



# KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

SEPTEMBER 2019



Hi Everyone,

A couple of big events to cover this newsletter, the end-of-year concert and sports day plus the many activities which make up a normal school week at Kep Gardens.

## School Concert

Last year we held the concert in the shed due to the incessant rain. It looked like we would be lucky this year but a day before dawn it came again, flooding the dam. Fortunately, the day itself looked threatening but it stayed rain free and the evening was beautiful weather - rain free and cool.

A wonderful way to end the school year! Our school concert was a very happy occasion, families and the local community sharing together, lots of laughter, lots of fun. Lovely to see everyone so happy. Thank you to Martin for these great photos even though shooting into the bright stage lights made his job hard. Thank you to Sireyroith's family who supplied us with 200; thank you to Kimsy for teaching the 4 girls the Khmer welcoming dance; thank you to the people who provided the stage and lights; thank you to Sarak for his great job, MC of the concert; thank you to Martin, our resident photographer.



## Sports Day

What a great day! Organized by Gabi, our Project Trust volunteer, our whole school sports day was a great success and will become an annual event. The students were divided into 4 houses: red, yellow, green and blue. Not only are the points for the sporting events added up but also the various competitions held throughout the year such as the reading competition, recycled rubbish craft competition etc. Events included tug-o-war, egg and spoon race, sack race, obstacle course, three-legged race, 100m sprint and water race. All the students were very happy and excited. It was also a very hot afternoon, so what better than to have a water fight to cool everyone down. Congratulations to the yellow team who



were overall winners. The cup will be displayed in the library waiting for a new winner next year. Well done to all contestants, you played fairly and did your best. Proud of you all and enjoyed watching you have a lot of fun together. Thank you Gabi, well done, a great job.



Thank you to the Leadership Group for all their help on sports day. They took charge of the various events, organized the competitors, kept the score sheets plus many other jobs. The day wouldn't have run as smoothly without their help. Good job guys. Thank you again to Martin, our resident photographer for the photos.

There are many more photos of the concert and sports day on our Facebook page: **KEP GARDENS ASSOCIATION**

**Child Protection**

Thank you very much to Seny Sen, a Child Protection Officer with Friends International who held two workshops at Kep Gardens recently. The morning session was for our staff and teachers from various primary schools. The afternoon session was more relaxed, chatting casually to parents and giving them information about child protection. Both sessions were very successful, the parents asking many questions and lively group discussion with the teachers.



**WE MAKE A LIVING BY WHAT WE GET, WE MAKE A LIFE BY WHAT WE GIVE.**

**Winston S. Churchill**



### World Challenge

A World Challenge team from Tenterden in England, the Homewood School and Sixth Form Centre, camped at Kep Gardens for 3 days in July. They joined in all of the activities offered with great enthusiasm and were a great help with our Reading and Conversation Programme; printing and making new library books for our students; making 2 library carts on wheels to store the new books and helping with team banner making for our sports day. Thank you very much for all your hard work and enthusiasm.



Life's most persistent and urgent question is,  
"What are you doing for others?"

Martin Luther King, Jr.

### Parent Workshops

We have held several parent workshops since May: "Living with Toddlers", "Living with Teenagers" and "Child Protection" plus the "Domestic Violence" workshop earlier in the year. The parents have responded in large numbers which encourages us to continue to seek out topics which are an issue in the community.

### Marine Conservation

Liger, a school from Phnom Penh, paid us a visit again earlier this year performing a marine conservation play which they wrote themselves. They were going to do two performances, the younger students in the afternoon and the older in the early evening but the rain was so heavy in the evening the noise on the iron roof made it impossible to hear anything. They split into small groups for discussion. Thank you Liger for including us in your programme.





### **Kep International School**

The students leaving Kep International School to head off to high school spent time with our Kindergarten class to complete their community studies. The made tic tack toe games with the students and taught them how to play the game. Thank you Kep International School for including Kep Gardens in your community programme.



### **Volunteers**

We said goodbye to Gabi, our Project Trust volunteer from Scotland in July. She has been away from family and friends for 9.5 months, a long time. Gabi headed home to start University in August. We wish her all the best and thank her for her valued contribution to our project. Gabi's good relationship with the students assured that they had fun while learning and she will be remembered by all, especially at sports day next year and every time we walk past her mural on the wall. Thank you Gabi, Kep Gardens greatly appreciates your time and support of our project.



### **Competitions**

We held two competitions this year with our students: a reading competition and a making art from recycled plastic competition. Well done to all the participators. Congratulations to the winners. Not enough room to put all the photos of the winners but we had some very interesting art work particularly from the older students.







Pete



Becca



Helen



Phil



Cian



Lisa



Lara



Zoe, Paulien, Delphine



A big thank you to all the above volunteers. Without you our students would not have the chance to practice speaking English, improve their reading and boost their self-confidence. Your value to Kep Gardens is immeasurable. Pete was a different volunteer than usual who worked in the workshop with Andrew. He fixed our cars and other machines. Can't thank him enough. Helen will be returning again in November and hopefully a couple of times during each school year. She brings with her vast teaching experience, her enthusiasm is amazing and we hope to put her skills to good use in November passing onto the staff her many varied, special skills.

### End of Year Thank You's

Andrew and I would like to thank many people for making this year possible. Thank you to Vanny, the school canteen lady who also sold food at the concert; thank you to San Dich and Neang Hi, teachers who judged our reading and recycled plastic art competitions this year; thank you to Sarak for his support throughout the year; thank you to the Department of Education and the Department of Labour and Vocational Training for working together with us; thank you to Andy and Ming who take some of our students every year during the holidays teaching computer skills; thank you to Kylie who very patiently translates our accounts into an acceptable form; thank you to Ruth for auditing our books every year; thank you to Alex and Phillipe from Botanica who allow our volunteers to use their swimming pool; thank you to Martin, our resident photographer and friend; thank you to Jan King for her support, legal advice and friendship; thank you to our supporters who lend us not only financial support but also moral support. All of the above people are very important to keep the wheels of Kep Gardens turning smoothly but our final thanks goes to the Kep Gardens' community: the enthusiastic students; the parents for showing interest and encouraging their children; the cleaners, gardeners and trade staff for the everyday

necessities - be lost without you; finally the 4 Khmer teachers who are trained, dedicated teachers. You are role models to future generations of teachers, putting the needs of the students before your own and genuinely caring for every student and understanding their circumstances. I am very proud of our teaching staff. They are the reason why Kep Gardens is respected within the community. Have a happy and relaxing holiday everyone, ready to come back fresh, ready and raring to go in October for another long, action packed year.

### BREAKING NEWS

We are starting again this coming year to prepare 3 boys for IT careers. Thank you to Ian Stephens from New Zealand who has started off the funding for the 5 Khmer teachers to ensure that these boys pass Year 12 and then the entrance exam to the University of their choice to obtain a Degree in IT. This will be an ongoing 5 year project, just the same set up as the nursing and engineering students previously. You all know how successful that programme was! We would be very happy for other sponsors to join with Ian to help ensure success for these students. Thank you to Andy and Ming, computer specialists, who worked with the boys during August and who will work with them at times, during the coming year.

In order to continue to provide not only English classes to the students and all that entails like photocopying, teaching resources, staff wages etc but extras like the Activity Club, football and volleyball equipment, parent workshops, sports teams and excursions, we need support. We would appreciate it you would please consider Kep Gardens when thinking about your next charitable donation.

We hope you are all well and enjoying life.

Cheers,  
Janine and Andrew

**Did you know GDF is registered in New Zealand, PO Box 10076, Bayfair, Tauranga 3152**

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