

Kampuchea House Newsletter



September 2022

SUASDEY and greetings to all our supporters.

We last caught up via this newsletter in February earlier this year. Since then many of us have been travelling, encouraged by the relaxation of strict Covid rules and travel restrictions. Belinda, our Vice-President, once again visited Siem Reap in July.



Wild flowers during the wet season

Belinda was able to attend a picnic with the children out in the country side about 50kms from Siem Reap. Most of our kids were born in country villages and they love getting outside the city to the wide green rice fields and breathing in the country air. Thanks to Srey Mom for all her cooking and Hom for his help.

Belinda commented on how well all the kids get on together, how they collaborate on tasks during preparation of and clearing up after meals and help each other out. They spent a long time totally isolated in the house together during the very long lockdown in Siem Reap. If anything, this period of isolation, with their reliance on

each other for company, has cemented the ties that already existed between them. We are very proud of our kids for the strength they showed during this very difficult time, where mostly they had to study on their own, with little or no online guidance from their schools. They have shown themselves to be resilient in the face of hardship.

Leng and the kids enjoying their picnic.





Big congratulations are in order for our student Srey Noch. She has just completed her four-year accounting course at Vanda College. Noch received a final result of 93.4% and was ranked fourth in a class of some 200 students. This result is a tribute to her hard and steady work over the years and big thanks go to her sponsors whose support enabled her to undertake the course. She is now doing a 3 month probation period with a finance company prior to her employment being confirmed. We wish her the best of luck and a successful career.

Well done Srey Noch!



A special treat! The kids were so excited when Leng arrived with a large haul of fresh lychees. The lychees come from Phnom Kulen National Park, which some of our supporters have visited in the past as an excursion during our golf trips. They will remember the huge reclining Buddha statue on Kulen Mountain, which actually translates to Mountain of the Lychees. The trees generally fruit in April, around the time of Khmer New Year, but have been unavailable for the past few years due to Covid. So the kids were thrilled to be able to taste them again, and benefit from a big boost in Vitamin C as well.

Khmer New Year was celebrated back in mid-April and KH closed for a week to enable the kids and staff to get back to their birth villages. Before they left, Leng organised a wonderful party with lots of traditional games and food. It is always a special time of year and this year's party was greatly enjoyed by all. It was also lovely to see some of our past residents – Yit, San, Kenh and Ros – join in the fun, together with some of the kids' school friends. Many thanks to an anonymous supporter who covered the costs of this celebration.



A quick update on some of our ex-residents who attended the Khmer New Year festivities at Kampuchea House:

Kenh demonstrated remarkable artistic talent from childhood and was initially a jewellery apprentice, before becoming a jeweller in his own right. He is currently working for a Japanese jeweller making items to order, but also producing his own designs. He is very happy in this job as he has always had an affinity to all things Japanese. Well done Kenh!

Sak and Ros both work for Little Red Fox, a trendy expresso café in the heart of Siem Reap owned by two Australians. Sak is now Manager while Ros is Supervisor of the business. The café is very popular with tourists and local foreigners and was able to survive Covid lockdown and the resulting harsh economic downturn. Well done boys

We look forward to catching up with you all again next time.

Best wishes from the committee, staff and kids at Kampuchea house.

CHOUM REAB LEA until next time.

For more news about everyday life in Siem Reap check out our **Kampuchea House Facebook** page.

