



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

MAY 2016

Hi Everyone,

Greetings from a sweltering Cambodia. In the third week of April, Cambodia recorded its hottest day on record. It is horrible here, hot, hot, hot, dry, dry, dry, dusty, dusty, dusty. Bring on the rainy season. The dam has been empty for months, the local water collection areas are dry, the cows are starving as there is nothing for them to eat. The whole country is in drought. No electricity so no fans, all in all pretty tiring.

News Break: Had huge storm on Saturday evening and rain since so it looks like the drought has broken in Kep Province. The dam is overflowing and everything is clean and green again.

Heartwarming Story

As a consequence of taking students to get glasses, we became aware of free glaucoma and cataract operations during the week beginning 16th May. We sent a letter out to all students (one of whom is a monk at the local Phnom Prous pagoda) to let their grandmothers and grandfathers know. We took 10 people for eye testing to the Kampot Clinic on the 16th, 3 of whom needed operations. One declined as she was frightened. The other two accepted.

One of these was a 79 year old lady who lost all her family during the Pol Pot Regime; parents, husband, children and grandchildren. Having no family she has since lived at the local pagoda as a nun, looking after the monks. She needed an operation on both eyes so was in the hospital for a couple of days. After having lost everything meaningful in her life she has been virtually blind in recent years. Now she can see again. The world has opened up for her. She can go for walks, see the people she is speaking to. The smile on her face is a delight to see. Never have the camera when I want it !!

This is the sort of thing that happens at Kep Gardens on a regular basis. When we see a need or hear of small, inexpensive ways we can help the community we act on it. These

opportunities may be small for us but life changing for the person involved.



The lady in the story is second from the left.

Funding Campaign

Our sincere thanks to those who have committed or indicated assistance to help Kep Gardens achieve our campaign target. We still have a fair way to go but we remain confident.

As this campaign is so very important and involves many, many people, we have applied a date, the end of July, by which we must consider our alternatives for the future if our campaign funds raised are not sufficient to continue to guarantee our commitments. Nevertheless, we assure you all we are, and will do, everything we possibly can to reach our goal.

***** **GOOD NEWS*******

Tax Deductability for Australians

We are in the final stages of an agreement with the Australian based Global Development Group who have invited us to join their organization. This will enable those who wish to obtain tax deductability for your donations to do so.

Many thanks to our friend, Janet King who was a tremendous help in filling out the huge form. She kept me focused and on track.



Kep Gardens Association is a partner for Project J674N Kep Gardens Community Project with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993).

Tax deductible receipts for gifts over \$2 with a preference for this approved development project will be issued by Global Development Group for project J674N. Excess funds may be directed to another approved project activity.

J674N Kep Gardens Community Project is an approved aid and development project of Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 993), an Australian DFAT approved NGO that carries out quality humanitarian projects and provides long term solutions to poverty. Australian donations for eligible development activities are tax deductible. For more information about Global Development Group, visit <http://www.globaldevelopment.org.au>

We anticipate we will conclude our agreement very shortly. If you would like any further information at this time please email us.

If tax deduction is not an issue, donations may be sent in the usual way:

1) Australian bank account
Bank: Commonwealth Bank
Account Name: Kep Gardens
BSB: 06 5116
Account No: 10158168

2) Paypal account which can be found on our website kepgardens.com

3) overseas transfer
Bank: Acleda Bank Plc
Account Name: Kep Gardens Association
Account No: 0700-20-985580-1
Swift No: ACLBKHPP

Internet went down and I had
to spend time with the family.
They seem like good people.

Volunteers



Michael



Melanie



Noamie

Melanie volunteered for a month and Noamie for a week during April and May. Not pleasant for them but they braved the trying conditions. Cheers girls, good job.

Michael brought his drone and took some great videos of Kep Gardens from the air. Once he has edited a final video we will put it on the website and let you know the YouTube link. I think I would like to be a bird if this is how they view the world!

World Mapping Group 1

A school, CSG Jan Arentsz from Alkmaar, The Netherlands visited at the end of February and gave our playground equipment a much needed facelift. Thank you for your help not only with the playground but also for reading and conversing with the students.





Place to Play

Lulu from Place to Play visited Kep Gardens for 3 hours and provided the classes with many different types of games to play. They were all laid out in the playground and the children could move from one to the other. All age groups participated and it was pleasing to see new faces

as state school finished for the day and another wave of students arrived. I love sitting and watching children laugh and be happy, knowing that some are going home to not the best situations but can enjoy life for a short time. Thank you Lulu. Your activities give much joy and happiness to children.



Health Checks Sonja Kill Hospital

124 students under 14 have been checked. No major problems, most of the students are healthy which is very good news. One young girl needed

an operation to cut out a cyst under her tongue. This was successfully completed after Khmer New Year.



With the new tuktuk and the large 4 wheel drive we were able to travel in convoy and fit everyone in in one trip. We put chairs into the back of the car to make it more comfortable. We went backwards and forwards 6 times. Thanks to the hospital for fitting us into their busy schedule.



Two other students needed to go to an optometrist for more comprehensive eye tests. They both now have glasses. How smart they look!!



End of Term

As usual, at the end of Term 2 we went to Kep Beach swimming as a New Year present to the students and the start of our 2 week break. Thanks Jan King and Sharon for helping supervise and playing with the little ones in the water. Two of the class 4 students kept count of the students while on the beach and made sure the correct numbers were in the tuk tuk or car when each class left. They took their duties

seriously, were very responsible and did a great job. Thanks Vuh and Sekravoith.



Bonhoeffer College from Enschede, The Netherlands visited in April. Unfortunately they were here at the worst possible time weather wise but they soldiered on and did many jobs like watering the pineapples, painting the clothes line, painting the latest raised garden beds, checking and repairing the books in the library and planting seeds. Not to be forgotten was the great job reading and talking with the students each afternoon. Thank you very much for your help.



World Mapping Group 2





Seeds for Food

A very big thank you to Seeds for Food from The Netherlands for the huge bag of seeds they sent to Cambodia. Many, many different vegetables, some fruit trees, it was like Christmas opening the bag and going through the various packets.



Hope they taste as good as they look on the packet!

Many thanks to Michael Jones and Sage Publications. Michael has written a book that provides a valuable explanation of how children develop their writing skills. Please check out the link below: <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. Sage Publications are his

publishers and each year they donate to several charities. Through Michael's contact with us they donated to Kep Gardens last year. The shade enclosure for the Playgroup children and some extra small people chairs have been purchased. The remainder of their donation will be spent on resources for the children but that needs a trip to Phnom Penh.

Fusal Football

Recently we participated in a Fusal Football weekend in Kampot. Thank you very much to Le Flamboyant, a guest house in Kep, who sponsored the Kep Gardens' team with uniforms and water. Compared to most they were a young team. They did a good job, the important thing was that they enjoyed themselves and joined in a community event. Thanks to Frank from Villa Vedici who organized the event. Thank you Le Flamboyant for sponsoring our team.



We hope everyone is healthy and enjoying life. Until next time, Cheers, Janine and Andrew

