

Friends of *inter*PART Inc.

International Partners in Action Research and Training

Issue 1
April 2008
Vol 6 - No 1

Newsletter

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'A decade on'
Celebrating our
10th Anniversary

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**RENEWAL
TIME!**

Please help us to
continue assisting those
most vulnerable, with
your continued support
as a valued member.

Friends of *inter* PART Inc.
is incorporated under the
SA Associations Incorporation
Act 1985
Registration Number
A0023669R

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AGM 2007 Summary

Thanks are extended to the FoIP committee for their work during the year and recognition that it is the ten year anniversary of the organisation! The committee met four times in 2007 and two newsletters were produced. The office bearers, Jenny as Treasurer and Ray as Secretary, are to be particularly thanked for their time, effort and commitment during the year.

Treasurer's Report

This year's income surpassed expenses, with an increase in donations offsetting a downfall in fundraising events. Donations included the most generous donation made by Peter Morrison, of \$10,000. It has been requested by Peter that \$5,000 be allocated to the FoIP project in Tigray and \$5,000 to the Komar Pikar Foundation in Cambodia. Peter was awarded Life Membership of Friends of *inter*PART, in recognition of his valuable support.

The quarterly Rabbit School payments of \$1,685 have continued as usual, making the annual commitment of AU\$6,740.

The total balance at 06/07 year end was \$8,173.04 and our current balance at 6th December 07, is \$15,813.75 (\$1,359.39 in NAB and \$14,454.36 in JB Were).
A full financial overview for the year is illustrated on page 3 of this newsletter.

Rabbit School Cambodia

FoIP has continued to meet its annual commitment to the RS towards staff salaries and resources.

Appropriate and sustainable alternatives for supporting the RS have been considered during a period of transition eg; moving to an existing Primary School. A Terms of Reference paper was created in relation to the role of FoIP and how best to provide assistance to our colleagues in Cambodia. Visits to Cambodia during the year were made by Helen, Tania and Ray. Relevant government ministries provided backing of the plan to commence integration of children from the RS into a mainstream Primary School, commencing with the attendance of fifteen selected pupils from the RS into an integrated classroom in Toul Kork Primary School.

FoIP agreed to continue funding the Rabbit School to the current level, until a business plan has been formulated.

Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) Cambodia

The Komar Pikar Foundation has been established as an in-country facility through which ongoing funds to support disability programs in Cambodia (including the Rabbit School) could be raised, managed and disbursed in an effective and more sustainable manner. An independent and capable Board has been established and first met in October 2007.

The contribution of Social Services of Cambodia in providing office space for KPF, and SSC's support to date in providing accountancy support in managing Rabbit School donations and payments was acknowledged with gratitude.

Funding of US\$300 per month for six months, was approved on a one off 'seed funding' basis, to be directed toward the employment of a Cambodian officer

continued

AGM 2007 Summary

continued

(namely Kong Vichetra) to progress establishment of the KPF in accordance with the KPF's guidelines and Board's direction. A job description for Chetra has now been approved by the Board.

FoIP will develop strategic planning, regarding the provision of assistance for the Rabbit School and other initiatives via the KPF.

Tigray Project

An active presence in Tigray is sustained through various initiatives, maintained by two National colleagues, Guenet and Andom, including income generating and training activities with people with disability, especially older women with disability, and progressing IRDS-related planning links with some government departments, particularly Education and Women's Affairs.

The publication 'Ethiopia Initiative' was produced this year, to inform of the situation in Ethiopia.

An Information Evening was held in North Adelaide to inform interested individuals of past, present and future projects of FoIP.

Some of the funds raised during the Folk Night have been directed to the Tigray project.

interPART and Associates

IP&A continue to provide support to FoIP, eg in financing of administration and Newsletter printing and distribution.

Current work, both overseas and in Australia, include: evaluations with HelpAge International and Cambodia Trust and work in natural resource management evaluations in Australia.

Fundraising

Hills Folk Club: has once again been very generous in donating all the funds raised from their annual Folk Club event in October '06, with over \$4,000 being raised from ticket and gift sales at the door – *a very big thank you* to the Club from Friends of interPART.

Wine: limited sales in 2006-07

Gift Cards: a new initiative, raising \$750 during the 2006-2007 financial year.

Rabbit School Cards: sales especially in the lead up to Christmas 2006, raised over \$1,400. Special thanks to Tania for her efforts and others who have spread them far and wide amongst friends.

Stalls: Amanda Lindsay's Wine, Women and Well-being evening raised over \$300, and a big thanks to Amanda and Colleagues at Raine & Horne, McLaren Vale. Glenn and Ray's stall at the Macclesfield Strawberry Fete in December also boosted coffers.

Chocolates: Cathy continues to be the main seller of the Fredo Frog chocolates through her business in Meadows, thanks to her for her continued support.

Donations: Thanks go to all who have donated during this period, with special thanks to Peter Morrison, Ann Henry and Tania Radis who have all supported our projects most generously.

Membership

Membership payments were down slightly, with 52 paid up members for the year ending 2007. Thanks to all supporters.

Election of Office Bearers for 2008:

Chairperson – Wayne (nominated by Nicole, seconded by Jenny Horne)

Treasurer – Andrew (nominated by Jenny Biven, seconded by Nicole)

Secretary – Ray (nominated by Jenny Horne, seconded by Nicole)

A big thank you was extended to out-going Office Bearers.

Committee Members:

Jenny Horne, Helen Pitt, Nicole McDowell, Jenny Biven, Ursula Dahl, Annie Sunners, Robert Horne, Kerry Thomas.

For your Diary 2008 Meetings Schedule

May 28th @ 18.30hrs - Jenny Horne's home in Belair

August 20th @ 18.30hrs - Jenny Biven's home in Mylor

November 5th (AGM) @ 18.30hrs – Ray's home in Macclesfield

Wayne Allen
Chairperson

AGM 2007 Summary continued

Editorial



Income for 2006-2007

Bank interest	0.15
Card and Print sales	1,476.00
Donations	2,046.37
Ethiopian Initiative	650.00
Tigray project	11,650.00
Adelaide Hills Folk Club	4,197.70
Gift Card sales	800.00
Gift sales	733.00
Memberships	420.00
Wine sales	100.00
JB Were Interest	<u>219.41</u>
Total Income before expenses	\$22,292.63

Expenses

Auditor	100.00
Bank charges	18.70
Rabbit School payments	6,740.00
Rabbit School Gift Card donation	750.00
Rabbit School Celebrations	200.00
Gift sale purchases	200.00
Tigray project	6,000.00
Ethiopian Initiative	4,000.00
Transfer fees	<u>37.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$20,375.50

Total Income less Expenses **\$1,917.13**

Opening Balance at 1st July 2006

National Bank Account	\$2,725.29
JB Were Management Trust Account	<u>\$3,530.29</u>

Total **\$6,255.91**

Balance of Funds at 30th June 2007 for Friends of *interPART*

National Bank Account	\$3,450.51
JB Were Management Trust Account	<u>\$4,722.53</u>

Total **\$8,173.04**

Welcome to our first Newsletter for 2008, we do hope that you find plenty of interest amongst it's new colour tinged pages ! - The new look is thanks to the Macclesfield Newsletter, who have kindly made their printing facilities available to us for the last two years. The recent upgrading of their printer has resulted in a general improvement in quality of print, with the added benefit of colour - however, we do plan to be modest with the amount of colour used, in order to keep costs to a minimum. We would like to take this opportunity in thanking *interPART* & Associates for continuing to cover the cost of producing the Newsletter, as well as other ancillary administrative outgoings. This enables us to ensure that almost 100% of monies donated, is directed to the projects we support.

We are currently entering an exciting period, one where long term commitment of sustainable support, is resulting in some steady progress being made. A warm and sincere *thank you* is extended to those who have contributed over the years. It is your deep sense of compassion and generous support that has helped us in our endeavour to make a difference to the lives of those most vulnerable.

Kerry recently came across this rather daunting statistic - even though it's sometimes difficult to comprehend just how these facts are arrived at, it's perhaps a good thing they are ! They sure do encourage us to ponder and take stock of priorities, both on a personal and broader perspective.

Fact: The 225 richest people on the planet now earn the same as the poorest 2.7 billion (40% of all humanity)

If you have any little gems that make one 'sit up and take notice' - do let us know and if deemed appropriate, we will publish them in our next Newsletter - email us on info@interpart.org.au

interPART - 'A decade on'

International Partners in Action Research and Training (*interPART*) was borne out of decades of international development and disability support work by Helen Pitt and Kerry Thomas. In the mid 1990's, Helen was working in Cambodia with the Disability Action Council (DAC), and wished to assist in addressing the needs of children with disabilities in that country.

Small beginnings with "The Little School"

Initially, an in country assignment and report from Nicole Mc Dowell in 1996 provided the framework for inclusive education, including teacher training and government and non-government partnerships. *interPART* was established in 1997, coinciding with the establishment of a modest school to provide education and therapy for children with disabilities living at the Nutrition Centre (NC), a government orphanage in Phnom Penh. It was the first of its kind in the country. Kong Vichetra (Chetra) was appointed as the DAC Education Officer, and he collaborated with government ministries, expatriate volunteers and the fledgling Nutrition centre "Little School" staff. *interPART*'s focus from the start was to commit to providing funding of \$AUS1,400.00 per quarter for salaries and some materials to run the school, with transparent funding arrangements supported by an in-country NGO.

Fundraising: any way to keep the funds coming in!

In the early days, we were not really sure how we would meet our funding commitments, as no one had much experience with fundraising. *We soon learned!* Funding has been continuously and reliably provided to the school for over 10 years now, providing important security for the staff and the program. The list of fundraising activities over the years has included: a cabaret night, movie nights, stalls, birthday party donations, raffles, wine bottling and sales, chocolate frogs (thousands over the years thanks to Cathy), several successful evenings with donations thanks to the Hills Folk Club and many very generous personal donations. One of our more 'visible' fundraising events was in 2003, when two FoIP members, Ray Walker and Tania Radis, supported by Helen, developed CyCleCambodia, a sponsored bicycling event around the Tonle Sap lake in Cambodia. In excess of \$11,000 was raised, from which important donations were made to a number of in-country projects. Positive media coverage ensued, both in Cambodia and Australia, as well as the development of a twenty five minute documentary, that is available on VHS and DVD.

Evolving

In 2000, *interPART* was divided into two separate entities: *interPART* & Associates and Friends of *interPART* (FoIP), to reflect the different roles within the organisation. It had become apparent that ongoing fundraising was becoming crucial to meeting our financial commitment to the school, while *interPART* and Associates (*iP&A*) provides consultancy, research, capacity building and project design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation services for clients that include NGOs, government agencies, and international organisations. *iP&A*'s work has extended over a number of countries since 2000, including East Timor, Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Malaysia, The Philippines, countries impacted by the Tsunami, as well as working with indigenous and environmental groups in Australia. *iP&A* continues to support FoIP in covering administration costs thereby allowing almost 100% of all funds raised to go directly to project activities.

Continued development of effective education interventions for children with disabilities: from one classroom to the rest of Cambodia.

In early 2000's The Little School became known as "The Rabbit School", a name chosen by the children and staff due to the lucky symbolism of the Rabbit in Cambodian culture. Over the years, The Rabbit School has become a principle model for demonstrating that children with quite severe disabilities can learn, with teachers visiting and receiving awareness and training.

In 2002-03 Mr. Hun Touch, the headmaster of The Rabbit School, was supported by FoIP and other funding bodies to undertake twelve months of study in inclusive education in India. His dedication to developing his skills by leaving his family and familiar culture for this period of time, was an inspiration to us all. He returned as the most qualified national Cambodian in inclusive education. Subsequently, Mr. Touch has been involved in the training of many teachers and those from allied professions e.g. psychologists, has provided input into numerous workshops and is an important contributor to developing national policies. FoIP remain committed to his professional development and while we have committed to ensure that his qualifications and increased responsibilities were recognised with appropriate increases in remuneration, it still represents excellent value for money!

interPART - 'A decade on' continued

Due to the successes of the Rabbit School, other funding bodies were able to be successfully approached over the years. AusAid provided funding for a small building to house the Rabbit School. Other funding bodies allowed the expansion of the teaching program and staffing and the numbers of children attending classes continued to increase. Curriculums appropriate for children with specific education needs and appropriate to a Cambodian cultural context continue to be developed. Various volunteers have provided input into the Rabbit School over the years e.g. Physiotherapists, Teachers, Psychologists and Occupational Therapists. This has all assisted in the gradual and systematic development of policy and resources, benefiting not only the students of the Rabbit School but all children with disabilities in Cambodia.

On a national level, a Special Education Unit has been established within the relevant Cambodian ministry and a policy on Inclusive Education for children with mild to moderate disabilities was drafted in 2007, with the overall long term aim being stated as "Education for All". Also in 2007, due to ongoing hard work by national and expatriate staff, using the success of the Rabbit School as a demonstration, approval was given to commence an integrated school program at Toul Kork Primary School located in Phnom Penh. A number of disabled children from the Rabbit School will be attending this school in the integrated classroom, with children with disabilities from surrounding communities also able to attend. Friends of *interPART* is in the privileged position to see dedicated Rabbit School teachers who have been supported since 1997 now playing an important role in this expansion and taking on increased responsibilities whilst sharing their knowledge and experience.

In expanding regions within Cambodia, development of awareness and policies on a national level has assisted teachers to become more willing to have an integrated classroom within their schools, with the focus now on providing them with the necessary support and resources. In Pursat province, an integrated classroom for children with intellectual impairments and cerebral palsy commenced with funds provided by the FoIP CyCleCambodia event, providing opportunities for the disabled children to be involved in school, cultural and sporting activities.

Group homes

Several FoIP members have assisted in conducting studies to assist in the establishment of Group Homes, as a supported community integration accommodation option for orphaned and abandoned children with disabilities. The reports provided recommendations including possible sites and houses and identified children with disabilities from the NC, suitable for a group home environment. A self-funded Australian occupational therapist working with the DAC then progressed the project, setting-up of the first Group Home, with five children with disabilities from the NC. A very modest house in the community became the home for these children and carers were selected to become 'house-mothers'. This was intended to serve as a 'model' for potential future Group homes. It was intended that the home and the children be part of the community and this happened with children from the community visiting the home and the disabled children becoming part of community activities. This move was an attempt to break down barriers between the community and disabled persons.

Subsequently the Group Home became known as "The House of Smiles" and after some time the responsibility for the management of the home was taken over by Hagar, an international NGO. The "House of Smiles" has since been moved to different houses in the same area and has extended its activities to include day-care facilities. The "House of Smiles" also received a mini-bus, using funding provided by CyCleCambodia, to provide accessible transport for the resident children. The photos we received of the children receiving the mini-bus were priceless! Subsequently, another Group Home has been established by another NGO, and a further five disabled children moved from the NC.

The Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF)

The KPF has recently been established by Helen, with registration as a non-government organisation approved by the Ministry of Interior in early 2008, with an office established within the Social Services of Cambodia site. Kong Vichetra (Chetra), who has worked tirelessly on Inclusive Education since 1997, continues his long term association with Helen and FoIP and has been appointed Director. It is extremely rewarding to see that he now has a Masters Degree in Business Management and he has extensive knowledge of the disability sector.

interPART - 'A decade on' continued

The formalisation of the Komar Pikar Foundation now provides opportunities for systematic long-term plans to be formulated for the development of services and support for children with mild, moderate and severe disabilities in Cambodia. This includes the support, development and implementation of individual treatment plans for the severely disabled children; Day-Care Centres to develop activities for daily living and life skills; Activity Centres to teach living skills such as cooking, hygiene, shopping, reproductive health, etc., and provide training in skills such as mushroom growing and screen printing as well as promoting support and advice to parents and carers, including establishing a Parents Association.

The development of the KPF provides many future opportunities to continue to contribute widely to projects within Cambodia, including: broadening the funding base for costs associated with the Rabbit School; supporting the capacity building of nationals to become more involved in long-term support for vulnerable Cambodians; opportunities to provide technical and professional input into areas where external assistance is still required; and providing input into the development of government policy relating to services and support for children with disabilities.

Tigray, Ethiopia & other funding opportunities

Helen and Kerry have also been integral to the development of projects within Tigray in Ethiopia in recent years. The enormous scope of their work includes to support the development of national policies related to people with disabilities, to increase public awareness of disability, to promote and support advocacy groups and to support income generation projects, including silk production. These activities have been generously supported by people who have had a long term relationship with Helen and Kerry in Tigray and has been an incredible opportunity for FoIP to support projects outside of Cambodia. A project funding evaluation process was developed by FoIP a number of years ago and in recent years there have been opportunities to provide several other projects with seed funding for capacity building. We continue to seek opportunities to provide additional seed funding as our funds allow, while maintaining our "core business" within Cambodia and Tigray.

The future

Our significant work in 2008 will be to revisit the work that was commenced in 2005, to attempt to gain the necessary approvals, to be able to receive gift deductibility for tax purposes. This is a several step process and is likely to involve some additional administration and some additional costs associated with necessary auditing. However, in weighing this up, it has been decided that this will provide greater opportunities for promoting ongoing donations.

In 2005, a review was made of Friends of *interPART*'s strategic directions and "reason for being". The Mission for the organisation has remained consistent since 1997: "to seek to enhance the wellbeing of people who are most vulnerable, through influencing policy and planning and supporting programs in ways that promote transformation toward a more equitable, just, peaceful and environmentally sustainable society, through creative partnerships and processes of shared learning and development".

Thank you to everyone who has been associated with Friends of *interPART* over the years: it is these collective efforts that have allowed some positive change to be made for the most vulnerable people on our planet. We look forward to continued association and shared inspiration.

Wayne Allen

Chairperson
Friends of *interPART*



The difference that ten years of appropriate care and opportunities can make to one frail and vulnerable child!



Ethiopia

UPDATE

News from Guenet our liaison person in Tigray January 2008

Hello Helen and I hope everything is ok back home and your daughter is well.

I have some developments to tell you about.

Firstly, UNESCO decided to give us more money for the workshop with media and lawyers associations and other stake holders working in disability sector, the second one is that UNICEF has a program of awards in five categories - business sector, association, local NGO, international NGO and individuals who work in area of disability. We submitted a letter in the name of the elderly women in the category of business and they were impressed with it but the committee decided to give it to a computer businessman who created a software for blind people to use the computer. I used it to promote the elderly women cooperative in the award ceremony, held at the Sheraton Hotel. The committee said that the idea of elderly women trying to help themselves is a breakthrough in our country and I was proud of it. You should also be proud about the achievement for me - for them to consider us as one of the nominees is very positive for us. UNICEF, Federal Social Affairs Bureau and the UN were the coordinators for this and they all promised to help in the future.



Guenet Kidane

Thank you and chaw
Guenet Kidane

Latest update - April 2008

Hello Helen and friends of interpart, how are you? We all are fine. I am sorry I am not communicative lately. It is just because I was too busy coordinating so many things at the same time.

Here is a short update:

I would like to report what we have been doing the last weeks with WWDAT (Women With Disability Association Tigray). I have just implemented the Advocacy Workshop funded by REST. Helen, all participants whom you mentioned in your email the other day were invited. Three papers were presented as follows;

- What are possible problems faced by people with disabilities in their daily life - by Andom from Ethio Road Map consultancy.

- What is the reality in Tigray region? Do people with disabilities have the chance to be integrated in development activities? - by Guenet Kidane from WWDAT.
- What has to be done, what are the roles of different stake holders? - by the Human Rights Center at Mekelle University.

As part of my paper, those disabled men and women who faced discrimination at the hand of government bodies and in different bureaus, were invited to speak for themselves.

Invited were;

- Blind university students who are facing difficulties in the campus.
- Disabled young people who had their rights of equal job opportunities denied because they are disabled.
- Three HIV positive women with disabilities who never get support but are courageous enough to speak about it in the open.

Also presented was a case of a blind women who was raped but denied justice because she did not see the face of her abductor. And my case of harassment at the hands of authorities when I was with the Women Entrepreneurs Association.

Nigsti and Zemikeal the Regional social advisors of the administration were guests of honor. Nigsti said, " I am happy to be in this workshop because for me this is the first time that disabled people speak about their rights in the open with confidence regardless of the consequences. Because some years back when I started to work for disabled people this was not possible ".

The participants were shocked by the stories of the disabled people. The best thing is that the workshop was on TV, Regional Radio, and newsletter. At the end, participants agreed and recommended a second workshop to take place with all concerned government bodies who were invited but did not come. And Nigsti confirmed that members of the executive of the Regional House of Representative will be present if there is demand from people of disabilities and WWDAT. To us this is a great achievement. Finally, all participants confirm that they were not aware that these kinds of violation of human right exist in Mekelle and promised to help alleviate the problem. The police gave a telephone number for disabled persons to call the investigation department at any time. The second workshop will be held next week. A basic business skill training will be given to thirty disabled people who are interested to go into business and half of them will be members of the Elderly Women Silk Production Cooperative.

Best regards

Guenet Kidane

Cambodia

UPDATE

'Information and activities, associated with the Rabbit School and the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) during the period 14th Feb – 6th April, 2008'

Summary of report provided by Helen Pitt, during her recent assignment in Cambodia.

- The **Rabbit School** is officially moving from the present site and I have visited the site where the new building is nearing completion. It is a two storey building and has ramps at each entry point and some toilets/bathrooms have large entry doors. We inspected the building and were shown the rooms which the Rabbit School will occupy and we were very pleased. They are quite large, have large windows and we all felt that they are very suitable for the continuation of the services that have been supported in the past. We were told that the children with disabilities will be accommodated on the ground floor.

There is a reasonably large lawn in the front of the building and playground equipment is already in place. We discussed the possibility at being able to share some means of transport with the Nutrition Centre, as this is an issue in terms of transporting the



children to various activities and for transporting staff to and from work. It is likely that the move to the new site will be before June.

Having suitable transport available, is crucial to providing the opportunity for the children to attend social/sporting events - children from the Rabbit School shown here, are attending the 2007 International Day of Disabled Persons.

- **The Integrated Classroom at Toul Kork Primary School:** The renovation of the five classrooms at Toul Kork has started. We will initially be occupying one classroom with children with mild to moderate disabilities, with some students coming from the Rabbit School, some from Hagar House of Smiles and some from the community (via the Parents Association). Part of the negotiations with the Ministry of Education was to renovate five classrooms - this is the way things work in Cambodia!. Fortunately the donors agreed to this and it is likely we will be able to use more than one classroom. For example we are hoping to use

another classroom as a Resource Centre - still to be negotiated. FoIP will be continuing to pay the salaries of three staff, including the Head Teacher Mr. Hun Touch (who will be continuing to teach at the Nutrition Centre Rabbit School with the more severely disabled children). Funds are still required for an assistant teacher for the classroom and for complementary assistance for teachers from the school whom we plan to train, plus transport costs.

- **Vocational Training:** Negotiations are also under way to rent premises in the centre of Phnom Penh for the vocational training project that has been operating in a small room attached to the Rabbit School. Screen printing has started and also 'cooking' and making bracelets etc. The premises being considered now function as a small restaurant. It is planned to continue to operate as a venue where drinks will be served with an area to demonstrate the screen printing and sell T shirts (they have already sold some thousands of T shirts to order), gift bags etc. In addition, cooking equipment will be purchased and it is likely that we will try and bake biscuits in the kitchen area and package them for sale. The 'workers' will be the young adults from the Rabbit School, Hagar House of Smiles, and the community. This venture has yet to be approved by the KPF Board.

- The **KPF** is officially registered, with a National Governing Board, and a Director, Kong Vichetra (Chetra). I attended the last meeting of the Board and I was impressed with the general discussions and the interest of the members. All members are very busy persons in their own positions but are committed to providing support whenever possible. Two Cambodian volunteers are providing input into the KPF, one, a young lady with a degree in accountancy, who is attending to the financial management and the other, a person with a disability who is providing administrative support. All are working from the Social Services of Cambodia (SSC) office which is being provided at a nominal cost to cover electricity etc. However SSC will be requiring the office again within a few weeks/months so we are also looking for alternative accommodation e.g. sharing offices etc.

continued

Cambodia

UPDATE - continued

- **The KPF structure:** The Rabbit School at the NC, the Integrated Class at Toul Kork, and the Vocational Training project will all be projects under the Komar Pikar Foundation. All staff involved will be the staff of the KPF and all funds will be received and allocated through the KPF. An organisational structure is being finalised.

- **Parents Association:** This is also an exciting development. The formation of this Association was initiated by Cambodia Trust whose community staff are still involved. Chetra is currently helping the organisation to get registered and this will be the first Parents Association in Cambodia. The prime-mover of the Association is the mother of an intellectually impaired child. She has offered her home in PP as a day care centre and this has been enthusiastically accepted by the other parents. Chetra went to Bangkok for a meeting relating to intellectual impairment and took representatives of the Parents Association with him plus two young disabled persons which was great.

- Contact has been made between Chetra and Anne Sunners at the time of **World Autism Day**. This hopefully has been the start of FoIP technical/professional members making direct contact with folk in Cambodia. Government staff and folk from many organisations plus teachers etc., all want to know more about autism, intellectual impairment, cerebral palsy, activity centres, working with parents etc.

- **Friends of interPART member John Dodd** visited Cambodia for ten days and we arranged for him to visit many organisations and meet with many folk. Chetra went with him for some visits and I went on others but he soon 'found his feet' and being the entrepreneur that he is, was soon hopping on motos and collecting a lot of info. He thought there was potential for the screen printing (he was presented with a T shirt which had the butterfly emblem on it (taken from our cards) -it looked great. He has many ideas and wrote a report which will be shared.

Overall, we feel that progress has been made. The first major steps have been taken. There are many more to take but we are on our way to working with and for those children with moderate to severe disabilities who have been "the forgotten ones"

In peace,
Helen 6th April, 2008

During Ray Walker's visit to Cambodia in October 2007, two laptop computers were donated to the newly formed Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF). These were gratefully received by Director Kong Vichetra, as they are providing an important basis for the commencement of work at their office in the Social Services of Cambodia (SSC) complex, at Toul Kork, a northern Phnom Penh suburb.

Our sincere thanks are extended to Jennyfairry and team at IT Share, who kindly provided the computers, that were originally donated by Santos Limited.



KPF Director Kong Vichetra (Chetra) with one of the two laptop computers provided by IT Share.

While in Phnom Penh, Ray provided some assistance to KPF, working alongside Chetra in setting up their newly acquired office, as well as providing support to Hun Touch at the Rabbit School, mainly assisting with the editing of reports and donor proposals.

Unfortunately his visit was brought to an abrupt conclusion after just five weeks (he had intended to stay for at least three months!) due to a recurrence of some health issues that resulted in an unscheduled 'pit stop' at Bangkok Hospital, before eventually being flown back to Adelaide a week later. We understand that he has now made a full recovery and that the experience has not deterred him from planning a return visit in the not too distant future.



Fundraising

In the past year or so, we have noticed a change in our sources of fundraising. For one reason or another the Committee have had less time to devote to our traditional fundraising activities such as the wine sales, gift cards and other organized events.

Beginning with the fundraising for the Tigray initiative, we have been able to attract more and larger individual donations from Friends of *interPART* supporters and others who have heard about our work. Whilst it is not our intention to name and publicise individual donations, we do want to acknowledge the generosity of some of those who have been supportive of the work in Ethiopia and Cambodia. Peter Morrison, a long-time *interPART* member, has been particularly generous in support of the Tigray initiative and the Rabbit School. And we were delighted by the generous support given by Dianne and Rimas Karnaitis who heard about the Rabbit School work at the last Folk Club night, looked us up on the web and decided to contribute. It should be recognised that Kerry Thomas and Helen Pitt both are regular supporters of Friends of *interPART*.

Others who have supported us recently include the students of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College in rural Victoria, Ann and Peter Henry, Greg and Lynn Pitt, Glenn and Vicki Williams, Louise Styles and Jenny Horne. We are also grateful for the donations that have come via birthday and other celebrations where instead of presents, donations to *interPART* are recommended. And Annie Sunners has been active with her clothing swap fundraising drive which netted a substantial donation.

To these and all others who have helped us this year the Committee extends its gratitude and looks forward to another successful fundraising year in 2008. We welcome any ideas or assistance with this vital part of our work. This year we have committed to a substantial increase in support for the Rabbit School so we will have to work that bit harder!!

Andrew Biven
Treasurer

Helping to ease the load...

Pictures of malnourished, underweight children, orphans of AIDS, poverty-stricken parents trying to earn enough money to feed their family for a day, children carrying buckets for kilometres just to get some dirty water that will make them sick anyway... It's hard for us to imagine, in our comfortable homes, sitting on the couch, watching T.V, just what life is like for someone in a developing country.

So, on Friday 5th September, a Yr. 11 religion class and 8 Red carried 10 litre buckets of water around Lillydale Lake, in an effort to raise awareness about the dire situation of people in developing countries. The students embraced the opportunity to experience just a small part of the life led by their counterparts in developing countries. However, the sad truth is, for people in developing countries, carrying a bucket is not a one-time experience, but part of their daily life, and there isn't a chocolate bar at the end to reward them for their efforts...

This task, initiated by Mr Henry three years ago, is also aimed at raising money for a particular group of disadvantaged people in Tigray, Ethiopia, known as the Abyssinian Homeless Handicapped Cooperative.

Homeless and disabled, these people have a bright outlook on life, and are determined for a better future. But starting off with a block of land and a slab of concrete can only get you so far...

So, Mount Lilydale Mercy College has embraced the challenge to aid them, and in the past three years has raised over \$5,500, with 100% of it going to the cooperative. A non-government organisation, *interPART*, has noticed the work done by MLMC students and has been generous in helping to coordinate building activities and getting low interest loans. However, there is still more to be done, and hopefully, with the continued support and awareness-raising efforts of MLMC students, these people will have a brighter future.

Libbee King
11 Purple
Yr 11 student
Mount Lilydale Mercy College
Lilydale
Victoria

Fundraising continued

Friends of *interPART* Gift Cards.

Your support through purchase of the Friends of *interPART* Gift Cards will help to improve the quality of life and education for these very special children. Give a gift for Christmas or a special occasion that will continue to give pleasure and opportunities to the children of the Rabbit School in Cambodia.



**\$20
Gift Card**



**\$50 & \$200+
Gift Card**



**\$10 & \$200
Gift Card**



**\$100
Gift Card**

Inside photograph & wording will depict the gift (not the value) you are donating.
Card designs by the children of the Rabbit School.

**Please contact us for further information or to place your order
info@interpart.org.au**



The **TRI NATURE** organisation aligns with our philosophy, and offers a range of high quality products that are:

- Made from natural materials which pose no threat to the ecology (no petrochemicals phosphates and nitrates);
- Use no animal by-products and are accredited on the Preferred Products List of Choice;
- Cruelty Free: no testing on animals;
- Use recyclable plastics.



The products include:

Laundry	High Powered cleaning	General household
Dishwashing	Personal care	Hair & Skin care
Baby care	Car care	

We would love to have the opportunity to supply you, & your friends and family with these products.

You will then have the benefit of:

- Taking these items off your shopping list;
- Doing something positive for the environment;
- Allowing your consumer needs to contribute to assisting those most disadvantaged in our world.

How good is that!

For more information, please contact Wayne on: **email: waynea@arcom.com.au tel: 0422 150 627**
or through your Friends of *interPART* contact

For more information about **TRI NATURE**, go to their website at: **www.trinature.com**

Friends of *inter*PART Inc.

VISION

*inter*PART has a vision of an equitable, just and sustainable world, where people who are most vulnerable are treated with respect and understanding, as a basis for enabling self-determination in ways that enhance individual lives and contribute to the wellbeing of communities, now and in the future.

THE SPIRIT OF *inter*PART

- ❖ *inter*PART believes that if we want a better world, it must start with ourselves.
- ❖ *inter*PART believes that any learning or training must be a two-way process.
- ❖ *inter*PART does this by joining in partnership with the local organisations that these people control.
- ❖ *inter*PART wishes to embrace change positively and flexibly.
- ❖ *inter*PART is committed to exploring innovative options for positive action.
- ❖ *inter*PART seeks to work directly with the so called 'little people' who struggle day by day to secure the basics of life to survive.
- ❖ *inter*PART values the wealth of knowledge, understanding and experience of its members, its partners and supporters and seeks a continual sharing in all its activities and decision making.
- ❖ *inter*PART recognises the interdependence of the whole of the created world and will always consider the impact of any initiative upon the environment and social realm.
- ❖ *inter*PART respects the dignity of all humanity, the relationship which exists between us all as human beings and the environment.
- ❖ *inter*PART practices a process of action/reflection to evaluate the effectiveness and implications of any activity to learn lessons for the future.

Friends of *inter*PART Committee

Chairperson	Wayne Allen
Treasurer	Andrew Biven
Secretary	Ray Walker
<i>inter</i> PART & Associates Representative	Kerry Thomas
Committee members	Nicole McDowell Helen Pitt Jenny Biven Jenny Horne Anne Sunners Robert Horne Ursula Dahl