

Hi Everyone,

The end of a very busy, successful year. A few weeks now to have a break and prepare for the new school year starting in October.

Kindergarten Teacher Graduation

Our final career student has graduated. Kimhean completed her Kindergarten teacher training recently finishing in the top 4 of her class. She did very well and everyone at Kep Gardens is very proud of her. As she works here, the staff all know her so she is special to them. She is now our Kindergarten and Reception teacher for the coming school year. We would love to continue this project with another group of 4 students but the costs are \$12,000 per year. It's too risky to start unless we are sure we have that money committed for 5-6 years.



Kimhean's family



Volunteers

July and August saw a World Challenge group from New Zealand camping, a GivingWay group and other individual volunteers spent various amounts of time at Kep Gardens. It was a very happy time. It was a regular United Nations with volunteers from Australia, the United States, Portugal, Belgium, England, China, Italy, and New Zealand. People were coming and going but they all worked well together, fitted into the existing groups and had lots of laughs. More importantly the students benefitted greatly with many opportunities to practice speaking English, learn about different countries and have lots of fun. Thank you to you all for your contribution and support of Kep Gardens. Volunteers are crucial to our programme at Kep Gardens.



Jill



Bonnie



Lucy



Lauren



Karen



Kayla



Lea



Matilde



Gail

**NEW SCHOOL YEAR STARTS THURSDAY,
11TH OCTOBER, AFTER PCHUM BEN**



Meg



Olly



Amy



Lesley



Nina

Marine Conservation

2018/2019 SCHOOL YEAR

October we are off and running again. Many new programmes and innovations this year to make the students' study interesting, informative and useful. Useful is an interesting word when talking of education!!

Donations worldwide are decreasing and small projects such as ours are finding it more and more difficult to continue our grass roots help. We need corporate sponsorship so if anyone knows of companies who may be interested in sponsoring Kep Gardens for 3, 4 years we would be happy to hear from them. We can offer tax deductible receipts through Global Development Group for Australia, US and England.

While desperately looking for corporate sponsorship, we still rely heavily on individual donations to buy resources, include a new programme or upgrade a building. Funding needed for this coming year:

Please remember that these prices are all in US dollars

Physical and dental health programmes for students; vision care for elderly community members. **US\$2,000**

Tool boxes and tools
For 3 graduating apprentices \$250.00 x 3 **US\$ 750**

Craft materials
We need to replenish the craft box with coloured pencils, paints, brushes, various craft items, to encourage the creative side of students. **US\$ 500**

School expansion
Upgrade of old storeroom to a classroom for Kindergarten, Reception and Khmer language students. **US\$ 800**

Wages Khmer language teacher
Every 2 or 3 years we hold a Khmer class for students Grade 4 and up who have problems reading and writing their own language- 5 days a week for 1 year. **US\$1,000**

Photocopying
We do not follow any particular book at Kep Gardens. We make our own workbooks by putting bits and pieces together from many different sources. With 247 students the photocopying bill is quite large per year, add on the copying and laminating of certificates for volunteers, students achievement certificates at the end of the school year, teacher resources etc. **US\$2,500**

Parent Workshops
Translation of booklets on various topics that parents indicate they would like more information, photocopying, materials **US\$ 500**

Sports and Playground Development

Trucks and diggers for the sandpit are a favourite as are the spades and buckets. We are always having to replace them as well as dolls and various toys that Playgroup and the younger students use on a daily basis. Footballs and volleyballs, volleyball nets all need replacing regularly.

US\$ 500

Careers Day

A new initiative this year. We are hoping to include the state high schools as well as Kep Gardens, inviting Khmer people working in various jobs to talk about what they do, what academic qualifications they need etc. **US\$1,500**

Library Books

US\$ 400

There are many ways you could help us: organize a fundraising event between family and friends or at work; let any business people in your family or friends know we are looking for sponsorship; organize something big like a car for raffling and sell raffle tickets (you never know contacts you have until you ask); walk around Australia and be sponsored for ?? a kilometre (only joking); be creative, there maybe something you can make and sell to raise funds.

Marine Conservation

During the last week of the school year Marine Conservation visited and stayed for the week. The first day was showing videos and talking to the students about the effect plastic and rubbish have on the animals in the ocean. The second day each group went out collecting rubbish and came back and washed it. The third day the first couple of groups made headdresses for Class 3 to wear in the concert while the older classes talked about statistics. They counted the bottles, counted straws etc and got an idea of which items made up the rubbish and alternatives they could use. The older students then wrote a couple of sentences on what saving the environment mean to them. Students picked at random ideas to read out. Thank you Marine Conservation for giving your time to impress on our students how important it is for them to cut down on plastic use and to stop throwing rubbish on the ground. Kep Gardens is very clean but they must also remember to follow these good practices outside the school gates.





Take a look at this video where Nina from Marine Conservation describes what they do when they visit schools such as ours.

...\\Videos\\Nina on Koh Seh Island.html

School Concert

Our concert at the end of the year was very different this year. Due to all the rain we had had the ground was very boggy, muddy and water logged. There was no way a stage was going to be delivered. Consequently, we held the concert in two parts: Playgroup, Classes 1, 2 and 3 in the afternoon and Classes 4, 5 and 6 in the evening. No bright lights and a band for music so it wasn't so exciting - obviously as only Playgroup parents came. Disappointing but the students enjoyed themselves. We had been lucky with the weather for 3 years so we can't complain. Let's hope next year returns to a normal rainy season when we will have a better chance of having a stage and lights.



Thanks to the volunteers, Bonnie who organised "Baby Shark" for Playgroup, Olly who rehearsed the choir and helped Class 3 and 4 girls and Amy who helped wherever needed. Certificates of attendance were given to all students, certificates to winners of various competitions we held throughout the year and a prize was awarded to a boy and girl from each class. A good ending to a long, hard year.



Some classes sang, some danced, others performed plays.



Sports Day with Sala Monkey

A month or so ago Playgroup and Classes 1, 2, 3 had a sports day with Sala Monkey, our neighbours. Thank you to Katie and Kaylen, volunteers from Sala Monkey who organized the whole thing. We hope to do it again in the new school year.



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

"I thoroughly enjoyed my 2 weeks there. It was inspiring to work with such amazing and enthusiastic children, who are so eager to learn. It's so rewarding to see even the small improvement they make whilst you are working with them."

The whole team at Kep Gardens make you feel so welcome and truly make the experience!"

Lucy Nurcombe, England

Influx of new borns

At the same time as the volunteers were coming and going, 7 puppies, 4 kittens and 2 guinea pigs were born and other animals came to make their home at Kep Gardens. Bees, turkeys, ducks, chickens, geese, budgerigars, pigeons. We have a large aviary where the birds live and move around.



We are getting eggs which no staff member believed we could do without a rooster!! Yes, we perform miracles here at Kep Gardens!



Can't leave old Fido out!

GivingWay Volunteering Group

We have organized 2 groups through GivingWay for November and January. If you are interested, please follow the links below:

<https://www.givingway.com/group/cambodia-nov-2018>

<https://www.givingway.com/group/cambodia-jan-2019>

Alternatively, you may contact us direct.

Use this link to go direct to Global Development Group to ensure a tax deductible receipt for your donation or sponsorship.

<https://globaldevelopmentgroup.org/au/projects/j674n-kep-gardens-community-project/>



Proud to partner with Global Development Group (ABN 57 102 400 9930) for project J674N

Sadly we will be losing some of the students that studied Year 12. All passed and will be moving on to further studies, some to work. Well done! All the best, we will miss you. Keep in touch.

We hope you are all well and life is treating you kindly.

Cheers,
Janine and Andrew

We were very sad to hear that Paget Sayers, the founder of Youraid and Buddhist Library passed away on 29/9/18 at the age of 89. Paget was a great supporter of Kep Gardens, committing to a sponsorship for 3 years to help fund the English school. His entire wealth has been devoted to charity. His estate will continue in perpetuity to fund the Buddhist Library that he loved most. Paget was a very generous and caring man. I'll miss the chats we used to have over email late at night. Thank you Paget for your support.



DAILY LIFE AT KEP GARDENS

