



Rice for Cambodia Australia Inc. August 2009 Newsletter.

Hello

During our recent family holiday we made a field trip to Siem Reap visiting all our RFC interests and a few other facilities as well. We are very pleased to report that the projects RFC are helping to fund are being extremely well run, and we could see the benefits of our support.

Thanks to Holeproof who donated RIO undies which we distributed to all the children we met, and to everyone who raided their kids wardrobes so we could take clothes over. Also thanks to Singapore Airlines for allowing me an extra baggage allowance to take it all. **Please read down the page** for details.

Don't forget our fundraiser at Onde restaurant Mornington 22 August, \$60 per person for a 6 course Italian feast, [contact me to book](#)

Best regards

Sharon

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SPENDING TIME WITH THE GREEN GECKO KIDS



Sharon with the kids



writing letters



Thank you Holproof



Jill's first aid class

The Green Gecko Project houses around 75 children who have been saved from a life of begging and beatings and given a chance to live, love and learn in a secure environment.

Green Gecko which is run by Australian Tania Palmer and her Khmer husband Rem Poum began 4 years ago. It is a remarkable facility and RFC are proud to be associated with them.

The children attend school twice a day, both English and Khmer school as well as lessons for two hours each day at Green Gecko, we were able to be involved in the lessons at GG. Volunteers wishing to work at GG must submit a program of activities in advance. [For details of how to volunteer click here](#).

We took over letters from the grade one students at Tooradin Primary School in rural Victoria, written to the Green Gecko kids. There was great excitement as each child was given a letter, and we were most impressed when, one by one, the kids read their letter aloud, then wrote and illustrated a reply. We will be giving the letters back to the children at Tooradin Primary and hope this will be the beginning of a "Sister school" relationship.

Jill Warfe, a friend of RFC and Senior Nursing Sister, gave a first aid and general health class for the teachers and carers at Green Gecko as well as ensuring their medical supply cupboard was well stocked and all up to date.

Holeproof very kindly donated RIO undies, which we distributed amongst the centres we visited. Cambodian's are generally shy about underwear, but the Gecko Kids were more than happy to dive into the box and choose a pair and pose for a photograph.

Green Gecko have a child sponsorship program and Jeremy and I were privileged to be able to spend time with ours. If you would like to sponsor a child [click here](#) then when you holiday in Siem Reap you too can meet your child.

Rice for Cambodia funded the planting of their new rice paddy and we were pleased to see it was coming along well

Below: the rice paddy and dining shelters



Below: Gecko kid with letters to Tooradin Primary in front of paddy



LHA COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT PROJECT INCORPORATING "FOOD FOR EDUCATION"



Sharon with rice and sauces ready to distribute



Jeremy hands over the goods to a young student



patiently waiting for the distribution



Everyone has rice

This project assists Village families by offering small loans to develop cottage industry, as well as assisting the families to send their children to school instead of working or minding younger siblings.

Provided the child has a good attendance record at school, the family is provided with a 20kg bag of rice, two bottles of soy sauce, one bottle of fish sauce and some tinned fish.

Unfortunately as this is funded entirely by RFC, our monthly contribution of US\$400 only allows us to assist one village per month, and even then with the increased cost of rice, not all families receive an allocation. We would like to be able to increase this in the future, when funds permit. There are approximately 40 families at the village we visited.

LHA SEWING CENTRE

RFC were pleased to assist build the shelter for the sewing centre Run by LHA to train country girls in all aspects of sewing and give them a sewing machine on graduation, so they can begin a cottage industry. We were pleased to see the centre in full operation, and now not only training country girls, but giving local women the chance to use the facilities to generate income as well.



WAT DAMNAK NUNNERY

Little things can mean so much, we visited the nunnery at Wat Damak, and at the end of our very busy day sat in on a much needed meditation session. Afterwards we gave spectacles we had collected in Australia to the Nuns, it was wonderful to see the smile when someone found a pair that worked for them. We have found that spectacles are always welcome in developing countries so do take some with you when you visit these places, your local spectacle store usually have some they will give you to take.



LHA - PROJECT ADVANCING GIRLS' EDUCATION (PAGE)



Jeremy and Sharon award Nop Sophal her scholarship.

PAGE aims at giving girls the opportunity to finish high school and then go on to university.

LHA rent a house in Siem Reap and house 12 girls with a house mother during the school year. Most of the girls come from rural areas and without PAGE would be unable to complete their studies.

In memory of Sharon's Mother who passed away in May, family and friends contributed to a scholarship which was awarded to PAGE student Miss Nop Sophal. Sophal graduates high school this year and wants to become a teacher.

Nop Sophal was born 23 March 1988 in Som Rong Village, Siem Reap. She arrived at PAGE 02 October 2008.

Sophal is the oldest of three siblings, and had to quit school for 2 years to assist her single mother make and sell rice soup in order to support the family. The family does not own any land or property. The mother is



PAGE students in their living quarters

widowed and the family live with her grandmother.

Next year PAGE will have three girls graduating high school and are looking for sponsors to further their education.

[Click here to read the PAGE activity report for May 2009](#)

Sangkheum Centre for Children

This is a beautifully run centre which houses orphans and vulnerable children, but caters for the wider community of Siem reap as well.

The children attend local schools and receive tuition in English at the centre. They also learn the traditional Apsara dancing and perform at some of the hotels in town, this gives them skills and an income.

They also learn handicrafts and have these items for sale.

RFC is pleased to help fund the veggie garden, which not only provides food for the children, but excess produce is sold locally to supplement the budget. The children are involved in growing the vegetables.

Sangkheum also offer a child sponsorship scheme, [click here](#) for details



Samnang who had his cleft lip repaired

Lunch time



The veggie garden



Basket weaving