



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

July 2015

Hi Everyone,
Another full newsletter. Never a dull moment at Kep Gardens these last few months.

Jumble Sale

A great day for the whole community. When our container was sent over, Mission Australia filled up the space with many different things: linen, baby goods, material, hand bags, suitcases, toys, soft toys, you name it, it seemed to be there. It has been stored all this time and finally we bit the bullet and cleaned out all the storage areas, set it up in the chook house and one weekend advertised through the students a jumble sale. Except for 1 or 2 larger items, nothing was over .50c, in fact most were lower than that. Virtually all sold by Saturday evening. By 10.00 on Sunday morning, nothing left. The look on the faces of some of the children and older people at these treasures they had acquired so cheaply was worth the days of work in the heat to prepare. Unfortunately, I didn't have the camera ready so haven't captured those great moments.

One little boy who has nothing, wears the same clothes all the time and comes from a very poor family was given a bike. We had a few smaller ones that students from Hallet Cove R-12 had donated and his aunty bought it for him.



Those who have been here know Johnny!!



A bit like the sales at Christmas time in the big stores when we opened the gate.



The children all found something to their liking.
Sold out very quickly.

***Our new website address is
kepgardens.com***

***Check it out. Thanks to Mat from
Kampot we have updated the site and
tidied it up.***



The mums and older ladies were very happy with their bargains and had fun checking everything out.



This little girl's face was a picture of happiness but as I lined up the camera she went all shy and stopped smiling!!!!

Everyone is asking if we will have another one next year. We would have to bring another container over and where would we get the goods from? Good idea but a one off I am afraid.

Dam Excavation

The dam was empty and we could see where all the silt and rocks had built up as the water flowed over the surrounding countryside. As we now have the bore we would like to turn the dam into a fish farm, build a new floating house on it and a couple of jetties for fishing. Consequently, it was a good time to excavate and get it back to its original water capacity.

You will also have noticed that our newsletters are now being sent via Mailchimp. Quicker for us as we only have to send once instead of multiple times. Also easier for you as you can unsubscribe if you want to by simply

clicking a button. This is also thanks to Mat from Kampot. He's dragging us screaming into the 21st century!!!



This shows how very dry it was until the last week in June. No one was even contemplating starting to plough their rice fields. Now the rain has arrived and everyone is busy.

Volunteers



Emma



Cara



Julien



Hannah



Rafael



Alexandra

THERE MUST BE MANY VOLUNTEERS OUT THERE WHO HAVE TRADE EXPERIENCE TO PASS ON TO ANDREW'S TEAM.

ANY GARDENERS WHO WOULD LIKE TO VOLUNTEER TO LAVISH SOME TENDER LOVING CARE ON OUR VEGETABLE GROWING PROJECT WOULD BE WELCOMED WITH OPEN ARMS.

Storytelling/Playgroup

Alexandra, a volunteer from BeMore, enjoys art and craft work. She has been making some great things for the littlies to make, paint and take home. She is also building up our stock of examples for crafts that can be made easily and cheaply, not only for the playgroup but for the other classes as well. Alexandra also painted with the older classes. The wall of the kitchen is covered in a ghecko pattern and the columns of the front gate have been decorated. Benches

VOLUNTEERS ALWAYS WELCOME. YOU CANNOT BEAT A ONE-ON-ONE CONVERSATION TO IMPROVE LISTENING AND SPEAKING SKILLS.

have been made and painted for the playground. Thanks Alexandra for giving the creative students a chance to show their talents.



VOLUNTEERS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE ARTS: PAINTING, DANCING, DRAMA, WHATEVER WOULD ADD A VALUED EXPERIENCE FOR OUR STUDENTS.

THE KHMER MAGIC MUSIC BUS WILL BE HOLDING A FILM NIGHT ON 27/8/15 AND A CONCERT FEATURING 25 PERFORMERS ON 28/8/15 AT KEP GARDENS. WE ARE VERY FORTUNATE AND HOPE THE LOCAL VILLAGERS WILL ENJOY A NIGHT OF TRADITIONAL MUSIC, SINGING, DANCING AND FILM. EXCITEMENT IS IN THE AIR!!!

The weather has been so hot the last couple of months and very tiring. Consequently, one Friday to end off the hot week and relax, we showed a movie "How To Train Your Dragon". All classes found it very funny and enjoyed it but by the fourth showing I must admit I didn't find it funny anymore. The volunteers keep us up-to-date with current movies that the students will like. Thanks Emma for this one.

Dental Health

In September we embark on our annual dental checks for all the students. One of the dentists came to Kep Gardens recently and spoke to all the classes about dental hygiene, laying the groundwork for their visit and also squashing rumours that circulated last year amongst the teenagers causing many of them not to attend. Let's hope the teenagers respond this year.



Career Students



The nursing students have completed 18 months of training and in July start 6 weeks of work experience at the Russian Hospital in Phnom Penh. A Nightingale ceremony was held in late June at Life University where the nursing students lit candles to honour “The Lady of the Lamp”, Florence Nightingale, and recited a pledge to uphold the nursing tradition. We went to Sihanoukville to attend this moving ceremony which was a very special time for the students.



World Mapping

The end of June, July and the beginning of August will see 4 World Mapping groups from The Netherlands camping at Kep Gardens. The first group helped build another complete set of planter boxes including the shade cloth roof. Other jobs included rendering a tank stand, completing painting the gate columns, painting existing small water tanks and digging foundations for our incinerator/recycling area.

The second group was unfortunately washed out by some very heavy rain and had to retreat to Kep to sleep in a guest house for a couple of nights but spent the days at Kep Gardens. Let’s hope the next two groups are luckier weather wise.





Thanks to all World Mapping groups for your help building up our agricultural programme at Kep Gardens.

Youth Programme

The Youth Programme has started well with the 11 students from Years 10 and 11 showing enthusiasm and initiative by offering suggestions to build on their existing responsibilities. It is heartening to see their interest in learning new skills that may help them in the future. This is a good introduction to our community centre that we are planning. But more news about that in a later newsletter.



Buddhist Library Donation

The Buddhist Library recently purchased another 4wd vehicle for their mobile dental clinic and donated their 20 year old car to Kep Gardens. What a pleasant surprise this was!!

Now we have a big, solid car that will go anywhere. I love it. I have finally regained my independence after all this time. The Mobile Dental Clinic is unable to come to Kep Gardens as they have the past 2 years so In the September holidays I will pile the students into the car, 10 in the morning 10 in the afternoon and

off we'll go to the dental clinic near Kampot for their checks.



Sports Days

We've had 2 sports days with other groups now that the weather has cooled down a bit. All the practice and commitment must have paid off as we actually won a couple of close fought games. Thank you very much to Sarak and Dulalim for organizing the practices and bringing along some other friends to train the students. You can obviously see the difference since training began in earnest. Once again the car will come in handy this weekend when we pile the teams in and transport them to our first away game.

Documentary

Two girls who visited Kep Gardens last year with a World Mapping group returned recently to film a documentary not only of our project, but of the other projects they visited last year in Kampot. As they enjoy editing film they are thinking of sending each project their own small documentary. If this happens we will put it on our website for all to see.

To the people experiencing a very cold winter, keep warm. To others, enjoy your summer break. Thank you to all for your support of Kep Gardens.

Cheers,
Andrew and Janine

A quote from "The Lady of the Lamp" as our nursing students begin their first work experience in a hospital:

"I think one's feelings waste themselves in words; they ought all to be distilled into actions which bring results."

Florence Nightingale