

# Friends of *inter*PART Inc.

International Partners in Action Research and Planning

Issue 2  
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## Newsletter

### ~ Beautiful Bhutan ~

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Two members of the *inter*PART family recently visited Bhutan, working as volunteers but also leaving time to appreciate the unique Himalayan kingdom which, when it appears in the news is usually for the right reasons – as standard bearer for promoting the concept of Gross National Happiness over Gross National Product, or for being the first country on the planet to ban the sale of cigarettes. Jenny and Andrew Biven were sponsored by the Youth Development Foundation (YDF) of Bhutan. Their report of this unique experience follows:

Ten years had elapsed since we were first captivated by the stories and images of Dorji and Tstring's Himalayan homeland of Bhutan. We met Dorji and his wife Tstring in Kandy (Sri Lanka) where Dorji was studying to become his country's first psychiatrist and we were volunteers with AVI. We helped them (they have two children – Keunga, a girl now 16 and Tashi, a boy now 13) come to Adelaide for a year (1998-99) for Dorji to complete his training at the Lyell McEwan Hospital before returning to Bhutan.

Dorji was recently promoted up the civil service ladder to a 'director' level. On our second night there he organized a party for us with family members, colleagues, people we would be working with and also the Directors of Education, Public Health and Planning – we felt somewhat daunted but with little cause – alcohol flowed and titles dissolved. On our third night there was another party with more members of their extended families – they extended beyond our ability to keep a tally.

Then it was down to work – Jenny to Draktsho Special School and Andrew to REWA. But not for long, as the Paro Tescheu beckoned and after just two days we left for one of the largest festivals in the country. Dorji and Tstring grew up in Paro. Tstring's father Gyeltsen is the 'Gup' (headman) for the district of Bondey in the Paro valley. He had an important role in the Tescheu, and immediately following that event, he headed up the annual celebration in Bondey.

The Paro Tescheu is a four day festival at the 'dzong' which culminates in the annual pre-dawn display of a three storey high 'thondrel'. A thondrel is a large 'thanka' – an embroidered or appliqué painting of one or more deities - it brings, of course, good fortune to cast your eyes on the thondrel and participate in the festivities.



We were dressed for the occasion in true finery – hand woven pure silk garments. The male's 'go' is a large dressing-gown like garment, hitched at the waist and held in place by a painfully tight belt. The 'kira' is a long piece of cloth, wound round in a complicated procedure, requiring several assistants. Dorji kept informing us of the compliments we were receiving (in Dzongkha) as we wandered around the festival.

The Tescheu involves dances, music, religious ceremonies, gifting to the monks and everyone dressed in their finest. Surrounding the festival area were stalls, gambling dens and food tents. Drinking local 'ara' or the super strength beer was an obvious attraction for some. The slogan promoting condom use on the HIV/AIDS tent read 'Wrap that rascal'.

## ~ Beautiful Bhutan ~ A Blissful Tale from the Biven's continued

The day after the Paro Tescheu it was time for the Bondey festival and as we were staying in the Gup's house our day began early with thirty or so local men tramping up the steep steps past our room to enter the shrine room. Every home has a shrine room or alcove – the Gup needs a large room. Adorning the shrine were four psychadelically illuminated panels depicting deities. The men chanted, gave gifts of money, doma (betel), fruits, sugar cane and dried meats. They then piled into several large lorries and whooped their way to the temple.

The temple, Dzongkhaha, was perched spectacularly on the cliff-side hundreds of metres above the valley floor. As honoured guests we were invited into inner sanctums of the temple to sit beside the Gup in an ancient, dark and incense-filled room as he received monks and laymen. We were even able to caste our eyes on a relic of the Guru Rinpoche – marks of his daggers in the rock. The Guru brought Buddhism to Bhutan and spent his time meditating in caves, on high cliffs and other prominent places, most of which became sites for temples or monasteries. He left signs (relics) of his presence hidden throughout Bhutan, signs that have been uncovered by other venerable gurus and lamas who are renowned as adept in the discovery of these relics.

Following the ceremonies in the temple, the procession wound its way to the nearby festival grounds. We sat in a pavilion overlooking the arena, drank the milky sweet tea, chewed doma (betelnut), and partook of a wonderful lunch of suspicious looking parts of yak and pig as well as other less confronting tidbits. The dancing and singing lasted all day. The steep climb had deterred all but the hardest tourists. Clowns wielding large wooden phallus' harassed performers, spectators and hapless dogs.

At night Dorji and his friend Ugyen prepared a hot rock bath – stones are heated red hot in a fire outside, placed into a large wooden bathtub (also outside) and all and sundry take turns to have a bath – it is deemed auspicious to be at the tail end of the bathing hierarchy. Oddly, we opted for the inauspicious. A gin and lemonade added to the occasion. We then sat on the floor around the 'buhari' (stove) and partook of dried yak meat, fermented yak fat, pork fat, yak tripe, pork 'head pieces', asparagus, red rice, cheese curries and plenty of chillis. The fermented rice with an egg swirled in warmed to the core - strongly alcoholic with a sharp taste.

In case we risk the impression that this assignment was anything other than relentlessly hard work, some balance is provided. Andrew worked at REWA (which means 'hope' in Dzongkha), recently started by two former drug users, Ugyen and Nidup, as a drop-in centre for drug users. As there is no other drug or alcohol service in Bhutan, there are many expectations of REWA. The drug scene in Bhutan is growing – most of the drugs used are pills obtained over-the-counter in nearby India. Marijuana grows in wild abundance in the streets of Thimphu. The Dzongka word for marijuana means 'pig food' indicating its chief use in the past. Bhutanese society is rapidly changing – evidence of the impact of modernization and westernization is much more apparent than even a few years ago. There is not a single social worker or counselor in Bhutan, let alone a drug and alcohol counselor. The only training Ugyen and Nidup had was their own experience getting straight at a rehab program in Darjeeling in India. Andrew provided some basic training but equally important was his role of affirming the workers' abilities and helping them stare down the bureaucracies they dealt with daily. REWA had up to 10 and more people dropping in daily, some were regulars who used the place as a day rehab program - a community-based rehab – something Andrew, Ugyen and Nidup worked on during his stay.



Jenny was placed at Drak-Tsho – established as a vocational training centre for the disabled but which has found that most trainees had behaviour problems, lacked social skills or had health problems – like the boy whose cleft palate wasn't diagnosed until he was ten years old, didn't speak, had never been to school. Drak-Tsho has therefore had to expand its role and endeavoured to teach literacy and numeracy, and recently life skills. The six staff have no background in teaching or disability. A German Special Education teacher had spent six months at Drak-Tsho just before Jenny arrived and had laid a foundation for her work. Jenny concentrated on putting a prevocational assessment process in place and developing teaching skills for basic behaviours such as making eye contact, sitting down when asked, etc. She also

## ~ Beautiful Bhutan ~ A Blissful Tale from the Biven's.

introduced the idea of goals for each student and a work readiness checklist. Another of her tasks was to convince funders about the importance and relevance of life and social skills training.

During our meagre breaks from the 'relentless' work schedule, we managed treks to 'Gompas' (monasteries), always glued to the sides of impossible slopes or perched atop them. We walked through forests of rhododendron trees, some up to 50 ft high. Their trunks were covered in mosses and mistletoes – rather net-like. The air was thin, requiring great gulps as we slowly toiled upwards. We were lucky enough to get permits and so could go inside some of the gompas. They all follow a pattern – outside vast whitewashed stone walls; inside were intricate, decoratively painted friezes and ancient stone paved courtyards. Shoes are shed at the door to the inner sanctum. From the outside we could listen to muted nasal chanting, rhythmic drumming and shrill horns. We waited amongst the myriad pairs of plastic slip-ons for their owners to return and scuffle them off to the dining hall. Inside are mellow pine floors polished by centuries of the monk's padding feet and swishing twig brooms. The altars are a confusion of offerings, candles, brass bowls, relics, photos, jewelry, small statues, bright silk hangings and more. The centerpiece is a large gold or alabaster statue of the principle deity of the monastery – an incarnation of Buddha, Guru Rinpoche, even the 'divine madman' Drukpa Kingley (whose phallus adorns thousands of houses across Bhutan, warding off evil spirits - but that is another story).

A couple of examples of the delights of Bhutan to finish with. In 2003 Bhutan fought a war with Assamese rebels entrenched in their southern jungles, evading the Indian army. With deliberate patience, Bhutan built up its army (with Indian assistance). Then, over the course of a couple of days, soldiers disguised as monks carried arms and munitions disguised as offerings to a temple which conveniently overlooked one of the rebel's strongholds, to then launch a surprise attack. In other areas they quietly surrounded the camps at night and then gave the rebels an ultimatum – in many cases the rebels went quietly. It was all over in four days with minimum casualties – the Bhutanese army (led in the field by the King) was hailed. Skeptical Indian army commanders had anticipated it would take months to shift the rebels.

A new draft constitution was released for public comment recently. The preamble reads:-

'We, the people of Bhutan; BLESSED with the luminous benedictions of the Triple Gem, the protection of our guardian deities, the wisdom of our leaders, the everlasting fortunes of the Pelden Drukpa and the command of His Majesty the Druk Gyalpo, Jigme Singye Wangchuck;

SOLEMNLY pledging ourselves to strengthen the sovereignty of Bhutan, to secure the blessings of liberty, to ensure justice and tranquility and to enhance the unity, happiness and well being of the people for all time; .....

Other gems from the document:-

'The territory of Bhutan shall comprise twenty Dzongkhags with each Dzongkhag consisting of Gewogs and Thromde.'

'The Government shall ensure that, in order to conserve the country's natural resources and to prevent degradation of the fragile mountain ecosystem, a minimum of sixty percent of Bhutan's total land shall be maintained under forest cover for all time.'

'The State shall strive to promote those circumstances that will enable the successful pursuit of Gross National Happiness.'

'The State shall endeavour to develop and execute policies to minimize inequalities of income, concentration of wealth among citizens, and promote equitable distribution of public facilities among individuals and people living in different parts of the Kingdom.'

'The State shall endeavour to take all appropriate measures to eliminate all forms of discrimination and exploitation against women including .....

 (Ibid for children)

On a final note so as to not leave you with the impression that we have found Shangri-la, many aspects of Bhutan are distinctly Asian – Thimphu is a perpetual building site with rubble scattered unconcernedly across roads and walkways; poverty abounds with the majority of people eking out meager existences labouring, farming or petty retailing; most skills are in short supply; income disparity is great. However, we still felt we were in one of the world's saner societies. There have been human rights concerns in the past – the expulsion of Tibetans in the 70's and Nepalese in the 90's have blighted Bhutan's record but we had the impression the present King and Bhutan's leaders are striving to ensure a more equitable community in the future.

*Jenny & Andrew Biven*

## *interPART & Associates - UPDATE*

June 8<sup>th</sup> 2005

*“Occupation is the biggest need” pleaded a temporary camp worker in Thailand, while another in Sri Lanka confirmed “productivity” to be a priority need. Psycho-social trauma is by far the greatest problem among affected individuals, families and communities across the region, creating a massive challenge to the capacity of local and international services to respond to this in culturally appropriate ways. For children, including those left orphaned, the re-establishment of routines is crucial and within this, play therapy and activity to help them deal with their traumatic experiences. The central importance of meaningful activity to the recovery of people affected by the tsunami was reflected across the region, and especially assistance in regaining income capability.*

*Similarly, people reported the ability to be involved in decisions affecting their lives - from the earliest days - was a factor that contributed to them being able to manage their trauma. Conversely, those who were not provided with this opportunity – the majority - continued to feel helpless and agitated – the devastating loss of control affected by the tsunami was continued on by well meaning but poorly oriented emergency response teams. (Adapted extract from paper presented at the Social Options Australia ‘Building Community Capacity’ conference in May 2005)*

These were among the key factors to emerge from a rapid situational appraisal of tsunami affected countries that Kerry undertook in March with the President of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists. The purpose of the mission was to identify how national occupational therapists were responding to the disaster and how best they can be supported in progressing their capacity to do so – now, and for the future. Exchange visits, action planning workshops with innovative on-site projects, a regional action learning-action planning workshop to draft emergency response action and future preparedness plans, and a range of institutional linkage activities are among the proposed capacity building activities. *interPART* will continue to provide assistance into this process as appropriate and feasible. (For those interested, the appraisal report is being posted on the WFOT website.)

*The tsunami has changed some community level dynamics forever. Families have been decimated, and the ability to live and work as a unit has been destroyed. Some communities have lost up to 80% of their women and children, with a devastating impact on roles and functioning, now and for a generation to come (Oxfam/CAA 2005). (The men were out at sea fishing or in the hills tending plots, and those who were at home mostly knew how to swim and were stronger at hanging onto trees.) Tools to earn an income have been destroyed, while jobs have vanished with the hotels and shops that were literally wiped out.*



Weavers



Batik—Hotel worker



Boat building

## *inter*PART & Associates - UPDATE

Animals: traditional knowledge early warning system

*On some of the more remote Nicobar islands very few lives were lost because people took note of the early warning signs of the animals, and joined them in heading for high ground. In Thailand, the tourist elephants in affected areas broke free from their shackles and similarly headed to high ground, the mahouts trusting their animals' instincts, taking people with them; all were saved. In Sri Lanka, there was no loss of life among rare wild animals in a large coastal national park – all were located in areas that proved to be little affected by the tsunami.*

Other /P&A work in recent months has involved working with AusAID and NGOs in facilitating the development of new cooperation agreements and innovative collaborative funding activities in Cambodia. And there has been some ongoing Australia-based work in reviewing planning associated with the Australia East Timor Community Water Supply and Sanitation Program.

Jenny Biven and Kerry have again undertaken online learning assistance for Occupational Therapy students at UniSA, while Helen and Kerry have contributed to learning materials for a pilot CBR (Community Based Rehab) course being conducted by the Centre for Remote Health in Darwin in conjunction with Flinders University.

And of course then there has been lots of activity happening in connection with the exciting Tigray Initiative, of which Helen writes elsewhere in this newsletter!

So, life continues to be both busy and interesting for us at *inter*PART and Associates!

Friends of *inter*PART

# **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**6.30pm Tuesday 27th September 2005**

**13 Lisa Court, Macclesfield**

**Phone: 8388 9879**

**Shared meal -bring a plate of favourite tucker.  
Please come along and show your support  
for our Fo/P committee.**

## *inter* PART's ETHIOPIA 2005 Initiative

### Disability and Development in Tigray

An article in the last edition of the Friends of *inter*PART Newsletter outlined *inter*PART's Ethiopia 2005 Initiative. Most of this work will be done in Tigray, a northern region of Ethiopia. Members of the Tigray Team will be involved in supporting the development of an Integrated Regional Disability Strategy (IRDS) that was proposed by Helen Pitt on behalf of the Team, to the Regional Authorities during a visit to Tigray in February 2005. Enthusiastic approval and support was given by the Authorities. Some team members had previously been involved in the Disability Sector in the Sudan and within Tigray.

The following information relates to the status of disability in Tigray and what has been proposed:

- ❖ **In Tigray there are an estimated 93,833 disabled persons** (*Relief Society of Tigray unofficial figures 2000*) from a population of 3,694,650. The lack of vaccination programs during the years of civil strife resulted in thousands of children contracting polio. Lack of nutritional food, aggravated by war, and malnutrition caused by recurring famines have also contributed to thousands being affected from blindness and other forms of visual impairments. Studies have indicated that stunting of children is a major concern which has implications for the future social, mental and economic development of individuals and the region. Landmine and unexploded ordinances have resulted in many becoming injured and disabled especially young boys and men who have sustained injuries while herding animals or farming. It is now recognised that poverty creates conditions for disability. Poor people are more likely to have poor health as well as poor living and working conditions.
- ❖ **Commitment:** There is commitment from the authorities to disabled people but limited human and physical resources constrain development. Although programs are being implemented by Non-Government Organisations (NGOs), additional services could provide more opportunities for disabled persons to fully participate in the social and economic development of Tigray.
- ❖ **Partnerships:** It is proposed to work in partnership with organisations/departments in Tigray to conduct a study to contribute to the development of the disability sector by initiating an Integrated Regional Disability Strategy (IRDS). This study will encourage a broader approach to disability sector planning and also to identify factors that could contribute to or constrain the development of an IRDS. An Integrated Regional Disability Strategy if deemed feasible will be used for designing an Operational Plan.
- ❖ **IRDS Components:** An IRDS includes components such as Regional Coordination, Health, Prevention, Physical and Mental Rehabilitation, Education, Employment and Training, Accessibility, Assistive Devices, Income Generation, Public Awareness, Communication, Planning, Monitoring and Review, and Funding and Partnerships. Central to consideration are issues of sustainability – social, economic and environmental.
- ❖ **The Approach:** A Participatory Action Research (PAR) approach is being proposed. It is envisaged that the PAR will be conducted in partnership with regional and local authorities and non-government organisations. The PAR can also serve as a means whereby many Tigrayans, as well as expatriates, can benefit from the shared experiences and the acquisition of additional skills and knowledge. In this sense it will be a capacity building process, building the foundations for ongoing local development and management.
- ❖ **Phased Input:** It is proposed that input from Australia will be done in phases with on-going activities linking the phases. It is likely that as needs, gaps and opportunities become more apparent then individuals who have expressed a desire to be involved may be asked to participate. It must be noted, that at this stage, all involvement is on a voluntary basis.

## *inter* PART's ETHIOPIA 2005 Initiative

### **If you are interested:**

Individuals and/or groups and organisations who wish to have further information relating to the Tigray Initiative or who are interested in a specific area of work please contact Helen Pitt, Project Leader, helenpit@bigbutton.com.au or Kerry Thomas interpart@bigbutton.com.au.

During the past few months the four core team members and supporters have been having regular meetings to scope project ideas and prepare for the joint work to be undertaken late October/ early November. Helen Pitt will be spending three months in Tigray, commencing late June, working with the Office of Rehabilitation and Social Affairs (ORSA) and various Government Departments and Disabled People's Organisations to progress the process and initiative.

To date over \$2,000 dollars has been given to the project, in addition to the \$1,200 dollars given at the birthday celebration of Barry and Glenn which will be directed toward environmental-disability activities. All monies raised will be allocated to specific projects yet to be decided, and as will emerge from the situational assessment phase.

During February an additional anonymous donation of US\$1,000 was evenly distributed to two projects: "Appliances for Destitute Disabled Children" and "The Abyssinia Houseless Handicaps Cooperative". This has helped build credibility of the Initiative as well as help out especially needy people.

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### **APPLIANCES FOR DESTITUTE CHILDREN WITH DISABILITIES IN TIGRAY**

#### ***THE SITUATION***

Thousands of children in Tigray, a northern region of Ethiopia, are disabled. Years of military conflict, frequent famines and poor health services have resulted in many children contracting polio, suffering from congenital malformations and other disabling conditions.

#### ***WHAT SUPPORT IS NOW AVAILABLE IN TIGRAY?***

Services are now available at the Mekelle Ortho-Physiotherapy Centre (MOPC) for many children to receive appliances that will increase their mobility; wheelchairs, crutches, walking frames, and other equipment. However due to lack of funds support is needed for poor disabled children to be assisted with appliances that will enable them to lead a more normal life. For example we know that polio children who receive calipers are more likely to go to school and thus have greater opportunities for the future. Infants with club feet can receive treatment at an early stage thus preventing major deformities.



Age 4 - Polio

Age 6 months  
Club foot (right leg)

Young boy with cerebral palsy at  
Mekelle Orthotic-Physiotherapy Centre  
Feb 2005, Mekelle, Tigray





*Extract from AID/WATCH web site*

AID/WATCH is a not for profit activist organization monitoring and campaigning on Australian overseas aid and trade policies and programs. We work to ensure aid-funding reaches the right people, communities and their environments.

Publicly funded Australian overseas aid and trade activities occur in different ways: through bilateral programs with recipient countries, contributions to multi-lateral organizations such as World Bank and Asian Development Bank, and Australian companies. When Australian companies invest overseas, a special public agency – the Export Finance and Insurance Corporation (EFIC), offers insurance and loans to assist them.

The flow of aid can be constructive particularly in programs of emergency relief and health. However, development projects can have detrimental impacts on local communities when the donor country imposes decisions without the appropriate assessment of social, cultural, and environment needs. AID/WATCH works with partner groups, especially in the Asia-Pacific, researching and evaluating projects impacts in order to lobby the Australian Government to prevent potentially damaging programs.

AID/WATCH also aims to inform the Australian community of how the aid dollar is spent. We believe increased awareness about the reality of international aid and EFIC projects will lead to truly beneficial programs for local communities.

**OUR PURPOSE**

- To support people and communities in low-income countries to determine the future of their development,
- To ensure aid money reaches the right people, communities and their environment,
- To increase accountability and transparency of aid, development banks and Export Finance and insurance Corporation projects,
- To monitor aid and EFIC projects and ensure they have stringent environmental, ethical, social and cultural guidelines.

**The Advisory Committee is composed of**

- Intellectual. Noam Chomsky
- Journalist, John Pilger
- Magistrate, Pat O'Shane
- Reverend David Millikan
- Ethical investments advisor, Robert Rosen
- Deep ecologist, John Seed

.....  
For more information please access [www.aidwatch.org.au](http://www.aidwatch.org.au)

Helen Pitt  
7<sup>th</sup> June 2005

## *Mekong Meanderings and other Cambodian Courses*

***Cocooned within the serenity of my humble Hill's abode, listening to the thunderous sound of ...*** apparently only rain, crashing onto tin, the home fire gently crackling in the pot-belly (*I knew I should have taken a lighter lunch!*) one cannot help but wonder ...especially when just seven weeks previous, I was producing my very own precipitation whilst coping with the relentless heat and humidity of a pre-Monsoonal Phnom Penh – Ahhhhhh fond memories!

Indeed they are and as always, some rather more pleasant than others – such is the richness and variety of encounters, Cambodian style.

This particular visit to one of my favourite Asian countries was to be quite different to the trips of the previous two years which, as regular readers of our newsletter will be aware, were connected with the 'CyCleCambodia' fundraising venture undertaken by Tania, Veasna and myself in December 2003. One of the highlights was to be able to meet a number of the people, who had helped make the cycle venture a success and to distribute copies of the documentary 'Koumar Pikar Cambodia' (Disabled Children Cambodia) that had been produced from footage taken by our friend Rick Droz during the event. I believe that copies of the documentary, which focuses on the work of the disability sector organisations that we visited en route, are now available in Australia on both VHS and DVD. As well as hopefully providing some additional funding for the projects that Fo/P supports, it serves as an extremely informative insight into a world where those living with disability are only just starting to be included, in ways that within western societies, we automatically take for granted. I do hope that as many of our members as possible will obtain a copy, as I am personally aware of the huge amount of time and energy that were involved in the creation of this wonderful film – *it's almost as good as being there!*

*Meanwhile ... back on the Cambodian Trail ...* the going was extremely dusty at times especially during the two-wheeled excursions that I made, one along the banks of the Mekong River to Kratie and another to the coast. This was where, horror of horror's, I was forced to convalesce on the palm fringed beaches of Kompong Som, having sustained considerable discomfort in the posterior department – *ahhhhhh, such wonderfully soft sand!* Yes, t'was following that particular excursion that I made the decision to demote my local 'iron clanger' from the heady status of 'Country Tourer' to the lowly realms of 'urban run-about'.

The ride along the Mekong was a wonderful experience though, as it was clearly not an area where most foreigners would choose to roam, most evident from the extremely cautious reception from villagers along the way and who could blame them!

Subsequent long distance jaunts were completed on four wheels, utilising the increasing number of 'Tour Buses' that now plough the main routes as a result of the feverish refurbishment of the National Road system, during the last few years. These super-smooth highways are in complete contrast to their previous condition of rugged dirt tracks, more closely resembling ploughed fields than roads.

Two such journeys were to the town of Sisophon, just 50kms from the border with Thailand, in the Province of Banteay Meanchey, to visit ASDP (Association for Supporting Disabled People). This dedicated group had contacted Friends of *interPART* during 2004, requesting assistance with the funding of their projects. I was very pleased to have the opportunity to visit two outlying villages where they were conducting education and income raising activities.

Following a report on my findings and subsequent consideration by Committee Members back here in Australia, a donation was made in order to assist with increasing their capacity for lodging future funding proposals with larger International Aid Organisations represented in Cambodia. This was a new and interesting facet for me to be involved in, which provided valuable insights.

*(continued next page)*



Chouemg Chouerm & staff- ADSP, Sisophon

# Mekong Meanderings and other Cambodian Courses



Boating with children from the Nutrition Centre

I was also very fortunate to be able to have some involvement with the children of the 'Rabbit School' and 'House of Smiles', being the main two projects in Cambodia receiving support from Fo/P. As well as being invited to their Christmas parties I also accompanied children living at the Nutrition Centre on two river cruises.

As usual it was an absolute delight to share joyous times with the children, especially knowing that for some of them it was the first time that they had ever ventured outside of the Orphanage compound.

In all it was a thoroughly inspiring and educational five months, punctuated with a kaleidoscope of emotions including absolute joy, total frustration and the trepidation of venturing into completely uncharted territory, as when assisting the CDPO (Cambodia Disabled Peoples Organisation) staff with improving their English language skills!

I'm certain that I will be returning again one day, as Cambodia and it's people now have a very special place in my heart.

*Ray Walker*



Some of my 'English students' at CDPO

Friends of *interPART* have launched a **TRI NATURE** membership, to develop another opportunity for supporters to assist us in our fundraising activities.



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](mailto: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](http://www.trinature.com)



# Hills Folk Club

## Charity Concert

7.15pm Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2005  
**FOLK CENTRE**

*Cnr George Street & South Road, Thebarton*



**Join us for a fun-filled evening on  
 22nd October featuring the very  
 best in local Folk Music**

Featuring performance by:

**Derek Moule**

**Peter & Adrienne**

**Sin Beo**

**Celtic Connection**

**Moraghan's Mirror**

**Carol Rosewall**

**Three Across**

**John Francis**

This year's Annual Charity Concert is  
 being performed in support of local  
 humanitarian group  
**Friends of *inter*PART**  
 with proceeds going to the Rabbit School  
 in Phnom Penh, Cambodia.

**We look forward to seeing you there.**  
 Table bookings available so bring your friends!

For bookings please contact  
 Jackie on 8263 9842 or Bob on 0409 674 452

**Adults \$10**

**Children \$5**

### **The Rabbit School**

*A special place in Cambodia for children with  
 severe disabilities, to be able to learn and grow.*

Established in 1998 the school provides  
 education and physiotherapy for children with  
 severe disabilities living at a government run  
 orphanage in Phnom Penh. Most of these children  
 were orphaned and abandoned at birth.

The Rabbit School is the only known school in  
 Cambodia that provides specialised education for  
 children with physical and intellectual disabilities. It  
 is seen as a role model demonstrating that all  
 children have the right to education and support  
 services.

The Friends of *inter*PART, who support the  
 school, comprises a dedicated group of volunteers  
 who share a common concern for those most  
 vulnerable in Australia and overseas.

If you would like to become a member or learn  
 more about the work of Friends of *inter*PART  
 please visit our web site at [www.interpart.org](http://www.interpart.org) or  
 telephone us on (08) 8838 9061.

We wish to thank the Hills Folk Club for their  
 continued commitment and support and for  
 dedicating proceeds from this concert to the  
 children at the Rabbit School.

*We thank you for attending and wish you a  
 wonderfully entertaining evening.*

# 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  
Deputy Chairperson  
Treasurer  
Secretary  
*inter*PART & Associates  
Representative  
Committee members

Wayne Allen  
Cathy Megson  
Jenny Biven  
Nicole McDowell

Kerry Thomas  
Ray Walker  
Sharron Harkin  
Peter Morrison  
Glenn Williams  
Vicki Williams  
Helen Pitt  
Tania Radis