

Hi Everyone,

While some people are freezing cold and even Alice Springs has ice on its wire fences in the mornings, here we are sweltering, waiting for the rainy season to set in and cool down a bit. We have had lots of rain lately but when the sun comes out, yuck.

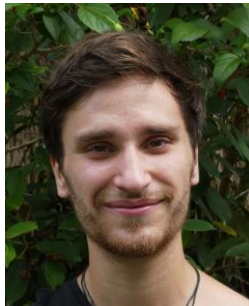
Career Students

HOORAY!! CONGRATULATIONS to our nursing students. In March our 3 nursing students were successful in passing the National Registration Examination. They are now fully registered nurses with a 4 year nursing degree and are able to apply for higher grade employment. One has stayed at Life University as a nursing trainer, one is doing health research at a larger NGO and another is working at a local private clinic which is always packed when I pass by. Congratulations to all three. We are very proud of their achievements. They all worked very hard for 5 years to achieve their results. We are waiting for their graduation day to celebrate with them and their parents.

Volunteers



Ilani



Aaron



Stephen



Joo Lee



Laila



Miguel

Not a lot of volunteers in the last 3 months but the ones we had were worth their weight in gold. Ilani, Aaron and Stephen concentrated on the Reading and Conversation Programme while Joo Lee as well as reading gave Kimhean and me a lot of advice to do with the playgroup.

Joo Lee is home in Malaysia busily preparing resources for us to use. Her husband is also hard at work.



Thank you very much both of you for your industry and care of Kep Gardens. Laila and Miguel will be mentioned later in the newsletter.

Parent Workshop

At our last parent workshop all agreed they wanted to come back in a month's time after they had had time to practice reading with their children and could talk about their experiences together. This has happened but as at all parent information sessions this just brought up more and more questions about all sorts of topics to do with parenting. Thanks to Jill in Adelaide I now have enough information to hold a monthly parent workshop on a variety of topics such as living with teenagers, discipline, and the list goes on and on. This will be a new programme for the school year beginning in October. As all the information needs to be translated into Khmer, this all takes time, but booklets in both English and Khmer will be handed out to parents after their discussion and question time with Sarak. Thank you Sarak for your help with this much needed and requested information by parents.

IT'S THAT TIME OF YEAR AGAIN

BEFORE YOU ENTER YOUR TAX RETURN YOU MAY LIKE TO DONATE TO KEP GARDENS THROUGH THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT GROUP AND RECEIVE A TAX DEDUCTIBLE RECEIPT

IT'S A WIN WIN SITUATION, HELPING KEP GARDENS AND HELPING YOURSELF AT THE SAME TIME

Don't forget, tax deductible donations can be paid through GDG Project J674N.

Washing Hands

Sreyleap, one of our nurses, came back to Kep Gardens recently to teach the importance of washing hands. She plans to do many workshops with the students as she is keen to "give back" by helping other students like she was, poor and with not a lot of hope for her future.



Art Competition

We have just completed new volunteer accommodation and needed artwork to hang on the walls. Eight of the students' pictures have been selected, framed and displayed. The prize winners for all competitions were given a voucher to purchase goods to the value of \$10 at the school canteen. I have just put a couple of pictures here. Check out our Daily Life at the Gardens for more.



Storytelling Competition

The Storytelling competition was not only devised to increase self-confidence but also to point out how traditions and cultures of countries were passed down from generation to generation when people couldn't write or didn't have paper to record events and to encourage students to talk to their grandparents and older family members and neighbours to hear stories from before they were born.

Even though we are an English school, the competition was held in Khmer so the whole school could participate, not just the older ones. Vicki and Ian judged the initial class competitions then our Leadership Through English members were the judges for the class finals, 3 judges for each class. Thanks to Vicki and Ian and the Leadership students - a job well done.



Class 1 finalists



Class 6 finalists

Artwork on shed walls

The walls in the farm shed were painted in December by Trarlgon and Lowanna Colleges from Victoria in Australia. They have been repainted again by volunteers Laila and Miguel and every student at Kep Gardens including the Playgroup. We have decided that these walls will be painted over regularly. It will always be a work in progress expressing different ideas from volunteers and the students as time goes on. Thank you very much Laila and Miguel for

your ideas and patience working with the students with paint brushes in hand, dripping paint and eager to add their bit. It amazed me how smoothly, quietly and organized the painting was. You gained my admiration. The wall looks great and the students go regularly to look at "their bit". A very successful whole school project. Thank you.



Playgroup's effort

Football (the funny one, no tight shorts!)

Dave from Essex, England, who gave out Manchester City uniforms at the recent sports day to 3 of our students, came back last week to give the students tips for throwing the ball in correctly, where to stand etc. He worked solidly for 4 hours in the hot sun starting with the young kids and working his way up to the older students. Great job Dave, not easy as you worked with roughly 70 students during the course of the afternoon. Thank you very much. They all loved it and we look forward to your return.



Driver Safety

The Ministry of Public Works and Transport talked to Classes 4, 5 and 6 about road safety, road rules etc. This is an important part of our school year as most of the

students are riding motos from the age of 12 or even younger with no licences, no knowledge of road rules, in other words, a disaster waiting to happen which unfortunately happens all too often on Cambodian roads. After their presentation they held a quiz and 12 students received a good quality, safe helmet for answering the question correctly. Thank you to the Ministry for supporting our efforts to keep the teenagers safe.



Dragon Race

Four of our students are training at Max Discovery to work on weekends taking groups for a dragon race which comprises 10 different games. As the boys need practise at organizing groups and learning the games themselves, each of our classes have been invited every Sunday morning to participate without having to pay the fee. We only need to organize a ramok to get them there. Very good work experience for the boys involved.



Khmer New Year

April saw our annual pilgrimage to Kep Beach to celebrate the end of term 2 and Khmer New Year. Thank you very much to the following Kep Gardens' friends for helping to keep everyone safe and for giving the students a good time, playing games in the water, lots of laughter and fun: Jan, Martin, Tom, Vicky, Ian and Aurelie. A special thank you to Vuh, Tithaka and Kimhean from the Leadership Through English programme for co-ordinating the whole day - not an easy job but well done. (See icecream time above).

A comment on Facebook when a similar article was posted:

[Lieven De Maeyer](#) I remember helping out at the beach. An amazing day and probably the worst sunburn I ever had.

Lieven was one of our first volunteers and hailed from Belgium.



Visiting Schools

Kep International School camped at Kep Gardens one Monday night, cooked their own BBQ and sat around the campfire. Great to hear that the students enjoyed their time with us and will return again next year. A different group of students came back today from the same school for input into their community project. They helped the Playgroup with a craft activity and then spent time with Keat, our Cambodian craft lady from the village, making birds, grasshoppers and fish out of palm leaves. Very happy to have interaction with another school in Kep.



Farm Animals

New additions to Kep Gardens, Champa and MooMoo. Thank you to Luka for giving us his cows (oxen actually) as Kep Gardens has lots of grass and lots of space to play. The staff built a Taj Mahal for them to sleep in at night to keep them safe. Kep Gardens was a good choice Luka. We will look after them and hopefully have babies every year or so. MooMoo was lying down the other day and a volunteer sat next to him. The next thing MooMoo put his head in the volunteers lap and closed his eyes. A real soak! Champa likes to be rubbed and patted and follows for more as you walk away. They appear to be such gentle creatures. But in saying that, 2 of our staff have recently had nasty bites from their own cows that turned infected. To be treated with loving respect I think. We are so happy with our new family additions. Some hens for eggs soon and ducks. Stay tuned, we are gradually building up the farm side of Kep Gardens.



Where has the year gone? Half over and it seems like a rush is on to complete what was planned for the school year which ends on 24th August. World Challenge and many volunteers during the month of July, a busy but fun time. We'll be ready for a holiday in September.

All the best to our friends and supporters.

Cheers, Janine and Andrew

DAILY LIFE AT KEP GARDENS

