



Kampuchea  
House

# Newsletter

December 2016

Dear Friends and Supporters of Kampuchea House



Christmas is once again upon us and as 2016 comes to a close we would like to send a huge thank you to all of you for helping us to make it such a successful year for our children and staff in Cambodia. It was a huge year for us with the transition from our much loved home at SKK to a new house in Siem Reap. Thankfully this has been a very successful move. Our younger kids are loving the new house and being closer to the older kids already living in Siem Reap. They have now begun the new academic year and are reaping the benefits of better schooling in the city.

Our huge thanks go to the students and staff of Westbourne Grammar, with whom we have had a special relationship for many years now. Their financial contributions underpin much of what we have been able to achieve, along with the added bonus of the interaction of their staff and students with our kids at KH. This year they donated six used laptops to aid us in teaching computing to the children. In particular, Year 9 students Ruby, Ben and Natalie, as part of their community project, produced booklets comparing their country to Cambodia, covering topics such as geography, food, weather, sport, population etc. with photos, information and quizzes. They were very educational and our kids loved them. We were amazed and so grateful when Westbourne presented us with a cheque in excess of \$40,000 at this year's Speech Day, an incredible fund-raising effort which plays a key role in enabling us to continue our work.



Another very successful Golf Trip to Cambodia was organised by Libby McCann in October, raising significant funds and also allowing new and old supporters to visit our home in Siem Reap and enjoy playing golf on the world-class golf greens there. Together with cultural events, temple visits and shopping at Libby's personal artisan and designer friends' showrooms, visitors had a busy and enjoyable week in support of our cause.



Our final fund-raising event in Melbourne this year was a Christmas dinner and Trivia Night at Bopha Devi Cambodian restaurant in Docklands. Thanks to Chan and Jamie for the delicious food and for supporting our cause with their hospitality and warmth. It was a night of good company and cheer, and some head scratching over the brain-teasers devised by our formidable Trivia Queen, Philo O'Neill. We also raised far more funds than expected thanks to a successful Cash is King campaign.



One item of news we are very happy to report is the progress of Kenh, one of our kids who showed artistic inclinations and was taken on by Maddy, at Ammo jewellery and designs, as an apprentice in April. She commented at the time: “Kenh is a very talented young man ... we have been literally astounded at his ability to make jewellery and design by himself.” He has a passion for plants and now looks after the Wat Bo Studio gardens as well, tending his own orchid plant, which he has perfectly replicated in brass.

In six months Kenh has made huge progress and is now working on commissions and is loving his work and new social contacts. We can't thank Maddy enough for taking him on and for the support, care and thoughtfulness she shows him.



Probably the best Christmas present for our kids was a surprise visit to Siem Reap by Sean, their former English teacher, mentor and friend. Sean arrived unannounced at the new house just in time to celebrate his birthday on 11th December. Needless to say the kids were delighted, Sean was elated to be there and the looks on all their faces show how happy everyone was to be together again. (photo above)

On that note we would like to wish you all a wonderful holiday period with your families and friends and thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your support for the big family of Kampuchea House.

Thank you to our donors, our sponsors, and to all our supporters who have attended fund-raising functions and events during the year.

Thank you to all the students and staff of Westbourne Grammar School, St Leonard's College, and the Knox School, who have raised funds, visited us in Siem Reap and undertaken activities with our children during the year.

Without all of you our work would not be possible.

And a big thank you to our wonderful staff in Cambodia, who look after our children so well.

With best wishes from the Committee, Staff and kids at Kampuchea House.

**Don't forget to follow us on Facebook.**