



# **Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd**

**ABN 84 008 643 258**

## **Annual Reports 2013 - 2014**



ACFID  
MEMBER

**Australian Mercy (Australian Relief and Mercy Services Ltd)** is a member of the Australian Council for International Development and is a signatory to the **ACFID Code of Conduct**.

The Code is a voluntary, self-regulatory sector code of good practice that aims to improve international development outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency and accountability of the signatory organisations.

The Board of Australian Mercy (Australian Mercy) is committed to fully adhere to this Code. The Code sets out standards in the three areas of accountability:

*Program Principles* – including Obligations for effectiveness in aid and development activities, human rights and working with partner agencies.

*Public Engagement* – including Obligations to be ethical and transparent in marketing, fundraising and reporting.

*Organisation* – including Obligations for governance, management, financial controls, treatment of staff and volunteers, complaints handling processes and compliance with legal requirements.

A Code of Conduct Committee monitors adherence to the Code and investigates complaints, which may be brought in by any member of the public. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)



Australian Mercy is a member of **Missions Interlink**, an Australian network for global mission: [www.missionsinterlink.org.au](http://www.missionsinterlink.org.au)



Australian Mercy is affiliated with **Youth With A Mission Australia (YWAM)** and serves as one of its Mercy Ministry arms. Although Australian Mercy is a separately constituted body, some members of its Board also serve as members of Youth With A Mission Australia.

**MAKE  
POVERTY  
HISTORY**

The Board of Australian Mercy has endorsed the **Make Poverty History Campaign** which is run by a large group of concerned aid agencies under the auspices of the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID). The Make Poverty History Campaign seeks to encourage the Australian Federal Government to increase its aid budget and to embrace policies that will help to reduce world poverty by half by 2015. Australia has committed itself to achieving what have been termed the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

## Millennium Development Goals



- 1) Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people whose income is less than 1 a day.
  - Halve, between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of people who suffer from hunger.
- 2) Achieve universal primary education
  - Ensure that, by 2015, children everywhere, boys and girls alike, will be able to complete a full course of primary schooling.
- 3) Promote gender equality and empower women
  - Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005 and in all levels of education no later than 2015.
- 4) Reduce child mortality
  - Reduce by two-thirds, between 1990 and 2015, the under-five mortality rate.
- 5) Improve maternal health
  - Reduce by three quarters, between 1990 and 2015, the maternal mortality ratio.
- 6) Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases
  - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS.
  - Have halted by 2015 and begun to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases.
- 7) Ensure environmental sustainability
  - Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and program and reverse the loss of environmental resources.
  - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water.
  - Halve, by 2015, the proportion of people without access to adequate sanitation.
  - Halve achieved, by 2020, a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers.
- 8) Develop a global partnership for development
  - Develop further an open, rule-based, predictable, non-discriminatory trading and financial system.
  - Address the Least Developed Countries' special needs.
  - Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing states.
  - Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt. In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth.
  - Provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries.
  - Make available the benefits of new technologies – especially information and communication technologies.



## Table of Contents

<b>1) Company Directory:</b>	<b>page 5</b>
<b>2) Board of Directors:</b>	<b>page 6</b>
<b>3) Advisory Board</b>	<b>page 7</b>
<b>4) Ministries and Projects</b>	<b>page 8</b>
<b>5) About Australian Mercy</b>	<b>page 9</b>
<b>6) Capstone and Mission Statement</b>	<b>page 10</b>
<b>7) Current Board Statements</b>	<b>page 11</b>
<b>8) Reports</b>	<b>page 19</b>
<b>9) National Director's Report</b>	<b>page 20</b>
<b>10) National Ministry Report</b>	<b>page 22</b>
<b>11) International Ministry Reports</b>	<b>page 31</b>
<b>12) Audit of Accounts</b>	<b>page 56</b>

## Company Directory

- 1) **National Office (Registered Offices)** Director: Rodney Richards  
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Port Kembla NSW 2505  
Ph: (02) 4274 1090 F: (02) 4274 9909  
[info@australianmercy.org](mailto:info@australianmercy.org)
- 2) **Office of the National Director** National Director: David Skeat  
PO Box 878  
Burnie TAS 7320  
Ph: (03) 6431 1218
- 3) **Adelaide Office** Manager: Marion Winn  
Cambodian Harvest  
PO Box 658  
Morphettville SA 5162
- 4) **Australian Capital Territory Office** Director: Dianne Clark  
76 Federal Highway  
Watson ACT 2602  
Ph: (02) 6241 5500 F: (02) 6241 6098
- 5) **Darwin Office** Director: Jen Keatch  
PO Box 290  
Darwin NT 0801  
Ph/F: (08) 8981 2424  
[jen@australianmercy.org](mailto:jen@australianmercy.org)
- 6) **Perth Office** Contacts: Peter Brownhill / Kathy Kennedy  
PO Box 8501  
Perth Business Center  
Perth WA 6849  
Ph: (08) 9328 5321 F: (08) 9328 1324  
[dir\\_office@ywamperth.org.au](mailto:dir_office@ywamperth.org.au)
- 7) **Rahab** Manager: Paulette Cairns  
PO Box 1014  
Firle, SA 5070  
[rahab@ywamsa.org.au](mailto:rahab@ywamsa.org.au)
- 8) **RescueNet** National Co-ordinator: Mark Cockburn  
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Mitchell ACT 2911  
[markc@rescuenet.org.au](mailto:markc@rescuenet.org.au)  
[www.rescuenet.org.au](http://www.rescuenet.org.au)
- 9) **Shoalhaven Office** Manager: Helen Esdaile  
9 Nundah Close  
Bomaderry NSW 2541  
Ph: (02) 432 034 148  
[helene@australianmercy.org](mailto:helene@australianmercy.org)
- 10) **Townsville Office** Manager: Ken Mulligan  
PO Box 6221  
Townsville QLD 4810  
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[kenm@reeftooutback.com](mailto:kenm@reeftooutback.com)

## The Board of Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd



**David Skeat (National Director and Chairman)**

*Dip T Early Childhood Education (Hartley CAE, Adelaide South Australia 1980)  
Cert IV Emergency Medical Technician (First Response, Cairns, Queensland, 2007)*

National Director Mercy Ministries Youth With A Mission (YWAM) Australia. David has a background in teaching with specialisation in Early Childhood. He has also worked in the area of Appropriate Technologies and is a qualified Emergency Medical Technician.

David is Chairman of the Board of YWAM Medical Ships Australia. He is also a member of the National Executive of YWAM Australia. He has participated at Board level for several organizations including Mercy Ships Australia, Marine Reach Australia, Co-Aid, Mercy Link Inc., World Relief Australia, and Travel With A Cause. He was formerly a Director of YWAM Albury.

David is now based in Burnie, Tasmania, where he also volunteers with the Tasmanian SES.



**Kris Thomson (Director)**

Kris is formerly the Director of YWAM South Australia and has served in development in a cross cultural context. Kris owns an Internet Hosting Company (KJ Hosting) and lives in Newcastle.



**Jen Keatch (Director)**

*Cert IV Education of Intellectual Handicapped (Burwood State College, Victoria)*

Jen has a background working with children with disabilities and also worked for the Anglican Church as a Community Worker specializing in Disadvantaged Families. As well as leading Australian Mercy Darwin Jen is studying Community Development.



**Chris Harrison J.P. (Director)**

*Chris was formerly Chairman of the Evangelical Alliance in Darwin. He serves as a senior fire fighter with local fire service. Chris serves as a Justice of the Peace in South Australia. He is married to Gina has 2 children and lives in the Adelaide Hills.*



**Nik Matthews (Director)**

*Bachelor of Arts Honors Degree, Business with Economics (University of Central Lancashire), 1995*

Nik has a background in Relief and Development. He has previously worked for YWAM Mercy Ministries International based in Bangkok and also spent eight years working for Mercy Ships International, based in Europe. Nik and his family hail from England and currently reside in Melbourne.



**Dianne Clark (Director)**

Dianne is the Operations Director of YWAM Canberra. She has a strong interest in Staff Development and in reaching out to the poor and needy.



**Bruce Skinner (Director)**

*Associate Diploma Structural Engineering (Wollongong TAFE 1991), Cert IV Work Place Training & Assessment (Institute of the Nations 2006)*

Bruce is the Co-Director of YWAM Wollongong. Having been a Structural Engineer for 16 years in heavy industry, Bruce draws on his experiences in the marketplace, combined with more than 20 years in church leadership. Bruce lives and works in Wollongong, NSW.



**Matthew Colwell (Director)**

*Bachelor of Arts (Admin) (University of Canberra 1975)*

Matt has a background in Administration, Policy Development and Analysis. He has worked for the Australian Government and worked with YWAM Mercy Ministries in Thailand where he oversaw development projects based in South East Asia (1997-1999).

He also has experience in accounting and finance. Matt lives in Tasmania.



**Kevin Clark (Director)**

Kevin originally hails from Perth and was formerly in the RAAF. He now has a background in accounting and a keen interest in alternative technologies. He currently works as the accounts manager for Youth With A Mission Canberra and also manages Australian Mercy's accounting at that location. He is married to Dianne, and together they have 5 children and 6 grandchildren.



**Rodney Richards (Director)**

*NZ Certificate in Civil Engineering (NZ Standards Authority, 1988)*

Rodney manages the National Office of Australian Mercy and is also on staff with YWAM Wollongong. He has a background in IT and Civil Engineering and lives in Port Kembla with his wife and children. Working with Australian Mercy and the various international projects connects well with Rodney's heart for mercy and justice issues in the world.

# Australian Mercy Advisory Board

## **Steve Aherne**



National Director, YWAM Australia. Steve has participated at Board level for Mercy Ships Australia. Steve serves on a number of boards and is based in Melbourne.

## **Peter Brownhill**



State Director for YWAM Western Australia and the Northern Territory. Foundation member of the work of the Institute for the Nations in Western Australia. Peter lives and works in Perth.

## **Tom Hallas**



Asia/Pacific Field Director for YWAM International. Member of YWAM's International Leadership Team. Based in Canberra.

## **Ken Mulligan**



Director of YWAM Townsville. Ken has a farming background. Established the national ministry of Mercy Ships Australia. He currently serves as the Managing Director of YWAM Medical Ships.

## **Kathy Kennedy**



Kathy is a Registered Nurse with extensive experience in the Developing World. She is actively involved in medical projects worldwide and has a passion for Primary Health Care. Kathy has founded two Health Care Training programs in Perth including the Introduction to Primary Health Care (IHPC) and the Birth Attendant School. Both of these courses are accredited by YWAM's training arm, the University of the Nations. Kathy lives in Perth.

### ***Communicating with the Australian Mercy Board***

*The Board of Australian Mercy values your feedback, if you have concerns you wish to raise with the Board about the behaviour of Australian Mercy; or have comments of appreciation you would like to make to the Board, then please write to:*

***The Secretary  
Australian Mercy  
PO Box 132  
Port Kembla NSW 2505***

## Ministries and Projects

Ark International – (Perth)  
Australian Mercy Fund - (National Office)  
ARMS ACTA Disaster Trust – (National Office)  
Birth Attendant School - (Perth)  
Burmese IDP Project - (National Office)  
Buzz Off Malaria Campaign - (National Office)  
Cambodian Harvest (formerly Reverse the Curse) - (Adelaide)  
Child Sponsorships - (Darwin)  
Chongqing Child Care Project - (Perth)  
Community Development School - (Perth)  
East Timor / Bali Projects - (Darwin)  
Donna McDermid Memorial Fund - (National Office)  
Emergency Relief Projects - (National Office)  
Help Save the Kids - Mae Sot (National Office)  
Home of the Open Heart - (National Office)  
Karen Refugee Projects - (National Office)  
Kids Ark - (Darwin)  
Mae Sot Blind School – (National Office)  
Main Course Cafe - (Shoalhaven / Canberra)  
Medical Boomerang Teams - (Perth)  
Perth Community Development Project - (Perth)  
Primary Health Care School - (Perth)  
Rahab Australia – (Rahab Office)  
Redefined Ministries - Congo (National Office)  
RescueNet - (Canberra Office)  
Rural Health Workforce Development (YWAM Ships) – (Townsville Office)  
Thailand Primary Health Care Projects - (National Office)



## Associated Ministries and Organizations

ACFID (Australia)  
ARDF (Australia)  
Blue Sky Foundation (Singapore)  
Destiny International (Thailand)  
Free Burma Rangers (Chiang Mai, Thailand)  
Help Save the Kids (Mae Sot, Thailand)  
Home of the Open Heart (Chiang Rai, Thailand)  
Karen Department of Health and Welfare (Mae Sot, Thailand)  
Kid's Ark (Hera, East Timor)  
Micah Network (Australia)  
Myanmar Council of Churches Malaria Project (Yangon, Myanmar)  
Myanmar Vision Ministries (Yangon, Myanmar)  
Partners Relief & Development (Chiang Mai, Thailand)  
Project LIFE (Bangkok, Thailand)  
Redefined Ministries (Congo)  
Vanitashray (Pune, India)  
YWAM Medical Ships (Australia - PNG)  
Youth with a Mission (Australia)  
Youth with a Mission (Papua)



## Overseas Offices

East Timor - PO Box 151 Dili, East Timor  
Cambodia - PO Box 486 Phnom Penn, Cambodia  
People's Republic of China - Chongqing (Contact with the China Office is made through our Perth office)  
Myanmar - Yangon Buzz Off Office - (Contact Australian Mercy National Office)  
Thailand - PO Box 187 Mae Sot, Tak, 63110 - Thailand

**Australian Mercy's National Website: [www.australianmercy.org](http://www.australianmercy.org)**



## **About Australian Mercy**

Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd (Australian Mercy) is a non-governmental / not for profit organization that has been set up with the express purpose of providing direct relief to persons in any country who are suffering distress, misfortune, destitution, helplessness and necessitous circumstances. It is a not for profit charitable company, limited by guarantee. It was incorporated in the ACT and has its registered office in Port Kembla NSW. Australian Mercy also has offices in Adelaide, Burnie TAS, Canberra, Darwin, Perth and Townsville.

Australian Mercy is dedicated to the relief of people suffering hardship and distress both within Australia and overseas and does so through a National and an International Fund that have been set up in accordance with the provisions of the Income Assessment Act 1997. Donations to the work of Australian Mercy within Australia are tax deductible.

As well as being a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI), Australian Mercy operates the ARMS Overseas Aid Fund (item 9.1.1) which is a public fund established by Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd that is used solely for the relief of people in countries that have been declared by the Minister for Foreign Affairs to be Developing Countries. Donations of 2.00 or more that are made to this fund are tax deductible to Australian donors.

Australian Mercy is funded through public donations, and through the seeking of grants and corporate donations from the business sector, churches, and other funding bodies. All funds donated to Australian Mercy are receipted into its bank accounts and are subject to a yearly independent audit that meets the standards of the Australian Council For International Development (ACFID).

Australian Mercy is governed by an elected board which is elected from its membership. Elections happen once every calendar year.

Australian Mercy uses the services of volunteers who donate their time to Australian Mercy to help it achieve its goals. All Australian Mercy staff give their services and expertise without charge. They maintain their personal support from people who believe in the value of their ministry. All Australian Mercy workers are trained to uphold the dignity of those to whom they have been sent to serve.

Australian Mercy has many expressions of its ministry some of which include training, emergency relief, provision of medical relief, project grants, child sponsorships, community development, ministry to the homeless, family counselling and the provision of primary health care.

Australian Mercy relies on the generosity of the church, the corporate sector, small business, and the public in general for the finances necessary with which to run its ministry.

Australian Mercy does not give preference on the basis of nationality, gender, ethnicity, creed, or religion. Australian Mercy is willing to cooperate with all governments and other non-government organizations for the common good of those in need.

Australian Mercy believes firmly in the values of integrity and accountability in all its dealings.

More information about Australian Mercy can be found on its website [www.australianmercy.org](http://www.australianmercy.org)

## **Capstone Statement**

Australian Mercy - people who care helping people in need.

## **Mission Statement**

As a Christian organization that sees Christ as the ultimate expression of God's mercy, Australian Mercy outlines its commitment to mercy ministries in the following statements;

- 1.To example the love and compassion of God to a needy world.
- 2.To restore wholeness and hope to broken lives.
- 3.To empower and support families in crisis.
- 4.To equip people through training and skills development.
- 5.To serve communities by sharing resources.
- 6.To mobilize people to help the poor and the needy
7. To work in development in a sustainable way.



# Current Board Statements





## Statement on intellectual property and brandings

In the past, Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd has traded under the branding of *ARMS*; in 2011 the Board decided to move to the new branding *Australian Mercy*.

Our office in Cambodia has been known as *Reverse the Curse of Landmines* but now uses the branding *Cambodian Harvest*.

Our office in Timor Leste uses the branding *Kids Ark*.

Our office in Yangon trades under the name of *Buzz Off*.

Our campaign against gender injustice and sexual abuse in the developing world is known as the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* in honour of our late friend and supporter Donna McDermid.

Our international initiative against malaria and other mosquito borne diseases is known as *Buzz Off*.

**Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd operates under the following Trademarks;**

*Australian Relief and Mercy Services*

*Australian Mercy*

*Buzz Off*

*RescueNet*

These trademarks are held in trust by a third party, and we use them under licence from that party.



**We also own and operate the following websites;**

[www.arms.org.au](http://www.arms.org.au)

[www.australianmercy.org](http://www.australianmercy.org)

[www.buzzoff.org](http://www.buzzoff.org)

[www.donnamcdermid.org](http://www.donnamcdermid.org)

[www.rescuenet.org.au](http://www.rescuenet.org.au)





## Statement on Volunteers

Australian Mercy is a volunteer organization that is made up of 100% volunteers who work in a variety of ways and provide services to the organization that benefit the poor and the needy in the many communities in which it works.

From the membership of our Board to our International and Australian based projects to our office staff we are all volunteers. Some volunteer staff are with us for a short time and other have worked for us for many years donating thousands of hours towards our causes.

The Board wants to publicly state it recognizes the huge contribution to our work that is achieved through our very talented and hardworking volunteer work force. The Board thanks our volunteers and recognizes that through the direct efforts of our supporters and volunteer staff Australian Mercy has developed into an effective aid and development organization.

The ACFID Code of Conduct in its desire for Recognition and Disclosure of Volunteer Services is moving towards requiring that a financial value be placed in all signatory Audit documents that reflect the monetary value of the donation of time by volunteers. The Australian Mercy Board is willingly complying with this requirement, noting that the value of its volunteer staff is really beyond measure.

In order for Recognition and Disclosure of Volunteer Services to be accurately put in place so that the company auditors can include it as a line item in the audit requires some new structure to put in place by the Board.

This monetary value of volunteer staff is derived by using a scale that has been developed and approved by AUSAID. This scale provides an hourly rate for several volunteer job designations. The number of hours worked are multiplied by a pre-set hourly rate. Details of this scale can be found here.

[http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde\\_notes.pdf](http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde_notes.pdf)

In its compliance with these new regulations Australian Mercy is now working with its Auditors and ACFID to include a dollar value figure in its audit documents that will reflect the value of time donated to our organization by our very talented volunteer force. Details of the formula used to arrive at this figure can be found in the financial section of these reports. The Board estimates that full and accurate reporting measures for volunteer hours should be in place by 2014 - 2015.





## Statement on Australian Mercy Project Methodology

Projects do not just happen! They are carefully planned responses to identified needs that have been adequately researched and are presented to the Australian Mercy Board for consideration and approval. The processes in place for Australian-based and overseas projects are very similar.

### Registering a project

Once a need is identified and some basic research is done an Expression Of Interest (EOI) is lodged with the Board briefly outlining the identified need and an outline of a proposed response to that need. The Board looks at the EOI and assesses it against three basic criteria:

- 1. Is the underlying need(s) for the project valid and the proposed response(s) to that need the best approach to take in order to address that need?*
- 2. Does Australian Mercy have the capacity to mount a sustainable response to the identified need(s) and run the project?*
- 3. Does the project theme fit well into the portfolio of projects that are currently being run by Australian Mercy?*

If the Board accepts the EOI then a Project Proposal is lodged with the Board.

### Project Proposal

Before a proposal is accepted a Project Management Group must be in place. The PMG are a group of people who are acceptable to the Board to manage the project. The Project Management Group report to the Board via the National Office.

Each Project Proposal identifies the need(s) and the developmental objectives that are sought to be addressed by the project. It outlines how the project will operate, looks at risk management issues and sets a three year budget. Sometimes some negotiation needs to happen before the Board will approve a project proposal, but once it is approved the project is handed on to the National Office who works alongside the Project Management Group.

The Board views a Project Proposal as a living document in that circumstances may change the project. Such changes need to be identified and logged as the project moves forward. Changes to the project may affect the budget and delivery of the project on the ground.

### Project Monitoring

The Australian Mercy Board monitors projects in two ways. Firstly each project has to lodge a six-monthly report on the progress of the project. This report looks at changes to the circumstances of the project and any adjustments to its objectives, budget, and/or risk assessment that are a consequence of those circumstances.

The six-monthly report also looks at how the project is addressing the identified needs and how it is achieving its stated goals and objectives.

The Australian Mercy Board is fully aware that a project may look different at the end of the three-year project

proposal cycle than it did on paper when it was first approved.

Projects are further monitored through annual visits. Each project is visited in the field by a person authorised by the Board to go and see firsthand what is happening at the project level.

Project leaders and staff meet with the project monitor. Staff can air grievances or concerns. Questions are asked based on the six-monthly reports and current project proposal. The project financials are available for the project monitor to review if necessary. The project monitor also seeks information from the beneficiaries of the project and the local community as to the progress of the project and the impacts it is having at the local level.

Upon return, the project monitor reports any concerns or recommendations to the Board.

### **Project Evaluation**

The majority of Australian Mercy projects are relatively small and many of our project managers are not community development specialists. The evaluation of projects is one area in which the Australian Mercy Board is taking deliberate steps to increase the capacity of project organisations.

Impact studies and mid-term or on-going evaluations are conducted as internal evaluations by implementing agencies in the context of the annual visits.

End-of-project evaluations, addressing the broadest policy issues, are required as part of the input into the consideration of a second or continuing project proposal.

### **Conclusion**

The Australian Mercy Board meets face-to-face four times each year and works continuously online to consider and refine project proposals, to review monitoring and evaluation reports, and to plan its work with the project organisations for greater impact, greater capacity building and better sustainability in the projects.

The Australian Mercy Board believes that the processes it has put in place enable it to reassure donors that their funds are being used wisely and appropriately and provides confidence at Board level that Australian Mercy's policies and values are being followed at project level.





## Statement on international projects and tax deductibility

Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd (Australian Mercy) has been set up to care for the poor and the needy both within Australia and overseas. We are a company limited by guarantee, a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI) and an endorsed tax concession charity (TCC).

All of our Australian based projects attract tax deductible status with the Australian Tax Office. However, not all of our international projects are tax deductible.

During some of the time that these reports cover all our tax deductible international projects were done in partnership with World Relief Australia and only some of our projects were registered as Tax Deductible with them. With the coming of our own 9.1.1 fund we were able to extend tax deductibility to more of our projects.

There are many reasons why donations to a project may not be tax deductible however the lack of tax deductibility should not reflect badly upon the project itself. All of our projects whether they attract tax deductibility or not are developmentally sound and appropriate to the areas in which they are located.

The red and blue TD symbol, as seen on this page, at the end of the report of an international project indicates it is an Australian Mercy project that attracted tax deductibility for the year 2012 - 2013.





## **Statement on Emergency Appeals**

From time to time Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd (Australian Mercy) will launch emergency appeals so that it can respond to disasters and other emergency situations.

Australian Mercy takes all donations to such appeals very seriously and handles the funds given with the same care as it does for all other support that is given to its projects.

All donations made to an emergency appeal have a 5% administration charge levied against them. This percentage has been capped by the Australian Mercy Board and the funds help us to cover the administration costs involved in running the appeal. 95% of all donations will be used to alleviate the need related to the emergency appeal.

Appeal funds are usually used to provide medicines, clothes, plastic sheeting, food, clean water and other direct needs that people caught up in disaster may have. A small percentage of the funds may be used to pay for transport costs of getting teams or resources to the disaster or refugee sites.

All emergency appeals usually have a cut-off date. Once an appeal has reached its cut-off date, Australian Mercy will do one of two things with the unspent funds or excess funds that come in.

1. The funds can be transferred to ongoing second phase projects related to the emergency, such as reconstruction work etc. For example; excess funds from our Boxing Day Tsunami Appeal in 2004 / 2005 were used to maintain a hospital in Aceh that was serving tsunami refugee populations.
2. The other option we have is to place excess funds into our Emergency Response Fund (ERF). The ERF is an account we use to launch an emergency response. It pays for some of the initial costs of sending out a disaster response team. These costs might include the purchase of medical supplies or emergency resources and equipment that teams take with them. The ERF can give team leaders cash in hand that they can use on site to buy needed resources. Eventually once donations begin to come in the ERF is repaid the money that was outlaid and the funds are there for the next time Australian Mercy responds to a disaster. The ERF is subject to Australian Mercy's annual audit.

Australian Mercy wants to thank its many donors for supporting to its emergency appeals and hopes that this statement will give better understanding of exactly how the donations to these appeals are used.

If you have any questions, please contact the National Office.

## Statement on fundraising for the Donna McDermid Memorial Fund

The Board of Australian Mercy oversees the work of the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* and has released this statement with regards to the fundraising done by this fund.

The *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* has two components: an investment fund and a financial appeals mechanism, these components work in this way.

### **Investment Fund**

Australian Mercy through the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* solicits donations which are invested with reliable conservative financial institutions. These investments are under the direct control of the Australian Mercy Board. Dividends from these investments are distributed according to the following formula:

*70% of dividends are distributed to projects that fit the funding criteria at the discretion of the Australian Mercy Board*  
*20% of dividends are reinvested back into the fund to promote fund growth and to lessen the impact of inflation*  
*5% of dividends are used to cover Donna McDermid Memorial Fund operational costs*  
*5% of dividends are given to Australian Mercy to cover audit and administration costs.*

### **Financial Appeals Mechanism**

From time to time the Board of Australian Mercy will fund raise through the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* in order to assist an approved project or cause. In such cases an appeal target is set. Funds are distributed according to the following formula:

*90% of funds raised are sent to the appeal target*  
*5% of funds raised are used to DMMF cover admin costs*  
*5% of funds are used to cover Australian Mercy admin costs.*

*Funds that are in excess of any DMMF appeal target are donated to the Donna McDermid Investment Fund.*

A copy of the operational guidelines of the fund can be viewed on the fund's website [www.donnamcdermid.org](http://www.donnamcdermid.org)

The *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* is subject to Australian Mercy's annual audit of accounts.

# Reports



# National Director's Report

By David Skeat

This year has been another year of growth in Australian Mercy. We have been working hard on not only providing the services and assistance that we do but also strengthening the structures around our projects. In 2013 – 2014 we saw 4 new projects join our project portfolio. The Board is very excited about these new additions.

The year saw the Board tackle many hard issues and they have all worked hard to get through the amazing amount of paperwork which has had its outcomes in communities overseas. In the following report you will read many exciting stories about what we have been able to achieve in 12 months. We hope that you will be as encouraged as we are by the results.

## The Australian Mercy Board

The Australian Mercy Board met four times in this financial year. Two of those meetings were three day retreats in which business was handled over the entire three days; two meetings were for three hours each. Besides this, a lot of information was shared and decisions made in our cyber board room over the 12 month period. (Decisions made in our cyber board room are minuted at the next face to face meeting.)

Besides the usual business that is transacted in the Board room the Board did a lot of structural work in the policy area. Policies that were reviewed included:

- Volunteer policies and procedures
- Privacy policy
- Policy on Refusal of Funds
- Sexual Harassment policy and procedures

The Board also began to research and review its Child Protection policies and procedures, a process that is still ongoing.



The New Privacy policy established by the Board in accordance with Australian Legislation can be viewed on our website: <http://australianmercy.org/privacy-statement/>

The Board also have initiated a process whereby a national IT server is being set up. This will make all things available to all projects and locations in real time and will improve our accounting and project management procedures. The server is expected to be up and running by the end of 2014.

The Board also welcomed two new members; Kevin Clark (husband of Dianne Clark) Kevin has a background in accounting and alternative technologies, and Rodney Richards who is managing our National Office in Port Kembla. Rodney has a background in IT and civil engineering.

**Table 1: Board Meetings 2013 - 2014**

Date	Location	Directors Present
May, 2013	Townsville	7
August, 2013	Port Kembla	5
November, 2013	Canberra	9
Feb 26 – 28, 2014	Port Kembla	8

## Australian Mercy Trust Funds

Australian Mercy has three Trust accounts that it operates out of the National Office. The following tables show that status of those funds as at April 30, 2014.

**Table 2: ARMS ACTA Disaster Trust 2013 – 2014 (Established 2006)**

<b>Total donations received since 2006</b>	<b>52,055.00</b>
Market value of fund at April 30, 2014 *	59,260.00
Total payments made to AM since 2006	15,229.00
Dividend received 2013 - 2014	2,391.00
Donations received 2013 - 2014	565.00

This Trust is held with ANZ Trustees and provides funds for our disaster responses.

\* ANZ Trustees have placed these funds into an ethical portfolio that includes a significant share component. Therefore the value of the Trust fluctuates in accordance to the market value of the shares.



**Table 3: The Australian Mercy Fund (AMF) 2013 - 2014**

Invested Income	23,501.00
Holding Account	2,123.00
Disbursal Account	1,612.00
Uninvested Funds	1,443.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$28,679.00</b>
Donations received 2013 - 2014	644.00
Fund disbursals 2013 - 2014	

This Trust account is held by Australian Mercy and is invested into low risk ethical investments that provide funds for projects inside and outside of Australian Mercy's scope of interest.

During the financial year the AMF donated \$500 to ABC Myanmar to assist them with their development work in Chin State.

**Table 4: The Donna McDermid Memorial Fund 2013 - 2014**

Invested funds	19,131.00
Holding account	398.00
Interest received	923.00
<b>Total</b>	<b>20,452.00</b>
Total Donation 2013 - 2014	56.00
Disbursals and Expenses	500.00

This fund is managed by Australian Mercy and has been set up to help address issues pertaining to gender injustice and sexual abuse among women in the Developing World. [www.donnamcdermid.org](http://www.donnamcdermid.org)

In 2013 -2014 the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* made no disbursals to projects.

Financial allocations from this fund will commence in the coming months, and be reported in future annual reports.



# National Ministry Reports



# CANBERRA OFFICE ANNUAL REPORT 2014

## The Pantry

Our vision for the Pantry continues with the same values: to endeavour to provide low cost food and household goods to the disadvantaged and vulnerable in our area whilst providing them a place of hospitality, love and care to enjoy friendship and acceptance.

In 2014 we currently have 162 people registered and often see over 60 people attend each Thursday. Many of these people represent families which greatly increases the number of people for which we are providing. We would estimate that we provide food and household products for close to 250 people per week.

They broadly fit into the following categories:

Aged pensioners, singles (many with disabilities), single parent families, low income families, students, the homeless and new immigrants to Australia.

A local Community Centre, Northside Community, continues to bring a bus load of people every week. We have also had referrals from ACT Housing, Financial Care, Canberra Institute of Technology, St Vincent de Paul, Salvation Army and Companion House.

Our support network continues to grow. We are grateful to Foodbank, O'Connor Uniting Church, YWAM Canberra, Hope Korean Church, Dickson Baptist Church, Brumbies Bakery in Ainslie, Intertrading and other individuals for their generous financial gifts, gifts in kind and volunteers.

We have been able to renovate an adjacent demountable building as an extension to The Pantry to provide household cleaning products and toiletries. These are primarily sourced through Intertrading in Sydney.

Our program "Hands On", designed to teach and enable skill development to those interested in being able to make things to bless others, has been on hold for most of the year due to illness and surgery of our co-ordinator. We expect to resume soon. Mentoring in healthy living and budgeting continues on a one to one basis and we are looking to provide free English classes for those in need.

*Dianne Clark*



# RescueNet Australia 2013 - 2014

By Mark Cockburn

## Purpose

RescueNet (RN) Australia is part of an international emergency response network that deploys professionally trained personnel into disaster affected countries and who have called for international assistance due to their own resources being completely exhausted. RN usually responds within 24-48 hours and helps to stabilise the lives of those affected through medical assistance, trauma counselling, search & rescue, body retrieval services, disaster childcare, fire suppression, resource distribution, etc.



## Background Information

RN was re-established in Australia in 1999 after it had ceased operations in the US. As RN grew it was replanted in the US, Europe and New Zealand. Currently there are Australian members in South Africa, China and south-east Asia, and currently we are establishing RN in South Africa and South East Asia.

## The Establishment of the RIC and its Purpose

As these new locations established, it became evident that they desired a sense of 'ownership' of the organisation within their own cultural identity rather than being directed from one Australian location. From 29.11.10 - 3.12.10 two delegates from Europe, the US and Australia met in Las Vegas US to establish the RescueNet International Council (RIC) in an attempt to 'go global' but to also respond to disasters far more quickly and effectively.

## Workgroups and their purpose

As time went on, it was recognised that RN was becoming far more diverse and professional in its approach and to help maintain professional standards and procedures, various members were invited to participate in the establishment of various 'Workgroups'. For example, RN has a Disaster Childcare Workgroup, a Communication Workgroup, a Medical Workgroup, a Training Workgroup, a Search & Rescue Workgroup etc., and it is the role of these workgroups to thoroughly research and investigate various topics and procedures that have been assigned to them, so that the RIC is totally assured that RN on the whole is operating from the most up-to-date professional standards and procedures.

In 2013 RN recognised that some people wanted to afford their personal skills to the work without actually being involved in disasters. This opened up the position of an individual becoming an 'Administrative Member'. RN has Administrative Members who help the Regional Boards work through logistical and administrative issues such as policies & procedures, risk analysis & management, marketing & fundraising and much more.



## Members

Internationally RN has 76 members though that number constantly grows as new members join each year. Currently Australian membership consists of 25 members from four different countries:

- Australia - 21
- China - 1
- South Africa - 1
- Singapore - 2

RN members come from various fields of employment and skills; nurses, doctors, para-medics, counsellors, fire fighters, tradesmen and more. Outside of RN they continue in their usual career paths which help them to maintain their skills for when a deployment arises. Not all members can respond to all disasters but they deploy as their work and home situation affords them the opportunity.

Within any given disaster, there are always outlying communities who equally need and deserve as much assistance as those who live closer to the epicentre of the event. Because RN abides by UN ordinances to carry enough food, water, shelter and clothing to maintain our own existence so as not to be a drain on these desperate communities, the objective and the specialisation of RN is to create links with local lead agencies, and to then travel to these remote areas to establish 'field clinics' and works, in an effort to stabilise on site. This also helps to avoid a surge of people from flooding already damaged towns and exhausted resources that lay within the epicentre of the event.

As previously mentioned, we want to continue the establishment of two new regions (South Africa and South-east Asia). As membership numbers grow in these regions it affords the opportunity to appoint Regional Co-ordinators who can pull together a Council to steer the work of RN in that region.

## 2013/14 Achievements

### DEPLOYMENT

An international team of 20 RN members deployed into the Philippines after a super typhoon devastated the southern area of the country. Four Australian RN members were part of this international team.

During the two weeks spent in the Philippines, the team served the people through:

Medical services: Our team of eight maintained one clinic in the centre of Tanauan whilst conducting daily visits to outlying villages. Daily they treated approximately 200-250 casualties.

Midwifery services: Our two midwives helped with the delivery of 1-2 babies each day.

Body retrieval services: In cooperation with locals, our team of three members retrieved approximately 4-6 bodies daily.

### Body retrieval during Philippines Disaster

Search and Rescue services: Our team of four helped to rebuild homes, reroof homes, clear debris and be involved in distribution of materials.

Trauma Counselling services: Our team of three worked tirelessly with patients during and after they had been treated, with locals who couldn't cope and with numerous detached children.

### INTRODUCTORY COURSE

The annual course was held in November 2013 in Canberra with four participants coming from New Zealand, Australia and Switzerland. Though a smaller course than in previous years, the standard was high and already one Membership Application has been received and is in process.

### Future Goals

#### MARKETING

As RN grows in number, experience and credibility we want to prepare promotion packages to present to airline and major corporations to attract sponsorship for RN and our individual members. We recognise that there are many who seek the 'charitable dollar' so we realise that our promotional package must be 'excellent' as we may only be afforded one opportunity to present RN and its work.

#### Financial Status

RN Australia operates purely on donations. All members are voluntary and annually as many as 6,000 voluntary hours are sunk into all aspects of the work.



Introductory Course expenses are covered by the course fees met by participants.

In the case of a deployment, initially, members are responsible for their personal deployment costs but as donations are received during disasters, these funds are distributed across the deploying members to meet traveling expenses and ground fees.

## **NEW REGIONS**

Donations received that are marked for specific aspects of a disaster are channelled into those areas e.g. replenishing of medical supplies, victim aid, etc.

Due to a substantial donation received from a private organisation in South-east Asia after the 2013 disaster in the Philippines, RN Australia will be able to purchase medical supplies, resource and equipment required for the next deployment.



# **Australian Mercy Adelaide – Rahab 2013-2014**

By Paulette Cairns

*Rahab is a project that provides pastoral care services for women involved in the sex industry. Because of the sensitive nature of this project we are not able to show you photos of its work.*

## **Finance**

There have been two fundraiser dinners in the last twelve months which together have brought in \$7,000. *Rahab* has three partners who are individuals giving regularly each month. Other donations have come from speaking engagements, fundraising tins, bake sales and random donations.

We have decided to charge new volunteers \$10 for the training. This is to cover the training materials and a small contribution toward the ministry.

Brian Jolly, the accountant, comes into the office once a month to work on the *Rahab* accounts.

## **Trips**

Last year Paulette and Sharon drove to Queensland and New South Wales. Two new *Rahab* ministries were launched in Toowoomba and the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Training, leadership mentoring and team building were done for the *Rahab* ministries in Gosford and Newcastle and training was given to a group in Dubbo, New South Wales.

Paulette and Sharon are driving to New South Wales and Victoria to do ministry. *Rahab* will be launched in Bourke and Dubbo, New South Wales, and Ballarat, Victoria.

## **Training**

Over 75 people have been trained to do outreach this year.

## **Staff**

Over the last twelve months we have had two women serve in a full time- short term position: Rachel Mulligan who served as an Administration Assistant, in 2013, and Michelle Hodge who was the English Classes Coordinator this year. Paulette Cairns, Director, and Sharon Hawke, Director of Operations and Communications, are long term staff.

## **Board meetings**

The Board has met twice, a new member was introduced, Brian Jolly, who is now the Treasurer for *Rahab*.

## **New projects –flip cards, English classes**

There is a new project which we have developed to communicate with women who don't speak English and we suspect might be trafficked. The flip cards are only used by volunteers who have had training and are very experienced in *Rahab* outreach. The cards communicate to the women what *Rahab* is and that we are not a government organisation, give them a confidentiality statement, a set of questions and offer the women a couple of options.

This year an English teaching curriculum has been developed by Michelle Hodge which can be used for students at many different skill levels. English Classes have been given to five clients so far this year. Each student has been given a tutor and spent one hour with her for a six week block.

## **Networking**

*Rahab* has developed a good working relationship with members from *Salvation Army, Red Cross, Australian Federal Police, SA Police and the Immigration Department*. There is expected to be ongoing meetings with this team of specialists in the future to fight human trafficking.



# Australian Mercy Perth - Community Development Programme &

## Neighbour Care 2013 - 2014

By Liesbeth McClure

It's been a busy time working with families locally and internationally! These last five months we were able to serve 51 families and make a total of 117 individual visits! That's approximately 400 volunteer hours of serving the community of Perth!

The total number of families we have served in Perth since 1988 is 2095!

We served families in 42 different suburbs in the last months, none of which have been from Nollamara.

We have mostly served families in the area of:

- Cleaning 85%
- Gardening 13%
- Listening ear 1%
- Skip bin/verge clean up 1%

### **Thailand**

This year we were able to take a small team to Bangkok, Thailand, for a week long outreach. We served a local ministry and ran a holiday club for a slum community. There were 19 children who attended.

We also taught on nutrition, how to care for someone with diarrhoea or fever, how to make Oral Rehydration Solution, and on hand washing and safe boundaries. The children were able to demonstrate a great understanding of all that was taught to them. They did really well listening through two sets of translation!

### **Nollamara**

We are continuing our focus on Nollamara, a suburb of Perth which has the highest referral rates from 2008 till 2013. We have met many of our previous clients in the local park! We have also connected with many other residents, especially refugees and migrant families.

We are doing an informal needs-assessment. Our aim is to connect families in need in the community with local churches and to inform families of the services being offered by the local churches. We are also informing the churches of the outcomes of our needs-assessment and helping them connect with their communities in practical ways. Our hope is to refer any future families from Nollamara to the local churches for assistance.

In the next weeks we will start a pilot *After School Kids Program* at one of the churches in Nollamara, with a view to continue that over the winter months.

### **Community Service Day**

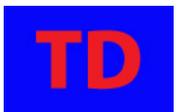
We have had 50 high school students come out with us serve families in the community recently. And in the next two months we will be taking 120 more students! It's a real joy to see these young people so motivated and caring toward the elderly and needy in the community.



## **Australian Mercy Townsville 2013-2014**

The *Australian Mercy Townsville* Office was delighted to partner with *YWAM Medical Ships – Australia* for its fourth outreach season. Please refer to the *YWAM Medical Ships – Australia* annual report for more information.

The *Australian Mercy Townsville* account was not utilized for the period May 1st 2013 – April 30th 2014.



## Australian Mercy Shoalhaven Annual Report

The Australian Mercy Shoalhaven project has continued to grow throughout the 2013-2014 year, highlighting the continuing need in the Bomaderry, Nowra and Jervis Bay area low socio-economic communities. Not only is this project providing cheaper food and grocery options for households, but also continues to also be a listening ear and loving person to those struggling in their everyday lives.

Sadly during this year, the South Nowra store was broken into and a number of goods stolen. This however, has not negatively affected those involved in the project, but rather reinforced their desire to serve and love. Many of those who volunteer with the project understand completely what might drive a person to this sort of action. Security has now also been upgraded in this location.

Also one of the major kitchen installation places in Nowra has provided a fully equipped kitchen which has been lovingly installed by a couple of local builders and a plumber. They also offered their time and labour without charge.

With the new rules regarding unemployed young people needing to do at least 15 hours a week 'voluntary' work, they will become another group we'll be employing and helping them prepare for employment opportunities within the paid workforce.

As the workload has increased so much during the year, the personal load on the project leader has also increased dramatically and highlighted the need for more project management staff to share the load. (including people who are skilled with relating to the 18 to 30 year old age group.)

Please join with us in praying that there would be a number of individuals who would come alongside the project and commit to help in its management that this wonderful work would continue.



# International Ministry Reports



## Projects in Mae-la Camp 2013 – 2014

By David Skeat

Australian Mercy continues to work at Mae-la refugee camp which is located 55km north of Mae Sot in Thailand.

In the camp we provide Primary Healthcare training, fund a Preschool and a Middle School, and provide assistance for unaccompanied children at risk who are living in the camp.

The Primary Healthcare report appears later in these documents.

### Rice Distribution

The programs in Mae-la camp have been made all the harder by the reduction of 1/3 of rice rations at the camp since November 1, 2013.

This reduction has increased crime and the incidence malnutrition in the camp as well as a marked increase in diseases such as TB.

Australian Mercy has written to the Australian Foreign Minister about this matter, the document can be sourced here:

<http://australianmercy.org/wp-content/galleries/Media/Foreign-ministry-briefing-Edited.pdf>

Australian Mercy has responded to the situation by supplying rice for Rice Supplement Programs linked to the preschools in the camp. From November 2013 – April 30 2014 we delivered and distributed 53 bags of rice into Mae-la camp. This project will be ongoing as long as the reductions in rice quantities in the camp remain.

Doctors working in the camp are alarmed at the current levels of rice available for consumption among families and openly say it is not enough. Australian Mercy is seeking an appointment with the Australian Foreign minister to discuss the issue.

### Preschool

The Preschool we fund is in Zone A of the camp and is run by a lady named Corina. Corina is the Preschool director and runs the Preschool which provides an integrated multilingual program for 70 children. In 2013 we released a video on our website that tells Corina's story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ay8t0Hs8KYY>

Corina also provides training for 147 other preschool teachers in the camp as well as to teachers in other camps and in local Thai communities.

This year the Preschool has focussed a lot on training the trainers. Corina has produced a comprehensive preschool curriculum which she passes on to other preschool teachers that she either trains or mentors.

The Preschool itself is seeing some major health issues, TB and Malaria are rife in the camp and many children are malnourished which has only worsened since the rice ration was reduced. Australian Mercy continues to support a feeding program at the Preschool to improve the health of children who are part of the Preschool community.

### Middle School

The Middle School continues to grow and in the last 12 month has expanded to over 200 students and has gone from year 6 – 9 to years K – 10.



Some of the students in the upper classes are quite old, there are at least two who are in their twenties and two of the senior girls are married.

The problem is that these older students have no other mechanism in the camp than to go to a school as there are no adult education facilities they can go to.

The Middle School is struggling with a lack of resources.

In 2013 Australian Mercy provided a team of teachers to come and teach English in the Middle School and to Preschool teachers at Mae-la camp. The team which was recruited from Tasmania was in the camp for two weeks and made significant inroads into bettering the teaching and appreciation of English in the school and preschools. Further teams will be recruited to further this program.

### Emergency Care

The Emergency Accommodation for unaccompanied children at risk cares for 20 children. All attend either the Middle School or the Preschool. The children receive health checks and meals from Australian Mercy. In some instances children move on to live with their families once they are located, but in most instances the children remain in care. If they were forced to move out they would be at risk from sex trafficking which is rife on the border area.

These projects at Mae-la are overseen by our National Office.



## Campaign Report 2013 – 2014

The Buzz Off Malaria campaign has continued its work in Burma / Thailand and also in other nations. This report gives an outline of what has been happening with Buzz Off.

### Papua New Guinea

During this 12 month period Buzz Off has provided support to Medical Ships Australian (YWAM MSA) in their work in PNG. Through YWAM MSA we saw the following outcomes;

- new Malaria microscope purchased for diagnostic work on board the ship
- 97 villages visited
- 916 villagers attend Malaria awareness seminars
- 50 new villages assessed
- 3700 LLIN nets distributed
- 8 Primary Health Care workers trained in use of RDTs and Malaria in Pregnancy
- 17 haemoglobin testing kits distributed to remote clinics with training
- 3540 RDTs distributed into remote clinics
- Malaria medicine budget reduced by \$4362 – savings put into LLIN nets
- \$1638 in support medicines purchase and distributed to clinics in remote areas.



The partnership with YWAM MSA is producing very encouraging results.

### Papua

In this financial year Buzz Off gave a grant of \$500 to clinics in Papua (Irian Jaya) to purchase frontline medicines for the treatment of Malaria.

### Buzz Off Burma

The work of Buzz Off continued in Burma both in Internally Displaced People (IDP) areas close to the border as in the remote areas in other parts of Greater Burma.

Training was held in Thanbyuzayat (Mon State), Bago, Taunggyi (Shan State) and Loikaw (Kayah State). In these seminars 186 Malaria volunteers were trained in that 12 month period. We also did an assessment in Kalay on the border of Chin State and were able to assist some of the NGOs in that area with their Malaria response strategies.



In these Mon State and Bago seminars we were ably assisted by a team from Mobile Mercy from The Netherlands. This team will be helping us in future training in Chin State.

During the most recent seminars we began making short videos about Malaria in the Burmese language. 10 Burmese language videos have been uploaded to the Buzz Off Burmese Malaria website: [myanmar.buzzoff.org](http://myanmar.buzzoff.org)

We are now starting a Burma based awareness campaign to get local people to use the website.

A progress report of the Burma Campaign can be downloaded: <http://buzz-off.org/burma-progress-report/>

## Burmese Malaria Web Site

This website has the many downloadable resources on it in Burmese and other related languages. Burmese translations of the Buzz Off seminars are also available from this site.



[myanmar.buzzoff.org](http://myanmar.buzzoff.org)

### LLIN Nets and estimated lives saved

In 2013/14 Buzz Off distributed 16,700 LLIN nets. 3000 were distributed in Greater Myanmar, 9000 were distributed in the IDP areas, 1000 were distributed on the border of Cambodia and Laos, and 3,700 in PNG through YWAM MSA. We estimate that these nets are protecting over 50,000 people from the ravages of Malaria.



### Microscopy

In 2013/14 Buzz Off trained a further 6 microscopists and repaired 6 microscopes located in remote clinics in the IDP zones.

We also produced a microscopy bench aid in the Burmese and Karen languages.

In completing this report I would like to make special mention of Saw Marcus Winn, Elizabeth Nwe, Kris Thomson, Marion Wilbraham and Robin Wales whose hard work and dedication has helped to make all of the results in Burma possible.

*David Skeat*  
*Campaign Director*

## Primary Health Care Seminar – Mai Sai – Myanmar 2013-2014

By Marion Wilbraham

The *Primary Health Care Seminar* was run in Mai Sai this year, with the purpose of providing practical medical care in the remote villages of Myanmar.

Students from the training college were joined by several pastors and church workers from Myanmar for the four week course.

**Sixteen trainees were graduated**, and three people attended, for some of the subjects. We had a lively time of discussion, with some really good questions being asked. The trainees were very interactive in class and eager to learn.



They went on **outreach** each weekend with huge success, bringing health care and teaching into the remote Myanmar villages near the border.

Their reports were most encouraging with teaching on nutrition and rehydration, and practice with wound care very well received, and the opportunity to share at the village church.

The seminar was a great success. The practical outreaches that the students were involved in are a terrific method of using the teaching and gaining experience.

This year I was happy to **qualify a trainer**, who will work in the Northern Thai/Myanmar border region. She hopes to run the seminar each year for the training college, and also to conduct a seminar across the border at Thachilek, for church workers and pastors.

### **Networking**

We are bringing many separate works together, while still maintaining their individual direction; this is providing support and encouragement for the people involved

Each Sunday I had the opportunity to **fellowship** with a Thai/Burmese church. It is good to experience the church in another place, to see God working through other people and to encourage church over there with our visits.

I feel that *I grow by going*.

I normally go to a very rural setting and I absolutely love the simplicity of life. This year I was in a city of about 86,000 people, with houses everywhere. I did find this difficult.

I was able to meet with and encourage various individuals. Angela Shwe at *Grace Haven Orphanage* in Tachilek is part of the group started by Pastor Cha and his wife Susan, who spoke here last year. God made connections now with *Kingdom Mission Training College*.

On the plane from Chiang Rai to Bangkok I sat next to Sally Hills, who comes from Poowong in Gippsland. She had spent ten days with *Destiny Rescue* in Chiang Rai. We had mutual encouragement and her team is interested in considering the *Primary Health Care Seminar* as an option for the girls that have been rescued from prostitution.

*Baan Nam Jai (Home of the Open Heart)* in Chiang Rai is an HIV / AIDS ministry to families that provides a Hospice and Care Centre that I stayed at briefly in 2008. I had a swift visit and viewed their updated facilities, while my taxi waited to complete my trip to the airport.

My separate travels to Thailand and Myanmar are now becoming closely linked.

I have felt for three to four years that I am part of a larger network that seems to be added to each year.



I was impressed when Kathy Cogger spoke about her trip to Africa a few years ago... she spoke of making headbands for the patients in the fistula hospital she visited. How simple and ordinary is that? Yet the effect on the life of those women was profound.

Just going causes you to grow, and God is able and willing to use you in such beautifully simple ways that will bless you and those you meet.



# Thai/Burma border/Microscopy Teaching and Myanmar/Buzz Off Seminars

## 2013-2014

By Robin Wales

### Thailand

I arrived in Bangkok on May 15 2013 with a repaired microscope, Malaria Rapid Diagnostic Tests (RDTs) and Haemoglobin Test Kits. I sorted and repacked these, and *Artesunate* (purchased in Vietnam in February left at the *KT Guest House* in March), ready for distribution.

The next day I went to visit Mordegai Rossouw and his family in Siem Reap in Cambodia for a few days to assess the malaria situation there. It is a major problem in Northern areas where he and others work in remote places. We looked for treatment tablets for mosquito and antimalarial, but with no success.

I left him a few RDTs and some antimalarial medicine, and arranged to try to have *ARMS* send them some nets.

After returning to Bangkok to pick up all the things for the border I flew *Nokair* and Marci and Heidi picked me up in Mae Sot and took me to *the Green Guest house* where I have a good big room at low cost for microscope repairs etc. I had my usual warm welcome at *Partners Relief and Development* and lunch with Sonya and the staff.

The next day Owen Thwaites (*Mae Sot Blind Centre*) took me and Jules McConnell (*YWAM Chiang Mai*) to Mae Salit to give medicines to Em.

Owen also showed us a block of *Help Save the Kids* land that he hopes to buy from Judah and build on for himself at Wang Pa.

We picked up the transformer for the microscope I had had repaired for Dr Jonathan from Saw Tha at Jonathan's Karen village clinic. I used it the next day in the *Partners* office to check staining and results of slides from the *Lay Tong Ku clinic*. These were very poor and I hope to give further training to their microscopists in the dry season.



Drs Jonathan and Elisabetta were in Europe. I left *Artesunate* and RDTs for them, *Partners Relief and Development*, *Free Burma Rangers* and the *Karen Department of Health and Welfare* with Marci and Heidi at *Partners Relief and Development*. I have left most of my microscopy repair there too.

*Partners Relief and Development* have made us a really helpful video of treatment of a child with *Severe Pf* (*Severe Plasmodium falciparum malaria*, the most dangerous form of malaria) at *Lay Tong Ku clinic*, their involvement and her response. This will go on *Buzz Off's* website and be good for training purposes. The medic I taught previously is in this video. (I have since been to *Lay Tong Ku clinic* with Dr Jonathan and helped with his staining and microscopy.) He and others there are *Long haired Karen* and wear *turbans*.

Marci and her family and Heidi took me to dinner at *Casa Mia* before I left Saturday 25 for our *Buzz Off* teaching in Burma.

On Sunday I sorted out the things I had left in Bangkok to take to Burma and left microscope parts from the border to take home for repair, at the *KT Guest house*. Then I flew to Yangon on Monday.

### Myanmar

Elizabeth met Marion and me at the airport and took us to the *Golden Guest Inn* where we talked about and prepared for buying the things we needed for the next two weeks teaching trips.

On Tuesday one of the translators from the last *Primary Health Care Seminar* met us, and took us to her father's home. We visited his orphanage for poor village children, giving a home to 53 orphans. He is very much in need of support to be able to feed and care for them.

Marcus came to see us on Wednesday and Elizabeth helped a lot with our shopping. We found a generic brand of *Coartem* called *Supa-Arte* at the AA pharmacy. This is government and *WHO* subsidised, so very inexpensive. It is only available for sale in Myanmar, we bought some of this and a lot of the things for the seminars at the AA pharmacy.

David arrived on the Friday, and the team from The Netherlands on Sunday. They are great people.

Gerda (leader) and Linda from *Mobile Mercy* and Pei Tei, a trained nursing friend, they shared and helped a lot in our ministry.

On Sunday Pastor Myint Nwe, his wife Josephine, and daughter Esther joined us for the long bus ride to Than Pay Zyat in Mon State. We stayed in a nice guest house by the sea. On Monday we checked out church for the seminar starting the next day, a pleasant 30 min drive.



We had 42 students. The teaching went well with very interested students.

We visited a war cemetery, set up and very well maintained since 1946, for allied *Prisoners of War* who died building the Thai/Burma railway: about 30,000 British, 2,820 Dutch, 2,760 Australians among others. They hold *ANZAC* and *Armistice Day* celebration day services there every year. Robert, a Burmese/English translator in our school, is a Buddhist but has had much to do with the care and maintenance of this sacred site.

After the *Buzz Off* graduation ceremony the Pastor and the church gave us all very nice gifts; David a colourful white and red shirt, the rest of us all *Longyis* (a piece of cylindrical cloth worn as a skirt).

Wherever we went the seminar lunches were top Burmese food. We were treated to lavish dinners during our time in Burma by Saw Marcus, Ps Myint Nwe and the Bago Pastor.

It was a much shorter trip direct Mon to Bago for the second seminar.

Teaching in a *YMCA* church was good, the Dutch team taught Vital Signs, and did the last workshop with students making posters. We had 43 students, mainly very interested young people, some Buddhists.

An ex *KNU* soldier from Ler Doh across the border brought seven Karen students from there. Many villages in his area had been destroyed over the previous years but they are now getting re-established but with major malaria and other health problems. When we got back to Yangon we left a haemoglobin kit and also *Supa-Arte* tablets for Ler Doh.

We were able to buy more *Supa* tablets to leave with Elizabeth for net treatment, and *Supa-Arte* tablets which I left in Bangkok for David to take for use on the border in July.

Marion and I left Yangon Sunday, June 16, David, Marcus, Elizabeth and the Dutch team stayed to visit Chin State.

### **Thai/Burma Border Microscopy Teaching - March 2014**

This was a very busy but fruitful trip with a few changes to my original agenda and hiccups through cancelled flights etc.

#### **Thailand**

I left home on March 1 and arrived in Mae Sot Monday 3. This city near the Thai/Burma border is the *ARMS/Buzz Off* base for our ministry here, and also a base for *Partners Relief and Development*, the *KDHW* (*Karen Department of Health and Welfare*), doctor friends, and others dedicated to improving the situation of persecuted ethnic groups from Burma.

For the first few days I repaired previously donated microscopes and checked the results of blood films sent in from clinics for quality control. To see malarial parasites inside red blood cells in films have to be stained so good staining as well as finding and correct identification of parasites is essential.

On the Friday morning I went to Chiang Mai to buy microscopy supplies. I hoped to have two days there but my flights were cancelled due to smoky conditions and bus trips both ways cut this down to one day. I bought the microscope supplies we needed and had a good meeting with Dr Mitch Ryan and his wife Caryl from *Free Burma Rangers*, but was unable to visit the *Partners Relief and Development* office in Chiang Mai. Caryl had had my *Malaria Microscopy Bench Manual* printed there for less than half the Ipswich cost and they are very good, 22 copies, all pages laminated.

The slide results from one clinic, *Lay Tong Ku*, were very poor, this clinic is a day and a half south in the jungle over very winding and hilly road and the last part by dirt track. I had taught them last year at a *Free Burma Rangers* base about half way there. But needed to go to their clinic to see what they were doing wrong.

We divided my two weeks teaching between the first week there, and the second at Dr Jonathan's. This was well worth while. Dr Jonathan drove me to *Lay Tong Ku* in a *Partners'* vehicle and I was able to track down their problems, (very important as it is a high malaria incidence area). It was a beautiful scenic jungle place with waterfall nearby. They fed us well and we had foam and sleeping bag to sleep on the bamboo floor. Their results are now fine and one of their microscopists, plus another from a clinic near Umpang who we picked up on the way, came back with us to join the second week's training in a Karen village on the way north to Mae La. This was also a very fruitful time. Jonathan drove me there from my guest house here each day.

I had bought a *double headed teach microscope* on *eBay*, and also a *microscope camera* to show microscope images on my laptop. These, as well as the Karen version of my *Bench Manual*, were very helpful for teaching.

I have left the *microscope camera* for Dr Mitch so that he can email me pictures of *Free Burma Rangers* malaria slides they want advice on about staining and parasite identification.

On the Friday Jonathan took me to visit our good friend Corina who manages *ARMS* school ministries in *Mae La Refugee Camp*. Then on to take mosquito nets for our friends Napoleon and Em for Mae Salit Kee, the hill-tribe village where I first went to teach Em *malaria microscopy* in 2000. We met them at Em's father's house near the border and then they took me on to their village to stay with them and their children on Friday night. This was a delightful time, a lovely place up above the smoke level. Fruit trees that David Skeat brought from Chiang Mai and we planted in 2000 are big and the Lychees and Rambutans in flower. There will be a lot of fruit this year; Lychees from May to July and Rambutans from August to October.

Em does a lot of health care work for *Mothers Union of the Burmese Anglican Church* based in Mae Salit near river level and works there on week days. Napoleon takes her to work and 22 hill-tribe village children to school in Mae Salit, 12 km of winding road on week days in their old, but usually reliable, covered Ute with side seats in the back.

Conditions were dry, dusty, and very smoky from burning off last season's corn and sugar cane crops. *Mae Sot and Chiang Mai Airports* often cancelling flights.



## Myanmar

Our *Buzz Off* team, David, Kris, Marion and I, arrived in Yangon on Wednesday March 26 and met with Pastor Myint Nwe, Saw Marcus and Elizabeth. Esther also joined us for this trip and also David Johnson for the first seminar. We only had one day for preparation, and left for Kayah state on Thursday. Shopping in Yangon was restricted because of Public holidays.

I went to a delightful church meeting with Kris, Marion, and Marcus. There was no church building and they held it in a school room that is part of the teacher's house. There were about 40 people from 12 families who had been evicted from their homes in Buddhist villages four years ago because they are Christian. The government have given them a few acres of land to live on, very dry and hard clay that they farm what they can to live on. They are lovely welcoming people, with beautifully dressed children. We were the first foreigners who had ever visited them, we were there from 9am to 2pm and they treated us to a delicious lunch. Often the poorest people are the ones who want to give all they have or can afford.

We taught in an *Anglican Church* hall and it all went well, we had over 50 students, a lot from other states, some very far away.

The second seminar was in Taunggyi, the capitol of Shan State, a big city on a 4,000ft hill with suburbs at different levels around it and on the plain, a big Buddhist temple on top of the mountain and smaller ones on most other hills.

Because the days we left and arrived back in Yangon were Public holidays I gave Pastor Myint Nwe and Marcus money to buy the antimalarial medications only available there, to take back to the border for *Free Burma Rangers*, *Partners Relief and Development*, *KDHW (Karen Department of Health and Welfare)*, and Drs Jonathan and Dr Elisabetta.



Dr Jonathan picked me up in Mae Sot, I divided the meds and RDTs in to bags for the various recipients and Heidi at *Partners Relief and Development* was arranging distribution of them.

I had certificates for the *Malaria Microscopy* students printed in Mae Sot and left these and names of recipients of signed certificates (level 1, 2 or 3) for Heidi to have filled in, then have them laminated and distributed.

I had hoped to make Mae Sot my base instead of Bangkok but this got messed up because of cancellation of the *NokAir* Yangon to Mae Sot flight and the flight back via Bangkok tripled the cost.

I arrived home April 17, the Thursday of Easter week.

### **National Leaders Meeting (NLM) Canberra - November 2013**

I was blessed to be able to attend our *Australian Mercy (ARMS)* anniversary at the *YWAM* NLM meeting.

This was a good time for me, hearing and seeing the great work being done in *ARMS* projects in different parts of the world. I was happy to meet new *OzMercy* friends, including Elly and Rodney, who I am often in communication with. Steve Gumaer (*Partners Relief and Development*), is a good friend and his sharing, and David Skeat's and Anu's ministries (*Vanitashray*), as well as catching up with Tim O'Neil and many other old *YWAM* friends were all special times for me.

### **Buzz Off Projects at home**

- Research, arrangement of payment for, and delivery of: *LLIN* mosquito nets, Malaria RDTs, Haemoglobin Test Kits for *Buzz Off* projects and *YWAM Medical Ships*.

The nets are delivered by suppliers either directly to overseas projects or to Kris Thomson for *Buzz Off* shop sales.

RDTs and Haemoglobin kits are delivered to me to be taken or sent for overseas use, and also for Kris's shop sales. I post these out to overseas or Australian buyers from home.

When I am away on trips my son Andrew and his wife Sheila deal with postage of various kits for us.

These things often require customs clearance certification and negotiation with shipping agents and *AQIS*.

- Purchase or receipt of donated microscopes, purchase of microscopy parts and teaching accessories. Having microscopes professionally repaired for return to Thai/Burma border.



# Annual Report - Redefined – Congo

By Shannon Buchbach

## Project Achievements and Highlights:

This year, the Congo Project has focused its area within two strategic areas of need identified in Mahagi Territory of the DRC: health and agriculture. Here are some of the highlights:

### Medical Clinic Construction

This year our main task has been working alongside the community of a rural village within Jelasiga to see the construction of a small medical clinic. The clinic will serve the purpose of general medical consultation, with a small laboratory and pharmacy attached. Construction is ongoing and looks to be completed in July 2014.



### Eye Glass Distribution

An initial distribution of eye glasses occurred throughout Mahagi Territory occurred between October and November, 2013. The distribution of over 200 eyes glasses as well as consultations given to many more would not have been possible without Eyes on Africa UK and Dr. Joseph Wabedkudu, a visiting ophthalmologist. We also thank the local radio stations who announced the distribution times to increase awareness.



### Agriculture

This year our agricultural projects began with the starting of a small demonstration garden where we can introduce the community to new strategies and best methods of crop development.

### Infrastructure Development

In March 2014, we joined hands with 5 local road crews, offering hands on assistance and encouragement to the youth who volunteer their time to complete this community service. We have also been able to offer them support through the provision of a rock hammer and some small money to buy lunch and drinks as they work. The focus has been on maintaining the dirt roads that connect people to neighbouring towns, local marketplaces, and villages to main roads.



### Financial Update:

Redefined is currently working hard with limited funds and we thank all those who have practically assisted this work through monetary or good donations. We could not do what we do without the support of our donors.

Two major fund raising initiatives were planned this year. Coffee Catch Up for Congo was launched; and annual event in the month of September, encouraging individuals to make a coffee date to share what we are up to and supporting us through the giving of a small registration fee. The second event was preparing for a 2014 trek of Mt Kilimanjaro; this one has unfortunately had to be cancelled due to lack of numbers but we hope it may happen in 2015 or 2016.

This past year we were able to raise over \$7000 for our work in the Congo. In addition to this money, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Jelasiga community who donated land valued at US \$16,000 for the medical initiatives and future community projects including a community clinic, rural ministry office, and demonstration agricultural and livestock initiatives. Furthermore, the eye glasses distributed were valued at approximately US \$2,500. None of this money of course accounts for the tireless efforts of volunteers both local and international.

Our greatest expenditure this year fell to the construction effort of the medical clinic in the form of materials and specialised labour. All of our staff are currently unpaid volunteers. Our core team are supported with housing and food.

## **Moving Forward**

Here is some of the critical work scheduled for the coming year:

### ***Medical Initiatives:***

As the Congo Project looks forward to the next year, we will be finishing the construction phase of the medical clinic. Funds are still needed to equip it, train locals, and open it for the community. We have several medical teams interested in coming to assist us to train local workers for the clinic and we look forward to welcoming them.

Redefined also looks forward to continued partnership with Eyes on Africa to continue this needed work in the region. In addition, we are in the planning and fund-raising stages to build three large water tanks to provide rural Jelasiga with safe drinking water.

### ***Agriculture and Livestock***

Next year will see the clearing and planting of a larger demonstration garden on ministry land. We will also enter into the planning stages of a poultry project, looking to add needed sources of protein into the diet of locals after a tribal war between two nearby tribes entered into Mahagi territory and decimated their livestock populations.

Uniting agriculture and health, we look to introduce vitamin-rich crops to the area and also Moringa trees as a nutritional supplement.

### ***Women's and Maternal Health:***

Also part of our medical initiative is a tailoring initiative with our partner, Days for Girls. This program involves seeing the distribution of low-cost sustainable feminine hygiene kits, whilst also providing a vocation for local women. The kits improve women's health, safety and dignity. They also empower women to continue with their schooling (periods often cause girls to remain at home and also cast them into the light of "women", classifying them as marriageable). Being in partnership with the medical clinic will enable us to provide hygiene and sex education as the kits are given out.

We encourage individuals to partner with us, "buying a kit" that we can then freely distribute to school-aged girls in the community. Read more: [Menstrual Kit Initiative](#)

Our area of influence also has great need to improve maternal health and we look forward to beginning work in this area through a new partner in the New Year. Our impact will be two-fold:

- 1) through the training of local midwives and
- 2) through the provision of birthing kits that assist with hygiene of births. Read more: [Birthing Kit Initiative](#)

### ***Birthing Kit Initiative***

The staff of Redefined Ministries International thank all its supporters. Our greatest thanks goes to the community within Mahagi Territory who are working alongside us in our efforts.



## YWAM Medical Ships - Australia 2013-2014

By Jennifer Perry

Over the period of May 1st 2013 – April 30th 2014, *YWAM Medical Ships – Australia (YWAM MSA)* conducted seven two-week outreaches in the Gulf Province, Western Province and National Capital District in Papua New Guinea. Over the course of the season, 63,548 outputs were achieved including childhood immunisations, maternal health services, dentistry procedures, optical services, health promotion sessions and training opportunities for rural health workers.

### **A total of 65,976 volunteer hours were invested:**

- 38,524 volunteer hours were invested by people doing general project work
- 17,150 volunteer hours were invested by people in a management role.
- 10,302 volunteer hours were invested by skilled volunteers.



### **Milestones and Highlights**

- Refurbishments and Improvements - The on board clinic was upgraded to improve efficiency in treating patients and the mess hall and galley were upgraded to improve liveability on board.
- Equipping Rural Dental Workers - Solar powered portable dental chairs were distributed to six rural dental workers coupled with training.
- Expansion in the Southern (Papuan) Region - The first wave of land-based assessment teams were sent to Oro and Milne Bay Provinces.
- Progress toward the Acquisition of a New Vessel - A donation of four million PKG was received toward the purchase of the new ship from the *PNG Department of National Planning and Monitoring*.
- *Tetanus Toxoid Supplementary Immunisation (SIA) Campaign* - *YWAM MSA* collaborated with this nationwide campaign, and administered 2,314 tetanus immunisations.
- Townsville-Port Moresby Sister City Relationship 30th Anniversary - *YWAM MSA* hosted and participated in a number of events in Port Moresby to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the relationship.
- *Excellence in Ophthalmology Vision Award (XOVA)* - *YWAM MSA* received this award and a grant of €50,000 towards *YWAM MSA* ophthalmic outreach initiatives.
- New Zodiac - A third Zodiac was added to the *Medical Ship's* small boat fleet to assist with transferring teams, patients, equipment, and supplies from ship to land.
- *Dr. Edward B Shils Entrepreneurial Award* - *YWAM MSA* was the recipient of this award along with *YWAM MSA* partner, *1300SMILES*.
- Communication Improvements - A satellite communication system was installed on board the *Medical Ship* to improve communication in remote areas.
- Project Output Increase - Output volumes increased by 23% overall compared to 2012.

### **Partnership with Australian Mercy**

*YWAM MSA* continued its partnership with Australian Mercy's malaria prevention initiative, *Buzz Off*. The partnership allowed *YWAM MSA* to raise the profile of malaria education, prevention, testing and treatment in rural communities. Throughout the course of the year, the following was achieved in conjunction with *Buzz Off*:

- Number of malaria health promotion sessions: 15
- Attendees at malaria health promotion sessions: 916
- Mosquito nets distributed: 3,590
- Health workers trained in malaria prevention 8
- Health workers trained in the risks of malaria during pregnancy: 8
- Health workers trained in RDT's and new malaria treatment plan: 8
- RDT kits distributed: 2,220
- Haemoglobin test kits distributed: 17

## Future Developments

### Acquiring the New Vessel

YWAM MSA has received strong support from both the *Government of PNG* and the *Provincial Governments* in the southern region in regard to the acquisition of the new vessel. The purchase of a new medical ship that will enable YWAM MSA to expand to the entire southern region of PNG, adding on Milne Bay, Oro Province and Central Province to YWAM MSA's current target areas.

### Extending into the Southern Region

YWAM MSA will be conducting two two-week pilot outreaches in Oro Province and Milne Bay Province in 2014 with the *MV Pacific Link*. During the outreaches, dentistry, primary health care, optometry, ophthalmology, and health promotion services will be delivered, as well as ongoing assessments and networking activities. The outreaches will be aimed at raising awareness of YWAM MSA's new ship commencing operations in Milne Bay and Oro Provinces in 2015, while gathering important information with respect to depths, tides, and communities that can be accessed with YWAM's new vessel.



### Establishing a Training Centre in Port Moresby

As YWAM MSA continues to expand and develop its training, medical, and community services, establishing a training centre in Port Moresby is a key component in the strategy.

The combination of a YWAM training centre and the operation of a *Training and Medical Ship* will extend opportunities for quality education, growth of a highly skilled workforce, and strengthening the extension of the basic health and education services in rural areas.

# Australian Mercy Thailand – Ark International 2013-2014

By Nicole Fakaua

*Ark International* was founded in Perth, Australia, in 2004 to advocate and build restorative programs for children at risk worldwide.

In 2006, *Ark International Thailand* was established with a South East Asian focus and has been involved in helping children at risk since this time in Bangkok. *Ark International* is a registered Thai Foundation, under the *Thai Ministry of Social Development and Human Security* since 2013.



## **Mission**

**We are an international body defending the rights of children at risk in South East Asia. We strive to educate, train, network and facilitate projects focusing on the specific needs for children at risk and their providing organizations, so that children can be restored, equipped and transformed for their unique contribution to the world.**

## **Our Values**

*Commitment* Our mission is to impact the lives of underprivileged youth through intentional encouragement, discipleship, and mentorship in order to positively influence and better their future.

*Excellence* We desire to go beyond the status quo standards in relation to what we demand of ourselves, the operation of our programs, and our communication

*Coalition* We are committed to working together with communities, government agencies, and other organizations and foundations to help both children and their families

*Accountability* We understand that resources have been entrusted to us to carry out the work we do at the highest of standards and we are fully committed to accountability and professionalism in all our programs and throughout the Foundation. We regularly review our programs and continually seek to improve them. As individual donors, civic groups, organizations and corporations put their trust in us, we recognize we have a strong responsibility both to them and to the people they desire to help.

*Family* We desire to see families empowered to activate change and responsibility. We commit to a holistic approach, involving parents in every necessary decision for their family.

*Christ-Centered* *Ark International* is founded on biblically based principles and we will uphold our Christian identity while remaining sensitive to the beliefs and backgrounds of those we collaborate with.

## **Our Vision**

- Community Based Care
- Mentorship and Life skill training
- Awareness & Advocacy
- Partnering and Networking
- Educate, Train & Equip
- Developing Specialized Programs

## **About Ark International**

In 2013, *Ark International* directly impacted:



- 120 children weekly
- With 12 full-time staff
- Reached out to more than 10 families
- In 3 different districts of Samut Prakarn

## Our Specialized Programs

### ➤ **Sports - Nak Suu Rugby Academy**

To have a lasting impact in the lives of underprivileged children through rugby, life skill development & holistic health – 80-100 annually.

### ➤ **Camps – Day Camps**

To provide specialized training for a week at a time for our children to develop specific skills (English, sports, healthcare) – 80 students this year.

### ➤ **Annual Camp – Camp Zoe**

To provide a caring, fun and nurturing environment for kids to be invested in and mentored over 4-5 days at a special location. Kids are preselected – 24 students this year.

### ➤ **Opportunity Classes - Dance, Music, Sports, English, Special Events**

To provide specialized opportunities for our children to develop their skills and interests as well as to meet viable need in the community through special events for families - 60 kids this year.

### ➤ **Education & Training Seminars - Basic Child Counseling, Person Centered Therapy, Behavioural Strategies with Children**

To provide specialized training in order to equip people working with children and youth at risk – 80 adults equipped.

### ➤ **Education & Training Literacy –**

To provide specific opportunities for children that cannot attend school, to increase their literacy and financial numeracy to give them further opportunities in life – 30 kids each week.

### ➤ **SAFE Child**

To educate and train our communities and local schools on human trafficking and to give them tools for strengthening their self-esteem and access to help in danger – 4 seminars over the last 18 months.

### ➤ **Mentorship – Youth Night**

To train our youth through character development through mentorship targeting specific areas of their lives: decision making, respect, identity, citizenship, listening, self-control, acceptance, so that they will make better life choices – 20 kids each week.

### ➤ **Mentorship – Nak Win**

To provide specific small group mentoring for our youth in order to encourage, build into character development, give them a safe adult to turn to in their lives for counsel and guidance – 20 kids each week.

## Future Vision for our Specialized Programs:

- Recruit more **coaches** and develop further coaching material
- Organize scrimmage games each month, establish contacts
- Scout land in one of our focused communities to use weekly
- Recruit **BIT committee** members for fundraising purposes
- Develop further curriculum for the sports and training programs for the children
  
- Recruit more **international teams** that can provide specialty skills to enhance opportunities for our children
- Recruit **long term English teachers**
- Develop long term program objectives that will meet tangible needs within the community
  
- Recruit **long term Training Co- coordinator** (THAI or Foreigner)
- Strategize 2 training opportunities for 2014
- Increase partnership with local agencies to further training opportunities
  
- Recruit **long term Camp Director** (THAI)
- Continue to develop ongoing curriculum that can help enhance the camp experience
- Increase partnership with local agencies for camp volunteers
- Fundraise throughout the year to secure finances for 2014

- Recruit **long term workers** to aid in the development of furthering opportunities for our underprivileged children
- Strategize and fundraise for special events for 2014 to meet annual budget
  
- Recruit **long term staff** (THAI) to lead *SAFE CHILD*
- Continue to partner with other organizations to work in prevention- sex education training in schools
- Collaborate with media teams to create further material on identity in Thai and Khmer
- Continue to research current statistics
  
- Recruit **long term THAI youth leaders**
- Identify a long-term center to expand this program (current facility is too small).
- Curriculum development in life skill development to enhance and build on teaching & input in the kids' lives
  
- Develop a **Family based mentoring group** to target some of our needy families with training and input. With more Thai staff we can offer more personalized, small group mentoring for some of our struggling kids
- **Partner with counseling organizations** to provide further input for our children with trauma and pain.

## Australian Mercy Chongqing China 2013-2014

Our *Australian Mercy Chongqing China* Office continues to serve the city in areas of orphan care, foster care, medical care, volunteer programs and education and training. This year we also started a pilot project in the area of vulnerable single mothers.

### **Single Mothers Project**

Currently in China the situation for a woman who becomes pregnant out of wed-lock is often very difficult. It is common for the mother to have no support from her family and/or for them to encourage abortion. It is difficult for these mothers to find work while continuing to care for their child. Work that also provides childcare is very rare in China.

The aim of this project is to provide a platform for single mothers to succeed in providing a life for themselves and their children. This started in November 2013 and our first participant is a young woman and her 4-year old son. Mother and child are currently doing well, living independently in an apartment nearby our offices. She is currently employed at a 5-star hotel and is daily gaining confidence in herself and her work. Her son is attending kindergarten during the day. *Australian Mercy Chongqing* provides after kindergarten care for her son two days a week. She is receiving regular training in life skills and personal mentorship from our *AM* staff.

We were delighted to receive a large donation from a charity in Ireland to cover the expenses of this project for the first year.



### **Volunteer Program**

This year we ran two trainings for our *Volunteer Program*. Our *Volunteer Program* serves our local *Social Welfare Institute (SWI)* – previously an orphanage only, it now serves elderly and special needs adults. In all 11 people were trained to work with us. The *Volunteer Program* has grown significantly to 12 regular volunteers. They have committed to going regularly to visit the *SWI* residents, build relationship, run activity programs, and have exposure to using compassion and love to care for children and adults with disabilities.

In June our *Australian Mercy Chongqing* staff took an international group of 11 students to serve at this same *SWI* for a week. A great time was had by all involved, and it was a great time of more intensive relationship building and volunteer experience for the students involved.



### **Dawn Project**

Our *Dawn Project* foster home has continued to run, with two children and four caregivers for the entire year. The higher number of caregivers has allowed more freedom for some caregivers to have training or to go to other cities to conduct trainings as well as international staff to return home for holidays for longer periods. The two children currently in our care have 'harder to place' special needs. One child has *Down's syndrome* and the other *Autism*. We are in the process of advocating for their adoptions. We have seen some breakthrough for our little girl with *Autism* and continue to push for a family for our boy with *DS*. We are steadily receiving donations from foreign donors that allow us to run the foster home. We also receive a small monthly

stipend from the children's *SWI* that contributes towards their care.

### Foster Care Program

We also facilitated the foster care placement of two boys (both one and a half years old) from our local *SWI*. One received surgery for a cleft palette and the other, with proper care, was healed from hepatitis contracted from his mother. Both of these boys have now been adopted internationally into loving families in Finland and the USA.



### General Financial

The cost of rent for our foster flat and office have both increased this year due to general inflation and the growth and expansion of our city. This means we are now in a more desirable place to live, but also greater expenses. The inflow of unsolicited donations, however, has been such that our needs continue to be met.



## Cambodian Harvest – Annual Report

Due to extenuating circumstances it was not possible for Cambodian Harvest to lodge its Annual Report before the cut-off date.

The National Office continues to receive 6 monthly reports from Cambodian Harvest that show that the project has continued to operate well. Some problems with markets shrinking due to political tensions were experienced but new markets for the product have been located in South Korea which has improved cash flows.

This project is financially solvent and continues to provide training and employment for victims of landmine accidents in Cambodia who are living with disability.

*David Skeat – National Director*



## Vanitashray - India 2013-2014

by Anu Dongardive

India is the second largest country in the world in terms of population. It shares borders with Pakistan, Nepal and China. Thirty percent of the population is aged 14 or below. In spite of its rapid economic development, over 21% of its population is living below the international poverty line. Corruption is a problem in India, on an international scale from 0 to 10, 10 being the best a country can be, India is at 3.1. It is estimated that there are over 50,000 street children in New Delhi.

### Education

In 2010 a *World Bank* report estimated that nearly 61 million children of primary school age were out of school. Without access to education, children are severely disadvantaged from an early age and are constantly fighting against the tide. We believe that, without promoting the right to education for children and encouraging children to complete their education, development for any society will always be hindered. There are millions of children across the world who do not have enough food to eat every day, who do not attend school, live in slums or on the streets, suffer from untreated diseases, are abused and mistreated, die early, and never get the opportunities we take for granted. These children have no one to turn to. *Vanitashray* has been helping orphaned, poor and exploited children since 1999.

### *Happy Hearts* Nursery/Day care Centre – community project

In 15 years a lot has been achieved. Our organisation's income has grown from when it was founded. Many other developments have taken place such as:

- Improvements to *Vanitashray*'s infrastructure in terms of office and equipment.
- Development of systems, policies and procedures that facilitate organisational effectiveness.
- Greater focus with fewer partners so that impact for children is more effectively assured.
- Development and use of a clear Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

We are proud that these changes have resulted in firstly and foremost an increase in the number of children we have supported year on year. We want to strive to help even more children and to do what we do as best we can.

This strategy sets the direction of our work for the next three years. It offers guidance to staff, trustees and volunteers to shape and focus our plans for the future. It is also useful to our partners who are at the forefront of implementing change for the lives of the children we care for most, and to our supporters whose generosity and belief in our work make it possible for our programmes to continue.

This strategy builds on the successes of the past and seeks to optimise our contribution to improve the lives of the children who are at the heart of our work.



We value quality of service provision and programmes and for this we commit to build and enhance the capacity of our partners, empowering them, collaborating and learning with them to build a sustainable future for the children and the communities we serve.

We use a rigorous approach to selecting partners who share our same ethos, with an active nature of nurturing them. We respect their capabilities and respond to their needs.

*Vanitashray* is a partner that wants to develop partnerships beyond projects. It is interested in sustainability, contributing to the growth and relevance of any organisation.

In the next three years we aim to scale up the number of children we reach. We commit to provide them with quality services, offer protection and help them to meet their basic needs. Through a holistic approach we aim to empower the communities where our targeted children live, so that they can become self-reliant and can sustainably take care of their families. We do not want to encourage institutions. Indeed we promote de-institutionalisation of children wherever practical and encourage the development of alternative care including placement within a family environment. We do however recognise the role that some formal care can have when working with children with complex needs and are committed to reviewing this in the context of work and the needs of the children we work with.



### **Our Three Year Strategy focus**

#### *1. Promoting child protection and children's rights*

##### **Outcomes:**

- All our staff and partners will be trained on child protection issues.
- Partners will develop and implement child protection policy and those who have one will strengthen it.
- Children, their caregivers and their wider communities will be empowered to uphold and protect children's rights.

#### *2. Promoting non-institutionalisation of children*

##### **Outcomes:**

- A model of best practice will be defined, informed by local needs and disseminated to all relevant partners.
- Good practices will be researched and a policy paper produced.

#### *3. Promoting sustainable development while strengthening and empowering the communities to sustain the impact of our work*

##### **Outcomes:**

- More women and men, in our project areas, will be empowered to meet the basic needs of themselves and their children.
- Access to essential services, like clean water, education and healthcare, within communities we support, will increase.

#### *4. Strengthening our partners' capacity to provide quality of services to children and implement quality programmes.*

##### **Outcomes:**

- Partners will have an increased capacity to deliver quality programmes and services to achieve a positive change in the communities they serve.
- Partners' organisations will be profiled and a capacity development plan developed with support from *Vanitashray* agreed and tracked.
- *Vanitashray* will have an internal budget line to support partners' and staff capacity development.
- Partners and *Vanitashray* staff will have increased capacity to monitor progress of projects and learn from successes and failures.

## What we do

*Vanitashray* is called to help orphaned, poor and exploited children, including disabled children, in particular those living in developing countries. This is achieved through providing, promoting and advancing children's rights to basic necessities, including education and health care, aimed at sustaining their long-term development.

*"We cannot all do great things for the world, but we can do small things with great love"*

## Our Values

- **Integrity**  
We bring the highest ethical standards to all our decisions and actions.
- **Transparency and Accountability**  
We are open and honest in everything we do and we strive to optimise the systems in place that make us accountable to all our stakeholders.
- **Optimism**  
We focus on the positive difference we can make to children's lives and celebrate success.
- **Resourcefulness**  
We look for innovative ways to minimise our costs and maximise our effectiveness and impact.
- **Partnership**  
We work collaboratively with our local partners and country representatives and value their knowledge, priorities and recommendations. We believe that by joining our efforts with local initiatives we can make a real difference!



## Our Mission

- To provide care for orphans, unwanted and destitute girls and women.
- To improve the quality of life and advance the rights of children.
- To encourage children and families to participate in processes which enhance their equality, self-reliance and long-term sustainable development.
- To provide practical support wherever possible so that children can grow up within their own families and communities.

To fulfil our mission our funds come from a wide range of activities ensuring that we have a good balance of unrestricted and restricted funds. These are raised from within India and worldwide, including Europe, Australia and America. We seek to join our efforts with international networks of like-minded organisations dedicated to improve the future of the most disadvantaged children.



## Our Vision

*Vanitashray* exists to help orphaned, poor and exploited and other marginalised children in India.

*Vanitashray* is a non-sectarian, non-political and non-profit organisation that provides crucial support to children who really need it.

For *Vanitashray*, no effort is too big, no need is too small.

## Why a shelter for women?

What makes it necessary for *Vanitashray* to come into existence? Historical background of the life of female children and women in India justifies the need for such a home. The traditional attitude towards women in general illustrates the need for special care of orphan and destitute girls. In India the situation of women is complex because women are divided not only by class but also by caste. Especially the *dalit* (down trodden) women, who constitute the major working force, are thrice alienated and oppressed on the basis of their class, caste, and gender. The present condition of a female child and woman in India justifies the need for such a home. Unwanted girls from the low caste

families suffer much because of their poverty and low social image. Thus they become dependent on the mercy of others and become prone to exploitation. Many of them are forced into child labor and slavery. Some become prey in the hands of sexual abusers.

India's 'child flesh' industry is considered the second largest in the world. With over 700,000 victims trafficked throughout the world each year, and with India serving as a major trafficking hub. Because of economic constraints, rejection by family and relatives, their socio-religious status and caste status nearly 200 minor girls in India are driven to enter the 'child flesh' trade every day.

Female infanticide has increased in India. In India, out of 12 million girls born every year, 25 percent do not reach the age of 15. At each age from 1 to 19 the mortality rate in females is higher when compared to male mortality.



**International Women's Day** – 8<sup>th</sup> March, was marked with a special goal, with a vision we've carried for several years!

Worldwide, millions of women and girls experience violence and discrimination and are denied an education, essential health services, and economic opportunities.

To change the status quo and turn challenges into opportunities, we must speak up for the rights of women and girls everywhere. When women and girls are safe, healthy, and empowered, they can help families and entire communities realize the potential of a brighter future and a better world.

The ministry of *Vanitashray* carries the burden to minister to orphans /abandoned girls, destitute women and widows in India. For the past 14 years, we've seen God's faithfulness and grace that compels us towards the goal of reaching as many such needy and neglected women in our nation.

We are blessed of God to start a new **Medical Clinic** that will provide special medical assistance to these women and children in our community. What better occasion to start with, but on the International Women's Day!

A free medical camp was organised by *Vanitashray* for two days and the service was received by over 500 hundred women and children. We want to thank our board of Trustees, Doctors and Nurses along with a team from USA, who gave their support.

The local authority and the village contact people are very excited to see the medical service given to the community. To honour the widows, sari's were distributed to 40 widows from the same community. Our hearts were moved with compassion in serving these women. We really hope to see this service carry on each month, to help the poor and needy women in the community.

*"To be free is not merely to cast off one's chains, but to live in a way that respects and enhances the freedom of others."* — Nelson Mandela

We give all the glory to God and trust in Him for future steps that will lead us to be a blessing. Please pray with us, for local Doctors and Nurses, professionals who are willing to partner with us. Our heart is to serve the community in partnership with local people to see the project run in a long term by giving them the ownership.

# Audit of Accounts





## **11 things you should know about Australian Mercy's financial policies.**

The Board of Australian Mercy wish to advise donors and supporters that it has strict accounting policies and guidelines in place to ensure that;

1. All funds that are donated to Australian Mercy, together with income from other sources are receipted and are subject to an annual independent audit. A synopsis of this audit appears in our annual reports. (A full copy of our annual audit and annual reports are available upon written request from the Australian Mercy National Office.)
2. All funds donated to Australian Mercy are used for the purposes for which they are given.
3. Tax deductible funds for development based overseas projects will not be used for welfare, religious, or political purposes.
4. Where unspecified funds remain latent in our books for 12 months and the donors cannot be contacted, the Australian Mercy board will distribute such funds in ways that will benefit smaller development projects such as funding monitoring trips.
5. Australian Mercy funds will be used to assist those in need without distinction on the basis of caste, creed, class, race, gender, religion or political persuasion.
6. When a development project is completed and excess funds have been raised for that project then the Australian Mercy board will use the excess funds for another development project of a similar nature or in the same country as the original funds were donated to. (Tax deductible funds will only be used for other tax deductible projects.)
7. Australian Mercy deducts a 5% admin fee from all donations received in order to fund its operational expenses. It takes a higher admin fee of 10% or more from all grants and sponsorships (depending on the expectations of the donor). We also actively fundraise to meet for our administration costs. Some donors donate directly into our administration account in order to assist us meet the cost of our administration. Our intention is to pass on as much of each donation as possible to the project to which it is directed.
8. When we run an appeal for a project, at the close of that appeal we take out of the appeal moneys the costs of running that appeal. These might include postage and printing and stationary charges etc. Once these costs have been recouped the appeal profit is declared. Five per cent of the profit comes back to our admin account and 95% goes to the project.
9. The Australian Mercy Board is committed to openness and integrity in all of its financial dealings. You can request a copy of the full audit of Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd by writing to: Australian Mercy National Office, PO Box 132, Port Kembla NSW 2505.
10. Australian Mercy values its volunteer staff and in accordance with ACFID Code of Conduct guidelines expresses a dollar value for volunteer services in its audit documents. This can be seen in the notes to the audit. A copy of This values is derived by multiplying various categories of volunteer labour against a sliding scale of hourly rates that is provided to all NGOs by AUSAID. Hence the income and expenditure figures are inflated by these amounts and should not be mistaken as cash received or expended.
11. The Australian Mercy Financial Statements are prepared in accordance with the requirements of the ACFID Code of Conduct.



## Comments about the 2013 / 2014 Audit of Accounts

By David Skeat

This year's audit shows an increase in revenues of \$190,344.69 bringing our annual income total to \$966,830.00. Of these funds \$739,237.83 (76%) were used for projects. \$132,052.85 was used for administration.

### Fluctuations in income

Revenue increases from last year's figures were experienced by the National Office, Townsville, RescueNet, Shoalhaven, and Canberra. Rahab who are a new ministry did not have figures to compare income performance with.

Receipted income handled by the National Office by increased by \$131,392.32 to \$624,257.95 in this financial year. Townsville were up \$985.00, RescueNet increased their receipted income by \$8,234.02, Shoalhaven's revenue increased by \$29,648.30 to \$113,644.80 and Canberra increased by \$14,768.69 to \$16,965.57.

Decreases in revenue were experienced by; South Australia, Perth and Darwin. South Australia saw a decrease of \$13,546.64 in donation and fund raising receipts raising \$118,525.95 for the Cambodian Harvest project. Perth also receipted \$14,961.00 less that it did in the previous financial year receipting only \$17,102.00 and Darwin's revenue dropped by \$945.76 to \$7,310.41

**Table 1: Income and expenditure**

Funds to overseas projects	515,276.32	
Other overseas project costs	57,154.98	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>572,431.30</b>
Funds to Domestic Projects	166,806.53	
<b>Sub Total</b>		<b>739,237.83</b>
National Admin	132,052.85	
Fund Raising Costs	109	
Asset purchases	5,601.32	
Other Donations	2,915.07	
Retained earnings	86,913.93	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$966,830.00</b>	

### Project Funds

Funds sent to overseas projects was down by just over \$100,000 but most of the funds held in the retained earnings would have been for overseas projects; and as an audit is a snap shot of one's accounting on a given day it is of no consequence that some funds were not remitted to projects by the cut-off date.

Domestic projects continue to grow in their income and will continue to do as more projects come on line. This year saw an increase of approx. \$28,000, or 50% of income based on last year's figures.

### Administration

Our Admin costs are always a concern to us and this year we noted that they rose in proportion to the increase in income. However we are always trying to reduce them so as to pass on the greater benefit to our projects.

**Table 2: Admin cost variations from 2012 - 2013**

Item	Variation increase	Variation decrease
Insurance		4,840.14
Motor Vehicles	7,569.49	
Printing and Stationery	9,510.50	
Trademarks	5,569.36	
Travel	4,289.18	
Light and Power	894.02	
Staff Amenities	1,173.98	
Rent	587.19	
Repairs and Maint.	950.59	
Volunteer Expenses		476.54
Council fees	474.94	

Some variations in admin are included in Table 2, (only more significant amounts are used in this table.)

Contributed volunteer services were significantly up and an explanation of this is found in later on in these reports.

**Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd**  
**ABN 84 008 643 258**  
**Statement on Financial Performance**  
**For the year ended April 30, 2014**

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
<b>Revenue</b>			
<b>Donations and Gifts</b>			
<i>Monetary</i>	2	706,247.19	751,516.94
<i>Non-Monetary</i>	1	0	0
<b>Bequests and Legacies</b>		0	0
<b>Grants</b>		0	0
<i>AusAID</i>		0	0
<i>Other Australian</i>		0	0
<i>Other Overseas</i>		229,432.69	0
Investment Income - Interest Received		9,064.81	5,661.22
Other Income		22,085.31	23,307.15
Profit on Sale of Assets		0	(4,000.00)
Revenue for International Political or Religious		0	0
Adherence Promotion Programs		0	0
<b>Total Revenue</b>		<b>966,830.00</b>	<b>776,485.31</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
<b>International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure</b>			
<b>International Programs</b>			
<i>Funds to International Programs</i>		515,276.32	615,922.26
<i>Program Support Costs</i>		57,154.98	37,371.82
<i>Community Education</i>		0	0
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>			
<i>Public</i>		109	5,421.23
<i>Accountability and Administration</i>		140,569.24	102,752.07
<i>Government, multilateral and private</i>		0	0.00
<b>Non-Monetary Expenditure</b>		0	0.00
<b>Total International Aid and Development Programs</b>		<b>(713,109.54)</b>	<b>(761,467.38)</b>
<b>Expenditure</b>			
International Political/Religious Adherence Promotion		0	0
Programs Expenditure		0	0
Domestic Programs Expenditure		166,806.53	94,281.07
<b>Total Expenditure</b>		<b>(879,916.07)</b>	<b>(855,748.45)</b>
<b>Excess/Shortfall of Revenue over Expenditure</b>		<b>86,913.93</b>	<b>(79,263.14)</b>
Funds available for future use at the beginning of the year		352,916.29	432,179.43
Excess/Shortfall of Revenue over Expenditure		86,913.93	(79,263.14)
<b>Funds available for future use at the end of the year</b>		<b>439,830.22</b>	<b>352,916.29</b>

**Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd**  
**ABN 84 008 643 258**  
**Statement on Financial Position**  
**For the year ended April 30, 2014**

	Note	2014	2013
		\$	\$
<b>Current Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	377,593.58	310,005.25
Other financial assets		29,828.20	24,211.25
<b>Total Current Assets</b>		<b>407,421.78</b>	<b>334,216.50</b>
<b>Non-Current Assets</b>			
Property, plant and equipment	4	44,283.29	25,847.24
<b>Total Non-Current Assets</b>		<b>44,283.29</b>	<b>25,847.24</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>		<b>451,705.07</b>	<b>360,063.74</b>
<b>Current Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other payables	5	3,196.58	5,080.18
Current tax liabilities - GST		8,678.27	2,067.27
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>		<b>11,874.85</b>	<b>7,147.45</b>
<b>Total Liabilities</b>		<b>11,874.85</b>	<b>7,147.45</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		<b>439,830.22</b>	<b>352,916.29</b>
<b>Equity</b>			
Retained Earnings		439,830.22	352,916.29
<b>Total Equity</b>		<b>439,830.22</b>	<b>352,916.29</b>

**Table of Cash movements for designated purposes  
Year ending April 30, 2014**

Designated Purpose	Cash available begin/year \$	Cash raised during year \$	Cash disbursed during year \$	Cash available end/year \$
<b>A. Papua New Guinea</b>	13,017.44	0	0	13,017.44
<b>B. Thailand, Burma</b>	0	173,076.92	173,076.92	0
<b>C. HOOH</b>	0	0	0	0
<b>Total for All Other Purposes</b>	296,987.81	966,830.00	899,241.67	364,576.14
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>310,005.25</b>	<b>1,139,906.92</b>	<b>1,072,318.59</b>	<b>377,593.58</b>



**Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited**  
**ABN 84 008 643 258**  
**Directors' Report**

Your directors present this report on the company for the financial year ended 30 April 2013.

### **1. Directors**

The names of the directors in office at any time during or since the end of the year are:

David Skeat  
Nicholas John Matthews  
Matthew John Colwell  
Kris Leonard, Thomson  
Bruce Colin Skinner  
Christopher Lee Harrison  
Dianne Margaret Clark  
Jennifer Keatch  
Kevin Ewart Clark (appointed February 28, 2014)  
Rodney Alan Richards (appointed November 5, 2013)

Directors have been in office since the start of the financial year to the date of this report unless otherwise stated.

### **2. Operating Result**

The profit of the company for the financial year after providing for income tax amounted to:  
Year ended 30 April 2014 30 April 2013 \$ \$ 86,913.93 (79,263.14)

### **3. Principal Activities**

The principal activities of the company in the course of the year were to provide

(a) Direct relief to persons in Australia suffering from poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution or helplessness and provide relief to persons in Australia who are in necessitous circumstances.

(b) Direct relief to persons in countries designated as developing countries (which expression where herein used shall mean such countries as have been certified to be developing countries pursuant to Section 78(12), Income Tax Assessment Act) and who are suffering from poverty, sickness, suffering, distress, misfortune, destitution and helplessness and necessitous circumstances.

There were no significant changes in the nature of these activities during the financial year.

### **4. Dividends**

In accordance with the Memorandum of Articles of Association, no dividend can be paid, and accordingly, no dividend has been paid or recommended to be paid.

### **5. Events Subsequent to Balance Date**

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and/or unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Directors of the Company, to affect significantly the operations of the Company, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Company in subsequent financial years.

### **6. Significant Changes in the State of Affairs**

At the date of this report, the Directors are not aware of any circumstances not otherwise dealt with in the Report in the accounts that would render any amount stated in the accounts misleading.

### **7. Review of Operations**

The Company continued to trade at the start of the 2013-2014 financial year in a similar manner to the previous financial year. Since the end of the financial year no matter has arisen that has or may have a significant effect on the operations of the company or results of those operations on the state of affairs of the company during the financial year subsequent to the 30th April 2014.

### **8. Directors' Benefits**

No director has received or has become entitled to receive, during or since the financial year, a benefit because of a contract made by the company or related body corporate with a director, a firm which a director is a member or an

entity in which a director has a substantial financial interest. This statement excludes a benefit included in the aggregate amount of emoluments received or due and receivable by directors shown in the company's accounts, or the fixed salary of a full-time employee of the company or related body corporate.

**9. Indemnifying Officer or Auditor**

No indemnities have been given or agreed to be given or insurance premiums paid or agreed to be paid, during or since the end of the financial year, to any person who is or has been an officer or auditor of the company.

**10. Proceedings on Behalf of Company**

No person has applied for leave of Court to bring proceedings on behalf of the company or intervene in any proceedings to which the company is a party for the purpose of taking responsibility on behalf of the company for all or any part of those proceedings. The company was not a party to any such proceedings during the year.

**11. Auditors Independence Declaration**

A copy of the auditor's independence declaration as required under section 307C of the Corporations Act 2001 has been included.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors:



David Skeat Director



Matthew John Colwell Director

Dated: August 25, 2014

**Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited  
ABN 84 008 643 258  
Directors' Declaration**

The directors of the company declare that:

1. The financial statements and notes are in accordance with the Corporations Act 2001:

(a) comply with Accounting Standards described in Note 1 to the financial statements and the Corporations Regulations; and

(b) give a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 April 2014 and of its performance for the year ended on that date in accordance with the accounting policies described in Note 1 to the financial statements.

2. In the directors' opinion, there are reasonable grounds to believe that the company will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

This declaration is made in accordance with a resolution of the Board of Directors.



David Skeat Director



Matthew John Colwell Director

Dated: August 25, 2014

**Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited**  
**ABN 84 008 643 258 Independent**  
**Audit Report to the Members**

**Scope**

We have audited the financial statements of Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited, which comprise the Statement of Financial Performance, Statement of Financial Position, Statement of Cash Flows and Notes to Financial Statements for the financial year ended 30 April 2014.

*Directors' Responsibility for the Financial Report*

The Board of Directors are responsible for the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Act 2001* and for such internal control as the directors determine is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view and is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

*Auditor's Responsibility*

Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the financial report to the members on our independent audit. Our audit has been conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Those standards require that we comply with relevant ethical requirements relating to audit engagements and plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance whether the financial report is free from material misstatement.

An audit involves performing procedures to obtain audit evidence about the amounts and disclosures in the financial report. The procedures selected depend on the auditor's judgement, including the assessment of the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error. In making those risk assessments, the auditor considers internal control relevant to the association's preparation of the financial report that gives a true and fair view, in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the associations internal control. An audit also includes evaluating the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates made by the Board, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial report.

The financial report has been prepared for distribution to members for the purpose of fulfilling the Board's financial reporting obligations. We disclaim any assumption of responsibility for any reliance on this report or on the financial report to which it relates to any person other than the members, or for any purpose other than that for which it was prepared.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

**Qualification**

Cash donations are a significant source of revenue for the company. The company has determined that it is impractical to establish control over the collection of cash donations prior to entry in its financial records. Accordingly, as the evidence available to us regarding revenue from this source was limited, our audit procedures with respect to cash donations had to be restricted to the amounts recorded in the financial records. We therefore are unable to express an opinion whether cash donations received by the company are complete.

In the normal course of its business, the company derives a substantial portion of its income from donations and sales to related parties. As the effective control over such transactions are not established until they are received and entered in the accounting records, we have been unable to independently verify whether the amounts received from this source have been completely accounted for.

**Audit opinion**

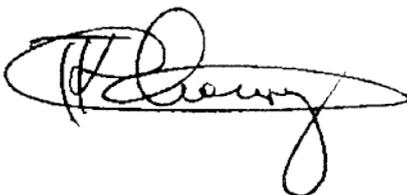
In our opinion, except for the qualification mentioned above, the financial statements of Australian Relief & Mercy Services Limited is in accordance with:

(a) the *Corporations Act 2001*, including:

- (i) giving a true and fair view of the company's financial position as at 30 April 2014 and of their performance for the year ended on that date; and
- (ii) complying with Australian Accounting Standards and the *Corporations Regulations 2001*; and

(b) other mandatory professional report requirements.

Signed on : August 25, 2014



Tony Khoury, Partner  
T A Khoury & Co Chartered Accountants 59 George Street, Burwood NSW 2134

## ADMINISTRATION COSTS

Australian Mercy takes a 5% administration fee from all donations and 10% from all grants and sponsorships that it receives in order to cover its administrative costs. These fees together with separate fundraising aimed at increasing the administration budget helps us to cover our administration costs without greatly impacting projects.

Our desire is to see as much money as possible pass onto the projects where it is needed most.

## Recognition and Disclosure of Contributed Services

In September 2011, The *Australian Standards Accounting Board* decided that;

*all NFPs (Not for Profits); whether in the private or public sector, should:*

*(i) be required to make disclosures about the nature and significance of donated services received, whether recognised or unrecognised; and*

*(ii) in principle, be required to recognise donated services received at fair value, when fair value can be measured reliably; [http://www.aasb.gov.au/admin/file/content102/c3/Minutes\\_unsigned\\_7-8\\_Sept\\_2011.pdf](http://www.aasb.gov.au/admin/file/content102/c3/Minutes_unsigned_7-8_Sept_2011.pdf) (Page 6.)*

This concept has been further developed by DFAT's Aid arm (formerly known as AusAID and has been inserted into the ACFID Code of Conduct guidance documents.

Australian Mercy will progressively move to accurately acknowledge show volunteer hours in its audit documents. We feel we cannot include the value of volunteer hours as a line item in the audit until some work is done ACFID and other regulators with regards to the technical issues that first need to be addressed.

In calculating the value of volunteer hours Australian Mercy has derived monetary value for its volunteer hours by applying a scale that has been approved and published by DFAT. Details of this scale can be found at [http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde\\_notes.pdf](http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde_notes.pdf) (pages 9-11)

Australian Mercy highly values its volunteer workforce but at the same time does not want to risk inadvertently overstating its financial position in audit of accounts; therefore in calculating the value of volunteers we have chosen to use the lower end of the DFAT scale when calculating the monetary value of volunteer labour.

For example the AUSAID scale gives the designation of *Project Assistant* with the salary range of 39,166 - 42,499 per annum. This works out to an hourly rate of 20.23 to 21.95 per hour. In its calculation for volunteers working under this designation Australian Mercy has used the lower portion of the hourly rate scale in doing its calculations. (Australian Mercy used the same principle in calculating all volunteer hour values in all pay scales.) A statement on the value of volunteer's contribution is found in the Auditors Notes to the Financial Statements and reads:

### **Non-monetary items**

*Non-monetary items arising from the work of volunteers in the Australian offices and the overseas projects constitute a significant value to the organisation.*

*The current policy of the company is such that the value of these non-monetary items is not recognised in the company's accounts.*

*However, the directors have calculated the value of the non-monetary volunteer work to be \$7,045,710.25 for the year ended 30 April 2014.*

## Explanation of volunteer hours recorded in the 2013 / 2014 audit

As a volunteer organization Australian Mercy values its volunteers. Australian Mercy relies solely on its volunteers to maintain its objectives and run its projects. We have no salaried staff: all of our workers from the National Director to the most recent volunteer worker are unsalaried and the work they do is amazing. Our oldest volunteer is in 84 years of age and our youngest volunteer in 2013 / 2014 was 18 years of age.

Last year the requirement for keeping account of estimated volunteer hours became known to us as the audit was being assembled by the auditor. In order to comply with this requirement we sought estimates from all of our projects and the auditor mentioned them in the notes as a single figure. This figure was derived by taking the estimated volunteer hours and multiplying them against the lowest pay rate in the lowest range of the AusAID Recognised Development Expenditure scale, (which is the standard used to estimate volunteer rates). See Table 3  
 In last year's audit only 76,297 volunteer hours (which were valued at 1,543,488.31) could be substantiated. These were included in the Auditors notes to 2012 / 2013 audit. This year the number of volunteer hours is considerably higher.

### 2013 / 2014 volunteer hours.

The reason for the higher estimate in this year's audit is twofold. Firstly this year we have had more opportunity to track the numbers of volunteer hours donated to us; and secondly we have used all six classes of volunteer in completing our estimates. (This year we again used the lowest end of the each pay rate in estimating our volunteer hour values.)

**Table 3: DFAT RDE Volunteer rates**

[http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde\\_notes.pdf](http://aid.dfat.gov.au/ngos/ancp/Documents/rde_notes.pdf)

In 2013 / 2014 the number of donated volunteer hours was 278,883 hours which we valued at \$ 7,045,710.79; of these hours, 108,315 (valued at \$ 2,805,125.15) were part of National Projects and 163,825 (valued at \$ 3,994,595.99) were for Overseas Projects. Our datasheet for 2013/2014 is reproduced in Table 4.

Our 10 Directors, some of whom volunteer full time for Australian Mercy, provided 6,743 hours of volunteer leadership which was valued at \$245,989.11.

Designation	Payscale
1. Project Assistant	\$39,166 – 42,499
2. Project Officer/Technician	\$48,137 – 53,363
3. Middle Professional	\$56,381 – 59,835
4. Project Manager	\$62,645 – 65,176
5. Team Leader	\$86,011 – 91,303
6. Higher Professional	\$103,988 – 117,105

Some of the larger volunteer numbers were recorded in Projects such as YWAM Medical ships that see hundreds of medical volunteer travel to PNG each year to provide free health care in remote areas of PNG. This year this project saw 65,976 volunteer hours donated. Another project Home of the Open Heart in Thailand saw 63,840 volunteer hours donated, this was due to building teams, volunteer teachers and child care workers who provide around the clock care for the children. These figures confirm to us the enormous value of our volunteer staff.

Whilst the data is large in its estimate we are working on ways to make sure that our possible margins of error are reduced. In the coming 12 months we are looking at ways of refining our data collection so that figures are more accurate.

The Board is of the opinion that the margin of error in this year's estimates has a margin of error of no more than 10%. Being a solely volunteer organization means that our volunteer participations rates will be higher than most other organizations. It also means rolling out accurate reporting will take longer as some of our volunteer staff have questioned the value of this kind of reporting.

**A full copy of the Australian Mercy audit of accounts for this financial year is available from our National Office upon written request.**

**Australian Mercy  
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Table 4: Volunteer Hours Data Sheet

Office	1. Project Assist	2. Project Officer / Tech	3. Middle Prof.	4. Project Manager	5. Team Leader	6. Higher Prof.	Total
Adelaide							
Burnie	1,935.00	297.50	2,108.00	230.00			4,570.50
Canberra	2,500.00						2,500.00
Darwin	7.00						7.00
Nowra	432.00		1,920.00				2,352.00
Perth	19,200.00						19,200.00
Port Kembla	62.50	1,470.00	3,430.00				1,532.50
Rahab	2,380.00	240.00	2,236.00				6,050.00
RescueNet		3,891.00	2,236.00				6,127.00
Townsville (VWAM Ships)	38,524.00		17,150.00			10,302.00	65,976.00
Burma	-	40.00	-	-	-	-	40.00
Cambodia	91.00	49.00	468.00	3,432.00			4,040.00
China	4,566.00		2,416.00			27.00	7,009.00
Congo	15,144.00	704.00	4,800.00			382.00	21,030.00
India	1,728.00	24.00	4,500.00	180.00			6,432.00
Thailand ARK	25,720.00	760.00	14,720.00			130.00	41,330.00
Thailand Mae Sot	1,358.00		1,136.00				2,494.00
Thailand HOOH		60,000.00		3,840.00			63,840.00
Thailand HSTK	11,642.00	1,780.00	28.00				13,450.00
Thailand MSBS		2,080.00	2,080.00				4,160.00
Timor Leste	Not available						-
Directors							-
Kris Thomson				880.00			880.00
Chris Harrison				220.00			220.00
Bruce Skinner				44.00			44.00
Jen Keatch				67.00			67.00
Kevin Clark				500.00			500.00
Dianne Clark				1,300.00			1,300.00
Nik Matthews				20.00			20.00
Mat Colwell				242.00			242.00
Rodney Richards				1,170.00			1,170.00
David Skeat					2,300.00		2,300.00
TOTAL HOURS	125,289.50	71,335.50	56,992.00	12,125.00	2,300.00	10,841.00	278,883.00
Hourly Rate	20.23	24.87	29.13	32.36	44.43	53.69	
Volunteer Value	\$ 2,535,067.79	\$ 1,773,986.92	\$ 1,660,016.31	\$ 392,404.38	\$ 102,199.20	\$ 582,035.65	
TOTAL VOLUNTEERS	\$ 7,045,710.25						

**Australian Mercy's Auditors are;  
T.A Khoury & Co  
59 George St  
Burwood NSW 2134  
[www.tak.com.au](http://www.tak.com.au)**

**T A Khoury & Co** is a progressive and dynamic firm of Chartered Accountants who have been dedicated in providing a comprehensive range of professional services over the last 10 years.

Our mission is to provide our clients with the highest standard of service and to maintain the highest levels of professional practice and ethics.

We measure the success of our service by the level of client fulfilment and growth. In recent years our practice has grown tenfold. We have significantly added value and contributed to the wealth of many clients. Our clients range from individuals and small businesses, which are generally privately owned, to audits of small public companies.

At *T A Khoury & Co*, we recognise the importance of individual attention and have a long tradition of close partner contact with our clients. Our philosophy is to develop a mutually rewarding relationship with each client, large or small.

We understand that 'client contact' means being able to associate with clients confidentially and confidently. This means understanding clients' needs and anxieties, yet showing imagination, flair and a willingness to take responsibility. In addition, our mindset includes common sense, determination, a willingness to work hard and a keen acceptance of new ideas and, above all, an ability to understand and communicate with people.

We recognise that one of the strengths of our practice also lies with our staff. Accordingly, we ensure that all our staff are highly motivated and of a high calibre. Our professional staff regularly participate in continuing professional education and are more than capable of handling our client's business needs.

To our **prospective clients**, if you are looking for more than just an accountant, we are sure that we can offer you more. We look forward to discussing any aspect of your business and would be pleased to set up an initial consultation to assist you in achieving either your personal and/or business objectives.

# End of Reports

