

## Newsletter

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### 2005 AGM

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### Fundraising

### *inter*PARTS vision

We wish all our  
members a safe  
and peaceful  
season

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

### Chairpersons Report -2005

**Well, another busy year**, with everyone involved in many challenging, rewarding, exciting, meticulously planned and dumped from on high, endeavours. We remain viable and financial, and have had opportunities to extend our support into new areas.

Following on from the AGM in 2004, the committee completed what may be called the "Summer Strategic Planning Series". With Nicole's excellent facilitation, we identified four main areas we wished to focus on and try to polish up: Communication with members and the wider community; Relationships with other stakeholders; Project support; and Processes/administration of FoP. I think we all felt that this was a welcome time for reflection, and an acknowledgement that we wanted to be more strategic, while making sure we were keeping an eye on the fundamentals.

Some of the immediate and direct spin offs from this work included:

- ❑ Website development, with a lot of input from Barry.
- ❑ Database refinement, with a lot of input from Glenn, Nicole and Jenny: their patience with this process has been incredible.
- ❑ Newsletter reformatting, with a lot of input from Glenn. The new format and content is fantastic, and I think represents our work really well.
- ❑ Development of the proposal assessment checklist, and a 'field test' with ASDP, where we were able to provide some initial funding support, and hopefully give this worthy organisation a bit of a vote of confidence.

Through the process of responding to a request for increasing wages for Mr. Touch and his assistants, the committee developed a deeper understanding of the financial makeup of the Rabbit School, and some of the other supporters, donors and workers who contribute to this process. I believe this gave us all a rewarding feeling of our contribution being valued, and being part of a team effort, rather than working in isolation. It was a timely validation. We also were in the extremely happy position of being able to approve significant salary increases without having to contribute a single dollar more, due to the changes of the US\$ exchange rate over time.

We have seen Helen initially present a rough outline of coordinating a visit to Tigray, with a call for people interested in going along, to having regular updates "from the field" on the intricacies of coffee preparation and exciting inaugural meetings with groups of people with disabilities, who have to this point been without much of a voice or representation.

Being part of the "Friends network" also exposes us to regular expeditions like Ray's return to Cambodia and Jenny & Andrew's trip to Bhutan. These trips give us cause for deep reflection and wonder, and are therefore very rewarding. I'm not sure if they are a spin-off, or a cunning, well-planned part of the organizational structure. I think we should claim the latter, and be confident that we can continue to plan to receive regular email updates and enjoy show-and-tell dinners (although Jenny & Andrew certainly set a very high standard to follow).

## AGM Chairpersons Report - continued

Following on from this, we have enjoyed several fantastic dinners as guests of Sue and Martin, and I think this will be a lovely thing to keep on the annual calendar of events.

Of course, this was the year of the tsunami, and I guess it would be very easy to reflect that very little can be achieved when the forces of calamity can be so overwhelming. On the other hand, it can be heartening to observe the way an event such as this can generate such enormous government, business and individual contributions of goodwill.

one can also observe this in the context of the ongoing needs of many, many people in our world, and the lack of basic resources that they have, out of the focus of the world's media.

I think that is why Friends of *interPART* holds an ongoing appeal to me.

I am privileged to work with people who offer a commitment, in a not-so-small way, month after month, year after year. Our reporters in the field are not helicoptered in and out (although I suspect in recent weeks Helen may have welcomed the odd opportunity to take this option).

We can now claim a pretty impressive track record of offering assistance and hope. I look forward to the stories that will unfold in our year ahead.

**Wayne Allen**  
**Chairperson**

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: [wayne@arcom.com.au](mailto:wayne@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)**

## Treasurers Report - 2005

**The last financial year** has been one of consolidating a firm membership base and continuing with fundraising activities that have brought in a steady flow of funds. The money raised has enabled *Friends of interPART* to continue with not only funding commitments but also contribute towards new ventures.

Once again wine and chocolates have been a main stay with donations being a major source of income as well. After expenses for wine have been deducted (and these are our only expenses as such) *Friends of interPART* have raised just over \$9,700 as money that is directly available for supporting projects this last financial year. This has been a wonderful effort considering that there have been no major fund raising events and the committee members have many other commitments in their lives.

Many thanks to Cathy Megson for continuing to supply chocolate to the chocoholics who frequent the Meadows Barn – we are very grateful for their addiction!

Thanks to Wayne Allen for organizing the wine for sale – I do not know how he keeps track of it all but he does and the overall profit for wine sales this year was \$3000 with still some wine in reserve.

From Cambodia Helen Pitt and Kerry Thomas have been able to bring back a range of delightful gifts and these have generated further funds and they also provide added interest to our meetings.

General donations and donations towards special projects contributed just over \$5,600. The House of Smiles will benefit from a donation in the coming financial year and donations collected from the birthday bash of two members, Glenn Williams and Barry Lincoln, were a major contributor in money going towards specific areas of need highlighted in the work being done in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Through Ray Walker, of CyCleCambodia fame, and his connection with the Association for Supporting Disabled People (ASDP), *Friends of interPART* made the decision to contribute US\$1000, or the equivalent of AUS\$1,269.57, towards supporting them to expand their programs.

AUS\$6,740 was paid to the Rabbit School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and although there was discussion about increasing the quarterly payments, it was found that contributions over the years have actually provided more than the amounts needed, to pay the wages and any increments that were due. This decision allows consideration of other projects for our fundraising efforts, on top of our continued commitment to the Rabbit School.

A new and enjoyable activity that has been trialled is 'Dinners at Sue Cherry's'. Sue is a longstanding member of *Friends of interPART* and a great cook, so the food and a good discussion topic have proved to be an excellent basis for not only connecting with other members but a source of donations towards our fundraising efforts.

Once again there has been a change in our accounting system – *Friends of interPART* now has a Quick Books Accounting program that allows Transaction and Reconciliation reports to be generated and is simple enough for those who can only understand very basic information in this field (such as myself). There have been some glitches in transferring to the new system but hopefully I am now aware of the programs benefits and limitations. Unfortunately the Auditors report was not available for the AGM despite efforts to try and ensure it would be completed – maybe next year!

I would like to express our appreciation to members and other supporters of *Friends of interPART* who have contributed to making this year another successful one for this organisation.

**Jenny Biven**  
Treasurer

## *interPART & Associates - UPDATE - 2005*

- **'Fun from the Field'**, Helen's regular missives from Tigray, in northern Ethiopia, have kept us all entertained and inspired. Check them out on the *interPART* website, under FoIP and the Tigray Project!
  - Seriously though, Helen and her counterparts at the Office of Rehabilitation and Social Affairs have been beaver away to produce an assessment of the situation of people with disability in Tigray. Through this, an appreciation for the scope of disability and needs has been gained as well as what data is missing (e.g. there is little known about mental illness and intellectual disability). Importantly, the assessment has also identified what is already being done in responding to issues – by government, donors and disabled people themselves. This information is providing the vital foundation from which an Integrated Regional Disability Strategy can be developed – an approach that will promote the inclusion of disability issues across all sectors and programs, rather than encouraging the establishment of separate initiatives that can be exclusive and unsustainable.
  - Ursula, Kerry and Barry will be joining Helen in Tigray in mid-October to progress this work and to facilitate planning and training workshops with key stakeholders, including Disabled Persons Organisations. They also intend to produce a booklet of case stories capturing the challenges and achievements to date and aspirations for the future.
  - Barry will be working with the Relief Society of Tigray (REST) to develop, with counterparts, a similar booklet but on the topic of environmental restoration and natural resource management. In the spirit of inter-sectoral collaboration, we shall also be seeking opportunities to explore and illustrate linkages between environment and disability.
  - In preparation for this work, Ursula and others, with input from Support Team members, have been drafting Resource Notes, for piloting as resource and training materials in Tigray. The development of 'Resource Notes' – sets of information sheets on various aspects of development practice, disability and so on – are aimed to be readily translatable and adaptable for use by national personnel in developing countries.
  - The *interPART* Resource Notes is an ongoing initiative that we hope to extend and refine with a view to publishing in 2006.
- On other fronts:**
- *iP&A* contributed expertise to the inaugural Community Based Rehabilitation course being conducted by the Centre for Remote Health and Flinders University; Kerry participated as a resource person in the Alice Springs intensive course component, with particular input on participatory appraisal, monitoring and evaluation.
  - Barry and Kerry have, in partnership with Earth Tech, been engaged in working with Traditional Owners in SE Queensland in scoping a Traditional Owners NRM planning process which aims to facilitate greater and more meaningful Indigenous involvement in caring for country/NRM in that part of Australia.
  - Follow-up tsunami activity with the World Federation of Occupational Therapists, including development of project proposals and coordination of strategic planning and capacity building workshops continues to occupy a good deal of Kerry's time; she will co-facilitate a Regional Workshop with the WFOT President in Sri Lanka in December.
  - Jenny and Kerry have participated in further UniSA community based practice sessions with occupational therapy students and staff.
  - There has also been ongoing work with AusAID, contributing to development of innovative AusAID-NGO Cooperation Agreements in Cambodia.
  - And finally, effort has been directed to progressing *interPART* admin, communication and public relations systems and materials, thanks to some service input from Barry.

**Kerry Thomas**

## *inter* PART's ETHIOPIA Initiative

**1 November 2005**  
**(22 October in Ethiopian calendar)**

**Hi all -**

Well, where to start? So much has happened it is difficult to know where to begin. We left Mekelle (which like Addis has an enormous amount of building going on) a little later than expected and went down through the haze into the valley in which Mekelle lies. Starting up the other side we approached our first of many winding ascents (and descents) up the escarpment onto the plateau. While still green in patches from the good widespread rains it was still clear that this was a dry country. We were all looking forward to getting out into the field and travelling around the region.

Our broad itinerary included travelling north to Wukro, through the eastern zone onto Adigrat and then west through the central zone to Adua and onto Axum with a brief diversion to the Eritrean border! We then doubled back to Adua and turned south to Abi Adi and then onto Yechillo, back up to Abi Adi and then east through Hagere Salem in the highlands back to Mekelle. We quickly settled into a routine each day of checking how we all slept, all with varying degrees of success, what with unpredictable access to water, and a high level of ambient noise. It is best not to choose a room overlooking the main street which, although provides a view of who is going where with the occasional travelling musical group, the entertainment, in one form or another, goes on most of the night. Frequent and up close and personal contact with the over eager mossies is also unavoidable. We generally had breakfast together - good strong Ethiopian coffee or chai (spiced tea) - short and very sweet shots to get you going, scrambled eggs with bread and more coffee. This accompanied a review of logistics (which often needed review at lunchtime again) for the day and then departure for respective field sites and centres.

For me this was the amazing part, the landscapes of valleys plummeting down hundreds of feet in layered escarpments with flat valley floodplains, many under irrigation. Coloured patchworks of cereal crops, barley, wheat, tef and a variety of legumes, flowing in their own breezes, appeared everywhere even on seemingly impossible slopes and small pieces of level land.

But these highland fields are eclipsed by the ubiquitous terraces that, not only define many of the small private fields but also cover almost every visible slope. Around two feet high these dry stone walls made of stone collected from almost everywhere, follow the contours reducing run off and erosion and capturing soil, providing opportunities for natural regeneration.

This I was told by a young boy who had been helping his family harvest but followed us to some of the caves used during the Struggle. Chatting all the way, what's your name, where are you from, what's your profession, his



**Terracing**

profession was student he proudly told me. The good rains have promoted this re-growth, conflicting with previous perceptions of denuded slopes, graced only by rocks and stones. In fact much of the land receives as much rain as we do in Macclesfield but in a much shorter period with a hotter climate. Area enclosures previously wasteland have been put aside for conservation and replanted with silky oak, eucalyptus and a range of native species including herbs as a good source of nectar for the many beehives. The yield for the year has been high. Many people are spending long days bent over or crouching down harvesting their crops by hand. Threshing is aided by cattle and donkeys going round in circles (or in some cases passing vehicles on the road!), winnowing in the evening breeze the small donkeys are fully loaded with 25kg bags of food. The work is phenomenal, the people only too happy to stop and openly stare at the Forengies in a curious but friendly way. Though we did manage, unintentionally, to scare off a few of the youngest ones who appeared to be seeing their first white face ever. *In the evenings, we shared stories and debriefed over St George beer and Amba (fizzy spring water) in side-street food houses. Injera (bread) with tibs (small bits of meat usually goat) and shiro (with peppers for the brave) added much needed sustenance, before retiring early, for the next round of fights with the bloodsuckers in the cool night breeze.*

Cheers from the Team - **Barry**

## *inter*PART's ETHIOPIA Initiative

### Hi all you guys!

Well, as you can imagine we are all four rushing around to get things finished before we leave on Sunday. Kerry and Barry to London and Canada for a well earned break, Helen a long route home arriving in Adelaide on Thursday am and me directly home arriving in Adelaide early on Tuesday am. We have a lot to share with you all.

The Disability Booklet is almost ready to go to the printers – it is directed to donors and policy makers - has 12 case studies and photos - put together with much huffing and puffing and very much a joint effort. Barry has made a really good job using his expertise with the various software and the final product looks very professional. We are paying for this with funds raised by Friends of *inter*PART.

Tonight the ORSA staff are giving a party for us and we will be entertained for the next couple of evenings. Last Sunday, we were invited to the home of Romane (Bureau Chief for Dept of Women's Affairs), for an evening meal. We enjoyed the evening and the opportunity to chat with her husband who is in charge of capacity building for the township of Mekelle. He told us that with a population of over 200,000 people, 60% of people live below the poverty line and 40% are unemployed with over a third studying either at school, training college or at university. A most interesting fellow, in the past an Ambassador to Sweden, but Romane did not take to the life of an Ambassador's wife and came home!

Domestically we are in a routine of bringing water home from the BOLSA office each day and decanting into various containers. We have had no water from the main supply for 2 weeks. We have now run out of gas and have a small electric one-plate ring for heating water and cooking. Fortunately we have had no more power black outs. Yes, we are all clean and tidy with acceptable clothing! Hair washing is a bit of a problem though.

An important event happened yesterday, when Kerry signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the bureau heads of four departments - BOLSA, Health, Education, Public Service, witnessed by Finance and Economic Development, on behalf of *inter*PART & Associates, for a period of three years with a review in one, with photos to mark the occasion. The preparation,

drafting, editing etc took less than a week. We could not help but wonder how long it would have taken in Australia to get this organised and signed, 6 months perhaps! Kerry will give details when she returns home but basically it is an agreement for all five parties to seek donor funding for the implementation of the Integrated Regional Development Strategy for people with disability that Helen has been working on for the past four months. Barry has been working with REST (originally supported through CAA) and it seems he will have an ongoing involvement with them over the next few years in the environmental, conservation, documentation and communication areas.

We have not really had any international news other than snippets and are somewhat intrigued by reports of rioting in France and the lack of welcome and respect given to Mr. Shrub in South America! As for Australia? Where is that! Locally things have settled down, at least for the present in Addis and we do not anticipate any problems flying from Mekelle on Sunday, nor getting away from the International Airport the following day. Email has been a real problem, tricky and unreliable, you get connected (occasionally) and then it drops out and you have to start all over again. We have been using Internet facilities in various little shops downtown.

We have all kept well - except for colds previously mentioned and only Barry has suffered any gastric problems - recovered now.

Have been trying to think of some fun/amusing bits to report - there are many but my mind won't focus on such things at present. We were all quite manic last night trying to finish the booklet with the help of some local wine and beer and repartee flying around!

Until we all catch up again in the next few weeks. Best wishes to you all from the Fearless Four (no we do not wish to emulate Enid Blyton!



**Ursula**

**The 'Tigray Team' at Axum**

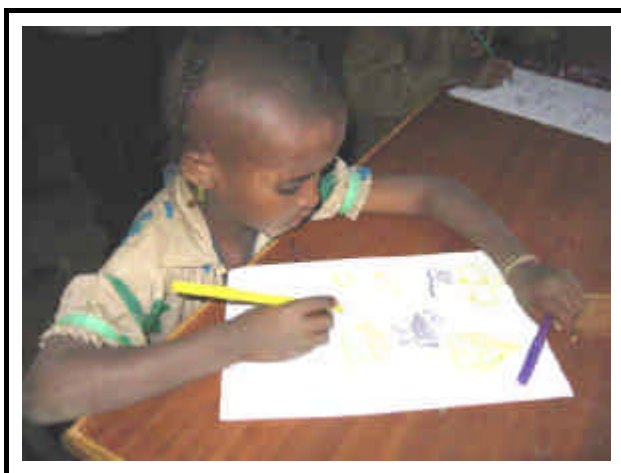
# Ethiopia Photo Gallery



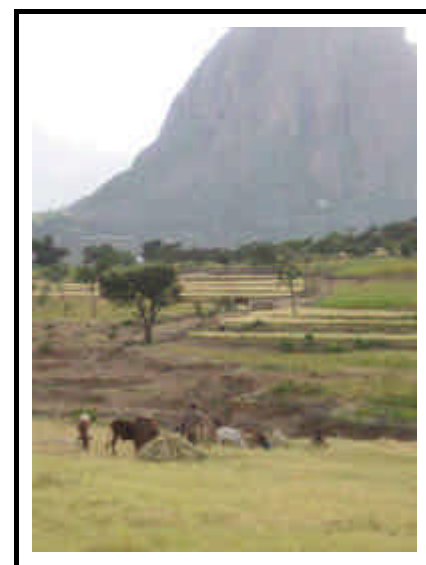
A rapturous welcome by a group of deaf children at a school in Central Tigray



'Alfresco learning' at the Access School - Tigray



Child Drawing at village Primary School Central Tigray



Harvesting 'Tef' used in the making of 'Enjera' a local style of pancake



Two trainers at Mekelle Vocational Training Centre meet with an ex-student (centre) now selling wares to Tourists at Axum

Enlightening discussions with a disabled farmer in Central Tigray





**Each year the Hills Folk Club** hold a special concert at their Folk Centre venue in Thebarton, on behalf of a local charity. We were delighted to learn that this year they had chosen to perform, to raise funds for the children of the Rabbit School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia on

22nd October. It really was a wonderful and joyful occasion, which turned out to be a great success for raising additional funds for our ongoing commitment to the Rabbit School. A total of \$2,448 was graciously donated, as proceeds from ticket sales and a raffle, the prizes for which were very kindly donated by the following sponsor's.

**Living Faith Fellowship, Trevor Curnow, Roger Calcroft, Dialogica of Woodside, Studio Labels of Keswick, Jeannette McNicoll, Charleston Hotel, Oaktree Truffles of Stirling, Crafers Hotel, Grumpies of Verdun and Bruce Lawrie Chemist.**

We also wish to thank the Friends of *interPART* stalwarts who contributed by way of providing an attractive display and 'Cambodian Craft' stall in the lobby. The sale of these Cambodian 'goodies' raised a further \$180 for our projects. ***Our sincere thanks go to everyone who helped to make this event both joyful and successful.***

### **The Macclesfield Strawberry Fete**

on 27th November provided yet another opportunity for us to publicise our endeavours and our stall attracted considerable attention. As well as being able to inform newcomers of our cause, we were also able to raise over \$350 from the sale of an attractive array of 'Cambodian Crafts' and raffle tickets. Special thanks go to Vicki and Glenn Williams who were instrumental in the initiative and devoted their day to the success of the stall. **Sincere thanks also to those who donated prizes for the raffle, being: Charleston Hotel, Vicki Williams, Glenn Williams, Three Brothers Arms and I & M Schultz.**



**And last but not least**, we thank Sue Bradstreet for her kind donation, given in lieu of a friends birthday present - Thank's go to Sue and her friend for their thought and generosity.

## ***Are you interested ...?***

Friends of *interPART* commits to raising funds for specific projects for each financial year. Throughout the year requests to be considered for either one off or regular donations come from different sources or through *interPART & Associates*. It is often difficult to choose between requests but this has been made easier with a Project funding criteria that was completed earlier this year.

Also, individuals regularly make contact who may be either preparing to work overseas in community development initiatives and projects or who have recently returned from working overseas. They have a need to either debrief and share their experiences or to gain support and knowledge before embarking on their trip as well establish links for such things as resource material, contact information and feedback when on the job overseas.

Discussion within the committee has highlighted the need for further investigating whether there is enough interest in having a '**Reference Group**', open to members, that would meet periodically to address these and other issues which were appropriate. E.g the group could meet to hear someone discuss their experiences after returning from working overseas or within the remote areas of Australia. Discussion may not only describe the work, but impressions of the country as a whole and implications for further input. Also a Reference Group could discuss and process any funding requests.

Friends of *interPART* has a diverse membership and at this stage I am seeking interest from members who would like to join a working group to further discuss how a Reference Group of this nature could work and provide the support and decisions that would be required.

**If you feel this may be the way you can become more involved and learn more about how Friends of *interPART* relates to the business arm of *interPART & Associates*. then please contact Jenny by email: [jenny.biven@adam.com.au](mailto:jenny.biven@adam.com.au)**

## 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  
wishes to thank all members  
for their support during 2005.  
We look forward to sharing our  
combined achievements with you  
during the coming years.