



# KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2016



Hi Everyone,

Thank you very much to those who supported our Campaign 2016. We have a long way to go yet but progressing slowly. Don't forget that donations to project J674N Kep Gardens are tax deductible in Australia, USA and UK. Receipts will be issued by Global Development Group.

It was great to recently meet Anne and Leigh from South Australia who have been long time supporters of Kep Gardens. They were finally able to see where their support has been going and met many of the students on a one-on-one basis.

Andy and Ming run a computer school in Phnom Penh and have come to Kep to run computer courses during the long state school holiday break. They have given 15 of Kep Gardens' students the opportunity to study for 2½ hours a day 3 times per week - 7½ hours a week for approximately 12 weeks free of charge. The students are really enjoying it and gaining valuable skills. Thank you very much Andy and Ming for giving our students this opportunity.



## Concert

The air was buzzing with excitement the week before the concert as classes and individuals practiced their acts. The night itself was a huge success. A bit long but we can make some changes for next year.





Thank you Sara, a volunteer from Spain, for your ideas and time you put into practicing with Class 1 and Class 2.

This is the link for the video which was taken on the night. The first couple of minutes are scenes of Kep Gardens' grounds. Worth having a look if only for that. It goes for 2 hours and 22 minutes!! But you can fast forward and have tiny peeks at each act. Something wrong with it as it is a bit blurry whereas the original video is crystal clear. I am trying to get the guy to cut it into 3 videos for me, by making them smaller, maybe they will be clearer.

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wvPWG7\\_-EI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5wvPWG7_-EI)

### **Dental Clinic**

To complete the year, the first week of the holidays was taken up ferrying students backwards and forwards to the Dental Clinic morning and afternoon.



Who smiles at the dentist? Tita obviously. But then again, Tita smiles all the time. Such a laid back, likeable kid.

**Thank you to the Buddhist Library who run the Dental Clinic for the great work you do in the Kampot community, not only the Dental Clinic but the mobile library, English classes and building water tanks.**



### **Playgroup 2016/2017**

The Playgroup will run differently this coming school year. Children may come every day of the week, Monday to Friday, from 8.30 to 10.00. Kimhean will be the teacher and during the year she will be attending 3 modules of a training course for early childhood education. This will qualify her with the Education Department as a Kindergarten Teacher so her training will have long term benefits.

Also this year we will invite the older members of the community to join the Playgroup a couple of times a week. They can listen to the stories, maybe tell stories of their own, help the children with crafts and generally interact with the young ones. We will organize for the tuktuk to pick them up on certain days.

We have great respect for the older members of the community such as Kimsy's grandma who is 84, above. We are in awe of these people who suffered more than we, in our privileged lifestyles, can imagine. We think they have a lot to offer the young ones but also would like to offer them some enjoyment as well as help them where we can if needed.



## **Buddhist Library**

Huge thanks to the Buddhist Library who through YourAid are supporting Kep Gardens' teaching staff this year. Check out this website. We greatly appreciate their support and enjoy working with them on an Education Department Committee as well as competing against each other in debating and sport.



## **Tom's Fundraising**

Tom was our first volunteer ever, right back in 2009. He slept on a bamboo bed in a small room with a dirt floor with 3 other staff members. He was here for a month, cycled to the market every day, swam in the dam and he was 70 years of age. Tom has been back since to volunteer but with much better conditions.

Tom has just turned 77, not travelling so much anymore but has started a small bicycle repair business and he is donating the proceeds to Kep Gardens.

Tom is an amazing man who loves life, always interested in participating, learning and giving back to people who are less fortunate. He holds a special place in our hearts not only because he was our first volunteer but also he is a great

bloke. Thank you very much Tom for sharing the proceeds of your business with Kep Gardens.



A poster for 'Bicycles for Humanity'. It features a line drawing of a bicycle. The text reads: 'Bicycles for Humanity', 'We will service &amp; repair all types' bicycles locally.', 'Bicycles for Humanity are in aid "KEP Gardens" for Cambodian children/young adults to educate them for their future in Cambodia the poorest country in Asia.', 'All money for servicing/repairing bicycles and selling reconditioned bicycles, at a very reasonable cost, will go to this single worthy Cambodian project.', 'All work completed locally, by trained bicycle Mechanic', 'Contact: Tom 0400175570 Riddells Creek', and 'Kep Gardens Association Cambodia http://kepgardens.com'.

Oops, A bit crooked this picture!

## **Menagerie**

Never ending stream of kittens and puppies at Kep Gardens. But good news, a Russian vet has set up practice in Kampot so we may be able to do something about the problem in the future.





This is mumma cat's 6<sup>th</sup> litter. She's a great mum.



Bessie and Jessie are about 5 months old now but as you can see they take over the office space when I'm trying to work of a night. And there is usually a cat or two on my lap at the same time. Everyone wants their turn at cuddles.



Pov, one of our staff, loves Messy, baths her and feeds her. Messy waits for her every morning.

### **Veggie Garden**

These lettuces grew well and sold at the Organic Market in Kampot. Capsicum should be ready to ship off soon. The rice is not growing too well this year. The drought has obviously not finished.

Even though the rainy season started off with huge rain it didn't last very long and we have not had a lot since. All the rice is about half the height it should be so the farmers won't have a good harvest this year. Our rice doesn't look too good either. Same conditions from the bus window all the way into Phnom Penh last week.



This newsletter brings us up-to-date for the end of the school year 2015/2016. Classes start again on 4<sup>th</sup> October when Pchum Ben has finished. Kimhour and I WILL have the library computer up and running in time, we WILL!!

Hope the sun is shining in your part of the world.

Cheers,  
Janine and Andrew



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