

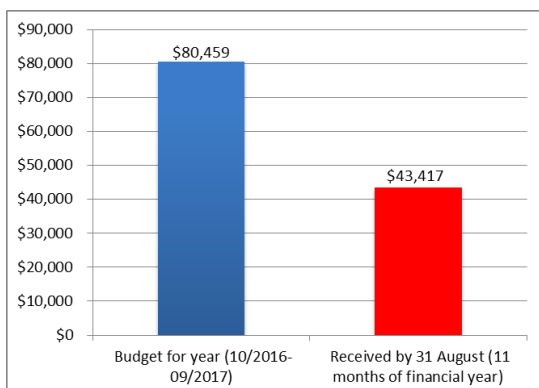
Hi Everyone,

### FUNDRAISING

Thank you very much to those who answered the call for donations for our health checks. The Playgroup has been to Sonja Kill Hospital for their health checks and all students have attended the Dental Clinic. Around November, Classes 1-6 will attend Sonja Kill, completing the health checks for the calendar year.



Below is a graph showing our budget for the 2016/2017 school year and the actual donations that we received. As you can see we achieve great things at Kep Gardens with very little money. We all are aware that things change over time. We at Kep Gardens have accepted the challenge and with the help of our Australian partner GDG and others both locally and internationally, we are working towards achieving a more balanced budget in the coming year. Just imagine what we could do if we achieved our Budget figures!!



### VOLUNTEERS

July and August saw volunteers from Belgium, The Netherlands and Israel.



Rosa



Ruth



Elize



Mirjam



Orel

As well as participating in the Reading and Conversation Programme, Rosa, Ruth and Orel took classes for various topics while Mirjam and Elize took each class for craft. A great bunch of volunteers who gave a lot of time and effort to the students and who left us with good memories of their time with us. Thank you very much, lovely to meet you.



### WORLD CHALLENGE - BLUE SCHOOL

The Blue School from Somerset in the UK camped in July. The group made bird feeders and hung them in trees around the property. Can't wait to see the different sort of birds they attract. Corbin from Albury High School in Australia designed the bird feeders. We finally made them Corbin and have them up in the trees!! The Blue School also laid some concrete around the greenhouse, extended the path from the mess hut to the toilet area, did repairs to

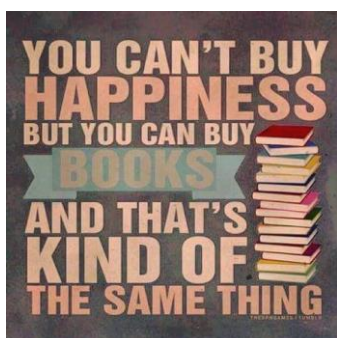


the playground and did some digging with the permaculture team, Emma and Andres. A great group of students and leaders. Thank you all for your help.



### **LIBRARY RENOVATIONS**

Thanks to the donation from Northbridge School, we completed the renovations to the library. With the extra room and tables outside to catch the cooling breeze, many students are sitting outside, not only reading but playing games like Uno, chess, checkers etc. Kimhean, our Librarian, will be introducing more activities into the library this coming school year which will hopefully encourage more students to venture in and make use of the facilities. Our policy is working as every morning from 7.40 am onwards, Playgroup students start arriving and immediately choose a library book and sit on the mats waiting for class to start.



***Check out  
Kep Gardens'  
facebook  
page for lots  
of little extras  
that happen  
throughout  
the year.***



Kimhean finished Module 2 of her Kindergarten training recently. She is doing very well in her studies, coming back and introducing new ideas into the Playgroup. She still has Module 3 to complete before she is fully qualified. Kimhean will also be doing other training courses during next year such as child development 0-3 and 3-6, parent presentations, can't remember the others but by the time she has finished she will be our resident expert on early childhood. Most importantly, Kimhean is enjoying her studies and loves the young children she is working with. Well done, Kimhean, we are proud of you.



### **WORLD CHALLENGE - SHENFIELD HIGH SCHOOL**

When Shenfield High School from England left Kep Gardens they went to Sihanoukville and then home. What an eventful 2 weeks they had had. They were very close to being airlifted out from their jungle trek due to the bad weather and rising river water. Then at Kep Gardens they were flooded out in their tents and slept wherever there was a dry spot. But for all the lack of sleep they worked hard helping to break rocks to lay in foundations, bricked up walls in the new agriculture shed, repaired shade cloth damaged in the recent storms, filled upright metal posts with cement as well as participating in our one-on-one Reading and Conversation Programme with the students. Compared to other groups, they were here for a shorter time but packed a lot of activities into a couple of days. Thanks guys very much for all your help. We hope you left Cambodia with fond memories of Kep Gardens.



Baraing, our Engineering student, has 1 year to go. He is looking for work at the moment as their last year is mainly work experience. He has battled through many hardships but has succeeded in the end. Well done!!





## **END-OF-YEAR SCHOOL CONCERT**

The school concert on the last day of the school year was a great success. The students loved performing on the stage, their parents loved watching them as did grandparents and neighbours. A fun family and community time together. Many thank yous. Thank you to the Leadership Through English youth programme at Kep Gardens for organising the programme, the stage and a food stall. Thank you to Martin Fisher for setting up the projector for us to show the "Happy" video. Thank you to Sarak for acting as Master of Cermonies on the night, you did a great job. Thank you to Sothea for organizing the students from the Phnom Penh music school who performed before the concert started to entertain the crowd. One of the singers involved the Playgroup and another has a beautiful voice - he sings for the King and represents Cambodia in any singing competitions abroad. We were privileged to have them attend. Thank you to Kimhean for teaching the various classes the Khmer dances and for organizing the craft display before the show. Thank you to Mr Huch, Mr Raim, Rim and Mau for setting up Friday afternoon and dismantling Saturday morning as well as cleaning up the rubbish. Thank you to the family who provided us with chairs for the audience. Finally, thank you to the students for your enthusiasm in making the concert a success.



**OUR 3 NURSING STUDENTS WILL COMPLETE THEIR 4 YEAR NURSING DEGREE AT THE END OF SEPTEMBER. THIS HAS BEEN A FIVE YEAR PROJECT. CAN'T BELIEVE WHERE THE YEARS HAVE GONE!! IN JANUARY THEY SIT FOR THE NATIONAL REGISTRATION EXAMS BUT MEANWHILE ARE STARTING TO LOOK FOR WORK. THANK YOU VERY MUCH TO ALL THOSE WHO SUPPORTED THEM THROUGH THESE 5 YEARS.**

**THEY HAVE DONE YOU PROUD.**



## **EYE CLINIC**

This year we took 20 elderly members of the community to the Eye Clinic in Kampot. Two people had laser surgery on their cataracts and 8 people needed glasses which your donations to our health fund paid for. Thank you for your help.



## **AGRICULTURE PROGRAMME**

We have been building a large shed for the Agriculture Programme which will house an area for propagating seedlings, a nursery for selling seedlings and larger plants, a tea room and a kitchen. Thank you to Mirjam, Elize and their friends for fundraising and donating the money to help build the shed. Meanwhile, Emma and Andres continue building raised beds and planting trees until the shed is finished.



The English school section of Kep Gardens is on holiday at the moment. We begin again on 2<sup>nd</sup> October with 9 classes and still we have a huge waiting list. The two morning classes though are small as they are the children who change every month from morning to afternoon school.

The Trade section is busy building the area for the agriculture programme, completing some work on a new room for a client and starting to build a house for a neighbor. Lot's to do and lots of learning.

## **CURRICULUM ADDITIONS**

In the new school year we are planning to add environmental studies into our curriculum on a regular basis in conjunction with the Kep Government's Global Green Programme. Each class will have their own garden to work on but also a garden club learning about the environment and what they can do to make their own homes and villages environmentally friendly.

In addition, we are going to ask a local person to open a shop at Kep Gardens but the person must agree to sell mainly healthy food and use other ways to serve the drinks and food rather than plastic containers and plastic bags. In other words, a healthy canteen with the aim of showing the students and their families that it is possible to live without plastic. It will also cut down on the plastic rubbish that is brought into Kep Gardens every day that we have to dispose of.

Also thinking hard about an extra programme for some of our special ed children. We want to take them out of the classroom to do other activities, not every day, only a couple of days a week but this of course depends on volunteers as we don't want to deprive the other students of their one-on-one time with the volunteers. Also need to think of many activities for them as we are looking at 44 weeks. Still a work in progress this one. We would be grateful for any ideas.

An interesting year is coming up for the English school. Of course, we can't do all these things without your help. Any donations would be gratefully accepted.

Cheers,  
Janine and Andrew

Don't forget, tax deductible donations  
can be paid through GDG.



*Proud to partner with Global Development Group  
(ABN 57 102 400 993) for project J674N.*