



## A Word from the President

As usual, it's been a busy few months at Kampuchea House. After 5 years as Director of Kampuchea House, Sokhoeun Son is leaving us and moving on to assist a new start-up NGO. I would like to take this opportunity to thank him for his input and support to Kampuchea House and to wish him all the very best in his new venture. I would also like to extend our best wishes and good luck to Sokhoeun and his wife Mai with the upcoming birth of their first child. As one door closes, another opens. The Committee are very pleased to announce the appointment of Sour Sokleng (Leng) to the role of Director of Kampuchea House. Leng has been the assistant Director supporting Sokhoeun over the past 3 years. Leng was rated against other external applicants, and the Committee decided that Leng was the best fit. We welcome Leng as Director, and look forward to working with her in this new role. I hope you enjoy this edition of our newsletter which includes a focus on Education and a new section from the Youth Committee. Thank you for your ongoing support of Kampuchea House, and I look forward to seeing you at one of our upcoming events. Jason May

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## Thankyou

We are very fortunate to have Ajaya Haikerwal an ex Westbourne Grammar student (2011) currently volunteering at KH. After completing a teaching English as a foreign Language course he is spending 6 months of his gap year teaching English to our 'new' kids. After working out their abilities on an individual basis he has structured classes and individual sessions to suit. Classes are interactive to make learning more fun. Ajaya is there full time from Monday to Friday and according to all accounts the kids are happy and progressing very well.

## News

Kampuchea House recently welcomed delegates from the Cambodian Ministry of Social Affairs (right) with whom we are obliged by law to develop a Memorandum of Understanding outlining our program. At a recent meeting with them our director, Sokhoeun was told that Kampuchea House "was the best among many orphanages in Siem Reap".

Sokhon, Chanry, Pisey, Chayna, SameanYa, Ros and Kenh (above) have all recently celebrated their birthdays. This was the first time that Chayna, Ros and Kenh had ever celebrated a birthday so it was a very exciting and happy day for them!

One of our older children, Peach has opened up a beauty salon in Siem Reap. She is the first of our children to start a business so we wish her luck and success!

During the school vacation all our kids enjoyed a trip to Siem Reap visiting Jungle Junction (a childrens activity centre) where they had a fun but exhausting day.





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## Events

Kampuchea House is pleased to host 24 people on our inaugural FCC Nations Cup Golf Tour from 16 -23 October , 2012 at the FCC Angkor hotel in Siem Reap, Cambodia. As the interest in this event is so high it seems likely that it will also be run in 2013. Please contact [Libby@kampucheahouse.org](mailto:Libby@kampucheahouse.org) for more information. Our next event is our extremely popular Christmas Bazaar, selling Christmas wares sourced in Asia on Wednesday 21 November 3-7pm, Albert Park South Melbourne Rowing Sheds. Invitations will be emailed soon.

## Kampuchea House Education

The committee of Kampuchea House recognises education as a means for our children to leave behind their poverty. We provide all our children with the opportunity to attend school. The education system in Cambodia is similar to Australia – there are 4 levels- Nursery school, from age 4 – 6, Primary school grade 1–6, Secondary school grade 7-9 and High school grade 10-12. From grade 1 there are 40-50 students in a class and attendance is 4 hours per day Monday to Saturday. Many of our children had not attended school before they came to KH and are behind according to their age. The extra classes in English and Khmer we provide are essential to ensuring our children are able to progress to further education (university or TAFE) or their chosen occupation.



## Future Aspirations

Chinh (left) aged 16 has recently graduated from secondary school with very high marks. He loves Maths and all Science subjects, particularly chemistry. Chinh's mother bled to death during pregnancy and his father deserted the family soon after, leaving Chinh as the eldest to look after the family. When asked how Kampuchea House has helped him Chinh says he can now "go to study in university" and pursue his dream of becoming a doctor.

Before coming to Kampuchea House, Sor aged 17 lived with his 9 siblings in tragic circumstances. After his mother died his father regularly beat him before abandoning all of the children. Of his Kampuchea House experience Sor says "Before I could not study, but now I can go to school". Sor has recently been accepted to undertake an electricians course.



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## KHYC Chairperson

The Kampuchea House Youth Committee (KHYC) has had an amazing year so far. We held our first ever New Years Gala event in May to coincide with the Cambodian New Year. It was a fantastic night with over 100 guests and entertainment from DJ Sim1 and National break dancing Champions, Wikid Force. University of Melbourne coffee vendor, KereKere, nominated Kampuchea House as one of their social cause initiatives and generously donated a portion of their March takings. Spreading the word through social media and at awareness events such as Education for Our Generation, means our facebook group now has over 150 likes. Our next event is a bowls afternoon in sunny December, so be ready! Jennifer Connelly



## Introducing the KHYC

**Jennifer Connelly** is the Chairperson. She was inspired to get involved with KH when it was just an idea in 2007 and is now privileged to act on behalf of the dedicated KHYC. **Will Murray** got involved with the KHYC after spending 9 months volunteering at KH. He is the assistant chair. **Jessica Stojkovski** feels honoured that KH has been a part of her life for over 4 years. Her role is the School Liaison. **Anna Hehir** is the Events Officer for the KHYC. She joined the committee in 2010 after meeting the kids and volunteering at KH. **Deb Connelly** was inspired to get involved with KH after seeing the passion and dedication of her sister. She is the Media and Communications officer. **Will Stojkovski** has been involved with KH for two years starting through his senior year of high school. He is the community representative. **Emma Perkins** is our newest member. She has worked with other charities and now looks forward to bringing her experience to the KHYC.

## Will Murray visits KH

I recently returned from my fifth visit to KH where I was once again constantly surprised, impressed and proud of the children and their development. It is clear that the children are highly motivated when it comes to their education and there is a genuine desire and thirst for knowledge. There is no better example of this than Chanrey (Nheng Nhey), who when she arrived at KH in August last year was illiterate and knew only how to say 'hello' in English. The improvement since that time is astonishing as she is now reading and writing in her language confidently, and was even asking me about my 'likes and dislikes' in English.

