

Newsletter

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2008 AGM

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structure



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is incorporated under the
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Act 1985
Registration Number
A0023669R

Friends of *inter* PART Inc.
PO Box 1775
MACCLESFIELD SA 5153

Email: info@interpart.org.au
www.interpart.org.au

Chairpersons Report 2008 AGM

Firstly, some important announcements:

- Friends of *inter*PART are in the process of applying for charitable status through AUSAID and the ATO and hopes this will provide further opportunities for individuals to support the work of the organisation. An announcement will be made when this is granted.
- We also wish to reduce the administrative burden associated with annual memberships and from 1st January 2009, will be seeking support for the organisation, through a one-off lifetime membership fee of \$40.00.



I am always conscious of several things, when trying to write an annual report: some readers will have not had much previous exposure to Friends of *inter*PART (FoiP), and current events and successes are strongly interconnected to FoiP activities that extend back to 1997. I have previously attempted to summarise these activities earlier in the year in a "Ten Year Summary". I need to reiterate some of these activities in this annual report, so that by referencing our work to date I can articulate our future aspirations.

Establishment of the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF)

The year 2008 has been significant for FoiP. We have established firm relationships with the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF), the organisation established by Helen Pitt. The KPF is officially registered, with a National Governing Board, and a Director, Kong Vichetra (Chetra). FoiP provided \$US3,600 to fund the director's wages for all of 2008. The output reports provided from KPF have been staggering in their range of activities and, as is characteristic of FoiP funding, represent exceptional value.

The KPF have a strong commitment for ensuring the welfare of children with mild, moderate and severe disabilities in Cambodia and continue to progress through promoting systematic long term planning of activities of Government and non government agencies. The Rabbit School and associated activities now have a strong national organisation to provide support and ensure long-term sustainability. The success of the Rabbit School and associated activities can be used to promote more services and support for children with disabilities. KPF is therefore seen as a powerful extension on the past activities and future aspirations of FoiP.

Rabbit School relocation and further expansion of activities

In 2008 the Rabbit School relocated along with the Nutrition Centre, and the new centre is called The National Centre for Orphans, under the authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). The intention of MoSVY is to make it a Centre of Excellence, and the move appears to be a success for the children attending the Rabbit School.

continued

Chairperson's Report

2008 AGM

continued

The education programs associated with the Rabbit School has continued to develop and expand, with FoiP's ongoing contributions to wages of the school's director Mr Hun Touch and other special education teachers. Mr Touch is now a national leader in his field, and his senior staff are skilled and respected educators. Building on these skills, and by demonstrating success, additional funding has been able to be secured from a range of NGO's to further expand activities. Education is now provided to children in a range of streams:

An inclusive classroom with 25 students

accommodates students with HIV/AIDS who are too ill to attend regular school, and students with moderate disabilities.

A Special classroom where 39 students are provided a modified curriculum taught by a trained special education teacher. The aim is for these students to move on to the vocational training program once they have reached adolescence.

Integrated classrooms where 16 students previously in Special education classes are integrated into a primary school, where they receive a modified curriculum.

A Vocational training centre was launched recently, with nine students taught to acquire job skills, with the aim to develop independence and vocational skills to enable students income opportunities.

The Rabbit School as an entity continues to contribute to advocacy and planning with other NGOs in the field of disability in Cambodia. This includes, being a member of the Children with Disabilities Committee of the Disability Action Council, and providing training in certain specific special education areas to both government and non-government personnel.

Holistic support for children and young people with disabilities

As has been reported previously, several members of FoiP previously performed significant work on volunteer in-country placements, developing a proposal for the establishment of group homes as an alternative accommodation option for orphaned and abandoned children with disabilities. With support from FoiP, this led to the establishment of a Group Home in the community, with five orphaned children with disabilities from the Nutrition Centre and carers recruited to become 'house-mothers'. The residence subsequently

children became part of their local community. A significant contribution by several FoiP member's fundraising cycle event, funded a van to assist with transport for the Rabbit School and "House of Smiles" children. Long term funding for the House of Smiles was secured by an international NGO, and a second Group Home established for a further five children with funding from another NGO based on the success of this initial model/pilot. The homes have recently established day centre activities, to provide some respite for parents/carers in the local community, and provide life skills activities for their children.

KPF has focus on a range of activities to continue to promote support for children with disabilities in Cambodia, including assisting in the establishment of a Parent's Association for children with disabilities. Mr Hun Touch is also now very active in developing an Activity Centre model, to provide life and vocational skills as well as income generation opportunities for people who have more severe disabilities, and would be less likely to secure open employment.

The future of Friends of interPART funding

Firstly, FoiP is encouraged that The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has demonstrated support for the needs of children with disabilities by signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in October 2007, and by drafting legislation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, hopefully to be passed in 2009.

The development of the Komar Pikar Foundation has significant implications for the future focus of FoiP funding. For the first time, a peak organisation has the capacity to have ongoing input into the strategic planning of The Rabbit School and it's increasingly diverse range of activities. In our own strategic planning in mid 2008, it was identified that this capacity includes the ability to develop effective applications to larger NGO's for ongoing funding for the wages that FoiP have funded over the last 10 years. This was viewed as an opportunity for the employees to have security of wages from a larger NGO, and ultimately having their wages funded through the national education system.

The fundraising of FoiP can then be redirected to supporting the emerging activities extending from the

continued

Chairperson's Report *continued*

Editorial



Rabbit School and KPF, as well as providing "seed funding" to other proposals as our capacity allows. We also hope to have opportunities to provide technical and professional input into programs, and wish to remain active in processes that promote the development of government policy relating to services and support for children with disabilities.

Since 1997, FoIP have provided reliable wages securing committed special education teachers in Cambodia, and this is now expanding to multiple programs relevant to the children's capacity and age. These programs are now funded by multiple agencies.

Significant financial and technical support was provided and resulted in the establishment of the first Community Group Home in Cambodia for orphaned and abandoned children with disabilities. This resulted in securing ongoing funding from an international NGO, with this success leading to the establishment of a second home. It is hoped further homes will be established building on these initial successes.

Additionally, following a highly successful capacity building trip to Tigray, Ethiopia in 2006 by *interPART* and Associates, ongoing liaison has been maintained with a committed national worker, and financial support has been provided for a range of programs for people with disabilities, assisted by a number of generous personal donations and fundraising events. We hope to be able to maintain these links, and to continue to promote support for people with disabilities in this region.

Friends of *interPART* has a strong focus to continue building on these successes in funding the establishment of programs that lead to sustainable and effective support for people with disabilities. It is the goal of the organisation to continue to promote outstanding value from our modest funding.

Securing funding for activities is only possible through the support of individuals like yourself. May I take this opportunity to thank all supporters of Friends of *interPART* in 2008, including several significant financial contributions. I hope the organisation can retain a strong membership base with the new membership scheme, and that securing charitable status will promote tax-deductible contributions.

I would finally like to thank Nicole's tireless contribution to the Friends of *interPART* committee for over 10 years, thank Andrew for the mountain of work he is doing, related to the AUSAID application and welcome Jenny Horne, who has been a very active supporter in recent years, as the new Chairperson. Wishing you a safe and rewarding 2009.

Wayne Allen

For Friends of *interPART*

Editorial

Welcome to our first Newsletter of 2009

In this issue, as well as including the reports and financial statistics arising from our AGM in November '08, we have mainly focussed on the projects that we support in Cambodia. As some of you may already be aware, there have been some significant and extremely exciting developments that have taken place during the last year, as outlined in Wayne's report. This issue serves as a celebration of those achievements. Of course, breaking new ground within developing nations such as Cambodia, is a slow process and a lot more still needs to be done. We do however feel very positive about the future of the children we assist and with your continued kind support and interest we will continue to assist with providing them with greater hope for the future. The Committee of Friends of *interPART*, again convey sincere thanks to all members, for the compassion you continue to show.



Do you have experience in

Web Design and would like to donate some time to our cause? - then we would love to hear from you, as we are currently in the process of refurbishing our site and would very much appreciate some assistance. If you would like to help, please drop us a line at the email address below.

2009 Meetings Schedule - do join us ! ...

on these Sundays at 12.00 (please bring a plate to share)

24th May at Mylor

23rd Aug at Belair

8th Nov (AGM) at Aldinga

please email us at info@interpart.org.au for full venue address. **We look forward to seeing you !**



Treasurer's Report 2008 AGM



The audited Annual Financial Report was completed by 'Not For Profit Accounting Services' in time to be presented at the AGM in November 2008. This is the first time we have had our books audited by a licensed auditor. Our auditor was happy with the state of our books.

Fundraising has been slow this year but we have been helped by the large carry over of funds from last year. The Fundraising Committee have been meeting to plan some activities and we are continuing along the path of applying for registration as a Tax Deductible Charity, with the Australian Tax Office. Once we gain that status, all donations will be tax deductible. It is quite an involved process but we hope to have it completed by about the middle of the year.

Every few months we send money to Cambodia or Ethiopia and it can be quite a challenge to negotiate through the various banking systems but thus far, all our transfers have successfully reached their destinations. We get reports back from the recipients and copies of accounts and proof of expenditure, these can be quite interesting to decipher, sometimes being in local languages and currencies. Guenet in Ethiopia and Chetra in Cambodia, have been diligent in their reports back to Friends of *interPART* and we can be confident that they are using our financial support wisely.

Any requests for new project funding are discussed by the Committee. We have recently decided on an application template that we will send to our partner organisations in Cambodia and Ethiopia so they will provide us with the required background information when they are requesting additional funding. At present we can only support small projects but we are hoping that in the future we will be able to provide greater financial support. Financial support is not the only support Friends of *interPART* can offer. Volunteers from Australia have visited our partners in both Ethiopia and Cambodia and there are plans for more volunteer placements in the future.

Andrew Biven

Friends of *interPART* Treasurer

Summary of Audited Annual Financial Report Year ended 30th June 2008

Income	\$
Donations	
- Cambodia	10,100
- Ethiopia	5,700
- Other	<u>4,705</u>
Total Donations	20,505
Membership	450
Fundraising	
- Gift Cards/Sales	705
- Wine Sales	<u>420</u>
Total Fundraising	1,125
Interest	<u>430</u>
Total Income	<u>22,510</u>
Expenditure	
Cambodia	
- Rabbit School	9,255
- Other	<u>3,500</u>
Total Cambodia	12,755
Ethiopia	3,730
Audit	100
Bank charges	<u>70</u>
Total Expenditure	<u>16,655</u>
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>5,855</u>

Balance Sheet as at 30th June 2008

Assets	
Current Assets	
- NAB Friends of <i>interPART</i> A/c	3,168
- Goldman.Sachs JB Were Cash Trust	<u>10,860</u>
Total Assets	<u>14,028</u>
Members Funds	
Equity	
- Opening Balance	8,021
- Retained Earnings	152
Net Surplus (Deficit)	<u>5,855</u>
Total Members Funds	<u>14,028</u>

KPF Cambodia

UPDATE

Summary of 'Update on Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) / Rabbit School'

The Rabbit School and associated activities have been integrated into the KPF

for numerous reasons e.g. the need for a national organisation for registration and long-term sustainability; having a registered bank account in its own name; the means of promoting and facilitating more services and support for children with moderate to severe disabilities.

The Nutrition Centre, formerly located near the centre of Phnom Penh is now located about 10 kms from the City centre.

The Centre, which is housed in a new building, is now called the The National Centre for Orphans. It is under the authority of the Ministry of Social Affairs, Veterans and Youth Rehabilitation (MoSVY). Children with Disabilities make up about 70% of the current 120 children living at the Centre. An Italian organisation called CIAI (funded by the Pavarotti Foundation provides medical care and pays for some staff... The Centre has been built to accommodate 200 children. The intention of MoSVY is to make it a Centre of Excellence.

The KPF moved to a new office location in October 2008.

A one year lease with the right to extend for a further year has been signed. This is a larger office that is more centrally located within the Phnom Penh CBD, where up to ten persons can be located (staff and volunteers). Used desks have been purchased as well as cane bookshelves and tables.



KPF Director - Kong Vichetra (Chetra)



KPF Staff and Volunteers inside the new office

Strategic Planning and Future Directions

- ✓ **A KPF Strategic Plan and Operational Plan is being developed**
- ✓ **A Rabbit School Strategic Plan has been developed**
- ✓ **A KPF Funding Strategy and Operational Plan is nearing completion**
- ✓ **Special Education Training and Learning materials being developed**
- ✓ **Support for Community Centres in the future**
- ✓ **Capacity Development to be continued**
- ✓ **Further development of strategic partnerships and strategic alliances**
- ✓ **Continuation of networking; internally and externally**
- ✓ **Continuing to play a facilitation role**

KPF Cambodia

UPDATE - continued

Current situation

Since May 2008, the Rabbit School is providing education to children with disabilities in three locations, as described below.

- **Inclusive classroom at Nutrition Centre**

The inclusive classroom was established to accommodate students HIV/AIDS who are too ill to attend regular school. They are educated with students with moderate disabilities in a form of reverse inclusion.

- **Special classroom at Nutrition Centre**

In the special classroom, students who need a modified functional curriculum are taught by a trained special education teacher. Students move on to the vocational training program once they have reached adolescence.

- **Integrated classrooms at Toul Kork Primary School**

Special education students are integrated in the primary school, where they receive an education modified to their needs. The program was recently launched officially by the Ministry of Education, demonstrating its commitment to providing educational services for children with disabilities.

- **Vocational training centre**

The vocational training program was launched in response to the needs of older students. These young adults are being taught to acquire job skills, such as running a café, cleaning people's homes, and making handicrafts. The aim is to enable the students to be as independent as possible, by having a trade or job skills that would enable them to earn an income.

development programs and projects is strongly promoted.

The Rabbit School also has links with other NGOs in the field of disability in Cambodia. It is a member of the Children with Disabilities Committee of the Disability Action Council, a national semi-autonomous advocacy and advisory board for disability-related issues, where information and experiences are shared with about 40 organisations involved in providing educational services for children with disabilities. In addition, Rabbit School staff provide training in certain specific special education areas to both government and non-government personnel.

External support

Technical support is provided to the Rabbit School through a network of experts who are living in Cambodia, or are visiting on a regular basis. All support is provided free of charge, and is either delivered through established organisations or the individual experts.

Volunteering

In addition to these supports, under certain conditions, the Rabbit School invites volunteers to work in the school. Volunteers are sought for certain specific tasks. The aim is that the school should benefit from the volunteer working, as should the volunteer benefit from working in the school.

Helen Pitt

24th November 2008

Links with Government and other organisations

The Royal Government of the Kingdom of Cambodia has shown support for responding to the needs of children with disabilities by signing the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in October 2007, and drafting legislation on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which may be passed late 2008 or in 2009. The mainstreaming of disability into all



Integrated Education Program *a first for Cambodia*

Opening of Integrated Education for children with mild to moderate physical and intellectual disabilities.

At Toul Kork Primary School

1st October 2008, Phnom Penh, Cambodia

Under an agreement between the Komar Pikar Foundation (KPF) and the Phnom Penh Municipality Education Office, one classroom has been provided to set up an integrated class for children with mild to moderate physical and intellectual disabilities within the Toul Kork mainstream Primary School. Sixteen children from the Government Orphanage (Nutrition Center) and the community will be attending. To mark its opening, an event was hosted on 1st October 2008 during the government school opening day. Around 300 were invited to the event, comprising of; students, teachers, parents, local authority officials, children with disabilities and representatives from disability NGOs.



building, gardens and playground. This model proves very helpful in promoting educational opportunities for children with disabilities, especially those with mild to moderate disabilities as they are able to learn within a mainstream environment and are able to play with other non-disabled students. This will help to reduce prejudice and discrimination toward children with disabilities and to promote an inclusive society for all.

The Komar Pikar Foundation/Rabbit School are proud of this initiative and are committed to work with other relevant organisations and government Ministries to further develop the well-being and rights for children, especially those with multiple and severe disabilities. Our goal is to provide and facilitate services and support for children and youth with moderate to severe disabilities that will provide opportunities for enhancing their quality of life.

The entrance to the integrated classroom at Toul Kork Primary School

The event went well and strong support was shown by the participants. The honorable delegation, including the Deputy Director of the Education office, was impressed with the development of the Komar Pikar Foundation and the role it is taking in promoting integrated education for children with disabilities. This is seen as a good initiative and it should serve as a leading model for the future. The honorable delegation, together with the school Principal, teachers, guests and local authority, visited the classroom which is equipped with teaching and learning aids based on a child-friendly environment.

Funding from Grapes for Humanity, USA through the Lavalla School and YODIFEE and Dr. Regan Greenwood through the Cambodia Trust, made it possible to renovate five classrooms within a school

Our grateful thanks go to the NGOs, donors and individuals who provide kind support and contributions to the Komar Pikar Foundation/Rabbit School. This is deeply appreciated.

Sincere thanks!

Prepared by Kong Vichetra
KPF Director



Photo Gallery

The following selection of pictures of the new KPF programs and facilities, were taken during a recent visit by Ray Walker.



The new 'National Centre for Orphans' and teaching in progress in the Inclusive Classroom



Intensive learning at the Integrated Classroom at Toul Kork Primary School



Trainees learn to make jewelry and to screen print T-Shirts at the Rabbit Cafe



During the visit, a fourth laptop computer was donated to the Komar Pikar Foundation for use in their office. All computers have been kindly provided by IT Share in Bridgewater, from equipment originally donated by Santos Limited.

Sincere thanks are extended to all concerned.

Fundraising

Thanks Maccy Group!!

On the First Wednesday of every month, a group of friends from Macclesfield get together for conversation, food and a sip of the fruits from the vine.

The Maccy Group, as they are otherwise known, include many supporters of Friends of interPART and thanks to Denise Maddigan and Peter Dinmore the December 'get together' was organised as a fundraising event for the Friends of interPART projects.

Peter and Denise provided their home in Macclesfield as a venue, plus they provided the BBQ and salads for the evening meal. This generosity coupled with that of all those who attended, raised a total of \$380 in donations. A stall of goods mainly from Cambodia, Vietnam and Ethiopia raised \$85 to add to the overall total of \$465. This was an amazing result from a very generous bunch of people, plus a very pleasant and enjoyable evening was had by all.

Thank you 'Maccy Group' and in particular thank you to Denise and Peter for organising the evening, it was much appreciated.

Friends of *interPART* Gift Cards.

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



\$20
Gift Card



\$50 & \$200+
Gift Card



\$10 & \$200
Gift Card



\$100
Gift Card

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

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

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