

Friends of *inter*PART Inc.

International Partners in Action Research and Training

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Newsletter

Inside this issue:

2006 AGM
Chairpersons
Reflections 1-2

Treasurers Report 2-3

FEATURE

Friends of *inter*PART
working in Tigray
4-6

*inter*PART & Associates
Update 6

Fundraising - 2006 7

Hills Folk Club
Charity Concert 8

*inter*PART'S Vision 9

Inserts:

Wine offer - Summer 2006

Rabbit School Gift Cards
NEW

*We wish all our members an
enjoyable and safe
festive season.*

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

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AGM ~ Chairperson's Reflections ~ AGM

The year's reports and activities have been focused around the work that *inter*PART & Associates have been doing in Tigray, Ethiopia. For those of us who have been receiving regular updates from Helen & Kerry, they have been very interesting and inspirational. In the last two years, they have managed to accomplish so much in raising the profile and providing a voice for people with disabilities in Ethiopia. Additionally, their efforts have been directed towards the people who provide valuable but often unrecognised services, to assist them and to encourage ongoing accredited training.

Our big fundraising event has once again been the event conducted by the Hills Folk Club. As with last year, the folk club at Thebarton was packed to the rafters and everyone had a fantastic evening, enjoying really varied and entertaining performers, supported by very efficient "crew". The combination of tickets, raffle and donation bucket netted nearly \$4500.00 for the night, which was beyond our wildest expectations. On behalf of the Friends of *inter*PART Inc Committee, I extend my deepest gratitude to Jackie and the numerous supporters who made us feel so well supported, and provided valuable exposure for the Rabbit School and our other projects.

Additional funds continue to come from our standard sources: Cathy sells chocolate frogs all year at her store and we always are surprised how much this brings in! Wine is still available, with six varieties available. It has been a slower year for wine, due in part I think to the "glut", but we hope to continue to receive support from this reliable and enjoyable source. I would also continue to urge people to consider Tri Nature products when they are looking at cleaning and personal care products, and I would be more than happy to discuss this in more detail with people.

Mr. Touch, the principle of the Rabbit School, provided a very detailed four page annual report, for which we are extremely grateful. To think, this is a man who was unable to read or speak English when we started supporting the school. I would like to express my gratitude to all of his efforts and acknowledge all of his accomplishments. The content of the report was sobering in parts, but he was able to maintain a positive outlook, despite the challenges that lay ahead. Once again, it seems it falls to this small school and their supporters to encourage appropriate government policy development for children with disabilities. When reflecting on this, the enormity of the funding contributions can be seen to be measured as much more than salaries and equipment.

We had a very energetic AGM, with a number of new interested people. This brought great energy to the night, and also gave us a wonderful forum to do some reflection on the ongoing work of both *inter*PART & Associates and Friends of *inter*PART. Barry reflected that when we first "dived in" and made a decision to commit to provide ongoing funding to The Rabbit School, we were all very apprehensive and uncertain if we could meet the commitment. It was very powerful to reflect that at an AGM seven or eight years down the track (we would have needed to consult our records for exact dates) we not only have successfully met these ongoing costs but have also managed to provide one off funding to several programs.

continued

Chairperson's Reflections continued

All this, while maintaining quite a healthy bank balance to ensure future funding commitments. There have also been several big fundraising events which have been instrumental in getting the Tigray project off the ground. This has been further boosted by several very generous personal donations, which I see as a potent vote of confidence and support for *interPART* & Associate's work. I won't name these contributors, as I am unsure if they wish to remain anonymous but you know who you are and your generosity is inspirational.

I have the great pleasure in welcoming Nicole into the role of Chairperson. Nicole, as many of you would know, has been working tirelessly as secretary for many years and we all look forward to working with her in her new role. Ray has taken over her role as secretary and I am sure he will do his best to be very humble while performing the work incredibly effectively, if all of his enormous contributions to date are anything to go by. Jenny retains the position of Treasurer, with her husband Andrew offering to assist. I think Jenny has performed the role so well, only her husband is not

daunted by trying to keep things running as smoothly as they have. Jenny, while you now make the financial commitments look so easy, be assured that we know how challenging it is to keep track of multiple income sources small and large and transferring funds reliably to other countries.

So, we are in very good hands and look forward to the year ahead. If I can urge folk who consider themselves supporters to renew their membership early in the new year. This small \$10 fee assists with small postage & administration costs, including audits and the surplus of course kicks us off for our year's contributions to the Rabbit School and other projects. As always, we are keen to welcome new people as members and active participants.

It has been a pleasure being chairperson for the last two years and I look forward to continuing the work as a committee member. I hope everyone feels loved and valued in the holiday season.

Wayne Allen

Treasurers Report 2005-2006

Although this year has been a quiet one for the Friends of *interPART*, with a small committee and few fund raising activities, there has been an excellent show of support from people donating to projects in which Friends of *interPART* is involved. Consequently there continues to be funds to meet our commitments to the Rabbit School in Cambodia as well as contributing substantially towards the projects in Tigray, Ethiopia.

A wonderful boost to the 2005 – 2006 income were the proceeds from the Folk Club event held in October 2005 with \$2,430 donated and Vicki and Glenn Williams putting in a wonderful effort in organising a gift stall on the night featuring Cambodian craft items and raising \$222. The Hills Folk Club has been very generous in electing to have Friends of *interPART* as the sole recipient of funds raised on the night and they have decided to donate again to Friends of *interPART* from their next major Folk Music night event in October 2006.

A stall selling cards and Cambodian gifts plus a raffle at the Macclesfield Strawberry Fete and further stalls at the

local Macclesfield market, manned by Glen and Vicki Williams and Ray Walker, have also been good revenue raisers.

Wayne has continued to sell wine to those of us who enjoy the odd drop and the mixed dozens have proved to be popular with tastings and nods of approval determining the better wines at the last AGM. Thank you to Wayne for organising the pickups, the sorting of wines and the deliveries.

The Cambodian cards bring in a constant trickle of income from individuals and some shop outlets of members and friends. This year we have had 59 paid members – a further boost to funds but also on behalf of Friends of *interPART* I would like to thank all members for their commitment to the vision of assisting and enhancing the lives of vulnerable groups of people. Once again a big thank you to Cathy Megson-McAllister for continuing to have chocolate available through the Meadows Barn with \$1,168 raised over the past year.

continued

Treasurers Report

continued

Friends of *interPART* continued its annual commitment of AUSS\$6,740 to the Rabbit School in Phnom Penh, Cambodia towards teachers wages and incidentals for the classroom. The concept of the sale of Gift cards featuring Rabbit School highlights is in the process of being developed with the hope that this will assist to boost overall funds.

Further dinners were enjoyed at Sue Cherry's house however due to commitments there hasn't been one since early 2006.

Once again several people have given donations of varying amounts and special mention here to Cathy Megson-McAllister and Ray Walker's Bush Walk contribution. Also there have been significant donations made directly to the Tigray project and sincere thanks to everyone who has donated to both the Cambodian and Tigray projects.

Once again it is with appreciation to all members and the committee for their contribution to meeting the fundraising commitments of Friends of *interPART*.

Jenny Biven - Treasurer



Income for 2005-2006

Bank interest	0.22
Card and Print sales	75.00
Chocolate sales	1,168.00
Donations	3,773.00
Gift sales	689.25
Memberships	550.00
Raffle	74.00
Wine sales	900.00
JB Were Interest	<u>177.98</u>
Total Income before expenses	\$7,407.45

Expenses

Auditor	50.00
Bank charges	0.70
Rabbit School payments	6,740.00
Tigray payments	3,500.00
House of Smiles payment	600.00
Transfer fees	<u>37.50</u>
Total Expenses	\$10,928.20

Total Income less Expenses - \$3,520.75

Opening Balance at 1st July 2005

National Bank Account	\$4,715.52
JB Were Management Trust Account	<u>\$3,730.14</u>
Total	\$8,445.66

Balance of Funds at 30th June 2006 for Friends of *interPART*

National Bank Account	\$2,725.29
JB Were Management Trust Account	<u>\$3,530.62</u>
Total	\$6,255.91

Friends of *interPART* working in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Partners in Disability and Development

Throughout the world, it is recognised that people with disabilities and their families must have a voice in deciding their future. There has been a global spread of organisations of people with disabilities (DPOs); some very strong, while others are just emerging. Many have advocacy and lobbying as their main agenda, to ensure that people with disabilities are accorded equal rights as other citizens. Some concentrate on improving the economic status of their members, while others combine both advocacy and economic empowerment. Whatever the main agenda is, the common theme is to ensure that people with disabilities have opportunities to enhance their quality of life – *to lead a healthy life and to enjoy a decent standard of living, dignity, self-esteem and respect of others*. People with disabilities have the capacity to become productive citizens and positively contribute to the development of the Tigray region and indeed, many are already doing so.

It is acknowledged that poverty is a major contributing factor to disability and that people with disabilities are among the most vulnerable groups. This is because of poor pre- and ante-natal care, unassisted births, malnutrition, communicable diseases, unsafe drinking water, poor sanitation, lack of occupational health and safety, road and traffic accidents, conflicts and landmines. This is the case in Tigray, Northern Ethiopia.

The World Health Organisation (WHO) estimates, that people with disabilities comprise about 20% of the poorest of the poor (Elwan 1999). As many as 50% of disabilities are preventable and directly linked to poverty (DFID 2000).

Tigray has a high number of persons with disabilities, although no accurate figures are available. The last known figure of 90,742, taken from the Statistical Report of 1994 Population and Housing Census of Ethiopia, however it is considered to be much less than the true figures and based on WHO criteria of 10%,



Woman and Cerebral Palsy son at Bolsa

an estimate of some 400,000 persons could be made.

In order to make available additional services and support, *interPART* and Associates have formulated an Integrated Regional Disability Strategy in partnership with Regional Authorities, disabled persons and their families and non-government organisations (NGOs). This strategy recognises the cross-cutting nature of disability. A three prong approach has been developed, that incorporates the mainstreaming of disability into all development programs, the need for specialised services and the strengthening of Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs). The strengthening of DPOs has been a focus of the work of Friends of *interPART* in Tigray.

During the past eighteen months, projects supported by *interPART* and Associates, Friends of *interPART* and individual members, include the following:

- **Three workshops with Disabled Persons Organisations (DPOs):** Leadership and Project Proposal Development, Needs Assessment, and Project Proposal Writing. These aims to build the capacity of DPOs to more effectively mobilise members, plan, lobby, access resources, implement and manage activities.
- Publications of the booklet ***Disability and Development in Tigray: Case studies supporting development of an integrated regional disability strategy***. This initial print run was instrumental in UNICEF subsequently publishing a second printing, together with the *Tigray Integrated Regional Disability Strategy Policy Framework*. These publications have contributed significantly to increased attention being given to disability in Tigray and Ethiopia, including in government five-year strategic plans. The publications were also foundation documents for the UNICEF-supported Regional Disability Workshop facilitated by *interPART*, in conjunction with the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs and the Tigray Health Bureau, in November 2006, with cross-sectoral government, NGO and DPO stakeholders.
- The employment of a young unemployed CBR-trained woman to undertake a survey of the kabeles (neighbourhoods) of Makelle to ascertain the level and nature of need related to **intellectual disability**.

continued

Friends of *inter*PART working in Tigray, Ethiopia.

This was undertaken over three months under the auspices of the newly formed Mentally Retarded Association of Tigray, as no statistics exist to guide planning.

- 'Seed' and 'investment' funding to DPOs for **enterprise development** initiatives, including to rural organisations such as the Unity Organisation for Disabled Persons in Hagare Selam, and the Lemo Association which is a newly emerging urban disabled women's association.
- Support to establish **environmentally oriented enterprises**, including development of an indigenous plant nursery and the growing of native plants, through the government-run Makelle Training Centre for PWD
- Funds for **materials and equipment**, including to a school for the deaf.
- Funding assistance to advance the building of **homes** for members of the Abyssinia Disabled Homeless Cooperative
- Provision of resources in the form of **learning and planning materials and manuals**, and the copying of policies, plans, guidelines and other resources that are being discussed, adapted, and/or developed up in collaboration with DPO and government partners.

Capacity Building Workshops

An Integral part of strengthening DPOs is capacity building. Although many members of DPOs have the skills, knowledge and abilities to lead and manage their respective organisations, many new organisations need to acquire this capacity, in order to become more self-reliant.



Leadership Workshop

Capacity building can take many forms: formal training, mentoring, study tours, exchange visits, sharing of experiences and inclusion in activities of organisations for the non-disabled.

During October 2005, representatives of DPOs were asked to list and prioritise what they felt were the skills they needed to acquire in order to help strengthen their respective organisations. Leadership training and writing project proposals were two subjects identified by the group. Subsequently, two, one and a half day workshops have been conducted by *inter*PART and the Bureau of Labour and Social Affairs. Participants included representatives from Associations and BOLSA staff. Brainstorming, group work and role playing proved to be effective learning instruments. Handouts, in Tigrinya and English, were available for participants. Remarks from the participants indicated their enthusiasm.

Project for Deaf Children

It is not known how many deaf persons are in Tigray but it is estimated that the numbers are high. Deafness is an isolating condition. Individuals with a hearing impairment, can remain totally apart from all family and community activities. Signing in Ethiopia, is an important method of communication. Deaf associations and branches, are in the forefront of advocating for additional schooling, for deaf children and vocational training and income generating projects, for youth and adults.

One initiative taken by a dedicated group of people in Mekelle, including a sign language teacher, have been providing voluntary services, including signing, for up to 60 deaf children and young persons. Although two classes for deaf students have now been established within a government school, tuition in signing is still being given to children of all ages, including pre-school children. Young people are also given instruction in the prevention of transmitted diseases, such as HIV/AIDS. A room has been rented for use as a classroom. This association, as is the case with most associations and branches throughout Tigray, is finding it difficult to find funds for rent, for teaching materials and for basic office equipment. Funds have been allocated to this project to allow pre-school and young children to be given sign-language and to assist with teaching materials.

Friends of *interPART* working in Tigray, Ethiopia.

Abyssinia Homeless Project

During our 2005 situational assessment, it was found that many disabled persons; children, women and men, do not have a permanent home and this was listed by many as being a major concern.



Abyssinia Cooperative group

Some sleep on the streets, others within church yards and some in a corner in the homes of neighbours.

To meet the housing needs of its members, the Abyssinia Houseless Cooperative was established in 2002 and has 27 members, most of whom have temporary shelter. Its primary goal is to provide permanent homes for its members, among them disabled women with children, who have been abandoned by their husbands. The foundations have been laid but the cooperative is experiencing difficulties in obtaining sufficient funds for further building constructions. Land was given by the Municipal Authorities in Mekelle and assistance given by architects and builders.

Funds have been allocated to this project through the efforts of a School in Victoria and members of FoIP. The first building has now been erected.

Helen Pitt & Kerry Thomas

interPART & Associates UPDATE

IP&A continues to engage in a number of other projects in addition to the work in Ethiopia. Recent assignments have included:

- An evaluation of the Catchment Care and MurrayCare programs which are managed by the SA Murray Darling Basin Natural Resource Management Board and the River Murray Urban Users Committee respectively. Employing a similar methodology to that used by *interPART* in the 2002 evaluation of the RMUUC Schools Education Program, the team of Tony Gerlach, Barry Lincoln, Helen Pitt and Kerry Thomas consulted with stakeholders across those parts of SA that are serviced by River Murray water. Given the issues associated with the River and water, it was a most interesting and very important assignment.

- Coordination of the World Federation of Occupational Therapists' Disaster Preparedness and Response project continues to absorb Kerry, with the current focus being facilitation of an innovative E-Group 'action learning - action planning' process with Indian OTs to develop their National OT DP&R Plan. This will compliment the in-country workshops undertaken earlier in the year with Sri Lanka, Indonesia and Thailand.

Extending our engagement in Regional NRM (Natural Resource Management) and in particular the Indigenous components, a new project will commence early in 2007 to facilitate the development of a Traditional Owners NRM Plan and Investment Strategy in South-West Queensland.

Kerry

Fundraising - 2006

Hills Folk Club Charity Concert

Imagine our delight when we were notified by the Hills Folk Club that we were to be their nominated benefactor of the proceeds from the clubs annual Charity Concert - *for the second year running!*

The event took place at their permanent venue in Thebarton on 14th. October and was a huge success. The performers (all donating their time), played their best to a packed house and as well as being a fabulous night out, also proved highly successful in terms of ticket sales and generous donations that obviously came from the heart as well as the pocket! - infact, over \$4,000 was raised for the continuation of our humanitarian projects.

Our sincerest thanks are extended to all involved with the event and to those who gave so warm heartedly ~ see photo gallery on page 8.



Macclesfield Strawberry Fete

Friends of *interPART* were again represented at this years annual Strawberry Fete held at Davenport Square on 26th. November. It was an absolutely perfect day, encouraging many visitors to browse the 70 or so stalls that were offering an amazingly varied selection of crafts, food and other goodies. Our stall attracted much interest and as well as providing information on our work, the sale of Cambodian & Ethiopian craft items returned \$200 that will assist those most vulnerable. Special thanks go to the Macclesfield Community Association for providing the site, to Glenn Williams and Ray Walker for manning the stall and to all those who visited us during the day.



Friends of *interPART* Gift Cards

see the enclosed flyer for a NEW
and original gift idea !

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
Dishwashing
Baby care

High Powered cleaning
Personal care
Car care

General household
Hair & Skin care



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

You will then have the benefit of:

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

How good is that!

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

Hills Folk Club Charity Concert Photo Gallery



The Friends of *interPART*
Trading Table was also a huge success.

Photo's courtesy of Peter Finch

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	Nicole McDowell
Treasurer	Jenny Biven
Secretary	Ray Walker
<i>inter</i> PART & Associates Representative	Kerry Thomas
Committee members	Wayne Allen Zoe Barker Andrew Biven Jenny Horne Helen Pitt

Friends of *interPART* wine offer Summer 06

The wines are McLaren Vale:



Verdelho 2005

Chardonnay 2004

Cabernet Rose 2005



Pinot Noir 2004

Meritage Blend 2001

Cabernet 2002

All wines **\$100.00 a dozen**, with Friends of *interPART* distinctive labeling.

Order form

Order however you wish to make up a dozen:

TOTAL

Suggested mixed dozens:

Mixed white (including limited stock Temple Bruer '98 Chenin Blanc)

Mixed white & Cabernet Rose

Mixed red

Mixed red & Cabernet Rose

Single blend dozen(s) -----

TOTAL

\$ _____

Delivery details:

Name:

Address:

Best contacts (home/work/mobile/email):

Notes / delivery instructions:

Please order through your friends of *interPART* contact, or mail cheque or money order to:
3 Olearia Walk, ALDINGA SA 5173 (sorry, no credit card facilities available)

Please contact Wayne on **0422 150 627** or wayne@arcom.com.au for further details, questions, or to make up special orders. Please consider us for your next function: tastings may be arranged!

Thank you for your support in assisting us in our work.

Friends of *interPART* is a charitable organisation raising funds & awareness in support of specific projects, including our ongoing commitment to funding the continued success of the Rabbit School, a school for children with disabilities in a government orphanage in Phnom Pehn, Cambodia.

Friends of *interPART* – Gift Cards



\$10

Gives a child books - pencils and crayons for 1 year



\$20

Provides puzzles and toys



\$50

Buys equipment for therapy



\$100

Trains staff in special education



\$200

Will buy a wheelchair



\$200 +

Contributes towards transport or access to community housing

Order your gift cards now in time for Christmas or as a special gift to someone who would like to have a gift that keeps on giving in the form of education needs for severely disabled children attending the Rabbit School, Phnom Penh Cambodia.

Card	Quantity	Amount
\$10
\$20
\$50
\$100
\$200
\$200+

Name.....

Address.....

Total to Pay

Payment by cheque/cash (sorry no credit card facilities) to:
Friends of *interPART*, PO Box 1775 Macclesfield SA 5153

Friends of *interPART* Inc.

interPART is an Australian based organisation specialising in sustainable social development with and on behalf of people who are most vulnerable in society.

Established in 1997, *interPART* brings together a range of people with extensive experience in working with communities, governments and international agencies in Africa, Asia, the Pacific and Australia.

The objects of *interPART* include the following:

- To provide and to arrange, on a free or subsidised basis, professional and technical assistance to programs and projects for the most vulnerable groups within Australia and overseas, and to make donations of money and in kind to such groups.
- To develop, implement, monitor and evaluate programs and projects for the most vulnerable groups in partnership with local organisations.

The organisation, Friends of *interPART*, is an incorporated body and began operating in 1998. It is a volunteer-managed humanitarian and fundraising body to fulfil the objectives of *interPART*.


A Committee of elected volunteers is responsible for the management of the organisation. Office bearers include the Chairperson, Deputy Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer. The majority of the current membership reside in South Australia although most Australian States are represented. Strong links are also maintained with overseas colleagues and associated organisations.

Our fundraising is always toward a specific purpose, with focus upon the most deprived and vulnerable members of society. The Rabbit School, the only school for children with severe intellectual and physical disabilities in Cambodia is an example of our focus. The school, its children and teachers, have received support from the Friends of *interPART* for several years; we would like to provide some increased support for them

Friends of *interPART* Gift Cards.

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

The image displays four different gift card designs created by children from the Rabbit School. Each design is shown in a separate box with its price range or value indicated in a small white box with a black border. The designs are: 1. A giraffe with brown spots on a purple background, priced at \$50 & \$200+. 2. A large tree with many green leaves, priced at \$10 & \$200. 3. A large orange flower with green leaves, priced at \$20. 4. A pink and purple butterfly, priced at \$100.



Dear

The best gift I could give you, was to make a donation to the Rabbit School, that will provide a child with stationery and pencils for a year.

Greetings & Best Wishes

Friends of *interPART* believe all children have the right to education and support services and works towards making this a reality.

Inside photograph & wording will depict the gift you are donating.

Card designs
by the children of the Rabbit School.

We welcome new members.
For more information about Friends of interPART please contact Kerry Thomas ph. 8388 9061 or email: Kerry.Thomas@interpart.org.au

order-form overleaf