



KEP GARDENS NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER 2021



Hi Everyone,

A long time since the last newsletter. A few things to fill you in on but it has been a long 7 months since the last closure.

Nearly all of Cambodia has been vaccinated twice. The third booster shot has started in Phnom Penh and will gradually filter down to the Provinces in the next month or so. Virtually all children aged 5 –18 have been vaccinated, hence the reopening of state schools in October and other schools like Kep Gardens given permission to reopen this week.

Much happiness to hear the sound of children again, albeit only half the school in week 1 and the other half week 2.



Fido

Some sad news for students past and present; past volunteers; and the local Kampong Tralach community close to Kep Gardens. On Wednesday Fido died. He lived in various houses in the village during his time looking after his various families and puppies; attended many village weddings and ceremonies taking advantage of the scraps of food under the tables; and took part in many of the classes in the evening sitting on the back desk keeping watch on the driveway and gate. Not a good student though as he slept through most of the classes!! The last year or so he sat in Andrew's office under the fan all day. Fido lived a long life for a Khmer dog. He was 12 years old and we still see many of his offspring today. He will be sadly missed by the whole Kep Gardens community.



Staff Talent

What talent our teachers have!! Apart from painting pot plants with Jolly Phonics characters, they have been painting library walls. The colours certainly brighten up the place. Thank you for caring about your workplace.



Water Filtration System

We would like to thank very much the Buddhist Library Cambodia Project and YourAid, Australia. Recently they installed a water filtration system to our only water supply, our bore water. The water will be so clean we will be able to drink from the tap!! What a huge relief that after many years we will no longer have to buy bottled water to ensure our staff and students do not become ill. Thank you, thank you for such an important donation.



Thank you also to the Buddhist Library for including 2 of our staff in their library training course last month.

Painting for Hope

Kep Gardens had a visit recently from AIESEC, Wat Phnom, Painting for Hope 2021 project, a delightful group of young people. Unfortunately, there were no students present due to Covid but they presented us with library books, two sets of shelving, 2 tables and other bits and pieces. Thank you very much, we can certainly use your gifts. We look forward to your return in January and greatly appreciate your support of Kep Gardens.



Puthisastra University

Thank you very much to the medical and dental faculties of Puthisastra University for their kind donation of books, pens, library books, masks, toothbrushes and toothpaste for our students. We appreciate your gifts and hope that our association is long and mutually beneficial.





Trade Section

The Trade section now has a lathe which Andrew is very excited about. Various staff members will be learning how to make things on the lathe, adding another skill to their long list of achievements.



Personal

On a personal note, September was a sad and emotional month. Andrew was in hospital having a large part of his colon removed. While he was there he contracted pneumonia which was worrying but he got through it and is slowly getting his strength back. I think he returned to work too quickly and is now paying the price so he is learning to slow down and take more care of himself. While Andrew was being operated on, my friend, Jan King, died of a heart attack. Two white haired old ladies wandering around Kep or Kampot of a Saturday will be no more. I miss her dreadfully.

On a more cheerful note, I suddenly realized it is almost Christmas. Even though life has been very slow for many months, the time has certainly flown.

Andrew and I wish you a Merry Christmas spent with family and friends. May 2022 be kind to you all. To those who have been ill, we hope 2022 sees a return to good health.



Christmas is often a time when people give to their favourite charity. Please remember Kep Gardens when contemplating which organization to send your donation to this Christmas. Your support will be greatly appreciated.

Global Development Group not only provide tax deductible receipts for donations but also provide support for their members in many varied ways.

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/>

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



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

