

# KAMPUCHEA HOUSE

(AUSTRALIA) INCORPORATED

Member newsletter — August, 2009

Issue Number 29

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## The children on holidays by Carolyn Budd with Les Stott

The children of Cambodia know that when the wet season arrives, it is holiday time.

Normally, the school grounds are awash at this time of the year and the spare ground around the buildings often has a rice crop. However, this year the rains have been missing for most of the holidays, allowing the children to spend more time out and about.

This year, Kampuchea House put in place a small holiday program. Over three weeks, each house came, in turn, to Siem Reap, accompanied by their house mother. During the day, the children visited three of the highlights of the Roulus group of temples, including the Bakong temple.

At night, the group went into Siem Reap to see the sites and lights and to enjoy ice-creams and



during the heat of the day. After the break, the groups set off again to see the Bakong and Lolei Temples.

Once at the Bakong Temple, one of the largest in the Roulus group, the children charged up the stone stairway to the top of the huge temple and posed for photos on top of some of the many carved elephants. House 2 brought a badminton set along on their visit and an impromptu game began at the base of the temple between the girls and some friendly tourists.

The next stop was the last of temple visits, with a trip to Lolei Temple. In comparison to Bakong this was a comparatively small and ruinous site, but impressive nonetheless. Sokhoeun and some of the children attempted to decipher and interpret the ancient script carved into the temple walls, while the rest of the kids explored the site and adjoining Buddhist Pagoda.

After returning to the Siem Reap complex for



## Upcoming Events:

September 20–25



Donations welcome



drinks. Afterwards, the children stayed overnight at the Siem Reap house and office complex.

Sokhoeun and Siem Reap House Mother Samy did a wonderful job in catering to the needs of the children while they were away from the Sala Kor Koh complex.

After collecting the bouncing children from the SKK complex, stop one was a visit to Bantae Kdei. After entering through the giant carved gateway, the children explored the temple grounds before taking a quick break in amongst the giant trees to escape the heat and recharge with some fresh, local fruit.

The children returned to the Siem Reap complex where they prepared and ate lunch and rested





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dinner, the groups ventured out into Siem Reap to explore some of the highlights of the town and the newly opened shopping mall.

Once inside the “Lucky Mall”, the children sampled the range of Lucky ice creams and cold drinks and rode the newly constructed escalator. For most of the children this was their first time seeing and riding an



escalator, and while some jumped straight on, others were a little more hesitant and needed a helping hand to overcome their wariness of the moving steps. Nevertheless, it wasn't long before the children were lining up for a second ride up the stairs. It is amazing how, in the Western world, simple things are taken for granted.

For so long, these children have been deprived of sensory activities to broaden



their perspective and to add sense to the content of their classes at school and at the orphanage.

Like children the world over, the Kampuchea House children, and staff for that matter, like outings. This simple local outing and overnight stay brought such a great deal of happiness for all concerned.

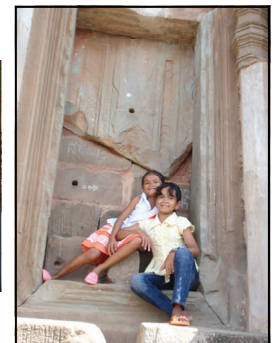


It will certainly be added to the social calendar for Kampuchea House and, funds permitting, it is hoped that such outings



can become a more regular occurrence on weekends and during the many holidays that are a part of Cambodia.

Our thanks go to Beyond Classrooms which provided the necessary funds.



## From the CEO

Since the last newsletter, the wet season has dried up and the newspapers are using a word known well to those living in the southern part of Australia—drought. The rains must come in the next three weeks or the rice crop will be affected severely. Rice farmers are pumping water from the channels to their fields so that they can sow the rice plants. Those who planted early, are watching the heavens and praying for the rains to return.

Those of you who are parents will know that, during holiday time, children run around more and, as a result, eat more. It is no different with our children here in Cambodia. The rice consumption has gone up over the past month of holidays and the children's weight and height have increased.

We are starting to see the benefit of the fruit and milk program with the younger children, namely Rea, Ith, Veasnar and



Thai, rapidly gaining weight and, more importantly, growing in stature. Most children in this country suffer stunting due to poor diets and a lack of nutritional care in their younger years. Some of our youngest children are now almost taller than their brothers and sisters who are years older.

I continue to train for the Big Cambodian Bike Ride which will be over by the time you get the September Newsletter. In these final weeks leading up to the event, I am riding six mornings a week and clocking

up to 300 kilometres with Sunday being my rest day. Norm Clark, my partner for this year's ride, is training hard and is looking forward to meeting the children for the first time, especially his sponsored child Pisey. Norm has put a great deal of effort into the preparation for this ride and I am indebted to him for his dedication to the task. An article about Norm and the bike ride was featured in a recent edition of the Phnom Penh Post.

Our new website is yet to be completed and I apologize for the lack of progress. It is most frustrating that it is not up and running by now but the circumstances are beyond my control here in Cambodia. We will endeavour to have it up and running as soon as possible.

Until after the bike ride, best wishes and stay safe.

**Les Stott**

**Siem Reap, Cambodia**



## At Sala Kor Koh



Just days ago, we received the news that both Duong and Sophary had been accepted into the main course at the Paul Dubrule School of Hospitality and Tourism in Siem Reap.

Both girls needed a great deal of English coaching which was given to them by Director Sokhoeun and our volunteer Carolyn Budd. The girls also attended a short English language course at a local school. But the incredible effort by all concerned was worth it.

Duong worked at Tell Restaurant while studying for the exam, but has now resigned in preparation for the ten months of



concentrated study.

Sophary has now moved into the Siem Reap house with her two sisters and under the care of House Mother Samy.

The girls are so grateful to their sponsors Jenny and Kitty in Melbourne for providing the opportunity of a future most children in Cambodia don't even bother to dream about. It is up to the girls now to work hard to achieve the highest standard of which they are capable.

While on the topic of Sophary, a chance meeting in Siem Reap with relative of her late step mother has revealed that Sophary has a ten year old half brother. He lives in Phnom Penh and the next time Sokhoeun and Les travel to the capital, Sophary will accompany them to see the brother she so desperately wants to meet. As for her full brother, the news is grim with relatives not having heard of his whereabouts for many years.

## News

### Football tops and shorts

One of our many generous benefactors has provided eight of the children, two girls and six boys, with football (soccer to us Aussies) tops and shorts. They can be



seen in the photograph posing with Director Sokhoeun. The children really look the part and offer their thanks to their Australian friend who wishes to remain anonymous.

### New motorbike for Sala Kor Koh

When members Mark and Samantha Samlal found out that our motorbike which is used to pull the tuk tuk was about to give up, they quickly offered their support in the form of a brand new 125cc Honda. Mark, who is a Wesley College Old Collegian and lives in Singapore, and his lovely wife Samantha have been long time supporters of Kampuchea House. On



behalf of the children, we thank the Samlal Family for their friendship and support.

Now, the tuk tuk will not break down on its way to and from school.

### Volunteers



For the past two weeks or so, we have had Carolyn Budd from the Australian Institute of Criminology (AIC) working with us. Apart from the assistance she has given Leng, Sokhoeun and Les, she bought a nice donation from the AIC staff, including Wesley Old Collegian Erin Louis who was a student of CEO Les when he taught at Wesley College.

Carolyn now moves on to London to visit her sister and enjoy some of the sites of Europe.

In the coming months, we have many volunteers coming to work with us including nurses and media experts and

Kampuchea House looks forward to their company.

### HUGGLES

Our newest fundraising idea is here in Siem Reap and ready for the high season influx of tourists. HUGGLES are one inch badges, designed by a Cambodian cartoonist. The idea is to give one to somebody who needs a HUGGLE (a hug with a bit of a snuggle). They will be in Australia later this year.





# Kampuchea House

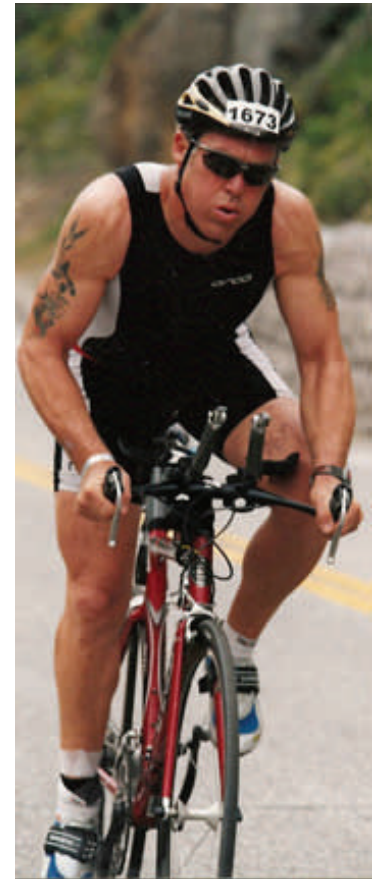
- a home for Cambodian orphans and deserted children -



## Big Cambodian Bike Ride 2009

The route for this year's ride is:

- Day 1 - Sunday, September 20**  
Siem Reap to Battambang - 185 kms
- Day 2 - Monday, September 21**  
Battambang to Pursat - 105 kms
- Day 3 - Tuesday, September 22**  
Pursat to Kampong Chhnang - 89 kms
- Day 4 - Wednesday, September 23**  
Kampong Chhnang to Phnom Penh  
- 91 kms
- Day 5 - Thursday, September 24**  
Phnom Penh to Kampot - 139 kms
- Day 6 - Friday, September 25**  
Kampot to Sihanoukville - 105 kms



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At this stage of our development, monies donated to Kampuchea House (Australia) Inc. are not tax deductible.

The money raised assists with the provision of food and clothing, together with the schooling and medical expenses of the children at Kampuchea House.

**Please support Norm**

Name: .....

Address: .....

Pledge/Donation Amount:

Phone: ..... Email: .....

Mastercard  Visa  AMEX

Credit Card Number

Name on Credit Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CSV No: \_\_\_\_\_