazaar was well attended, despite the skies opening up with all stalls doing very well. The golf day at Little Frankston was a sell out once again, with perfect weather and a good day had by all.

Undoubtedly the 2010 Annual Bike Ride was a glowing success. Led by Norm Clark, a team of 12 took off from Siem Reap for a gruelling ride covering 1200 kilometres over 8 days. I was fortunate to see the team finish at Kampuchea House, with decorations and posters made by the children to welcome the riders home. This was followed by a lunch with the children, before the brave-hearted got back on their bikes and headed into Siem Reap. Funds raised from the ride tipped \$53,000 which was made up from sponsorship, pledges, a cocktail party and other donations.

Finance: With efforts mentioned above and under the watchful eye of Martin, the last year has allowed further monies to be placed on term deposit. Details are tabled in the financial report.

Westbourne Grammar has again contributed tremendous support from the students and staff. This year also marked the retirement of Principal – Geoff Ryan, who has always been most supportive. We wish Geoff well in his retirement.

Welfare: As tabled in the Director's report, the educational transcripts of the children have been pleasing. It is fair to say they are progressing at an above average rate overall.

Two of the older girls, Sophary and Duong, have graduated their hospitality courses at Paul Dubrelle International School and have secured employment. Peach has finished hairdressing, and will hopefully gain employment in the near future.

It is important to note the overall happiness of the children. Kheng and the SKK staff are doing a great job in their roles and in developing a family environment.



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Youth Committee: Another progressive year from our youth committee, with several functions not only contributing to Kampuchea House but also helping spread awareness to their peers.

The Youth Committee were also instrumental in the making, editing and production of a promotional video for Kampuchea House which has been exceptionally well received. These tools are vital in helping us in our fundraising efforts. Well done.

Building: Whilst no houses were constructed year, it is with excitement that we announce that we commence building on the next two houses in February 2011. House 4 has been funded through the amazing efforts of Norm and the riders, whilst House 5 is being funded through a private donation.

Arup – an engineering company who Eli Firestone works for, have donated time and expertise in the design of the houses. This takes into account placement, materials, quantity survey with Eli and his colleague Mithra in Cambodia to work with our builders to build the houses. Thank you and good luck in this project.

Visitors: It has been great at the number of committee members who have been able to visit Kampuchea House this year. For those of you who have visited, words cannot describe the looks and smiles on the children's faces when you come through the front gates.

These coming weeks also see youth committee member Tom Wilkins return to help Sokhoeun and the staff for the next 4 months. Good luck.

Whilst it has been a difficult year, it has also been very rewarding. The confidence the staff in Cambodia have been able to instil over the year has been nothing short of fantastic. A big thank you to all our team in Cambodia.

I thank you again, and look forward to another successful year.

Jason May
President

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