



# KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

**AUGUST 2016**

Hi Everyone,

Thank you very much to those who supported our Campaign 2016. Your support is very important to us. We are still a long way from our target and progress is slow but hopefully we will get there.

We have had our rice fields ploughed and planted. Not had a lot of rain but enough to keep the rice going. We planted mainland rice which is more suited to soil like ours that is not as good as in the rice paddies and also it does not need as much water. Our pineapples didn't yield as much as we had hoped but we sold them in Kampot and to a lady from Phnom Penh. An organic shop has opened in Kampot where we will be able to sell our produce. We now have a couple of markets, we just need to start serious planning of our agricultural program dependent on funds.



## Reproductive Health Association of Cambodia



This group visited Kep Gardens early last month and gave two different workshops. The first to students aged 13-16 where they touched on hepatitis, AIDS and other topics. They reported that the students asked many good questions. The second was to the older students aged 16-35. Here they covered AIDS, condoms, sexual health etc. The older students said that they learnt quite a few things that they never knew before. Education is what it is all about so I am glad they learnt something.

**SCHOOL CONCERT**

**FRIDAY, 26<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST**



## Volunteers



Naomi



Alizee



Daniel



Sara

It's been a regular United Nations over the last couple of months. Naomi and Alizee from France, Daniel from The Netherlands and Sara from Spain. The two French girls were very happy girls and had lots of fun with the students while Sara taught Class 1 and Class 2 their items for the concert at the end of the school year. She came up with great ideas and sent us the condensed music so now we are practicing hard. Great fun. Daniel taught the two Class 3s for a week, the age he wants to teach after he has finished his study in Holland. We had 3 visiting groups during Daniel's time and he took on the job of teaching all the volunteers what to do and keeping track of the books and students' paperwork. Good job Daniel. Coincidentally, all 3 girls are now in Australia!

If ever anyone questions the value of volunteers I have a story which happened this week. As you know we have a Reading and Conversation Programme where each student has their own special time one-on-one. Students are given number 1, 2 or 3 and they watch for when it's their turn. Meyling is a petite 6 year old girl. Very quiet but goes about her business and gets things done. She was breaking her heart and came to me and said "no number 2" which was her number that day. We had 7 readers for each number that day. I checked and someone had obviously taken her number 2 spot. "Never mind, sit with me and I'll make sure you can be number 3 instead". This satisfied her but she continued to

sob as she thought she had lost her precious time with a volunteer by herself. So past, present and future volunteers take note, you are very valued by the students and all at Kep Gardens.

## World Challenge – Westerford High School from South Africa

After a gap of 18 months or so we have recontacted with World Challenge groups and are very happy to have them back. Westerford High filled in underground cable and pipe trenches, erected metal goal posts for the two soccer fields, took the playgroup one morning and made bead bracelets with the classes. They did many, many jobs around the grounds that needed doing as well as participating in our Reading and Conversation programme each afternoon. Thank you for your hard work.







Been meaning to exercise more to try and lose some weight that I gained after giving up smoking. The road to hell was paved with good intentions. I blame it on the heat for being so lazy.

This morning a young student in Class 1 asked Kimsy "if Janine was having a baby". Delightful child!! Maybe this is the incentive I need to do something about it.

For those who don't know me, I am 64 and grey haired. Oh, the innocence of youth!

### **World Mapping from The Netherlands**



World Mapping from The Netherlands recently visited and camped at Kep Gardens for 4 days. Thanks to all for your help around the grounds, playing games with the students and your valued assistance in our Reading and Conversation programme. We hope you took home with you some wonderful memories of Cambodia to share with family and friends.



### **Operations Manager**

We recently employed Sopheak Chea as an Operations Manager to lighten the load of administration from Janine. Sopheak was one of our hospitality students who has been working in a variety of positions in Bokor and Phnom Penh, working his way up the ladder as he went. This position at Kep Gardens will add another string to his bow of managerial duties. Welcome to the team Sopheak. We now have 16 Cambodian employees at Kep Gardens all learning a variety of skills.



Sopheak Chea



Sopheak Pring

Sopheak Pring was helping Janine but he was also spending more and more time assisting Andrew and could not do both. So he has moved exclusively to the Trade Skills section. This move has given him more time to learn skills such as quoting for jobs, organizing materials, staff etc. A good move for him as he is now our resident electrician and these new skills will enable him to start his own electrician business in the future.



## World Challenge - The Judd School - England

What a coincidence that the name of the school is the same as our surname. They gave me some history of the school when Andrew Judd started Tonbridge School 500 years ago. It is now an exclusive private school in the south of England and in the 1800s The Judd School was started at the other end of the town of Tonbridge. Upon checking with family members it is not the same family line. The teacher from the school wondered as apparently Judd is not a very common name in England. Andrew Judd was also Lord Mayor of London at some stage too 500 odd years ago.

These guys loved hard work. They laid cement foundations for our workshop verandah, maintenance jobs in the playground, made a rope net and rope bridge for the fort, the list goes on and on. Thanks very much for all your help. The students are still wearing the football tops Harry, so I think of you every day. Thank you for bringing so many to share with most of the classes. We hope you all enjoyed your time at Kep Gardens.



## Workshop on various social issues

An avid supporter of Kep Gardens and a member of the Government police force, Mr Pai spoke to all classes about safety issues; road safety, drugs, all sorts of topics. We also showed Khmer dvds to do with Stranger Danger and dangers to watch out for on the internet and Facebook. This is an annual event starting simply with the young children and building up to full information for Class 4. Thanks Mr Pai we appreciate your support of Kep Gardens and giving up your whole day to cover all classes.



Two weeks to go until the end of term. We have exams all this coming week and on the 26<sup>th</sup> August our own school concert. Last year someone else ran it but this year it is our own concert. Once the exams are finished practice will start in earnest for the various class items.

Stay tuned for the next exciting episode of the newsletter with lots of pictures from our concert and presentation night.

Cheers,  
Janine and Andrew