

## Newsletter

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by: Peter Morrison

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### 2009 AGM Summary

A small crowd met at Wayne and Jenni Allen's house in the Aldinga Eco Village for the AGM on Sunday November 8th. The guest of honour was Peter Morrison who showed the photos of his recent trip to Ethiopia and gave a talk about the present situation in Tigray. A report of his trip is featured on pages 3-5 of this newsletter.

#### Chairperson's Report

Jenny Horne reported that the highlight for the year was the progress made on the approval of the application for the Overseas Aid Tax Deduction For Gifts Scheme that will provide FoiP with tax deductibility for donations over \$2. It has now passed AUSAID's scrutiny and only needs the Australian Tax Office stamp of approval before being granted. It has certainly been a long, drawn-out process, however, we do hope to gain Tax Deductibility for Gifts status within the next four to five months.

The Information evening was successful with Helen Pitt giving a very interesting and informative update on the role of KPF and the projects assisted by funds from FoiP. There were a few new faces and a number of them signed up for membership, as well as \$292.50 being raised through gift sales during the evening. We are very grateful for the generosity of the Aldgate Hotel, in providing their premises to FoiP for the evening, free of charge.

Ray Walker resigned from the committee earlier in the year, having been an active committee member for over seven years, latterly serving as both Secretary and newsletter producer. We were very sorry to see him go. His skills in producing the newsletter especially, have been sorely missed and it has been difficult to replace his expertise. Ray planned to spend some time in Phnom Penh assisting a local business.

There have been fewer donations from members and other interested people to FoiP, in part because we have been awaiting the outcome of Tax Deductibility for Gifts status application and in part because our previous fund raising initiatives e.g. wine sales, have not produced the revenue of previous years. The decision to open an Op Shop came about because we recognised that there was a need for a more regular source of funds rather than working at 'one off' fundraising events only.

The Op shop has now become a reality with premises being leased from November 16<sup>th</sup> 2009 at Shop 4/10 Waite St Blackwood. M.P. Ian Evans agreed to open the Op Shop. Jenny Horne attended a WEA course on 'Setting up and running a Small Business' in September and found it stimulating, useful and informative. Insurance has been paid to cover public liability, Committee members, Volunteer Workers, Fire and Insured events and glass as previously agreed and required under the terms of our licence. The Op Shop is a major initiative and commitment for Friends of *inter*PART and through this we will be able to contribute much more toward projects in both Cambodia and Tigray. The support of members, committee members and friends is essential for the success of this venture.



Check out the  
bargains at the  
new  
FoiP Op Shop

Details page 9

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

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## 2009 AGM Summary (continued)

## Chairperson's News Update

### Treasurers Report

Andrew Biven reported that the auditors, Not for Profit Accounting Services, had completed the audit and that all was in order. He distributed copies of the audited statements to those present at the meeting. He said that income for the financial year to 30 June 2009 was \$5,955, down substantially from the previous year due to a lack of fundraising activity, awaiting completion of the application for tax deductible status for donations. Expenditure for the year was \$9,473 with contributions to Cambodia totalling \$7,008 and Ethiopia totalling \$1,717. Audit costs increased considerably, due to the need to have the audit conducted by a registered auditor. Andrew reported that current assets totalled \$10,510 held in two accounts. He advised the meeting that the application for tax deductible status had been approved by the Foreign Minister and was now being processed by the Australian Tax Office and we could expect gaining tax deductible status sometime in the first half of 2010.

### New Committee for 2010

The AGM saw the election of a new committee. The Constitution states that there are to be five elected members and two others who are appointed by the Committee because of their special interest or expertise in our project areas.

#### The new committee are:

Chairperson	Andrew Biven
Secretary	Robert Horne
Treasurer	Jenny Biven
Members	Ursula Dahl
	Jenny Horne
Appointed	Kerry Thomas
Members	Wayne Allen

Jenny Horne was thanked for her term as Chairperson and congratulated on the success of the opening of the Op Shop.

### Andrew Biven



**At the last AGM** a new committee was elected and since then we have had two meetings. There was some swapping around of the deck chairs but we are definitely not on the Titanic. A special general meeting was held just before Christmas to make some changes to our Constitution to comply with the requirements of the Australian Tax Office for gift deductibility status. We had a good turnout for that meeting which surpassed our need for a quorum. The changes were relatively minor, but the Tax Office is particular about the exact wording of constitutions.

We also held an informal meeting following the formal proceedings and there Helen Pitt mapped out her ideas for sub-committees to assist the Committee and share the burden around. We agreed to form three sub-committees – one looking at Fundraising and the Newsletter, one for the OP Shop and one for reviewing proposals and work plans of our project partners in Cambodia and Ethiopia. A number of people at the meeting nominated for one or more of these committees. And there were some very generous commitments of funding support from several FoIP members present. Thanks to Peter Morrison, Tania Radis and Helen Pitt, the Committee is in a good position to look at requests coming from both Ethiopia and Cambodia.

In February we received a request from the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) in Cambodia for project support for three years. Our projects sub-committee with Ursula Dahl coordinating, reviewed the application and recommended that we agree in principal to commit to funding KPF for three years, subject to our ability to raise the necessary funds. We have made a firm commitment for one year and committed to the following two years, subject to funds being available. We are also continuing to support Guenet Kidane in Tigray, Ethiopia with an allowance sent every six months as well as supporting specific initiatives she proposes from time to time.

Not long after Christmas our stalwart Helen Pitt was struck down with illness which she has been struggling to overcome since. We wish her all the best in her recovery – those who know Helen know that it would have to be a particularly severe condition that would slow her down. Latest news is that she is slowly recovering but is not taking on too much for a while. The OP Shop continues to be a success thanks to the hard work put in particularly by Jenny Horne and assisted by Robert and a small group of volunteers. Peter Morrison has been generous with his time fixing

continued

## Chairperson's News Update (continued)

### 'Return to Tigray' (Northern Ethiopia) - Peter Morrison

shelving and other displays. More volunteers are needed to man the shop for one day a week to one day a month – whatever you can manage. Also good quality stock is always welcome but Jenny has had to be more discriminating these days as her storage space evaporates.

**Ray Walker** has returned from an extensive stay in Cambodia and has kindly volunteered to continue to manage the Newsletter production during 2010, passing on his skills and knowledge to Robert Horne who is assisting him. Thanks Rob and Ray.

The exhausting saga of application for gift deductibility status seems to be nearing the final hurdle, listing in the Government Gazette, after which time it will be official. We have passed all the hurdles along the way – Office of Liquor and Gaming in SA, Dept of Foreign Affairs and AusAID and the Australian Tax Office – a race that has taken well over twelve months to complete.

**Friends of interPART** is always looking for people to help out in various ways. If you are able to offer some time there are a number of tasks that always seem to be 'next on the list'. To the current Committee members and active volunteers, I would like to say thanks, we can't do without you, indeed, Friends of *interPART* is YOU.

**Andrew Biven**  
Chairperson

## FEATURE ARTICLE

### 'Return to Tigray'

by: Peter Morrison

#### THE EARLY DAYS

The province of Tigray holds a very special place in my heart, as it does for many Friends of *interPART* (FoiP) members and supporters. I had the privilege to work there between 1988 and 1993 on the Community Aid Abroad (CAA), now Oxfam Australia, Shallow Wells program, which attempted to address the huge need for water in remote rural villages. It was at this time that I met people like Helen Pitt, Kerry Thomas and Ann Henry, nee O'Callaghan, all working in different areas of need, and subsequently founding members of *interPART*.

I'm sure it's fair to say that none of us will ever forget our experiences with these intelligent and strong but gentle

people, desperately poor but amazingly hospitable. It was therefore with great excitement that my colleague Shane Dolan and myself accepted an invitation back to Tigray to visit the program we had set up sixteen years earlier. For me, it was also a great opportunity to look at the Women With Disabilities Association of Tigray. Helen Pitt was the first to document the great need for a body like this, and played an important roll, leading to it's formation in 2003 and which FoiP has supported since. Guenet Kidane is the secretary of WWDAT, and our contact person, so I was keen to meet her.

**But back to the invitation!** It came from REST, the local humanitarian organisation called the Relief Society of Tigray, through whom everything we did in Tigray was co-ordinated. We certainly had our disagreements at times, even to the point of expulsion on one occasion. Despite that, we had great admiration for what they had achieved through the enormous difficulties of war and famine which seemed to be a constant in this land of hardship. We knew they successfully ran a fleet of trucks on a shoestring budget over hand made roads through rivers, mountain ranges and desert, to get food from Sudan to the starving in Tigray. They also ran development programs in agriculture, forestry, health and also water, which is where Shane and I fitted in.

The first great challenge for the wells program was selecting appropriate technology. It was so different to Australia on every level, that it took five years to finally get it right, despite the best of intentions (the program began in 1985). No wonder REST got annoyed with us. Also back home CAA supporters were wondering what was going on, but found the courage to believe in us. Despite so many problems, Shane and I were absolutely committed to the cause of reducing the burden on women in Tigray from the terrible hardship of carrying water, frequently polluted, over long distances for their daily needs. In our second year together, (1990) when we trained 20 students, we knew we had the technology right. This was to reduce the reliance on cement, vehicles and mechanical equipment to an absolute minimum, digging the wells by hand, penetrating the rock with explosives, transporting equipment by donkey, and using the local stone and excellent masonry skills to line the wells.

Eventually by 1993 we had overseen the establishment of a REST "Water Unit", which consisted of nine technicians we had trained, and was administered by two Tigrayan hydro-geologists and funded by CAA. The remaining students joined the government water authority. In Melbourne, CAA's person responsible for

## 'Return to Tigray'

(continued)

the program was Maria Strintzos. She later left CAA to join REST full time in Ethiopia and has dedicated her work to the Tigrayan people ever since, (and kept an eye on the wells program). Sixteen years later we were heading back to see for ourselves what happened.

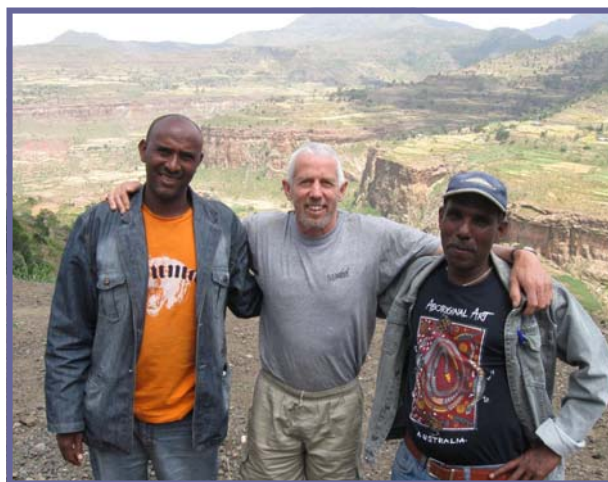
### RETURNING TO TIGRAY

Shane and I arrived in Tigray early October 2009. We were met at Mekelle airport by two of our former students Waldisonbet and Zeneba, and also Getacheu, the hydro-geologist administrator since the establishment of the Water Unit. This was just an amazing feeling because I'd believed I would probably never see them again, and here they were standing in front of us and looking so proud. After the wonderful customary big handshake and cheek to cheek greeting, we all searched for words to describe our feelings. What was certainly understood was the real joy of being together again, and having so many stories to share.

Driving into town it began to dawn on us how much had changed since we left. The airport was now a two storey building with restaurants and jets nosed in for transferring passengers. Before we'd huddled in a makeshift tin shed three metres square and sipped sweet tea bought from a woman vigorously fanning a little charcoal fire whilst we waited for an old DC3 aeroplane to arrive and take us to Addis Ababa. The skyline of the city had also transformed, now punctured by tall commercial buildings and hotels. We stayed in one of them and even had our own toilet and shower with hot and cold water. Our usual accommodation in the past was a stone hut with an earth floor and no windows. The bed was made of stones smoothed over with mud, and with a hiking mattress they were actually quite comfortable and good for the posture. Washing was with a bucket, toileting was in a nearby field. Other obvious changes to the city were the increased traffic, computers, mobile phones, and a larger population, especially young people.

The first REST offices we had meetings in during 1988, 89, were camouflaged grass huts in tree lined creek beds. It was in such places that we met Teklewanie, the then head of REST in the field, now the head of REST overall. As we drove up to the office in Mekelle we saw a four storey building housing all the various departments currently under REST's responsibilities, and it was quite breathtaking. They now have a wide variety of development programs, and the Water Unit we helped to establish, has expanded from only hand dug wells originally to now include a range of additional water harvesting initiatives including deep bore holes where access is possible.

The hand dug well technicians have expanded from nine to sixty two, each working in remote rural areas and supervising the construction of two wells at a time using village labourers. This was an amazing expansion of the program, all done by the technicians we trained earlier. Waldisonbet was now the field coordinator for all the technicians, whilst Zeneba was responsible for one of the five sub groups of technicians. They have an office in Mekelle, but spend most of the time in the field. Shane and I were thrilled to bits, and extremely proud of their achievements since we left.



Waldisonbet, Peter and Zeneba - re-united

Both Waldisonbet and Zeneba invited us on separate occasions to share a meal with their families in Mekelle. These were quite overwhelming experiences to meet their wives and children and hear about the achievements of this one or that, to see the houses these guys had largely built themselves, and to share a very special meal in our honour, more like a banquet. We were to have a number of similar experiences as we travelled back to the rural areas where we previously worked, when villages organised welcome back events for us which were just wonderful. Both Shane and I were left in no doubt that our efforts through difficult circumstances were rewarded and appreciated.

REST provided the transport for this journey through rural Tigray visiting old and new hand dug wells, but also visiting many other projects completed since we left or currently in progress. We saw small dams, large dams, irrigated crops, bee keeping, land reclamation, nurseries, orchards, reforestation, an agricultural school, terracing, eroded gully reclamation, drilling rigs, primary schools. We saw factories for cement, irrigation pipes, textiles and export honey. The whole place was abuzz with activity and optimism.

We met lots of the people in charge of these projects,

continued

## 'Return to Tigray'

(continued)

and they were so proud, enthusiastic and committed. You could not help but admire the thoughtful planning, courage and determination of these people. But despite all this activity, and the digging of hundreds of wells, life in the remote rural areas has not changed that much. The people still live a subsistence lifestyle, ploughing their land with oxen, sowing the seed and harvesting by hand. Women still carry water for the family on their backs, often over steep terrain. Hopefully for many though, the water is cleaner and closer than before.

### WWDAT

#### (Women With Disabilities Association of Tigray)

One area many of us believe has been neglected by REST, is that of disability. In a country of great poverty, it is those with disabilities for whom life is hardest, and so have the greatest need. It is for these reasons that I support FoIP's efforts to encourage and assist WWDAT, and other initiatives for the disabled.

Meeting Guenet was something special. Though small in stature and limping with a disability, she is really dynamic and has a head full of ideas for advancing the needs of the disabled. She had just seen the conclusion to a course in sign language for the deaf which she had organised, and she was keen for me to see the televised graduation ceremony (she is very media conscious). I enjoyed meeting the students and one lad's comment was typical of Tigrayans, 'I might be disabled, but I can do anything I want if I try'. Without sign language deaf people are excluded from so much, and in particular education. It was so successful, that another course was to be run at the university.



Guenet (4th from left) with students

Guenet regaled me with many stories of her pro-active approach. e.g. taxis were refusing to take disabled people with wheelchairs. Guenet knew that this was unlawful, so she went to the taxis authority. They organised a big meeting of drivers and told them

their duties under the law. People refused a ride, were then able to report the driver and action would be taken. She also told me that disabled children had been excluded from school because they couldn't afford books or uniforms, so she was running a campaign to change that. In her recent update, Education authorities have promised that this blatant unfairness will cease. Another story was about a disabled woman whom police were accusing of being a malingerer. So Guenet went to the head of policing and demanded more respect for disabled people. The police hassling the woman were forced to apologise. The situation in WWDAT hasn't been easy for Guenet. They lacked the local support required for a fledgling organisation e.g. authorities gave them an 'upstairs' office with an old computer and no keyboard. Neither of these were much help. The management committee had run into trouble with the death of a key person and other issues. It was difficult to transfer money to support projects. Despite all this Guenet still achieved many things. But when she heard that I was going to Tigray she made a few basic requests. She asked for a second hand laptop computer, and a digital camera to record and promote events. Andrew and Jenny Biven kindly donated a camera and a laptop was donated by Andrew's workplace, SANDAS. It was great being able to deliver these to her, and to share the cost with Kerry Thomas of a new B+W printer as well. And while I was there, Guenet told me she hoped to move into a more appropriate office soon. I understand a new committee has been elected, and appropriate channels renewed for transfer of support funds. I'm optimistic about 2010 being a very positive year for WWDAT and believe we are fortunate to have Guenet playing a key roll in the organisation - **Peter Morrison**

### *International Women's Day*

Monday 8<sup>th</sup> March was a time to celebrate the wonderful achievements of women – those we know locally and others across the world. It was also a time to reflect on the situation of women with disabilities in developing countries such as Ethiopia, where Friends of interPART works to support the WWDAT Tigray.

#### **Did you know:**

- ◆ Women and girls with disabilities in poor countries often face triple discrimination: because of their status as women, their impairment and their economic status.
- ◆ Elderly women with disability are even more at risk.
- ◆ Girls with disabilities attend school less frequently than boys with disabilities.
- ◆ Women with disabilities are twice as unlikely to find jobs as men with disabilities. More than 80% of women have no independent means of livelihood. Women with disabilities also often lack access not only to the workplace but to other spheres of public life. Ref: CMB March2010

## Ethiopia Update

### (Progress Report from Guenet Kidane)

**Dear Helen and Friends of InterPart  
Happy Holydays to you all.  
Here is a progress report of activities.**

The workshop event was celebrated at the university campuses with live transmission on Tigray FM radio. As you see the list of participants was complex, there were around 80 participants consisting of different members of society from different sectors, starting from the childrens parliament, and community leaders down to the homeless disabled people. The workshop was opened by the guest of honor Ato Zemikeal, from the Regional administration office. The meeting was more like brain storming which assess their commitment and level of awareness on the issues of disability. It also gathers possible solutions to what should be done, how the public can help and so on.

The deaf participants were the most active in explaining how they are facing problems at schools because of firstly, no teacher who can teach in signing, secondly no teaching aid materials for all disabled students, still no mobility problems of students with physical challenges. And also one particular participant who herself is half deaf and came from Canada, Mrs Dabbi (who also is paying house rents of some disabled students so they will be able to go school) explained how the disabled students are out of schools because they don't have uniforms.

This was deeply felt by the participants and the participants from their per-diems contributed some money and was given to Mrs Dabbi for six childrens uniform cost. What is more is that later me and the Canadian lady went to the education bureau and settled the matter by having a common understanding that disabled student should NOT be out of school because of no uniform or cost for books because it is against the disability law.

Finally after group works and discussions, the workshop was concluded with the following recommendations;

- *The education bureau promised to see that no child with disability should be out of school because of not having a uniform or exercise books. Instead they should be supported and encouraged to go to school.*
- *All community leaders promised to include disabled men and women in their activities. They did not do it because they confirmed they never had a chance to participate in a workshop like this one, with the agenda of disability making it easy to understand the problem.*

- *Student members of the parliament said that they feel responsible and it is appropriate for them to address the issue in their regional conferences and so on.*
- *The homeless explained how they are now aware that there are some things they can do other than begging. And express their appreciation to WWDAT for being included.*

The other activity concerning the event was, me and Tekly from the association of the blind you know, has managed to get a free Tigray FM radio live transmission. Ato Teklhaimanot from BOLSA, was also invited so three of us were sat down at the studio live and answered phone call questions of the public. We did what we can in explaining the concerns of people with disabilities besides BOLSA's lies.

All in all it was good everybody was happy about what Interpart is doing in supporting the community. Zemikeal at the workshop explained that this is not the only thing that Helen is doing, how she was even involved in bad times, which is why she is also wholly and heartily involved in good times. He said she is a great lady of the people who is very much concerned about her people.

#### **Budget expenditure**

Per-diems	20 birr x 80 = 1600
Paper presenters	100 birr x 2 = 200
<b>Total</b>	<b>= 1880 birr</b>

**NB:** The exchange rate at 1US = 12.56 birr therefore The workshop is implemented at a cost of nearly 150 US (*bravo to me - it is less than the intended budget*)

I am happy too and I would like to extend my gratitude and appreciation to you Helen, Mr.Peter, Friends of Interpart and North Local Administrative Office of the Woreda too, for making it possible for all of us to have colorful day. As planned the tea break and the rent for the meeting hall was taken care by the Woreda.

*Apology for the delay. It is not only because of the national disability day but also because of the sickness of my father. He was hospitalised for a couple of weeks, sorry but I am catching up as much as I can now.*

Thank you all  
**Guenet**

## Cambodia Update (Komar Pikar Foundation)

**The following update has been provided by KPF and comprises of excerpts from their most recent newsletter.**

### FURADA Concert

A **landmark** initiative during this period was the collaboration of coalition NGOs, to organise an awareness and fund raising event with an activities and products exhibition and concert show at the Olympic Stadium, Phnom Penh. Support was provided by a number of popular Cambodian singers and comedians and others who gave wonderful performances as well as expressing their views on the rights of persons with disabilities. The concert was a complete success and attracted an audience of more than 15,000 which is seen as a clear indication of an increasing public awareness of disability issues.



More than 200 children with disabilities, joined in the festivities at the FURADA Concert.



### 'Toward a Cooperative Approach'

A study entitled "Toward a Cooperative Approach: A Study on the Situation of Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Cambodia", was commissioned by Hagar in January 2008 and completed after nearly a year of field work in both Phnom Penh and the provinces. This extensive report resulted from an important process of collaboration, involving; relevant government ministries, KPF New Humanity and a number of other NGOs.

In order to disseminate the results of this study, importantly the first of it's kind undertaken in Cambodia, a workshop entitled "The Way Forward For Welfare of Persons with Intellectual disabilities" was held on 15th July 2009. Having identified from the study, the following seven main areas of concern, detailed

discussions ensued involving seven groups, each representative of each area of specialisation.

- Poverty alleviation
- Special education and life skills
- Early childhood development and non-formal education
- Early childhood intervention
- Prevention of secondary illness, Physical rehabilitation and assistive devices
- Curative health and mental health
- Awareness advocacy and development policy

The outcomes proposed during these discussions, will need to be followed up, with strategies being devised and implemented, through input by all concerned.

### New developments at the Rabbit School (RS)

#### Speech Therapy training

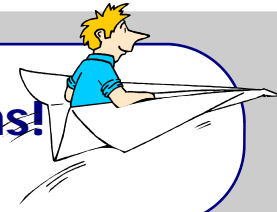
The training was conducted by speech and language therapists from England, with participation by teachers of the Rabbit School and other NGOs who came together to learn about the physical challenges for children with speech and language difficulties. A number of proven techniques and aids were demonstrated and Navy, Tida and Vanny from the RS also took part in the presentation and facilitation of the training.

### Major development for Special Education Curriculum

At a consultative workshop in August 2009, the Ministry of Education identified the need for courses to be developed in conjunction with NGOs that are providing services to children with disabilities. The RSI/KPF will take a lead in the development of the curriculum and training of teachers, for children with intellectual disability and working together with the Ministry of Education, and the Disability Action Council. It is planned that an approved curriculum and training program will be agreed upon by the end of 2010. Hun Touch, developed a concept outline for curriculum and teacher training for children with intellectual disability, that is intended to be implemented in the near future.

## Cambodia Update (continued)

## Inspirations!



### *Rabbit School Developments (continued)*

#### **Sensory Integrated Services**

In accordance with our funding, we selected two caregivers to help provide this service two days a week, each caregiver takes one day off from their usual work with children with disabilities at the NBIC. We pay them a salary supplement to help subsidise their government salary, to ensure that they do not need to work outside to earn a living.

We identified the needs of the children and designed appropriate training for the caregivers and teachers. This was provided by Mr. Hun Touch, Special Education and Training Director of KPF/Rabbit School, assisted by a number of expatriate volunteers, who specialise in the areas of Occupation Therapy, Physiotherapy and Speech Therapy.

#### **Further new developments**

- √ Our Strategic Plan and Direction for 2009-2013 was developed and adopted, for use as a guide towards achieving our goals and objectives. A booklet has been produced, outlining this initiative for our existing supporters and potential fund agencies.
- √ A group of speech pathologists from the USA, worked directly with the children at the RS. The group was very impressed with the projects and future objectives of the KPF and the Disability Action Council (DAC), a national coordination and advisory body. They agreed to work in partnership with us, providing support in the area of speech and language therapy.
- √ A new Activity Training Project is being funded, to be located in the National Borei for Infants and Children. The project is providing pre-vocational training to young adults with moderate to severe and intellectual disabilities.
- √ A daycare center has been opened in Kampot for children with disabilities living in that area.

#### **In-country Volunteering**

UniSA Occupational Therapy students Emma and Tanieka volunteered their time to the KPF projects, during a prolonged stay in Cambodia recently. They are seen below, with parents and carers at the new Daycare Centre in Kampot. The centre is being funded by organisation Liliane Fonds and personal donation by Speech Pathologist Helen Butler in the USA. During Emma and Tanieka's time in Cambodia, they imparted valuable knowledge on OT practices to various groups, including practical guidance and instruction to therapy staff at the National Borei for Infants and Children, Phnom Penh. Their input was greatly appreciated.



South Australian volunteers Emma and Tanieka speaking with parents at the new Daycare Centre at Kampot

#### *His Holiness the Dalai Lama on Compassion*

*'In one sense one could define compassion as the feeling of unbearableness at the sight of other peoples suffering. And in order to generate that feeling, one must first have an appreciation of the seriousness or intensity of another's suffering. So, I think that the more fully one understands suffering and the various kinds of suffering that we are subject to, the deeper will be one's level of compassion'.*

## FoiP's New Op Shop

In the previous newsletter, I gave details of the plan to open an Op Shop in Blackwood. This is to be the major fundraising activity of Friends of *interPART* and will provide a more stable income for the organisation. The income generated should enable us to better plan support for projects in Cambodia and Tigray and extend our funding into supporting more innovative projects.

The shop was officially opened by the Hon. Iain Evans, our local Member of Parliament on 10<sup>th</sup> December 2009. There were about 20 people, many members of Friends of *interPART* and local people, there to celebrate the opening. All our stock has been donated by well wishers; members of Friends of *interPART* and many local people. The Op Shop opened for business on 11 December 2009.



Jenny with some of the bargains on offer at the FoiP Op Shop

Apart from second goods, clothing, books, pictures, toys, games and bric-a-brac we have a selection of beautiful new goods from South Asia and other parts of the world. Some goods sell more quickly than others; we find the good quality bric-a-brac is very popular as are toys, games and books. We have had many generous donations of clothing and at this time have a good stock of clothing, both winter and summer. People are always very interested in the goods from Asia and Africa and we have sold much of our initial stock.

People often come into the shop and ask: "Who are you? What do you do? What does that name mean?" These questions are answered, in part, through the display we have on the large photo board. We have photographs of the Rabbit School and Rabbit Café,

people from Tigray and information about Friends of *interPART* (the text was kindly supplied by Kerry Thomas). There are also brochures for people to take away if they want more information, some have been very interested and have become members.

We have a small team of dedicated volunteers without whom the shop could not function, BUT we do need more volunteers.

### We need people who can:

- Work in the shop, for part of a day or all day if you have the time.
- Sort and price donations, mend things if necessary.
- Wash and iron clothing where necessary.
- Assist in other ways e.g. publicity, installing more shelving etc.

*I would be delighted to hear from anyone with a little time to spare who is able to help in any way. - Jenny*

**Friends of *interPART* Op Shop is at:  
4/10 Waite St., Blackwood**

**Opening hours are:  
Tuesday to Friday 10.00am - 4.00pm  
Saturday 10.00am - 1.00pm**

**Telephone Jenny Horne  
0458 810 570 (business hours)  
8278 3850 (after hours)**

**Email: [hornets@ozemail.com.au](mailto:hornets@ozemail.com.au)**



Volunteers Amanda & Marissa with young recruit Aiden

# 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	Andrew Biven
Treasurer	Jenny Biven
Secretary	Robert Horne
Op Shop Representative	Jenny Horne
<i>inter</i> PART & Associates Representative	Kerry Thomas
Committee members	Wayne Allen Ursula Dahl