



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

APRIL 2017



Following our last newsletter we would like to thank The Buddhist Library very much for agreeing to provide funding to Kep Gardens for the next three years. Their sponsorship doesn't cover all of our costs but we are now assured that the teaching staff will be paid as well as providing funds to keep the English school up and running. Without their support, we would have been closing at the end of April. We cannot thank them enough and are grateful to Paget Sayers, Kin Pheap and Rajeendra for their understanding, help and generosity in sharing their funds with us. If any past or future visitors to Kep Gardens have any positive stories with photos please send them to us so we can share them with the Dharmavision published in Australia so their supporters can be involved and see where the Buddhist Library's donation is being used. Have a look at this link youraid.org.au. Of course, we still need your donations to run other sections of Kep Gardens and to move forward. We greatly value your continued support.

Hi Everyone,

Can't complain about the weather this year. It hasn't been as hot as usual at this time and the rain has started early.

Agricultural Programme

The new Social Enterprise Project at Kep Gardens is a programme to employ organic methods in the production and marketing of wholesome fruits and vegetables within the local community. We wish to encourage and teach land conservation and land management in an ecologically conscious way by practicing small scale sustainable business providing natural farm based products and byproducts and ongoing education programmes for the local community.

We would like to welcome Emma and Andres to our team at Kep Gardens. We are sure that we have found the right people for the job; enthusiastic, knowledgeable, happy to impart their knowledge to students, villagers, farmers or overseas visitors. Their plans are making us quite excited. We were never going to sell the land at Kep Gardens. The Agricultural Programme was always going to go ahead if we found the right people, even if the schools were closed. This is a long term project but one which will benefit the students and the community as a whole. Welcome Emma and Andres, you are an important part of our philosophy to educate and teach people various skills. In other words, providing opportunities for people to gain employment or start their own business.



Thank you to Kathy who was instrumental in getting this project up and running. Now you have to come back and visit to check it all out.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED FOR FLEDGLING TROPICAL PERMACULTURE PROJECT IN SOUTHERN CAMBODIA !!! 🌱🌿🍌🌴🌻🦋🌍🌳

We are currently seeking volunteers (maximum 6 persons) to work on our fledgling permaculture project located at the foothills of Kep National Park, a beautiful tropical rainforest in southern Cambodia. The site is set between a valley surrounded by lush green mountains cloaked in tropical rainforest flora, and inhabited by many plant and animal species.

Our initial main aims are to regenerate the soil and encourage the flora and fauna of the national park into the site and to build up the nursery and kitchen gardens.

The overarching goal of the project is to provide revenue for the onsite vocational training school of Kep Gardens Association, so there will be opportunities to work with children and young adults from the local village should you wish. This

is also a unique opportunity to integrate into Cambodian culture. Please feel free to join our page Prei Kampuchea - Wild Cambodia (link below), and message us directly should you be interested. We look forward to your response.

Best regards

Andres and Emma

>> <https://www.facebook.com/PreiKampuchea/> <

Orchids

We have a few orchids in bloom at the moment. I particularly like the white ones as they are different.



"Happy" Video

Thank you very much to Tom and Ruth for all their hard work and time, not only for the drama classes, but for filming and editing the video. The students loved watching themselves at the official premiere. We had our own little concert after the screening of the video and then watched a children's film that Tom had directed and produced previously. Thank you to Martin and David for your technical help on the night. I still hear the students singing the song to themselves as they walk around.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V3RFpS4-_go

Northbridge International School Visit

Year 6 students from Northbridge International School in Phnom Penh paid us a visit recently. They organized a toy and book drive at their school before they came. Thank you very much for the many books and toys that you collected. There was also a big bag of clothes. We will make good use of them. We enjoyed your visit and look forward to hosting your visit again next year for the new Year 6 students.

A huge thank you to Northbridge students for their donation to renovate the library.





Playgroup Excursion

Recently our Playgroup went on an excursion to the Butterfly Garden in Kep. The rest of the school had visited when we went to the Butterfly Valley to see the Marine Conservation Cambodia play "Salt and Chilly". We didn't take the little ones that day so yesterday was their turn. They regularly go on walks around our garden and sing to the butterflies in Khmer. The gardens at the Butterfly Farm are beautiful and there were many butterflies in the walk through enclosure. Sreyneang and her family do a great job taking tours and looking after the grounds. Well worth visiting if you are down Kep way.



Kimhean is doing an amazing job as the Playgroup teacher. Prepares well, always looking up craft lessons. Loves the children and organizes parent learning sessions too.



Liger Learning Centre

Liger Learning Centre from Phnom Penh camped at Kep Gardens for a few days in March. They were on a geology excursion. One evening our classes 3a, 3b and 4 split into groups and the Liger students gave presentations to each group. We had a party another night and on the last night Loch and Sarou, two survivors of the Pol Pot regime spoke with them about their experiences during that time. Thank you Liger for the books on Cambodian Wildlife and the Cambodian Economy that you gave us. These books were written by students at the school while studying these subjects. They will take pride of place in our library.



Nautican Entertainment

A film crew from Canada, Hex Productions, was in Kep for several weeks during January and February. To cut a long story short they left us some of their sets from the movie which we have made good use of but more importantly organized for our web site to be revamped and for a person living in Kampot to market Kep Gardens regarding volunteers and income. Thank you very much to Nautican Entertainment through Christian for helping this computer illiterate old couple to move into the 21st century.

Book Royalties

Michael Jones has written a book that provides a valuable explanation of how children develop their writing skills. Please check out the link: <http://www.yellow-door.net/on-your-marks> or visit his website www.talk4meaning.co.uk for lots of ideas for children's language development. Michael has thoughtfully donated the royalties from his book to Kep Gardens. Thank you Michael for this generous gesture.

Swimming

Friday was the last day of term. Hooray, 2 weeks holiday. We always go swimming the last day of Term 2 at Kep Beach. It has become a sort of tradition. Spent about 8 hours at the beach altogether but as per usual forgot to take photos.

Thank you to the Leadership Through English students who did an amazing job keeping a check on the classes they were allocated to. They showed a lot of maturity and responsibility. A job well done Boyi, Sekravoith, Vuh, Tithaka, Sarorn, Socchim, Dany, Bunnghim and Sarou, the security leader. Thank you to Tomas, Ruth, Lillie, Nikki and Martin who swam with the younger students to keep them safe. Kep Gardens is very lucky to have so many people willing to help on excursions to keep the students happy and safe. Thank you all very much.



Bessie's Puppies

The puppies are 10 days old in this photo. Fat little things. Bessie doesn't like anyone too close so not sure how many boys, how many girls. She bites the broom and the mop if it goes close. I value my hand too much to touch them. Would love to cuddle them though.



Haircut Gone Wrong

How to become a Buddhist nun in 2 minutes flat? Have a haircut by a maniac wielding a pair of electric barber clippers! "Sorry I no stop". Hmmm, a bit late to say anything.



I was secretly thinking of getting my head shaved so I would be cooler during the dreadful hot season but I didn't quite have the courage to do it. Watch out what you wish for as it just might happen when you're not ready for it. Must admit, much cooler.

HAPPY KHMER NEW YEAR

Cheers,
Janine and Andrew



Proud to partner with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993) for project J674N.

