

NEWSLETTER – March/April 2010

Despite temperatures in the high 30s or low 40s we continue to have many visitors from Australia and overseas during the past two months to the orphanage. If you plan to visit in the coming year please advise us well in advance to ensure we are able to cater for your visit, as we can only take a limited number of visitors at any one time to the orphanage.

Annual Golf Day Report

Our hard-working Fundraising Coordinator, Libby McCann, gives her report as follows:

Our annual golf day was held again at the wonderful private 9 hole golf course at Frankston Golf Club. The course was in brilliant condition and the weather was kind to us with 27 degrees of sunshine and little wind just perfect for golfing! Again it was a really fun event with our golf professionals Matt Cleverdon and Emma Bennett very keen to hit the player's ball to give an opportunity for a birdie or an eagle, of course at a price!

Tommy Collins Events catered again this year, even providing a barista on the verandah for fresh coffee throughout the day. The delightful food was complemented by wines once again supplied by Casella Wines, NSW arranged by Guala Closures Australia.

Our special thanks go to our sponsors in particular for the major raffle prizes:

- Hyatt Regency Coolum, Queensland (won by Melissa Bade).
- Kingston Heath Golf Club - the Number 1 rated golf course in Australia (won by Faye Plumridge).
- BMW Bib Stillwell South Yarra (won by Martin Bade).
- Geoff Bade Australia (won by Philomena O'Neil).

Other sponsors provided wonderful

prizes to be awarded to our winners on the day:

- Gary Lisbon of Golf Select.
- Ray, Maddy and David and Chloe of The Gum Tree Good Foodstore.
- Our Norm Clarke (committee) of Pyranha Fitness who will soon be embarking on The Big Bike Ride Cambodia, commencing September 1st to raise funds for Kampuchea House.
- Jamie Saddock Australia.

We would like to thank in particular Global Publishing for providing each player with a new Golf Vacation magazine. Special thanks also to Philomena O'Neil, Bob de Boer, Warwick Brown of Princes Laundry and Annie Perkins.

Now to our winners:

- Nearest the Pin on 9th Hole; Robert Wilkie
- Nearest the Pin on 3rd Hole: Chris McKimm
- Nearest the Pin on 3rd and 9th Hole: Joan Conron
- Straightest Drive: Stuart McFarland and Geraldine Croagh
- Longest Drive: Harley Giles and Cath Redden
- 3rd place on a count back: Margaret Birch and Annie Carruthers with 52 points
- Runners- Up: Melissa and Martin Bade with 55 points
- Winners: Joan Conron and our committee member, Eileen Crewes with 56 points.

Yes, again the Riversdale Golf Club Girls stole the show again!

My special thanks to my personal girlfriends and committee members who volunteered on the day. The day would definitely not run so smoothly without you being there to help.

This year we raised \$9000, an amazing amount which will go to supporting our beautiful children and staff in Cambodia. This is an increase of \$3000 from last year's inaugural golf day. My sincere thanks to our 72 players for supporting this event, we could not do this without you. We look forward to seeing you all in 2011.



2010 Bike Ride Update

This year's ride aims to \$40,000 to build another house which will provide accommodation for a further 6 children at the orphanage. The bike ride will run from 1st – 9th September and cover approximately 1200 kilometres. This annual event has attracted 13 riders to date and training rides have already commenced in anticipation of the event.

Major sponsors include Total Rush and the Mitchell Communication Group.

We still have opportunities for major sponsors for the ride:

❖ **Major Sponsor - \$5000 & above.**
Sponsorship includes your business/company/personal name on all advertising - i.e. the ride publicity poster and on our website for one year, including a link to your website. Also an invitation to attend our fund raising events throughout the year.

❖ **Event Sponsor - \$2000 to \$4000**
Sponsorship includes your business/company/personal name on the ride publicity poster and listed on our website as sponsor.

❖ **Associate Sponsor - \$1000 - \$2000**
Sponsorship includes your business/company/personal name on our website.

Please contact Norm Clark (normclark@bigblue.net.au) or 0418340516 if you would like to sign up as a sponsor, or if you have any queries regarding sponsorship.

Donation Information

We shall be advising details of how to make donations for amounts other than those above via our web site within the next few weeks. However if you would like to make a donation at this time please contact Belinda (belinda@kampucheahouse.org) or 0412970709.

Full details of the ride are on our website – please check back frequently as we will be updating this site on a regular basis over the next few months.

Visit by Peter, Ruth, William & Grace Murray

Among the many visitors during March we welcomed the Murray family who arrived with lots of goodies for the children including underwear, thongs and games including Jenga and a cricket set. Naturally this was set up immediately and it was interesting to see how Kheng, our Orphanage Manager, held the bat like a baseball bat! All the children and most of the staff had a turn at either batting or bowling which resulted in much fun and laughter. The Murray family sponsor Chann Ratt and Mean and we had arranged for two new bikes to be purchased prior to their arrival so they could present them during their visit which delighted the two children. We thank the Murrays most sincerely for their very generous support of Kampuchea House and our children.



Visit by Kate, Peter, Darcy, Sid & Oscar Marshall

The Marshall family were keen to visit KH particularly as Darcy, Sid and Oscar are students at Wesley College (St. Kilda Road Campus) and were interested in seeing the Wesley House along with the rest of the complex. They visited us on Easter Sunday and brought along Easter eggs – a brave thing to do considering the temperature was around 40°! So we promptly organized an Easter egg hunt and all the children managed to get a few eggs each before they melted which was great fun. A new supply of balls for the kids to play with was gratefully received from the Marshalls. Unfortunately Peter rolled his ankle whilst playing cricket so he was our first injury during a KH cricket game! We have since received an email saying how impressed they were with the work being done at KH and we thank them for their visit and support and also for their kind words.



Visit by Jim & Fay Mitchell, and Murray & Jenny Balnaves

We were very happy to welcome back to KH Jim and Fay Mitchell, along with their good friends Murray and Jenny Balnaves. Amongst the many goodies they bought along were yo-yos which the children really enjoyed playing with. Jim had a supply of Westbourne hats for the children which they loved as seen in the photo below. They also gave a large amount of items for our medicine cabinet. A highlight of their visit was the children singing two songs for them – one in English and the other in Khmer. Sokhoeun and Belinda had a most enjoyable dinner with Jim, Fay, Murray and Jenny later that evening at the beautiful Sojourn Resort. Our sincere thanks for their great and enthusiastic support of KH, and for their generous donation which was put towards buying new clothes for the children for Khmer New Year.



Visit by Pauline van Driel from Italy

Sokhoeun and Belinda were absolutely thrilled to have Pauline visit KH. The three of us have been emailing each other during the past few years so for all of us to finally meet each other was fantastic. Pauline is one of our major and most enthusiastic supporters, despite never having seen the orphanage. (Some 2 years ago she and her family were holidaying in Siem Reap and saw our children at the temples. They were all wearing their KH T shirts and she noticed how Sokhoeun was looking after two of our younger children in a very kind and caring way. On arrival back in Italy she “Googled” Kampuchea House, which she had seen on the T shirts, and contacted us to see if she could be of assistance. In her own words “how could you not do something to help”. Since that time we have received considerable financial support from Pauline and her friends). Pauline and her family were holidaying in Laos and we persuaded her to visit us so we could show her KH. She arrived at 7pm on Monday and departed at 5pm on the Tuesday. Despite this quick visit she thoroughly enjoyed herself. Sokhoeun, Kheng (our Orphanage Manager) and all the other staff had arranged a party in Pauline’s honour. The minute the van arrived at the orphanage all the children came running up to greet Pauline with lots of hellos and hugs. It took about 5 minutes before we could move over to the Community Centre which was decorated with lots of balloons and streamers. Also seated there were about 100 of the local children who attend our free English lessons. Lots of traditional Khmer games began and Pauline joined in quite a few of these. After showing Pauline around the site it was then time for lunch which was a delicious “special” meal cooked by our house mothers. After lunch Pauline presented the children with the many gifts she had brought along including big bags of lego. Many photos were taken with the children. The children then sang a couple of songs for Pauline which were really delightful. Then it was off to the airport after a rather exhausting few hours.

On behalf of the children and staff at KH we say an enormous thanks to Pauline for all she has done and we welcome her back to KH anytime she wishes to visit.



English Language Books

Thanks to the efforts and generosity of Kerry Osler and her family the children have recently received some new English language books that are suitable for their circumstances. Kerry spent a great deal of time and effort sourcing books that have been recommended as being appropriate for children in countries such as Cambodia. We are currently compiling a list of more such books and would welcome donations to enable us to purchase additional books. The children really enjoyed them as they love reading new books. Please contact Belinda (belinda@kampucheahouse.org) or 0412970709 if you would like to assist with the purchase of books.



Lego Request

The children love playing with Lego and we certainly encourage this as an educational tool as well as fun. We are looking for the large Lego variety (as in the photos) which is more suitable for our younger children. If anyone has Lego they would like to donate please email Belinda to arrange collection (belinda@kampucheahouse.org).



Keeping up-to-date with Kampuchea House

We are on Facebook (Kampuchea House) and have been uploading many new photos recently. Also we are now on Twitter - <http://twitter.com/KampucheaHouse>. Check out both these sites (as well as our website) for all the latest information and photos.

Sala Kor Koh News

New Playground Equipment

At long last the children now have some playground equipment thanks to the generosity of Pauline van Driel and her friends in Italy. We managed to have this installed prior to Pauline's visit which was great. The children did not know it was coming so it was a great surprise for them. As you can see all the children are taking full advantage of the new equipment.



Fencing

Thanks to the generosity of the Rotary Club of Balwyn the fencing on the Community Centre side of the property is now complete and has markedly improved the security and appearance of the area. We certainly very much appreciate their support for this project.



English lessons to the locals

We continue to be overwhelmed with the enthusiasm by the local people for our free English lessons. We now run two sessions a night, five nights a week. Each session is attended by around 100 people. It is good to see a large number of children attending.



Staff Meeting/Children's Committee

During the recent visit of Belinda (our Secretary) a staff meeting was held at the orphanage to discuss a variety of matters. This was a good opportunity for Belinda to update all the staff on our future plans and also for the staff to offer their ideas and to ask any questions. One of the decisions from the meeting was to introduce "speak English-only days" to encourage both staff and children to practice their English. This will occur two days a week – will be interesting to see the result in the next few months!

Also in attendance were the representatives of our newly established Childrens' Committee. This initiative, set up by Sokhoeun, has five children on the committee – Pisey (President), Yet (Vice-President), Sinan, Sokhon and Chinh. The committee allocates work to be done around the orphanage to the children (depending on their age/abilities); attends staff meetings and any school meetings, and attempts to solve any problems the children may have. As you would expect all of these activities are overseen by Kheng (our Orphanage Manager). However the children are enjoying this responsibility and the Ministry of Social Affairs is pleased we have instigated such a scheme.

Welcome Donations



Leng and Sokhoeun sorting through the 3 boxes of stationery donated by the Brighton Primary School and sent to Cambodia with the assistance of Brighton Rotary Club.

We would like to thank two of Pauline van Driel's friends - Katalin Hegedus and Georgia Yuill, and her sister-in-law Margherita Boutte, who have been very generous with their financial support over the past few months.

Thanks to Carol and Tony Wall from Perth who have donated a box of great clothing for the children.

We received lots of hairdressing products and accessories from Erika at "Let's Get Glam" hairdressers in Ringwood East which our girls really enjoyed. Many thanks Erika for your generous donation.

