



**Australian Relief & Mercy Services
Ltd**

ABN 84 008 643 258

Annual Reports 2014 - 2015



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



Australian Mercy is a member of **Missions Interlink**, an Australian network for global mission: 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.



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).

Special note to these reports.

Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd has changed its financial reporting year from May 1, to April 30, to July 1 to June 30 of any given year.

These reports are the first to cover this new reporting period and will therefore bridge between the old and new reporting dates covering a 14 month reporting period of May 1, 2014 to June 30, 2015.

This 14 month reporting period should be noted especially when looking at our statement of accounts.

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.



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Company Directory

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| 1) National Office (Registered Offices)
2 Wentworth Street
Port Kembla NSW 2505
Ph: (02) 4274 1090 F: (02) 4274 9909
info@australianmercy.org | Director: Rodney Richards |
| 2) Office of the National Director
PO Box 878
Burnie TAS 7320
Ph: (03) 6431 1218 | National Director: David Skeat |
| 3) Adelaide Office
Cambodian Harvest
PO Box 658
Morphettville SA 5162 | Manager: Marion Winn |
| 4) Australian Capital Territory Office
76 Federal Highway
Watson ACT 2602
Ph: (02) 6241 5500 F: (02) 6241 6098 | Director: Dianne Clark |
| 5) Darwin Office
PO Box 290
Darwin NT 0801
Ph/F: (08) 8981 2424
jen@australianmercy.org | Director: Jen Keatch |
| 6) Perth Office
PO Box 8501
Perth Business Center
Perth WA 6849
Ph: (08) 9328 5321 F: (08) 9328 1324
dir_office@ywamperth.org.au | Contacts: Peter Brownhill / Kathy Kennedy |
| 7) Rahab
PO Box 1014
Firle, SA 5070
rahab@ywamsa.org.au | Manager: Paulette Cairns |
| 8) RescueNet
PO Box 7
Mitchell ACT 2911
markc@rescuenet.org.au
www.rescuenet.org.au | National Co-ordinator: Mark Cockburn |
| 9) Shoalhaven Office
9 Nundah Close
Bomaderry NSW 2541
Ph: (02) 432 034 148
helene@australianmercy.org | Manager: Helen Esdaile |
| 10) Townsville Office
PO Box 6221
Townsville QLD 4810
Ph: (07) 4771 2123 F: (07) 4772 4414
kenm@reeftooutback.com | Manager: Ken Mulligan |

The Board Of Australian Mercy



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 has served on other Boards including; YWAM Medical Ships Australia; Marine Reach Australia, Word Relief Australia, Co-Aid, and Travel With A Cause. He is also a member of the National Executive of YWAM Australia. He was formerly a Director of YWAM Albany.

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 Ourimba NSW/.



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)

Cert IV in Financial Services Accounting (Canberra Institute of Technology 2005)

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 Convenor, 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 Convenor 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 Convenor 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***

Projects and Organizations

Organization / Project	Australian Rep Office	Country of Focus	Focus
Acorn	National Office	Iraqi Kurdistan	Refugees
Ark International	Perth, WA	Thailand	Child at risk
Australian Mercy Fund	National Office	Various	Various
ARMS ACTA Disaster Trust	National Office	Various	Healthcare
Birth Attendant School	Perth, WA	Various	Healthcare
Burmese IDP Project	National Office	Burma / Thailand	Burma IDPs
Buzz Off Malaria Campaign	National Office	Burma /Thailand / PNG/ Indonesia	Malaria, Dengue etc
Cambodian Harvest	Adelaide, SA	Cambodia	Landmine Victims
Child Sponsorships	Darwin, NT	Various	Education
Chongqing Child Care Project	Perth, WA	China	Children in care
Donna McDermid Memorial Fund	National Office	Various	Women
East Timor / Bali Projects	Darwin, NT	Timor Leste / Indonesia	Development
Emergency Relief Projects	National Office	Various	Disaster Response
Help Save the Kids	National Office	Thailand	Children at risk
Home of the Open Heart	National Office	Thailand	HIV / AIDS
International Justice Mission	National Office	Phillipines	Human Trafficking
Karen Refugee Projects	National Office	Thailand / Burma	Refugees
Kids Ark	Darwin, NT	Timor Leste	Com. Dev. Education
Kokonut Pacific	National Office	Solomon Islands	Poverty Reduction
Medical Boomerang Teams	Perth, WA	Various	Healthcare
Nowra Community Food Store	Bombaderry, NSW	Australia	Comm. Welfare
Ossa Huna	National Office	Timor Leste	Agriculture
Perth Community Development Project	Perth, WA	Australia	Comm. Development
Rahab Australia	Adelaide, SA	Australia	Women in Sex trade
Redefined Ministries	National Office	Congo	Comm. Development
RescueNet	Canberra, ACT	Various	Disaster Relief
Trainers Development Fund	National Office	Various	Education
Thailand Primary Healthcare Training	National Office	Thailand	Healthcare
The Freedom Project	National Office	Burma / Philippines	Children at risk
Volunteer Vanuatu	National Office	Vanuatu	Comm. Development
The Canberra Pantry	Canberra, ACT	Australia	Comm. Welfare
Vanitashray	National Office	India	Women & Chn at risk
YWAM Medical Ships	Townsville, Qld	PNG	Medical / Healthcare

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 – (Contact the National Office)

Australian Mercy's National Website: 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

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.



Reports



National Director's Report

By David Skeat

The financial year 2014 / 2015 has not been without its challenges. Over this financial year the Board has reviewed many of our policies and procedures as a result a new policy manual will be launched in early 2016. This policy review has seen us ask hard questions of ourselves and come up with sound answers to these questions. The work has been arduous but the results have been very worthwhile.

We have welcomed several new international projects over the year and one project the Mae Sot Blind School decided to accomplish its goals by launching out in a totally new direction. We wish Boon and her staff all the best with their new venture.



Retirement of Director

In this year we also saw the retirement of our beloved friend and Director Matt Colwell. Matt has retired from all things work and hopes to spend time travelling and spending time with family. Matt will remain involved with Australian Mercy as a member of our Advisory Board. We wish him and Maureen much happiness in the years ahead.



Executive Council

The Board has put in place an executive group called the Executive Council, who are responsible to roll out the decisions of the Board. The Executive Council takes a lot of the administrative pressure in the day to day running of the ministry. The Directors who make up the Executive Council are;

David Skeat
Kris Thomson
Jen Keatch
Chris Harrison
Rodney Richards



The executive council meet by skype call once a week.

New Trust Fund

The Board has set in place a new memorial trust fund called the Vicki Thomson Medical Fund. Vicki Thomson was a great supporter of Australian Mercy and was the wife of our director Kris Thomson. The fund has been set up to provide funds for medical procedures for those living in poor communities. The fund will also provide scholarships for people in poor communities to receive medical training that benefit their community. The fund will have a three year establishment phase before any disbursements are made. A website will be set up for this fund in the coming year.

The Australian Mercy Board Meetings

The Australian Mercy Board met five times in this time covered by these reports. Two of those meetings were three day retreats in which business was handled over the entire three days; three meetings were electronic which is permitted under the rules of our constitution. Further information was shared by the Board is our cyber Board room over the 15 month period. (Decisions made in our cyber board room are minuted at the next face to face meeting.)

Table 1: Board Meetings 2014 - 2015

Date	Location	Directors Present
May 14, 2014	Skype	5
September 17, 2014	Port Kembla	6
December 5, 2014	Skype	6
February 23, 2015	Port Kembla	9
May 8, 2015	Skype	5

Australian Mercy Trust Funds

Australian Mercy has four Trust accounts that it operates out of the National Office. The following tables show that status of those funds as at June 30, 2015.

The total amount under investment in these trusts at June 30, 2015 was \$104,697.66. All funds shown in the tables below are in Australian dollars.

Table 2: ARMS ACTA Disaster Trust 2012 – 2013 (Established 2006)

Total donations received since 2006	\$53,381.00
Market value of fund at March 31, 2015 *	\$67,043.51
Total payments made to AM since 2006	\$17,904.54
Dividend received 2014 – 2015	\$2,549.48
Donations received 2014 - 2015	\$1,336.00

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) 2014 - 2015

Invested Income	23,501.00
Holding Account	3,859.38
Uninvested Funds	1,481.68
Total	\$28,842.06
Interest Received	830.78
Donations Received	1,090.54
Total Annual Income	1,921.32
Disbursals Made	2,305.27
Balance of Disbursal Account	226.68
*Total Fund Disbursals 2000 - 2015	14,280.00

*All disbursals from this fund are listed on our website. <http://australianmercy.org/australian-mercy-fund/>

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	19,711.03
Holding account	1,613.57
Uninvested Funds	0
Total	21,324.60
Interest Received	292.00
Donations Received	1,469.15
Investment Dividends	871.73
Total Annual Income	2,632.88
Disbursals made	0
Total Disbursals Since 2010	0

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. The funds are invested into low risk ethical investments. The fund's website is www.donnamcdermid.org

In 2013 -2014 the *Donna McDermid Memorial Fund* made no disbursals to projects. However, through the Donna McDermid Memorial Fund Australian Mercy raised \$4,439.76 which was sent to Vanitashray in India to help purchase a bus that would help young girls attending school in Pune travel safely to and from school each day.

Table 5: Vicki Thomson Medical Fund

Invested Funds	0
Holding Account	1,150
Interest received	0
Total	1,150
Interest Received	0
Donations Received	1,150
Total Annual Income	1,150
Disbursals made	0
Total Disbursals since 2015	0

This fund is managed by Australian Mercy and has been set up to provide funds for medical procedures for those living in poor communities who are unable to afford them. The fund will also provide scholarships for people in poor communities to receive medical training that benefit their community. This trust will make no payments from investments until after July 1, 2018.

Table 6 – Total Funds invested in Australian Mercy Trusts at June 30, 2015

Trust	Donations	Invest. Income	Fund Balance
ARMS ACTA Disaster Trust	1,336.00	2,549.00	53,381.00
Australian Mercy Fund	1,090.54	830.78	28,842.06
Donna McDermid Memorial Fund	1,469.15	871.73	21,324.60
Vicki Thomson Medical Fund	1,150.00	0	1,150.00
Total	5,045.69	4251.51	104,697.66

Total income of Trust Funds \$9,297.20

2014 -2015 saw several new projects joins and this has greatly expanded or budget. The report on the audit of accounts which can be found on page 71 of these reports shows our company to be in a very healthy financial position. Over the year our income increase by \$ 622,812.34 which is an amazing outcome.

As you read these reports you will see the blue TD symbol appear the bottom of most of the reports. This symbol denotes that the report you have read had tax deductible status in the 2014 – 2015 financial year.



National Ministry Reports



**Australian Mercy National Office (Port Kembla)
Annual Report – May 1, 2014 – June 30 2015**

As this year finishes, I look back and reflect on how honoured I am to work in the National Office and especially alongside some amazing people who are willing to come and serve in the office. Without their commitment to learn the various functions of the office and assist so that we can continue to serve those projects that we have relationship with. These wonderful friends and fellow workers make all that we do possible, and I thank them so much for all they do.

As with other years, we have also seen changes in staff, as some move on to other commitments or training, and others who believe in what we do come to fill the gap. Those changes include:

- Nick Hanson who managed the accounts and has now left to be a student on a Frontier Missions school,
- John McClelland, who with his wife, has come to serve the base for the next short season and has joined us in the office here to oversee accounts, and
- Bryan Friesen, who is involved with the RescueNet project office, and has now connected with us to serve in the accounts section.

As we talk about accounts, this year has also seen a change in the financial reporting period for Australian Mercy. In the past we have been working on a '1 May – 30 April' reporting period. Last we ran a 14 month period so that we can change to match the standard '1 July – 30 June' period. This will help as we align ourselves with the tax period of our donors.

This year also saw us look more seriously at how we promote Australian Mercy, and this involved being a part of the GoFest conference held in Sydney during June of 2015. This gave us an opportunity to display information about Australian Mercy and our projects, but also to have good discussions with people wanting to know more what we do and about relief and development work.

One trend we have seen since Australian Mercy gained it's own 9.1.1 tax status, is the increase in projects wanting to connect with us relationally.

This past year has seen the following projects join with us:

- International Justice Mission Australia – Cebu, Philippines Anti-Trafficking,
- Coconut Technology Centre (CTC) – Solomon Islands,
- The Freedom Project – Burma
- The Freedom Project – Philippines
- Osso-Huna Community Cooperatives & Tourism – East Timor

We are excited to work alongside these wondering groups as they seek to bring positive change in a world in need of dignity, identity and empowerment.

Rodney Richards.
Office Manager



Figure 1 : GoFest Display Table

**Australian Mercy Townsville Office Annual Report
May 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015**

The Australian Mercy Townsville Office was delighted to partner with the 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 2014 – June 30th 2015.



Nowra Community Food Store Annual Report

The year has become increasingly busy at the Nowra Community Food Store. It is truly becoming the Centre for access to cheap groceries for people who are doing it tough.

Also there has been an even greater acceptance of our services amongst the other not-for-profit and government agencies.

Food barn Warrawong invited us to partner with them in rescuing food from local supermarkets. Consequently we came on board with the Second Bite program in January. This is a Coles initiative and we pick up from Coles Nowra and Vincentia a couple of days each week. The food rescue is expected to increase to other supermarkets later in the year.

Our involvement with Oz Harvest has enabled us to pick up a wide range of food from the hospitality section of Bomaderry TAFE. This association with Oz Harvest is also expected to increase in the second part of 2015.

The acceptance and interaction with other organizations committed to helping those less fortunate has begun to open doors in ways I couldn't have imagined. I meet bimonthly with an interagency group including the Salvos and St Vincent de Paul, as well as another group made up of the Red Cross, Shoalhaven City Council, Grand Pacific Health, Fair Go Shoalhaven, ISLHD (Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District) and others. This group promises to be a tremendously helpful resource for the future and the Salvos and St Vincent de Paul refer many of the clients our way.

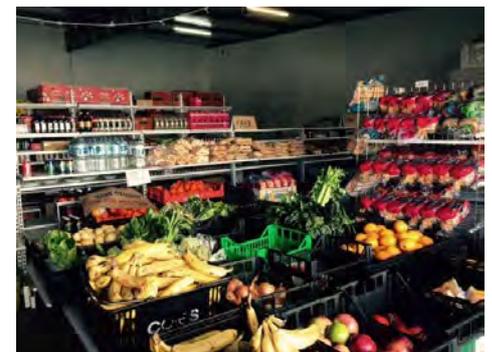
Because the Salvos offer financial counseling and both offer goods and services that we don't, the exchange of clientele is reciprocal.

As many of our clients battle with mental health issues, the sub-acute mental health facility at Shoalhaven hospital asked if I'd speak there each month on the services we provide.

Due to the increasing demand on our services and the expected increase in fresh produce and other grocery items we are once again looking at increasing our storage facility as we again are struggling to accommodate our goods and space for customers, volunteer staff and other amenities.

Due, I believe to the popularity of the larger Nowra store, the one at Bomaderry has declined and we are looking at options for the future of that location.

Helen Esdaille
Manager



This photo was a 'thank you' gift from a homeless guy who lives in the bush in his car. He used a hollowed limb of a tree as a vase and picked local flora for the flower arrangement and gave it to Helen Esdaille.





RescueNet Australia Annual Report - 2015 As at 30 June 2015

RescueNet (RN) International boasts ninety seven members with the Australian membership being twenty four, with two more in the pipeline.

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. The generous donations received by RN assist members to deploy covering such expenses as flights and ground fees. The donations also assist in purchasing necessary equipment and medical supplies associated with each deployment. Donations received that are marked for specific aspects of a disaster are channelled directly into those areas.

2014/15 Achievements: DEPLOYMENTS

From mid-March extending into early April, a strong international team of seven RN members plus three Marine Reach doctors, one general MD and two logistical people deployed into Vanuatu after Tropical Cyclone PAM devastated the islands of Port Vila, Tanna, Pele and the Pango district. Four Australian RN members were part of this international team.

The team provided disaster care to nationals including medical, dental and counselling assistance and manpower for clearing debris from roads, paths, yards, rebuilding and repairing homes, etc. During the two weeks spent in Vanuatu, the team served 358 casualties on Tanna Island; 16 casualties on Pele Island; 163 casualties in the Pango district: A total of 537 casualties.

Secondly, from late April and extending into May, an international team of sixteen RN members, including four Australian members, deployed into Nepal after the massive earthquake that impacted the country. The team provided disaster care to nationals including medical assistance, disaster childcare and basic emergency relief. Approximately three hundred Nepali people benefited from the assistance given by the RescueNet team.



2014/15 Achievements: INTRODUCTORY COURSE & EXTRA CURRICULAR TRAINING

The annual Introductory Course was held in May 2015 in Canberra with six participants coming from Australia, Norway, the US, Canada and Germany. Once again, the standard of the course was high and five participants expressed a strong desire to join the ranks of RN. Two Membership Applications are already being processed.

Members from New Zealand, Perth, Wollongong, Canberra and UK attended an Extra-Curricular Training activity in late November specially designed to enhance the skills of members. The training was run over three days. For this event, particular attention was given to medical and search & rescue skills.



Challenges

The biggest challenge faced by RN when deploying into disaster affected countries is the country's government and/or the UN requiring more information from aid agencies to prove their legitimacy. This was experienced during both the Vanuatu and Nepal deployments. The process of supplying this information and other details hampers the relief efforts of the team. RN Australia 2015 Annual Report Page 2 However, correspondence has been received from AusAid asking RN Australia to register with them. Our hope is that this will put us in a place of distinct advantage when attempting to enter countries quickly to assist those affected by disasters.



Perth Community Development Program Report Annual Report May 2014- June 2015

We have continued working with families in crisis both locally in Perth and internationally the last 13 months. We were able to serve **106** families, made a total of **310** individual visits. That's approximately **2331** volunteer hours of serving the community in Perth!

The total number of families we have served in Perth since 1988 is **2183**. This year we served families in over **60** different suburbs in the last 13 months. We have mostly served families with;

- cleaning 72%
- gardening 24%
- moving house (packing) 2%
- skip bin/verge clean-up 1%

New Ministry Leader

Elias Wape, from PNG, has joined our ministry leadership team after serving with the ministry for 5 years. He is a great addition to our leadership team, having extensive experience in ministry with people suffering drug and alcohol addictions, sports ministry, ministry with indigenous peoples and much more! He is a wonderful addition to our leadership team.



Annual Christmas Appeal

Our annual Christmas Appeal was again a great success! We delivered 35 food hampers and 100+ Christmas presents to the families we have worked with during the previous 12 months, and other low-income families.



It was a wonderful blessing to play "Father Christmas" and bring tangible joy and relief to families, many who did not have much finance to be able to buy gifts for their children.



Indonesia

In November, 2014, we took a small team to Indonesia. We served a local ministry there, doing primary health care and clinic work, as well as some children's ministry, playing games, crafts and face painting (which is always a huge hit!).

We taught 50 children (and the grown-ups) on the importance of hand-washing and personal hygiene. The children were able to demonstrate their understanding of all that was taught to them.

Nollamara

We are continuing our focus on Nollamara, a suburb of Perth, which has had the highest crisis referral rates 2008-2013. As we go to Nollamara weekly, we meet many of our previous clients in the local park! We have also connected with many other residents, especially refugees and migrant families.

Our aim in going to Nollamara 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.

We have trialed an "After School Kids Program" at one of the churches in Nollamara over the winter months, but did not find that many people from the community attended. There was some interest but it was sporadic.

We continued the Kids Club in the park, and have found that much more



successful with 10-25 children community attending each week!

We have played a lot of soccer, made our own kites, done self-portraits, made slime, made puppets and pets-rock, Christmas ornaments and much more!

We ended the 2014 with a community BBQ, which was nearly blown away by a crazy wind, but a lot of fun anyhow! In 2015 we have continued meeting weekly in the park connecting with families there and doing informal games and social activities. We will continue to be a presence this year in Nollamara.



Community Service Days

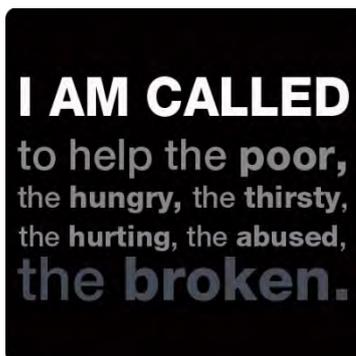
We have had 8 Community Service Days in the last 13 months and 130 high school students come out with us to serve families in the community!

It a real joy to see these young people so motivated and caring toward the elderly and needy in the community and a real privilege to be able to disciple them in this process.

Street Appeal 2015

Once again our annual street appeal was a real success. We raised \$14,300 with the help of many wonderful volunteers. We hope to use part of these funds and last years' funds to buy a new utility vehicle for the ministry especially to assist with gardening jobs, and other jobs requiring a small truck.

Susanna Little, Elias Wape and Liesbeth McClure
Perth Community Development Program Leaders



Rahab Annual Report 2014 – 2015

Because of the sensitive nature of this ministry we cannot give a lot of details concerning locations and clientele.

Rahab is a specialized ministry that care for women caught up in the sex industry.

The women we assist have multiple needs. They are often homeless and have very little savings. Often the majority of the money they do get from work is spent on their addictions. These women need a safe house and a place where they can receive counsel and have their physical and emotional needs met.

Many of these women also need to attend court which brings further implications to their lives. There are many women working in the sex industry who have very little English speaking skills which marginalises them from society. There are women who are trapped in the sex industry through human trafficking and through fear from the past, deceptive recruitment, threats made against them or their family or they can be afraid to seek help or to receive any assistance.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is common amongst sex workers, which can cause depression, anxiety, insomnia, isolation and nightmares. This can make the woman fragile and can hold them back from their future.

Many of the women struggle with loneliness and isolation because they can't or choose not to tell family and friends about their work in the sex industry.

The Rahab team assist the women in different ways to meet the individual needs of each client. In most cases the holistic approach is used with the exception of those who just want someone to talk to on infrequent occasions. For example:

For the clients who do want further relief, Rahab has a team of volunteers who offer pastoral care which includes practical, psychological and emotional support through referral and short or long term mentoring.

Referrals include but are not limited to: housing assistance, financial counselling, court assistance, counselling, rehabilitation and detox, discipleship programs, employment services, government programs and community groups.

Rahab is working several Australian cities and is involved in establishing outreach programs in Nations outside of Australia



International Ministry Reports



**Buzz Off Annual Report
 May 1 2014 – June 30, 2015**

By David Skeat

Buzz Off has been very busy over the past year in Burma and Thailand. We have experienced some difficulty as our funding for 2015 did not arrive until outside of the financial year so this limits as to what we can report on.

Essentially we are able to keep going in Thailand and Burma but the lateness of the funding for PNG means that no PNG project information can be reported in these reports.

In Burma we continued to train malaria volunteers. There are two training sessions that took place within this financial year.

November 2014 Seminars

The November seminars were run in Twantay and Kalay. Twantay is on the border of the Irrawaddy and Kalay on the border of Chin State. Saw Marcus Winn was not available for these seminars so we used his friend Mr Maung Maung Win a retired etymologist from the Department of Health. Mr Win works as an advisor to Buzz Off and helps us with some of our written translation work. He has taught in our seminars in the past and is a very capable teacher.

Twantay

The Twantay (Twante) seminar had 59 attendees and was held in a large church hall that provided good facilities for the provision of lunches to the attendees. Again we were amazed at the distances people travelled in order to attend. Some people had come as far away as Sittwe and one man from Shan state next to the Chinese border. This man has invited us to come and do training in that area and discussion are happening between him and our Yangon office. The area he is from is highly malarious but remote and we are not sure if the government will allow us to physically stay in the region. The group from Sittwe are asking if we will also return there to run more training.



Photos from the Twantay seminar

Kalay

The Kalay seminars we well attended (39 attendees) considering that some expected attendees could not come to the seminars themselves owing to heaving rains that made roads impassable. We were told that another 20 attendees from deep in Chin state were stuck in isolated areas due to rain. However, some people from isolated areas did attend. One group of nine people told us that they had to walk 40km to get to a place where they could catch a bus Kalay

Chin state is highly malarious and very under developed and has much need of basic infrastructure such as roads so that the people can bring their crops to market, this lack of infrastructure reinforces the poverty in remote areas.

Kalay is in Sagiang division but border Chin state it is has a large resource of Community Based Organizations who are trying to address social problems in Chin state some of these organizations sent representatives to the Kalay seminar. Through these CBOs we have been able to distribute 1000 LLIN nets into remote areas of Chin state.

The Kalay seminars saw more of local NGO ABC Myanmar's people trained and with some limited help they will be able to run effective malaria training in the region. We will end up feeding resources into the networks that they create.

Originally we had intended to run the seminar in a more remote situation which was a 3 hour drive into Chin state, however, the wet weather and inability to obtain government approval for us to stay in a lace that did not have a government approved hotel meant that we had to settle on Kalay as the venue.

March 2015 Seminars

In March of 2015 the training team were in Kyauk Kyi (Pegu Region) and we also returned to Mandalay. During these two seminars we trained 102 malaria volunteers

Kyauk Kyi

Kyauk Kyi is in a very remote and malarious area where there has been a lot of persecution and pain but this has ceased since the peace process has commenced. In these seminars we trained 50 malaria volunteers many of whom came from very remote villages. The people were very keen to learn.

Access to this area is not usually allowed to Westerners but in late 2014 we were introduced to a senior government minister who insisted that we go there – when we arrived we were met by many officials because the minister had written ahead to inform them that we were there under his invitation and authority.



The people here were desperate to know how to control malaria in their villages and were very attentive to the presentations and participated eagerly in the workshops.

Mandalay

The Mandalay seminar served two purposes. Firstly it gave us an opportunity to come back and talk to some of the people who had attended our seminars that we held there in 2011 and secondly it gave us a new opportunity to train more people. 52 people were trained in this seminar.

The people we interviewed who had trained in 2011 were still going strong and still working hard in their communities. On medical network that we set up has disbanded because the organizer has gone to live in the US and there was no succession plan place to replace him.

The amount of nets distributed in this period is minimal because of the lateness in the funding arriving so the total amount will have to be carried over into next year's report.

In November 2014, Buzz Off received an invitation to go to Nigeria to train Malaria workers there. Negotiations are ongoing and all being well we will be sending a training team across in August 2016.

Buzz Off would like to acknowledge the work done by Mobile Mercy from Holland who have assisted in these seminars over the past 2 years. They are a great team and we are very grateful for their assistance in reaching out in the remote areas of Burma.



Support to clinics in the IDP areas of Burma

Australian Mercy continued to give its support to medical clinics that are serving Internally Displaced People (IDPs) in the eastern Burma.

The main part of our support have been to provide malaria medicines, diagnostic and treatments for the clinics working in in these areas.

Some funding has been given to help combat Filariasis (Elephantitis) a disfiguring disease that is spread by mosquitoes. Testing in the IDP areas showed that 30% of the people passing through the camps tested positive to the disease.



Microscopy Report

By Robin Wales

On 27th October 2014, I took RDTs and Haemoglobin colour scale test kits for Myanmar Seminars and the Thai Burma Border, and a Microscope and other microscopy supplies for the border to Bangkok.

From October 29 to November 16, I was in Myanmar buying supplies with Kris and Rodney after we met with Elizabeth for the first 2 days, then part in Buzz Off Seminars in the Irrawaddy (very hot) and Kalay. This was a good time with our friends from Mobile Mercy in Holland and Mr Winn as well as our Buzz Off team. I included Tb in my teaching for the first time and it was great to have Rodney taking over my teaching. We also had village and orphanage visits on the last Friday and Saturday. We found a local source of WHO approved SD RDTs and were given some of these by the Shwin Chan Trading Co. We left some of these as well as Carestart RDTs and Haemoglobin kits with Elizabeth for use there.



November 17, I took microscopes and other gear by bus to Mae Sot as they were too heavy for flying. I checked slides from clinics for staining and accuracy of reporting and serviced microscopes early that week and bought a cooler box for a microscope and other things including medicines for Em. Then I went to Chiang Mai for one night for microscopy supplies. I took Em's medicines to Mae Salit Kee and stayed Saturday night with her and Napoleon and their family.



Jonathan and Elisabetta were away but Marci organised the microscopy training the next week in Saw Tha's clinic. She was also one of the students and did very well, we had other students for Saw Tha's and Lay Tong Ku We gave two level 3 and three level 2 certificates.

Many of the slides I checked from Lay Tong Ku incorrectly reported as PF positive and I have asked Marci to have them treat on the basis of positive RDTs to prevent wasting PF medicine and development of drug resistance. I was blessed to share a sumptuous Thanksgiving dinner at Matt's house, and had good meetings with Eh Kalu and SMRU.

I left Darplex medicine from Myanmar, Haemoglobin kits and RDTs for Eh Kalu and Em. Also RDTs for PRAD, FBR, Corina, and Drs. Jonathan and Elisabetta.

My next trip was to Mae Sot from April 18 to May 3, 2015. Taking repaired microscopy items, RDTs and Haemoglobin kits for our friends on the border.

Dr Elisabetta was a great help to me in arranging the teaching in a house next to theirs, picking me up and taking me to Mae Salit when I took Em's medicines and stayed with Napoleon and Em again. Dr Jonathan was away. Elisabetta took me to dinner at the Casa Mia a few times.

I did microscopy shopping in Chiang Mai again. The result checking of Lay Tong Ku slides was disappointing with wrong results again, mainly false positive PF reported, with poor labelling and recording of results. Marci hopes to get on top of this. The older microscopist didn't come for training, He may be out of the picture now, they have another microscopist I have trained who is very good but the older guy used to vet and change his results. The teaching week from Mon 27 was very good.

We had six students from KDHW mainly from remote locations, they had been trained at Mae Tau clinic earlier and came for follow up, after they been doing some clinic microscopy, and to have their slide results and microscopes checked. This was all good and will have been a one off teaching. They can have their results checked at Mae Tau in future. Other students were three from LTK and Saw Tha's niece. Saw Tha helped with the training.



We gave six level one and 4 level two certificates. I had good meetings with Eh Kalu, and a lovely meal at Sonya's during this trip.

Other things:

I still arrange for the purchase of LLINs, RDTs and Haemoglobin Kits. Also post out RDTs and Haemoglobin kits sold through the Buzz Off online shop.

My son Andrew and his wife Sheila look after this when I am away. We often have to negotiate with Customs and Fedex to get RDTs cleared.

I have just arranged for and received our new AQIS Import permit for the RDTs valid till 2017.

Some microscopes and parts that I can't restore in Mae Sot have been brought back, repaired professionally here, and returned.



IDPs and Refugees on Thai Burmese Border

By David Skeat

Australian Mercy has been working among mainly Karen refugees and internally displaced people on the Thai Burmese border for over 20 years. We fund a preschool and preschool training in Mae-la camp and also fund a middle school and an emergency accommodation project that looks after unaccompanied children and youth in the camp. We also through our Buzz Off project provide assistance to medical clinics and doctor who are serving the internally displaced people inside Burma.

Mae-la Preschool

The Zone A No 3 preschool in Mae-la cam has 70 children and 6 teachers in it. Since Corina Moo moved to Australia the preschool is now run by her sister Paw Htee Khu. Corina came to Australia on our recommendation as her health was deteriorating markedly and we felt that we needed to get her to safe place where her body to fully recover. She is now reunited with her family here in Australia and is living in Melbourne and works for Australian Mercy as a volunteer part time.

The preschool in Zone A 3 has over 70 students and 5 teachers. Australian Mercy still helps cover the training of other teachers in the in the other 22 pre-schools at Mae-la camp. Training is done at the Zone A No 3 pre-school it is also the central point for rice distributions. The rice is delivered to the preschool and divided up and delivered to the other preschools via a motor bike that was supplied by Australian Mercy's donors.



Rice distributions

In November 2013 rice distributions to refugee camps on the Thai / Burmese border were cut by 1/3 this disgraceful action on the part of some NGOs has caused a situation where crime in the camp has increased as people steal rice from each other in order to live. Malnutrition has also increased, particularly among small children.

Australian Mercy has been providing rice for a nutritional supplements program that provides rice to 23 preschools every month that ensures that some of the most vulnerable people (the old and the children) are not as severely impacted by the lack of rice.

In July 2014 Corina Moo and David Skeat travelled to Canberra to me with the then Assistant Foreign Minister Brett Mason. Corina put up a very strong case for her people but subsequent communication with Senator Mason's office denied our request for the Australian Government to intervene and to provide money for more rice. Further approaches will be made in 2016.



Australian Mercy donors provide \$500 per month (20 bags of rice) in order to maintain tis nutritional supplements program. This does not solve the whole problem but it is acting as a buffer for those who are most at risk.



Christmas in the Mae-la Camp

Security at Mae-la has tightened and it public meeting of any substantial size are discouraged. So when we planned to have our annual Christmas party for the preschool children in the camp, the team at our Zone A No 3 preschool thought up a way to celebrate Christmas in all 23 preschools.

They disguised themselves as Santa and his Elves and over 2 days delivered presents to the children in all 23 camp preschools.

After the delivery of presents food was served to the children and teachers. The food and presents were paid for by Australian Mercy donors.

In all between December 8 – 10, 2014, 2,250 preschool children celebrated Christmas with a meal and each child received a small gift.

IDPs

Our main assistance to the IDPs is through the Buzz Off Malaria program through which we provide medical assistance to clinics in the IDP zones.





We have had a very challenging year; financially it was one of the harder years, but also a growing time.

In school it was a time that for the first time for 6 months Soraya (I) was absent from the school, I took a leaving to go to Brazil to be with her unwell father, and with the supervision of Branca and other lady the school was running by the locals teachers and administrators, staff that have been trained by us and were able to take this opportunity and show that they have really learned and are capable to do it. It was a great accomplishment for them and for all of us. I ended up staying longer that I thought and the local teachers and coordinator together with Branca manage to finish the year with success. It was a signal that they are learning, they are taking ownership and this was a great result.



The kids are growing in knowledge and desire for learning, it good to see them growing and how eager to learn they are. We started the year with full classes, more than is expected or ideal but couldn't turn them back. We have 298 kids in school.

We bought land in Hera for U\$ 35,000 through a fundraiser from Yoralla Ministry in SA , with the aim of a future "mini hospital" or medical facility to have people staying if needed and not only a clinic. This project still a dream for the future we are waiting also to hear from Government on this matter, but we have the land.



For two weeks we had a team of electrician come to Hera for 2 weeks and re wiring the whole Ministry/base house. It cost approximately U\$ 15,000 and it was all donate to us.

Another team came Adelaide for adding a new water tank to the school as the old tank wasn't enough anymore to provide water for the whole school. We had a few different teams of teachers that came for different times, some one week others one month to work alongside the teachers and help with our continuing teachers training.

We had 3 different schools from Australian, Singapore and Indonesia bringing students from year 11 and 12 for a week of activity and an exchange time with our students and teachers.

We are receiving a number of 30 disable people committed to the program every week, and some families as well. Local ladies have been trained to work and run programs and more training is in place. We take some of the disable to physiotherapy in Dili twice a week still and many progress have been made. Our center was invited for the first time to participate in the country Paralympic Games and one of them got first and second place ... it was very special for them feeling proud and part of something bigger than the disability.



We received a gift of a "Microlet", a small van that cost \$ 16,000 be used for the disability center, it was been a huge blessing to have this extra transport to bring and take the people back and forth to the center and also

to other activities.

Medical teams and nurses, and a physiotherapist were also part of the teams coming through this year, helping in the clinic and disability center.

The clinic continue to open every day a week doing a pre and post-natal once a week, and a normal everyday clinic, we have a Cuba doctor working with us 3 times a week. The number of health mothers and babies are increasing as they continue to learn basic knowledge of nutrition and hygienic.

Julio's Story



“ My life before the disability center wasn't a real life at all, I was drunk most of the time, sleeping in the street had no reason to live or do to anything, had no sense of value or dignity, I was just a disabled person and a burden to others.

Now, my life has change, I know I am important and a human being like any other, I love playing basketball, and I can even help others, I am able to make some money selling fish in the streets, and I have a place to come and learn more and feel a sense of belonging as well, to be able to have a place where we can use a normal, nice and clean toilet, a place for us made me feel important and I don't need to drink to forget

who I am any more”.

Julio has discovered his passion. He is one of the best basketball players In the country.

Ladies Co-operative

Our ladies cooperative, a group of ladies that started many years ago to help the economic lives of families in Sidara, is now being run by a local lady. This group helps local families by making low interest loan to them, every week the local ladies are able to bring back the money they have borrowed. They have little kiosks, some are selling firewood, others making bread, or selling vegetables. Again, the lives are changing and they feel good about it.

Building Program

A fundraiser for extra classes at school has been done so the next project is an extension of 3 classes and a library for the school in Hera.

We have few classes with more than 40 kids so we need the extras classrooms as soon as possible to be able to accomplish our goal of a better education for the kids and not only have quantity of kids, and its very have to give our best to the students with many in one classroom.



New Prospects

Also another community in the hills an hour and a half from Hera is asking for our help, so we have started a program once a week doing kids ministry, computer classes and health programs as needed, they are in a lot of basic need and we are seeking other practical ways that we can help them.





Help Save The Kids
May 1st 2014 - June 30th 2015

May is the month of preparations. The students are back home on holidays and those that can't go home help put the school together, maintenance, cleaning, shifting of classrooms, and shopping all in the lead up to their arrival on June 1st.

Since the start of the year the school has been in full swing, devotions, learning, playing, cooking, cleaning and so much more. This year we have started the building of our new dormitory. A group of students have set out to become master builders and under the careful instructions of our engineer they are learning all the trade secrets. Most afternoons groups of students head down to the farm for watering, planting, weeding and sunshine. We have planted fields of rice and vegetables that all have enjoyed eating. It has been a great year that has seen our school grow and develop into a greater learning center, children's home and family.



Working with the oppressed Karen people of Burma, that have been long oppressed by its leaders and government is challenging. Although we have formed great lasting relationships with both parents, communities, and leaders it's always difficult to have them see past the last 65 years of war and into a different future for their children. Our older students have reached what is considered to be the 'earning age' (16) for children in Burma. Many parents have been calling their children back to help them in everyday household tasks and working the fields. Sadly, this limits the ability for the students to continue their education and master subjects and skill sets. We know that an increased education would provide an increase in their ability to earn more income during their adult years. Over the past year we have seen students leave our school. Some have even been sold and traded to major cities by their parents, and as the culture instills complete obedience they reluctantly go. We understand it is difficult for the parents to fully grasp the benefits of, further education, as they have never had one nor seen the benefits first hand. However we continue to step out and continue to encourage the parents of our children to believe in a better future. Thankfully we have been able to keep contact with our former students, even those that have moved far into the cities, and we are so thankful that the bond we have formed over the years is lasting and they are always calling home to talk. *'Our heart is to never lose, not one.'*

We have seen students come from further afield this year seeking education and relationship with our school. It is extremely encouraging knowing our sphere of influence is increasing. It has been so amazing to see the ground works completed, cement pads, posts, fencing, brickwork, reinforced roofing structures, cement mixers, machines, tractors, hoes, diggers, and electric tools, as well as good old sweat and hard work. To bring about a change for their future and the future of Help Save The Kids as we move ever forward.



We implemented the New South Wales Australian curriculum in Math and English allowing us to better monitor the academics of each student and a broadening of life experience and knowledge. We have incorporated it along with the continued education in building construction and design, renewable resources and sustainable functions.



Our hope for the upcoming year is to completely relocate to the projects new property, increasing in sustainability by eliminating our renting cost for housing, to produce more vegetable crops from the land and increase efficiency in utility use. The challenges we primarily face is with funding and the building of dormitories, a great portion of what we raise goes to the general living expenses and operation of the school. Making a pay as we go system during construction and causing us to hold at times where we are lacking in finances.

Our keys points for finance over the last 12 months has been to invest the greatest portion possible into the build and preparation of our new school grounds. This of course has limited our day to day living but we believe that sacrifice now will be a great blessing for our future. We have made budget cuts where possible while keeping integrity in health and hygiene of the school, making sure each student receives

what is nutritionally necessary for a young active growing person. It has been important keeping an emphasis with our education program, insuring that we keep a high standard of education for all.

The financial contributions that we have received this year have gone to national staff wages, house rents and utilities, food and hygiene, clothing and educational resources building and construction and farming.

It is with extreme gratitude that we thank all our sponsors and supporters that have helped to makes this year a success. Your financial contribution has enabled another group of children to pass through an extremely valuable year of learning. To all our project volunteers and the team at Australian Mercy, your time and dedication given to our project both in Thailand and Australia is invaluable and a sincere blessing to each individual at Help Save The Kids. Lastly to our support network around the globe your prayers, emails, calls, and messages have been a great encouragement. Thank you for sharing your love and support boosting our moral and showing together we can make a difference.

Judah Tana
Manager



ACORN

Activities between 2014 and June 30, 2015 [December 15, 2014 - June 15, 2015]

On December 27 and 28, 2014, our team participated with other ex-pats in distributing 4,000 small electric heaters to Yezidi IDPs living in a camp outside of Duhok.

From December 2014 through February 2015, a staff member helped to provide bread to families and activities for children at an informal Yezidi IDP settlement.

In January 2015 our ex-pat community partnered with Samaritan's Purse to distribute Operation Christmas Child Boxes and TOMS shoes to a community of Yezidi IDPs living in an unfinished school.

During the month of April 2015 our team organized and facilitated logistics for a Children At Risk Seminar where ethnic Christian IDPs were trained to work with traumatized children. The seminar participants were involved in an outreach to ethnic Christian children who had to flee from their homes due to ISIS during the summer of 2014

In May 2015, our ex-pat community raised finances to purchase 3,300 air coolers for Yezidi IDPs. Our team participated in the distribution of the coolers May 15th - 18th.

Challenges and Good Things

The needs of hundreds of thousands of internally displaced persons is overwhelming! Although our team was not able to complete everything we hoped due to limited personnel, time and resources, it was rewarding to be able to provide help to some Yezidi IDPs. Recipients of the heaters, OCC boxes, shoes and coolers experienced the kindness and concern of Christians. Another positive aspect of the distribution projects was the unity we displayed as ex-pat believers. We represented many nations, organizations and age groups. Since we didn't have a formal name, the local government decided to call us "The United Church". That is a treasured name to carry in the midst of a painfully fractured nation!

Hopes and challenges for the coming year

The IDP crisis will not diminish until villages and cities are recaptured from ISIS. The ongoing need for housing, food, medical care and education is critical presenting an immense challenge for the government and international organizations. Our team is small and already involved in ongoing projects so our ability to be involved with new projects is limited. We will continue to seek ways to partner with other organizations to provide assistance to IDPs living near our city.

Use of Funds

We withdrew Australian Mercy's donation of \$892.00 USD from the Bank of Bagdad on the 27th January 2015. The total amount was used to purchase 12 swamp coolers (\$75.50). In May 2015, these coolers, along with 3,288 others, were distributed in to Yezidi IDPs living in tents in prior to the intense summer heat. Thousands of people were able to have a steady stream of cooler moist air flowing into their tents.

Word of thanks for donors.

We are deeply grateful for the finances that were given to help IDPs living in N. Iraq! Through your generosity, Kurds experienced tangible evidence that not only were they not forgotten, people halfway around the world cared for them! The Kurds have a saying, "Our only friends are the mountains." By your gifts you demonstrated that they have friends beyond the mountains. Thank you!

Report submitted by

Cathy Brubaker Miles,
ACORN NGO Managing Director



Trainer's Development Fund

This project provides training and mentoring in small communities in S. E. Asia. This project has not operated over the past 12 months and has seen no funds donated or expended.
The Australian Mercy Board is monitoring this project.

Our Australian Mercy Chongqing China Office was established in China in 2008 with a desire to see a change in the plight of orphans. Our goals are:

1. To see improvement in the quality of care for children in Chongqing municipality orphanages.
2. To all children in Chongqing municipality orphanages who require medical care & surgery to receive it
3. To see orphanage workers better equipped to care for the specific needs of the children under their care
4. To prevent abandonment of children in Chongqing through education, training, support & empowerment of those at risk of abandoning their children and the wider community

ARMS Chongqing office seeks to intervene in these situations through a number of strategies.

1. Organizing and providing short and long term foster care in families for special needs children
2. Organizing and funding medical care and operations for children as the need arises
3. Promoting and organizing training by groups of specialised volunteers to come in and provide specialist medical, physical, or child developmental training for the staff in the orphanage.
4. Raising awareness of the needs of these children in the local community by arranging and facilitating local volunteers to help in the orphanages and in our foster home
5. Preventing abandonment through educating and empowering single mothers to care for their children
6. Educating and empowering families of children with special needs. Providing training, support, counselling and financial support as needed.

This year the main focuses have been on our foster home, our single mother pilot program as well as facilitating local and international teams volunteering at local social welfare institutes.

Dawn Foster Home

Over this year we have fostered 5 children in our foster home. All of these children have had higher medical needs or disabilities and came from a local orphanage we have close relationship with. Two of these children were adopted during the year; an 8 year old girl with Autism who we had cared for for three years who was adopted to the USA and a 3 month-old baby girl who was adopted by a local family. We continue to care for a 4 year old boy who has Down's Syndrome and a 10month old baby girl who has a complex hormone disorder, providing comprehensive care and advocating for their adoptions.



Jing Jing

Jing Jing is a girl we have known since we started to visit one of the local orphanages in 2007. At the time we met her she was 12 and had been living at the orphanage since she was 5 years old. She has Cerebral Palsy. Now, at 20 years old she is a wonderful bright young woman who is looking towards what her future. At 16 years old we facilitated an offer a scholarship to a special school in another province where she has been studying since that time. We have recently been working alongside another organisation to set-up internship opportunities for her to gain skills in different areas of interest such as computers and small business operation.



Volunteers

We have had two short term international volunteer teams from Australia and Hong Kong (totalling 14 people) come to serve both in our foster home and at the local social welfare institute. Over the course of a week one of the teams patiently taught a short play to some of the more disabled residents who were able to then perform it to the other residents. Everyone loved the extra attention and excitement - to have people come to spend time with these residents is very rare outside of our Australian Mercy local volunteer teams.

Over this year we trained 5 local volunteers and had a regular group of 10 volunteers who have been committed to traveling to the orphanage/social welfare institute where our foster children come from to spend time with the children and adults with disabilities living there. Interacting with people with physical disabilities is something most people who



volunteer with us have never done when they first start with us. After having experience running games and activities, building friendships and spending time with the residents, volunteers are exposed to the reality that all people have value. Many locals who have volunteered with us begin to see the possibilities of working with the underprivileged in many different areas of society and gain the confidence to pursue opportunities for themselves. Unfortunately during this year, due to new regulations surrounding children in care and the decisions of higher orphanage officials, we are at present unable to continue to take volunteer groups into this orphanage.

Single Mothers Program

Our single mother's program participant and her young son have been with us for almost two years now. Starting in November 2013, the original aim of this 2-year program was to provide a platform for single mothers to succeed in providing a life for themselves and their children. With regular training in life skills and personal mentorship from our AM staff, our young mother is now independent in most respects. She has solid job at her sons preschool with people who encourage and challenge her and has increased in her financial stability and ability to provide for her son. We continue to provide weekly personal mentorship with her, giving guidance and advice where necessary.

Baby Grace



Grace is baby girl we are currently caring for at our Dawn Foster Home. When we first heard of Grace it was because there had been a segment about a baby who had been abandoned at the hospital on the local TV channel, and the carers at the social welfare institute (SWI*) were telling us that the baby on the TV was officially under the care of their SWI. A month or so later and we meet that baby in the flesh, tiny, sickly-looking and softly mewling in her crib, seemingly without the energy to cry. After asking a few question it became apparent that the local hospital had given up hope of finding out what was wrong with her, as she had continued to get sicker, and had sent her back to the SWI to be cared for as best as possible.

After thought and consideration we (Australian Mercy Staff) decided that we needed to do whatever possible to try and help this little one. The SWI agreed to us fostering her and taking her for medical care at the children's hospital in our city. After one night in our foster home she was admitted to hospital. She was originally thought to have blood poisoning but after that was treated and her health continued to decline there were further investigations.

She spent over a month in hospital and was finally diagnosed with a rare congenital disorder that means her body is unable to deal with infection, shock or disease by itself and needs daily medication. Since her diagnoses, as her carers (in the Dawn Foster Home) we have learnt a great deal about the disorder and how to care for her given her special circumstances. She is now a thriving, healthy, happy little baby girl who loves to giggle and gives out smiles freely.

There are a lot of things that aren't certain about her future, but one thing for sure is that if we hadn't pushed for further medical intervention she wouldn't be here today. We are anticipating that Grace will be adopted internationally in the next 6months-year. * Social Welfare institute is the official name for what encompasses an orphanage, but also includes adults and the elderly who are unable to care for themselves and have nobody to care for them.

General Financial

During this year China's financial policies have changed meaning that we are no longer able to receive funds from inside China or from any other source other than our head office (in Australia). This has impacted the way in which we receive a lot of our finances and we have had to adjust accordingly. The time that baby Grace spent in hospital at the beginning of the year also drained our resources considerably, but with donations from different sources we are able to remain on an 'even keel'.

Future Developments

In the year ahead we are aiming to open a Disabilities Resource Centre in our City. The aim of this centre would be to educate and empower families of children with special needs, by providing disability awareness, training, support groups, toy library and counselling. This kind of centre is something we feel is very lacking in this city and our deeper hope would be that as families feel supported and empowered that the abandonment rate of babies & children with disabilities would decrease.





Redefined Ministries International DRC

Redefined Ministries Annual Report

Thank you from the Board:

Redefined Ministries International DRC (Redefined) is a registered organisation in Province Oriental, Mahagi Territory of Eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), which is focused on empowering local communities and individuals in rural and undeveloped areas of Mahagi.

This year has seen some exciting achievements for the Congo Project and some long-term goals accomplished. None of these could have been possible without the backing and hard work of individuals throughout the international community. It would also have been impossible without your financial and practical support. On behalf of the Redefined team, we would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our supporters who are helping us achieve this purpose.

Special thanks go out to Australian Mercy for their support and efforts on our behalf. In addition, we would like to acknowledge our partners in this work: Eyes on Africa of UK, Days for Girls Australia, and Birthing Kit Foundation of Australia.

Thank you all! We hope that you will continue to partner with us as we continue this important work.

With sincere thanks, from the Board

Our Vision:

Our vision is to see the people of the Congo shed their image of a war-torn country, and be redefined, gaining a self-image built through a united community. We work with the community to create infrastructure throughout Mahagi Territory for the empowerment of all members of the community without discrimination to race, gender or tribe.

We envision a community where all children have access to school; women are valued and hold equal rights in their community; and men have respect for themselves and their neighbours. We envision access to jobs and career progression, re-population of livestock in the area, and ready access to food, medical services, and good housing.

See our website for more information: redefinedministriesinternational.com

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:

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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:

Redefined Medical Clinic – Jaliasiga

This year our main task has been working alongside the community of a rural village within Jaliasiga 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. The clinic unofficially opened its doors in May 2015, with the formal opening delayed due to the mourning observances at the passing of the local chief.



Medical Clinic Opening Birthing Kits

This year saw us completing our first distributions of birthing kits thanks to our partner, the Birthing Kit Foundation of Australia. These kits include items needed to promote a safe birth environment for all involved, including: plastic sheeting for the ground, clean and disposable razor, gloves and soap for the midwife, and string for the umbilical cord.



Days for Girls

It was with pleasure that we were also able to complete our first distribution of Days for Girls (DFG) Kits in rural Jaliasiga. Without these kits, local girls and women use whatever is at hand to try and stem the blood – bits of dirty mattress, corn husks, leaves, etc. DFG kits include washable menstrual pads and other items needed for sustainable and hygienic menstrual management.



Agriculture

This year our agricultural training was able to expand. It commenced with team member Anecho Innocent attending a sustainable agriculture school in Jinja, Uganda. Since completing this school he has been giving teachings twice a week thanks to two local radio stations. This radio show offers valuable information on best practices and new methods as well as reducing the amount of physical labour required to produce a productive home garden.

Livestock

The poultry project has taken its initial steps forward thanks to a generous donation for set up costs. A local carpenter is working to construct the coups. Chickens will then be bred by the ministry for distribution to households. This project will be multiplied by households returning a set number of chicks from their first hatchlings to set up further households. Mahagi Territory was depleted of its livestock when it was caught in the middle of tribal war over a decade ago. It has not recovered and the general diet is protein deficient as a result.

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 you.

Unfortunately this year saw less finance available for the project than required; however, we have been able to stretch the resources we have had generously donated. This past year we were again able to raise over \$2000 for our work in the Congo. In addition to this money, we were overwhelmed by the generosity of the Jaliasiga community who donated time to seeing the clinic constructed, of Days for Girls for their tireless work to see menstrual kits reach women of Mahagi, and the Birthing Kit Foundation for providing kits for safer deliveries. All of these donations are invaluable. We also received most of the clinic equipment through donation.



Our greatest expenditure this year fell to the set up of the medical clinic in the form of medical supplies and specialised labour to complete

construction. All of our staff are currently unpaid volunteers. Our core team is supported by the ministry 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 formally opening the clinic. Funds are still needed to pay for the next step in the registration process as well as to train a second doctor. We would also like to be able to offer further training to traditional midwives who are part of our Birthing Kit distribution initiative, which will also be provisional on finance. 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. A further 1000 kits have been donated for distribution in August and September of 2015.

Redefined also looks forward to continued partnership with Eyes on Africa to continue this needed work in the region. We are due to receive 300 more pairs in August 2015, which will allow another clinic and distribution to take place. In the pipelines is a small vocational sewing project to equip a few women throughout Mahagi Territory with the skills required to produce reusable menstrual pads, based on the templates generously given by Days for Girls. Furthermore, we expect to receive several donated boxes for free distribution to school aged girls in Mahagi Territory. In addition, we are in the planning and fund-raising stages to build three large water tanks to provide rural J alasiga with safe drinking water.



Above: (L) Days for Girls distribution; (R) Local doctor, Evariste, working at the clinic.



Above: (L) Team member Patrick preparing construction bricks to assist a widow; (R) Team members Benjamin, Shannon and Innocent resting after agricultural planning meetings

Agriculture and Livestock

Next year will see the furthering of the poultry project. Once the coop has been constructed, we will be able to start breeding chickens for distribution to local families. This will add to the works in the area to try and replenish regional livestock numbers, with the long term goal of bringing protein back into every household's standard diet. One limiting factor will be the need to first set up staff accommodation to care for the chickens, which will require further funds to come in.

The demonstration garden was placed on hold whilst team member, Anecho Innocent, completed a sustainable agricultural school in neighbouring Uganda. This has given him skills and training that he will now use in the demonstration garden to pass on to the local community.

The staff of Redefined Ministries International thanks all its supporters. Our greatest thanks go to the community within Mahagi Territory who are working alongside us in our efforts. If you would like to support our work financially, donations can be made via Australian Mercy: Make a Donation today

Our mailing address is:

Redefined Ministries International DRC
Avenue RIDA II
Mahagi Town, Mahagi Territory
Ituri District, Province Oriental -
Congo



The Osso-Huna Community Cooperatives and Tourism Project (OCCTP) Annual Report

This is a new project that received approval in May 2015. As a result, there is not a lot to report on the for year to 30 June 2015.

Project Background

The village of Osso-Huna is in the Sub-district of Baguia , about four hours drive from Baucau in the north-east of Timor Leste. It is on the slopes of Mount Matebian, the second highest mountain in Timor-Leste and a place of great historical, cultural and religious significance.

The people in Osso-Huna and the surrounding villages are subsistence farmers, who eat what they grow using dry cultivation of mostly beans plus small amounts of corn, cassava, sweet potatoes, and other vegetables. Agricultural production in Osso-Huna and its surrounding villages is so low that farmers are not able to meet their own household needs for food throughout the year.

The local implementing partner is the Fundação Matan Ruak (FMR - Matan Ruak's Foundation) established in 2013 in order to assist the community in Osso-Huna. It is named after the current Timor Leste president who comes from the Ossa Huna area. Most of the FMR founders are now based in Dili, although they have been active in community development and in the liberation of Timor-Leste. Now they feel it is their time to contribute to the liberation of the people from poverty and illiteracy.

Agriculture

The project will establish farmers groups to facilitate technical assistance, enhance access to and availability of inputs needed for increased productivity of their farming systems; enhance access to markets for produce; assist associations and cooperatives ability to organize; and make it possible for small producers to benefit from the economies of scale. Increasing productivity will primarily concentrate on horticulture, specifically increased varieties of vegetables. There is high-unmet local demand for vegetables, supporting the possibility of significant results in the near term.

Tourism

The Osso-Huna area, at the foot of mountain Matebian, is very picturesque and has profound cultural meaning as well as historical significance in terms of the struggle against Indonesian occupation. There is significant potential for eco-tourism. In addition to hiking the mountain, there are other historical and cultural assets of Osso-Huna such as *uma lulik* (house of ancestors), and caves with prehistoric drawings. These include a mixture of various cultures: Portuguese, Indonesian and indigenous Austronesian and Melanesian. The project intends to start with building a community training center that will be used for an English language course for the community to prepare them to become tour guides in the future. The project will also facilitate other relevant training on hospitality (accommodations and food) and the communication of local history and culture. The project will also promote eco-tourism by producing booklets or brochures about potential activities and areas in Osso-Huna and the surrounding villages. Building of guest houses in Osso-Huna for tourists would begin in the third year.

Progress to 30 June 2015

The first donations to the project were received in late May 2015. This money has been used to purchase some initial assets (a computer and a motorcycle in particular) and to employ a local community development worker. John da Costa Guterrez began work in July 2015. He is a Ossa Huna local but has worked for the International Fund for Agriculture and Development (IFAD) and has agricultural and development expertise. His initial work is to establish the first of the farmers groups in the villages of Ossa Huna and Afaloicai.

The Year Ahead

In the first year of the project, the plan is to create five farmers groups, establish the training centre and develop a tourism brochure with the aim of the first tourists coming in dry season 2016 (August-October).

We would welcome offers of volunteers or interns to assist with aspects of this project, in particular, recording in English some of the cultural history of the area.



The OCCTP project management committee would like to thank the donors to date. This very exciting and high impact project is underway. We look forward to reporting its progress in coming years.





ARK INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL REPORT May 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015

Our Mission as ARK International is to educate, train and facilitate projects in the South East Asian region focusing on the specific needs for children at risk and their providing organizations, so that children can be restored as children of God, equipped and transformed for their unique contribution to the world.

TRAINING

JAN - JUNE 2014 CHILDREN AT RISK & MUSIC DTS - This was a 6 month course had a dual focus on children at risk and music, and students were able to integrate knowledge with practical use through serving in regular ministry programs. The last 3 months comprised outreach in Thailand, India, Malaysia and Cambodia. There were 12 students on the school and 2 returned as Ark staff.



JAN - JUNE 2015 CHILDREN AT RISK DTS – This 6 month course focused on children at risk. Students were able to integrate knowledge with practical experience through serving in regular ministry programs. The last 3 months comprised outreach in Thailand, India and Cambodia. There were 11 students on this school and 9 who successfully graduated. 2 (possibly 3) are returning as Ark staff.

MINISTRY PROGRAMS

CAMP ZOE APRIL 2015– Our fourth Camp Zoe focused on the theme of ‘elements’ – water, earth, fire and wind. There were 52 campers from 4 different communities, and the majority of campers experienced significant growth in faith during Camp Zoe. Activities included games, swimming, scavenger hunt, campfire, movie night, and carnival night.

YOUTH NIGHT – Youth Night is a weekly mentoring and discipleship program, with an average of 20-30 teens attending. It is a time for the teens to build stronger relationships with staff and volunteers, as well as grow in their relationship with God.



NAK SUU Rugby Academy – Our ultimate goal is to have a lasting impact in the lives of young people through rugby training, life skill development and spiritual growth—building trust, hope, self-esteem, and courage. Nak Suu is a weekly program with 40-60 regular attendees. The children had the opportunity to play against international teams as part of the annual **Bangkok International Tens** tournament in February 2015. Nak Suu entered three youth teams, a men’s team and a women’s touch team (including some of our teenage girls).

NAK WING – Every week, Ark staff meet with youth at risk for a small mentoring group in their community. Critical issues are addressed in a smaller setting where a high level of trust is required.

WEDNESDAY SCHOOL – This is an informal education program running weekly for migrant children who are not in school in Thailand. The aim is to give them a basic level of education in literacy and maths, develop their life skills and character, and work alongside their families and local schools to enable them to enroll in the public school system. On average, we have had around 10 children each week. In June 2015, a local school accepted six of our migrant children into kindergarten or Grade 1. We’re excited about the opportunities school gives these children.

ROCK OF HOPE CENTRE – In March 2015, we opened our first centre in the PSJD community, providing a safe and fun place for children to come to our programs and space for future program development.

COUNSELLING – From February 2015, we have arranged counseling sessions for two of our sponsored children.

EDUCATION AND LIFE SPONSORSHIPS – Four vulnerable children are sponsored through Ark International, receiving an educational sponsorship that enables them to continue in school. Three of the four also receive a life sponsorship as they are cared for by a community elder. This provides the children with food, toiletries, six-monthly dentist check ups and contributions towards household costs.



SHORT-TERM TEAMS

We received three short-term teams (December 2014, February/March 2015 and June 2015), who were involved in current ministry programs and provided special events, including Anti Human Trafficking Training (**Safe Child**), in our communities. We also had a handful of volunteers supporting our programs – some on a regular basis and some for a short period of time. They have brought extra strength and skills to our team and have been a real blessing to us.

REFLECTIONS ON THE PAST YEAR

We have seen unprecedented spiritual growth among our children and young people over the past year, particularly after Camp Zoe in April 2015. This has been very exciting to see and has caused us to think carefully about how we are following up with these children.

There are many challenges associated with registering children in school, from paperwork and issues of legality through to attitudes of parents and schools. However, the children involved in Wednesday School have developed a real hunger for education and, in many cases, were longing to go to school. At times this seemed like an insurmountable challenge, but in May 2015 a local school began to welcome migrant children. We have had previous contact with this school through short-term teams and have continued to develop this relationship. This has resulted in six of our children starting school for the first time in Thailand. One boy reported that he was happy and shocked, as he had wanted to go to school for so long but had never believed it could really happen. We are also excited to see how our new Rock of Hope Community Centre will enable us to develop our educational provision.

The 2015 DTS was made up of an amazing group of students from around the world. They all experienced significant personal growth, as well as blessing many others through their ministry.

During the period May 2014-June 2015, we have seen 9 staff complete their time at Ark and move on to other things. This has brought some challenges in maintaining our programs at the same level, putting extra pressure on remaining staff.

LOOKING AHEAD

With a smaller staff team in place for the next year, we have decided to spend a year focusing on developing current relationships with children and young people, investing in our staff team and improving our Thai language capacity. This means we are unlikely to begin any major new projects or programs in the next year, but will work on developing our current programs to match current needs. Short-term teams will be more integrated into already existing programs. We will continue to develop strategic partnerships with other organizations. We hope that by the end of June 2016, our staff team will be stronger, work more closely together and have increased ability to communicate in Thai. We hope that our children will continue to grow in their faith, becoming responsible, confident, mature and caring citizens.

FINANCES AND FUNDRAISING

Approximately 81% of donated finances go towards operational costs of the various ministry programs. This includes designated donations for our sponsored children and savings towards future costs of the Rock of Hope Community Centre as it expands. Approximately 19% of income is spent on administration costs, including salary for Thai staff members. (These figures come for our audited accounts for the year ending 31st December 2014, but are representative of the reporting year 1st May 2104-30th June 2015). In 2015, a generous donation enabled us to



purchase a second transport truck to use in our ministry programs.

We are incredibly grateful for the generosity of our donors. Without your support, none of what we do would be possible. We count you as our partners in seeing lives transformed in Thailand. Thank you for believing in these precious children and affording us the tremendous privilege of ministering to them.





CAMBODIAN HARVEST DRIED FRUIT CO. LTD. ANNUAL REPORT

1st May 2014 to 30th June 2015

(Australian Mercy project – Reverse The Curse of Landmines in Cambodia)

The past months has brought an upturn in political turmoil and false imprisonments of opposition supporters and growing unrest along the Vietnamese border with Cambodia and a true demarcation of the border needs to be established.

A new law with unreasonable provisions has been passed against NGOs which will severely limit the benefits they are able to bring to Cambodian society. The investigations of the Tax Department into our affairs have not yet been finalized, resulting in our land-lord being fined for tax evasion. A visit from the Economic Police investigating all our agreements with Government departments shows the amount of harassment that foreign companies and NGO's endure. To offset this, Cambodian Harvest has maintained great favour with local authorities and their increased assistance has been much appreciated.

The past year has seen our staff increase to forty people, and five more during the mango season. Of these 26 people have disabilities. The other staff members work in positions unsuited for those with disabilities. All factory staff has disabilities, although some office staff does not. Staff members visiting their home villages are welcomed with enthusiasm and the locals praise the work of Cambodian Harvest Dried Fruit Factory for giving the disabled members of their community employment and raising the standard of their families living conditions, education, health and nutrition.

This positive impact has earned them respect and the admiration of their peers, which has delighted them and built their confidence and self esteem.

Project Management Group consists of Marion Fromm (Director in Cambodia) Dean Paterson, (Chairman) Marion Winn (Treasurer) Hugh Magarey, John Wilkins, John & Judy Thomson, Diana Churton with Ava Leitner, (Minute Secretary). Dean Paterson and Marion Winn will retire in August 2015.

10th Anniversary of Cambodian harvest Dried Fruit Factory was held on 28th October and David Skeat was guest speaker.

Training English classes ceased when Mrs. Carole Clark returned to New Zealand in November 2014. No replacement has so far been found. Our new Accountant, Miss Phalla received MYOB training from Mrs. Judy Thomson. Other staff is undergoing marketing studies and outside English lessons.

Marketing The marketing office in Seim Reap has been open since September 2007 and Mr. Phallet and Mrs.Thany are the branch management staff there. The Phnom Penh office has three marketing staff, Mr.Phirar, Mrs.SreyLeak .and Miss Nouch. Miss Bopha manages the door sales at the office. Tour group mini-busses bring tourists to buy our products and many of these are from Korea. New export agreements and deliveries were made to Korean companies and some products were also exported to Australia. Local sales are made to supermarkets, mini-marts, souvenir shops and hotels.

Staff Welfare During the past twelve months three staff couples were married. Marriage counseling was provided and on-going counseling given where needed. .No incidents of abuse have been discovered and any staff sickness is covered by Cambodian Government insurance.

Activities A bicycle powered water pump was installed at the village of one of our staff, where water was only accessed down a 3 meter steep slope to a pond. This has provided water to each house and garden. Food and clothes have been distributed



to the poor in two provinces. A cement road was put down from the main road to our farm property so that new staff houses and factory can be erected on the mango farm that we purchased in 2007. This road cost US\$106,000.

Donors also provided a replacement automatic 4WD LWB Nissan Frontier Utility for our aging Ford Ranger. Training in Accounting, Marketing, IT and English has equipped nine staff with improved work skills. A new marketing office was opened in Seim Reap and equipped to manage local sales to supermarkets and tour bus visitors.

Future plans In the coming months we plan to erect 15 additional staff houses on our land in Kandal Province, which will include 6 which will be adapted for use as a temporary factory (and returned to housing later) until the new large factory is erected. It is estimated to cost one million dollars. The staff housing and temporary factory will cost US\$250,000 and funding for that is currently being sought. Plans and costing for these buildings have already been received. A 6 hectare mango farm opposite, which is for sale for US\$440,000, is being considered for purchase because these new buildings will mean the removal of many mango trees from our own farm, and augment our own supply of free mangos, which will ensure the profitability of our mango production. This is a great investment opportunity for someone looking to help our project. While Cambodian Harvest Dried Fruit Co. Ltd. is not yet making a profit, this past year has brought us very close to this goal. When this is achieved shortly, our funding activities will turn from supporting the business to providing the new farm and factory buildings.

The sooner we can achieve this, the sooner we can enlarge our production and employ more people with disability and lift them up out of poverty, hopelessness and discrimination and raise their self esteem and social standing.

We offer our sincere thanks to all those who supported our project financially and with many other gifts of service, especially the Project Management Group, some of whom have been with us from the beginning in 2002.

Marion Fromm CEO

Cambodian Harvest Dried Fruit Co. Ltd.

Member of the Project Management Group

Reverse the Curse of Landmines In Cambodia



**Annual Report on the
Coconut Technology Centre Project (Solomon Islands)
1 May 2014 – 30 June 2015**

1. Overview

Australian Relief and Mercy Services (ARMS) accepted the Coconut Technology Centre (CTC) project (IN0614OP) in the Solomon Islands on 1st May 2014 and appointed a three-person Project Management Group (PMG). The PMG consisted of Dan Etherington, John McKinnon and Richard Etherington. John McKinnon resigned in March 2015 and we were fortunate to recruit Dr Richard Stirzaker of CSIRO as the third member of the PMG.



The first task was to set up the Solomon Islands CTC Foundation as a local registered charity. The formal inaugural meeting of the seven Trustees of took place on Wednesday 10th September 2014 in Honiara. Two trustees were nominated by each of the initiating organisations: the VCO Producers Association, Kokonut Pacific Solomon Islands Ltd (KPSI) and Kokonut Pacific (Australia). An independent trustee was also appointed. Richard is one of the trustees. An executive committee for the CTC was formed. A report on the event was sent to ARMS.



Frank Sanders, an engineer with extensive experience in PNG and Vanuatu was successful in applying for the position of 'Coconut Technology Advisor' with KPSI through the Australian Volunteer for International Development (AVID) program. Frank worked for us (Kokonut Pacific Australia) in a part time role over the six months before his departure in preparation for this assignment. His defined roll for his 18 month appointment is to assist in the establishment of the CTC. This appointment was anticipated in our Australian Mercy Project Proposal.

Frank and his family (wife Sue and young sons Jesse and Christopher) arrived in Honiara at the end of July and worked on the completion of the new KPSI HQ and warehouse which will include office space for CTC staff. There have been significant health problems with the family being evacuated back to Brisbane for a month when Frank came down with dengue fever. NF assisted with the purchase of a vehicle for the family and have supplemented their AVID allowance.

Negotiations had taken place with KPSI for a specific location for the actual CTC building and space for associated agricultural trials on over half of the one hectare property. The site is shown on the attached map. Initial work on the site was focussed on clearing the bush, milling some coconut logs and establishing gardens. Some administrative protocols were established including a Bank account and developing a budget. Actual construction was delayed by the lack of funds.

2. Implementation

The site had to be cleared of unproductive bananas and gliricidia shade trees. All compostable material was pit composted in the drainage ditch at the front of the property and capped with top soil. The large pile of coconut logs, stumps and top soil at the back of the block was also sorted and cleared and added to composting and gardening trials. Suitable coconut logs were milled and used to build the verandah-type training area. The pit composts will be excavated after 12 months to inspect outcomes in terms of soil health. The effect of waste oil on soil fertility has also been investigated and the levels at which waste oil can become toxic to grass and the soil organisms. Further quantitative investigation is required to determine best practice for grease trap waste oil disposal.



With funding from the **Niulife Foundation** (NF), Roland Lubett, a highly experienced rural economist and agricultural extension expert, undertook a 'scoping study' in January 2015 for the training needs of the Centre. A key conclusion was the need to have as much training as possible conducted in village groups where producers can learn from each other.

A leasing agreement was entered into with ID Gasifiers for the provision of a gasifier for the Centre. The initial deposit of AUD3,300 was paid directly by NF at the end of October. The Unit itself was shipped to the Solomons in November. The gasifier was commissioned as the CTC building was completed.

KPSI made an initial trial export of whole coconut to Australia. This required keeping to strict quality and size rules. In the event, some 70% of coconuts purchased did not meet the standards. (Nuts were too small, too large or showed signs of sprouting.) Rather than abandon these nuts KPSI built a temporary DME unit to process those where size was the problem. Sprouted nuts were dried into copra.

By taking over the management of this unit, the CTC has started to gain useful experience with VCO production, dryer design and the use/sale or disposal of by-products: shell, meal or Press cake and coconut water.

- Shell is used to fuel the dryer. Surplus shells are being used to producing charcoal and as fuel for the gasifier. However, before this can become a regular feature, a mechanism to break the shells is needed.
- Initial indications are that the meal is considered to be superior to copra meal and flour mill runs. The Don Bosco training farm reports that the DME press cake is highly productive in their tilapia ponds. Trials conducted with 40 ex battery chickens purchased from the Bethesda disability centre showed that after about a month the chickens regained a full covering of feathers and appearance of good health. A virtual plague of Giant African snails on the site supplemented the diet of a small pen of Muscovy ducks.
- Since it is not possible to package coconut water for human consumption, experiments have been started on using this water for irrigation and as a supplement in the Don Bosco tilapia ponds. In addition to Virgin Coconut Oil, the DME Press was used to produce coconut cream. This is frozen in sealed 200ml plastic tubes and sales are being trialled in the Central Market and hotels.

In terms of organic practices Belden and Frank attended the Si POET Com meetings and discussed organic practices with key stakeholders including Kustom Garden and ZanaTina Farms regarding demonstrating organic farming systems.

Following the completion of the basic earthworks, drainage and the foundations for the CTC site, construction began in March 2015. The main structure of the CTC building was completed at the beginning of June and a new dryer was built in time for the official launch and the celebrations marking the first decade of the production of Certified Organic Virgin Coconut Oil by the Solomon Islands.

In early April 2015, the position of General Manager for the CTC was advertised within the country. From a short list of four applicants (from a field of over a dozen) Mrs Nancy Kwalea was chosen by the panel of CTC Trustees. Nancy took up her position in early May with a three month probation period.



A highlight of the year was the week-long visit of an **ABC TV Landline** team (Sean Murphy and cameraman Erik Havnen) who came in mid-June to do a story on the first decade of KPSI, the development of the infant virgin coconut oil industry and the CTC. The '*Coconut Comeback*' story was first broadcast on 19th July.

3. Financial Report



The prime source of funding for the project is the Niulife Foundation (NF) which was set up by Kokonut Pacific (Australia). As a registered charity with ACNC in October 2013, the funds it receives are tax-free but it does not have DGR status. This is obtained by working through the Australian Mercy (ARMS). NF received its first tax refund from the ATO on 13th November 2014. AUD136,500 was transferred to ARMS on 26th November and included a 5% service charge. A further AUD90,000 was sent to the CTC in 2015. KPSI also provided some bridging finance.





ANNUAL REPORT (MAY 2014-JUNE 2015)
Just Projects Philippines Foundation

PROJECT: Just Projects Philippines Education Program July 2014-June 2016

Annual Update

Staying true to our goal of providing access to education in some of the most remote tribal villages in Mindanao, Philippines, Just Projects completed 2 new learning centres in the jungles of Agusan del Sur last year. We provided direct employment to tribal locals who serve as teachers to educate children in their own native tongue, preserve their cultural identity and promote local ability. Because parents have seen that their children can now read and write, they begged to learn as well! Beginning June this year, we have opened Saturday literacy classes for adults! In Muslim Maguindanao, 10 of our scholars graduated from high school last March 2015 with one of them awarded as Salutatorian who delivered a moving salutatory address. Abandoned by both of his parents with no one to run to, he expressed his deep gratitude for the support extended to him to finish his studies. In another restricted area, children are no longer hindered from attending class as we provided them with boats to cross through the marsh land to get across the nearest school.

Milestones

In one of our visits to a local Muslim military camp to promote free education for children in their community, a militant leader commented, 'kids around here prefer guns than pens.' Well, to his surprise, trained children enlisted in his military camp eagerly signed up to avail of our scholarship program. We successfully rescued 40 child soldiers! And so, for the new school year that began June 2014, we enrolled them in school, provided school uniforms, shoes and school supplies. The children attend school and now enjoy the protective and nurturing care of our local area coordinators who continue to provide holistic support to these kids and their families.

Challenges

A series of armed conflict broke out in Agusan del Sur, starting the last quarter of 2014. It resulted in the displacement of families and disrupted class schedules in the surrounding communities. Through various negotiation and coordination efforts with the Department of Education, the military and the reassurance to the communities we serve, classes resumed and extended through the summer to make up for the days without classes.

Recently, a mother of one of our indigenous children attending school was shot to death and his father seriously wounded by a local militant group who lives close by. The father would not have survived had it not been for the heroic act of one of our teachers who sought emergency help. New Tribes Mission was quick to send their private plane to give a free airlift and we tapped our local network in the city for medical assistance. Our teachers along with the tribal leaders and parents then secured the entire community taking turns at the 24/7 watch. Relocation was no longer the solution, as they realised the value of education. (They were known to move from place to place to find food and whenever they were threatened by armed groups). Ever since the school was built in their community, the families likewise have established their homes around it.

Hopes/Aspirations

Pursuing a college degree in the Philippines is a luxury especially in the target areas we serve. Indigenous peoples often fall victim to various injustices because of their ignorance. One tribal leader in Bukidnon shares his dream to us where he wishes that one day they can be proud to have their very own 'professional' in their tribe as not too many of them finished high school, much less, a college degree. Like this tribal leader who still holds on to hope, we likewise aspire that we can become instruments to help them realise their dreams; empower the disadvantaged communities to protect and enjoy their rights; and, that they may serve as key advocates for peaceful solutions.

It is in this regard that we would like to further engage in various capacity-building activities including livelihood skills training for parents of children, so that children in the communities we serve enjoy a safe and friendly environment that hones them to become active players/leaders in the society.

Financial Management

Primarily, funding support from The Freedom Project has been wisely utilised to build schools, support our education program, engage teachers and empower them with training under the government's Department of Education. We

were also able to provide student, school & teacher supplies, as well as reach out to other areas to start new ministry works, various logistical support and to fill in some funding gaps in our program.

JPPF believes and upholds stewardship in using donated funds so we can efficiently and effectively carry out projects in the minimal cost as possible. We endeavour to leverage local available resources and seek out best fit whether it be purchases or services. Such protocols in expenditures allow us to empower our core team as well by holding team meet ups and attending capacity development trainings.

Word of Thanks

Because of your support, you have reinvigorated hope amongst children in places marred with conflict. You have helped us bring back the smile on their faces and enabled us to restore normalcy. Through your partnership, we've made the impossible, possible! Instead of guns, former child soldiers are now armed with pens, marking the dawn of a new day!



Annual Update

Just Projects International (JPI) maintained its tight focus on program activities critical to protect and value the children at risk in certain armed conflict zones. A reasonably stable environment has enabled us to successfully provide basic education to children in our target areas of the Upper Mekong Region, including those in limited/restricted access areas. The net impact to our children beneficiaries remains consistent with our years of experience and commitment to this area – a much lower risk of military participation, especially in front line duty. Equipped with literacy plus other skills and trades, a child's value does in fact increase dramatically from the military's viewpoint. Also, we continue to be encouraged by what we feel are equally essential program components such as the positive, life-saving benefits of faith-based support and psycho-social healing that children may experience in a safe, secure environment.

JPI however remains on high alert; mindful to the magnitude of challenges for demobilisation of child soldiers and ultimately, regional peace. The Freedom Project's partnership is invaluable, as there are huge challenges and constant threats to our local team and projects by government and prevailing military leaders in the region. We could not have a presence in these difficult areas without The Freedom Project as core implementor and our multiple funding partners.



Inspiring Achievements

Over the years as practitioners with child soldiers, we've found education is a great primary tool to both directly and indirectly protect children from military and militia training. It is a blessing to report the successful enrolment of new children and the re-enrolment of children for the current school year that began in spring 2015. Roll call verification of nearly 200 children included name, age, grade and photo.

Taking full advantage of a reasonably stable geo-political environment, we've been able to provide restorative and healing opportunities to complement classroom education. At the same time, conflicts continue to the north of our projects between the Burmese and Kachin and the Wa region has locked down it's borders yet again to Burma. Collectively, community church, fellowship, bible study and social normalcy program activities contribute to instilling positive values. The staff support of our holistic approach plays an integral role in advancing the total well-being of each child.

With the standardisation of government offices from military actual governance departments, we have slowly been able to build more local government to project collaboration. Progress with deeper local government funding and partnerships for schools is very encouraging, as we received school supplies valued at over 13,000 AUD in March 2015.

Real challenges

Specific hurdles that directly impede progress toward our project goals include:

- Expanding the # of children beneficiaries is on pause due to the delay and slight decline in some sponsor support. One area government fell thru on monthly support to school because of forced resettlement of 500 families from a nearby region. There is a desperate need for education and medical attention for children simply to survive. Reporting constraints detract from our ability to engage existing and new sponsors.

- We also lack trained personnel willing to undergo hardship of region.

- Recent government army troop movement in Myanmar keeps children highly vulnerable to conscription and trafficking.

Border tensions between armies will continue to pressure the UWSA and other insurgent groups to use children to fill the gaps in their militaries.

Outlook of hope

We aspire to our goal of getting 400 children thru high school over the course of this 3-year project. Each child's individual dreams, achievements and possibility of choice through personal empowerment inspires our team, valued sponsors and loyal donors. We are comforted but not complacent for the experience and lessons learned during this journey. We are excited at the prospect of reshaping the region through the children who come through our programs and emerge as young adults and valued citizens.



JPI's work in the Upper Mekong Region is long-term - steeped in multi-generational missionary history and steadfast in our leadership team's forward looking commitment to helping the children at-risk in these armed conflict areas.

Fiscal Management

To maintain the current level of care and education of existing children participants and be ready for engaging new participants is a serious challenge, given the widening gap in program funding. We wisely stretch our funding to capacity while keeping the children's well-being at the forefront of our priorities. Beyond prudent fiscal management, we endeavour to stabilise funding with applications for additional grant funding. Our leadership aims to deepen our relationship with government to garner more cooperation and support in the near and long-term.

Heartfelt Appreciation

We are very grateful for the vital project funding support provided by Australian Mercy and The Freedom Project. JPI cherishes both the encouragement and support through triumph and challenge. It enables us to make a real and lasting difference in these children's lives.



VOLUNTEER VANUATU VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS
Annual Report May 1 2014 – June 30, 2015

Volunteer Vanuatu is a non profit community association dedicated to cultural, community and skills development in Vanuatu. Partnering with Government, village chiefs and councils, to bring awareness, intervention and solutions for villages and communities living in hardship.

The Volunteer Vanuatu staff team have worked together in Vanuatu since 2008 completing over 100 community development projects in Vanuatu villages and communities.

Major project achievements to date include:

- 53 Water Tanks - Shefa Province,
- 1 Water Tank - Epi Island.
- *15 Water Tank Repairs- Shefa Province
- 3 Homes of Hope - Shefa Province
- 35 Safe Roofs - Weatherproofing
- *10 Home Rebuilds
- 2 Containers
- Cyclone Relief Distributed to Pango, Nguna Island, Paunangisu, Takara, Moso Island, Etas, Eratap, Erakor villages.

Volunteer Vanuatu aims

- To provide sustainable community development with a focus on Health, Education, Water & Sanitation and Building & Repair in Vanuatu Villages & Communities
- To establish a Volunteer Tourism program in Vanuatu promoting Volunteer and Village Holidays as an alternative holiday activity.
- To improve international relationships between Australia, New Zealand and Vanuatu.
- To provide employment & training opportunities for Ni-Vanuatu nationals.

Volunteer Vanuatu Incorporated Registered Charity - 039617 Republic of Vanuatu, South Pacific 2014/15

SUMMARY

2014 began with an awareness program in Australia, relationship building, PR and reporting in QLD NSW and ACT. In Vanuatu volunteer teams assisted in health, education and water and sanitation projects. Building 3 water tanks, 1 at Tassiriki village, 1 Pango Village and 1 in Loran village Santo. Medical Volunteers ran Health care clinics in Santo and Efate Islands. Education volunteers ran reader support programs in 3 village primary schools assisting more than 300 school children in reader assessments and English comprehension projects.



Prior to Cyclone Pam we were thankful to receive financial assistance to repair and register two vehicles donated to our organisation. A much needed resource to us in the early days of Cyclone relief. 2015 began with 2 school groups, 1 community group booked in to build a classroom and 2 village water tank builds. However on March 13th life in Vanuatu changed significantly with the arrival of Cyclone Pam. Along with a national disaster came a new focus for Volunteer Vanuatu, a community clean and care program, assisting villages clear and clean cyclone debris as well as provide food, water, clothing, household supplies and building materials for recovery. This program, as well as building and repair of homes, churches, school and community buildings continues to date.

CYCLONE PAM

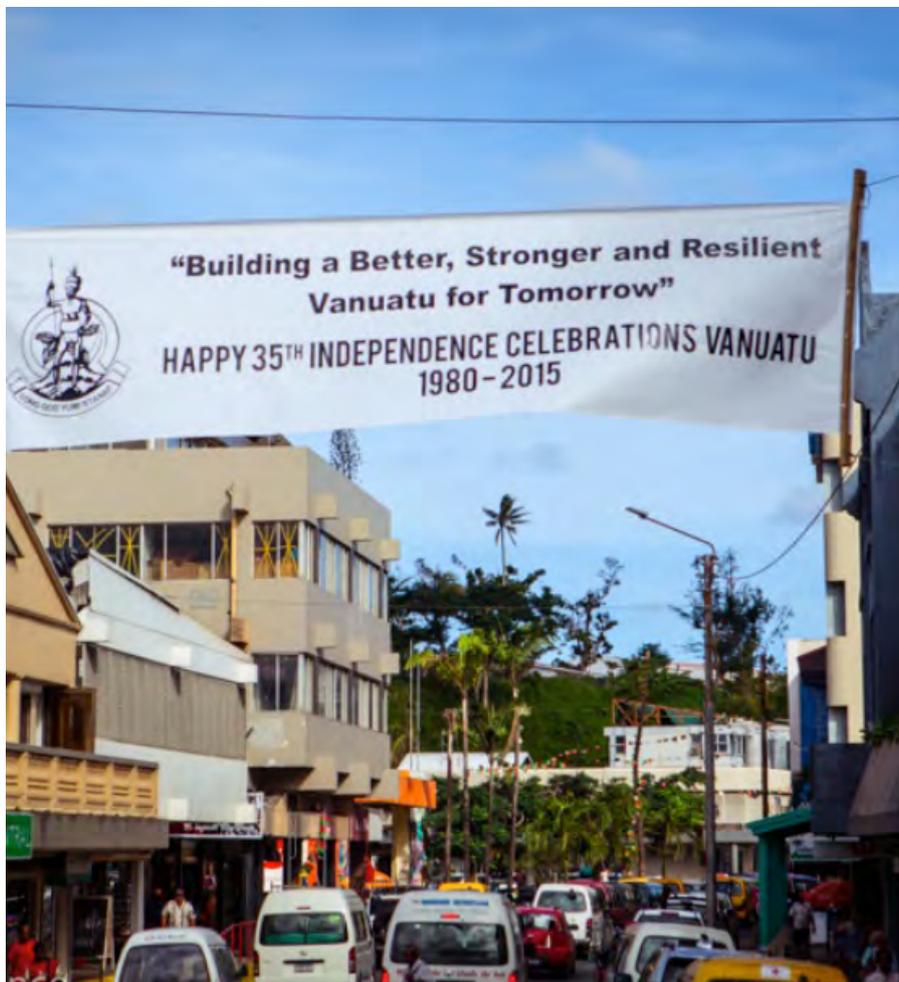
Whilst living through a major cyclone has brought both emotional and physical challenges for our staff and village friends, we have been encouraged by volunteer assistance and financial contributions towards cyclone relief. Since Cyclone Pam we have had more than 100 volunteers assist in Cyclone relief, most short term.

More than 3,000 villagers have received food and water packages, 15 water tanks repaired and cleaned, village roads and community areas cleared of debris, numerous trees cut and removed from homes, school buildings and churches. More than 50 homes have had roofs repaired, re-nailed and water proofed. We are currently re-roofing a provincial school in North Efate.



LOOKING AHEAD

Whilst the nation is along the road to recovery, we still continue to find communities living in desperate need. Many schools, clinics and churches remain damaged and many still require roof repair. Clean water and water tank construction remain a priority as the nation now faces a season of drought. Our priority remains to assist in building and repair, water and sanitation projects as much as possible as both volunteer participants and financial contributions allow. Without the support of donors and volunteers, cyclone relief efforts to date would not have been possible. We would like to say 'Tank yu tumas' - Thanks so much for your thoughts, prayers, donations and assistance at this time. For more information on how you can be involved in Community Development in Vanuatu please visit our website www.volunteervanuatu.org



YWAM Medical Ships – Australia Annual Report

Over the period of May 1st 2014 – June 30th 2015, YWAM Medical Ships – Australia (YWAM MSA) had an extremely eventful and successful campaign, highlighted by the final outreaches in PNG with the MV *Pacific Link*, the Overcoming the Impossible – Australia East Coast Tour, and the acquisition of the MV *YWAM PNG*.

YWAM MSA conducted nine two-week outreaches with the MV *Pacific Link* in 2014. Provinces and districts visited included Western and Gulf Provinces, National Capital District, and pilot voyages to Oro and Milne Bay Provinces. The MV *Pacific Link* was pushed to capacity prior to its retirement from service with YWAM MSA with outputs increasing 35 per cent from the previous year of operation.



The MV *YWAM PNG*, the replacement Training and Medical Ship for the MV *Pacific Link*, undertook a successful tour along the East Coast of Australia to raise awareness regarding the partnership with PNG and the work of YWAM MSA. Over 18,000 people toured the vessel during this time and many more heard the message via school programs and a media campaign.

Alongside ongoing dedicated fieldwork by the MV *Pacific Link* and team, the year 2014 was dominated by the campaign to purchase the MV *YWAM PNG*. And a successful campaign it was, with possession of the vessel taken on December 4th. The MV *YWAM PNG* will increase YWAM MSA's operational capacity by over 500% and allow expansion of its training and health services across the entire Southern Region of PNG.

The MV *YWAM PNG* made its maiden voyage to PNG in April 2015, and over the course of nine weeks served Western, Gulf, Central, Oro, Milne Bay, and Morobe Provinces with primary health care, dentistry, eye health, and capacity building initiatives to over 12,000 patients in 81 villages through this Southern Region and Huon-Gulf.

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. From May 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2015, the following was achieved in conjunction with Buzz Off:

• Number of malaria health promotion sessions:	77
• Attendees at malaria health promotion sessions:	5,041
• Mosquito nets distributed:	1,537
• Health workers trained in malaria prevention	10
• Health workers trained in the risks of malaria during pregnancy:	8
• Health workers trained in RDT's and new malaria treatment plan:	25
• RDT kits distributed:	1,065
• Haemoglobin test kits distributed:	15

Grant funds in the amount of \$11,000 were remaining from the \$14,000 transferred to YWAM MSA for training, treatment, and administration costs related to malaria education, prevention, testing, and treatment in rural communities.

To date, \$3,239 in administration fees has been spent to release a shipment of mosquito nets from customs and storage in Papua New Guinea, and \$4,181.18 was spent to upgrade malaria training resources. Efforts were made to spend the \$6,000 allotted to treatment, however a national shortage of medications in PNG thwarted these efforts. A proposal is currently being drafted for these funds to be put toward the first steps in establishing a laboratory on board the MV *YWAM PNG*, which includes malaria diagnostic capabilities to strengthen the PNG national malaria strategy on board.

Future Developments

Refit of the MV *YWAM PNG*



Over the coming months the MV *YWAM PNG* will undergo the second stage of her refit which will include the construction of a day procedure unit, new dentistry clinic, and the addition of the patrol tenders. Continued support and assistance to order to finalise the refit is needed in order to return to PNG waters in 2016.

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.

Thank you to our Donors



YWAM MSA extends sincere thanks to our donors for the support in the many successes from May 1st, 2014 to June 30th, 2015. Together we moved from strength to strength as we completed our final outreaches with the MV *Pacific Link*, Overcame the Impossible with the purchase of the MV *YWAM PNG*, and experienced the great success of MV *YWAM PNG*'s maiden outreach to PNG. We visited three times as many villages and treated twice as many patients compared to what we've been able to achieve in the same amount of time with our former vessel, the MV *Pacific Link*. This first voyage is just the beginning of what's to come.



**Annual Report
Home of the Open Heart
May 1, 2014 – April 30, 2015**

Home of the Open Heart (Chiang Rai) 2014-2015

Who: Children affected by HIV/AIDS, HIV+ single mothers with children, pregnant teens and women, PLWHIV who need hospice care, and families in our surrounding community affected by HIV/AIDS.

How many: 3 mothers and 19 children. In the community, schools and hospitals we have visited and assisted many HIV+ and HIV affected people.

Staff: Penny Wilcox (director), 5 Thai staff and 5 foreign staff

Highlights of 2015:

• With the hospice facility completed, we were advised by doctors at the local Thai government hospital that we can accept patients and provide end stage care, without providing active treatment (i.e. keeping people comfortable in their final stages of life) under our current registration. This is, in fact, what we have been doing for many years with our current women and children. So therefore our hospice is simply an extension of what we've been doing for years. Our only hold up now in receiving patients is lack of nursing staff. Our highlight is that we are ready and have gained loads of help and set-up support from short-term experienced palliative care nurses.

• Accepted another a HIV+ lady and baby into our care. She was desperate with nowhere to live. (her story is in this report)

Plans for 2014:

- Pray for and recruit house-parents for boys and girls home, as well as other staff needs, particularly a bilingual women who desires to manage our women's work, caring for women-at-risk.
- Seek funding for monthly running costs of hospice.
- With arrival of doctor from UK on staff we desire to increase our community education program.
- Seek staff to develop ministry for teenage pregnant girls. Offering a stable, safe environment and an alternative to abortion in the upstairs (second floor) of our hospice facility.
- Continue partnerships with others who are working with HIV/AIDS affected people in the Chiang Rai area.
- Fundraise and continue to plan for future purchase of property next door. To be used as opportunity to become more self-sustaining as a ministry, rather than continual dependence on international donors. Plans include horticulture, agriculture and property rental.

2-3 desired results that you would like to see in the lives of those you serve.

That our children and women will continue to develop emotionally, socially, spiritually and educationally through our influence in their lives, as well as the weekly program we set for them and for the children through the local Thai government school.

That the children make good decisions, growing into young men and women with positive Christian foundations, a keen awareness of right and wrong, as well as solid values. Seeing professional counseling where needed.



Life story:

Ann & Joshua

The bright lights and plentiful bars of Pattaya beach resort in south east Thailand entices countless girls from rural regions of the country with its intoxicating promises of wealth and employment. Tragically, 'employers' assurances of security and happiness are often cruel deceptions where dreams turn to nightmares and young lives are left broken and without hope.

Anne's was one such life. Caught up in a ruthless industry, she, like so many before her, fell sick and ultimately pregnant with an unplanned child. Alone, unable to work and with nowhere to live she was eventually found by the Tamar Centre, a YWAM initiative that reaches out to girls just like her.

"The people at the Tamar Centre told me about Home of the Open Heart and how they could provide a safe place for me and my baby to live. I agreed to go."

The peaceful, rural setting of the mission in North East Thailand is a world away from Anne's former life but with encouragement and support she is determined to give this opportunity her very best shot. "I arrived at the mission in December 2013 with my three month old son Joshua. He is my first child. I was very sick when I got here, but my health is much better now. I have been here less than one month and I am trying to adjust to the very different culture here. It is a big change for me."

Please pray that Anne might settle here, that she might learn quickly as a new mum and grow in wisdom to discern the needs of her beautiful son. "I have learnt to pray and I pray for my own needs but I would like you to pray for Joshua too as he sometimes struggles to take his milk. He cannot talk yet and tell me what is wrong."

Please pray for little Joshua, that he would grow in strength, that Anne would forge strong friendships with the other mums living here, that their shared experiences and encouragement would help her make this challenging transition from city life to a peaceful rural and safe environment.





VANITASHRAY
Caring For Orphans, Destitute & Widows

Vanitashray Annual Report 2014 – 2015



Current Situation India is a growing country which already has the largest population of children in the world. Maharashtra is a state of over 70 million people. In the past decade, there has been a significant push to strengthen child protection in the state and to strengthen the ability of families to care for children. In 2003, UNICEF estimated there to be roughly 35 million orphaned children in India, the most of any country on earth. Pune is a city located in the western part of India and is a part of the state of Maharashtra.

Vision: Caring For Orphans, Destitute, widows and rescuing Minors

Mission: “Speak up for those who cannot speak for themselves, For the rights of all who are destitute. (Children & Women) Speak up and judge fairly:

Defend the rights of the poor and needy.”

Goals & Objectives

We prefer child-centered forms of Institutional & Non-Institutional Alternative Care. We advocate for every child’s right to family thereby emphasizing family preservation. We commit to strengths based family care for children through holistic participation, partnership and advocacy at local, state and national levels; and empower communities to be led by their needs and voices of all children.

We connect and engage with valued stakeholders to provide direct practice. Our work ensures the child’s fundamental rights as outlined in



the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Vanitashray is called to make a difference in the lives of Children, orphans, destitute women and widows. Rescuing minors from flesh trade Industry. Partnering networking, nationally and globally with likeminded people and stakeholders who desire to bring change.

Targets / Achievements

In early 2014, we began working with the Government of Maharashtra to make our mutual aspirations in building content, Child protection policies and create awareness On Child Rights. We have been working hard to create a system that can better care for children in a loving and sustainable way. Over the past year, we have begun to empower a much greater number of stakeholders to embrace child protection practices across the entire country bringing in resources and training national child care

No. of Beneficiaries by Activity (Compiled)		
Activity	Activities Numbers	Total beneficiaries
House Visits	106	253
Community Meeting	6	92
One-on-one Meeting	510	510
Day Care Centres	3	85 children
Sewing Classes	2 batches	12
Visits (different dept. etc.)	20	140
Medical Camps	3	600
Mid Day Meal	5 days a week	80
Free Cataract Surgeries	8	8
Counselling at Centre	75	135
Counselling at Field	77	120
Field Trips	4	200
Staff Training	7	45
Centre Meeting	16	
Case File Management	20	
Visitors came at centre	16	120
New cases received	49	
Follow up cases received	19	
Total Beneficiary	946	2,400

workers.

Vanitashray Family Connection Centre Our centre is making an impact in communities in ways we cannot believe!

The value of education

Today, education remains an inaccessible right for millions of children around the world.

More than 72 million children of primary education age are not in school and 759 million adults are illiterate and do not have the awareness necessary to improve both their living conditions and those of their children.

Education will inform, conform, reform and transform!

Education is pivotal to human progress. It is the main tool that empowers individuals to make informed choices. Every child has the right to basic education so that their future is built on a strong foundation.

Causes of lack of education:

1. Marginalization and poverty. For many children who still do not have access to education, it is notably because of persisting inequality and marginalization.
2. Financial deficit of developing countries Universal primary education is a major issue and a sizeable problem for many states.
3. Inequality between girls and boys: the education of girls in jeopardy Today, it is girls who have the least access to education. They make up more than 54% of the non-schooled population in the world. Girls are destined to work in the family home, whereas boys are entitled to receive an education.



In India today: *25 million children denied their constitutional right to an education in India. *121 million children of primary school age do not attend school.

We're not just creating awareness but offer an opportunity for anyone that feels called to serve the underprivileged child through education.

Amman and Rahim's Story By: Alisha Silas



Dear friends. I am a student of Psychology at Pune University, and I would like to share with you the journey of a struggling family. I was moved to write this story because this case (Family) is very close to my heart. The names of the family members have been changed to protect their privacy.

A family with 4 boys, two of which having special needs (special needs is a term used in clinical diagnostic who require assistance for disabilities that may be medical, mental, or psychological.) are helpless about their situation.

They tried to place their kids in different schools but no school was willing to take their children in.

The parents nearly gave up trying and felt hopeless concerning their boys. They could not afford to place them in special needs school, which could've been a great option. But financially challenged and nearly on survival mode daily, at times starved too, never ever sent their kids to school.

We met the mother at one of house visits in the community and she told us her story. I also noticed her helplessness and inability to change her situation. When I asked her, she told me that she is illiterate. She a desperate mother taking care of the youngest and the two special needs kids, while the father works as a plumber earning very low income.

The family enrolled 3 of their boys in Happy Hearts Nursery / Day-care centre last year. Amman and Rahim at age 11 and 9 for the first time, with the brightest smiles and biggest hearts came every day to school now.

Those being the first special need kids we've catered to were given all our attention and love. Their artistic minds and smiling faces love the atmosphere and the toys they get to play with in school. We have seen a remarkable change in both the boys.

We salute the parents who have seen the potential of their children, in spite of their natural disability. One of them is the most kind person and loves sharing his lunch with others.

When we love on our children and care for them, we see these remarkable changes. It blesses my heart to see these two precious one's doing so well and we can help the family value their children with special needs and not see them as burden. We are committed to bring change in the lives of children; one child at a time!

Education is Every Child's Right!

Practice Partners



As part of their commitment to Corporate Social Responsibility, Several IT Sectors have pledged their financial and practical support to Vanitashray, Pune in establishing a system that caters to the needs of women and children in most desperate living conditions. In addition to guidance and training on the best practices around the world, they are building capacity through resource materials. We are absolutely grateful!

Established In 1999 Vanitashray has had the privilege to Partner with several Individuals, professionals, corporate, NGO's educational institutions and legislators. United by the common ambition of giving all children a sense of belonging and security within a safe environment, through Vanitashray. We in India are working together to ensure every Child Cared and nurtured and provided quality Education. Empowering women in communities and strengthen families in need.

Australian Mercy is partnering with Vanitashray as it reaches out to the poor and the marginalizes in India.



Financial Reporting



Notes on the 2014 – 2015 audit of accounts

By David Skeat

Before we start it must be clearly understood that these figures are contextualized within the setting of a 14 month period not the usual 12 month period so therefore some of the figures compared to last year's audit may seem generous. The reason for the 14 month audit in these reports lies in the fact that this year Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd is changing the cycle of its financial year from May 1 to April 30 to July 1 – June 30 thus bringing its financial year in line with the national financial year.

Income

These reports show that in the period May 1, 2014 – June 30, 2015 the company had an income totalling \$1,589,642.34, which is an increase of 622,812.34 on the previous year's income total of \$966,830.00. Bearing in mind the 14 month report to try and give us some perspective I have prepared the table below. I have divided the yearly income by the number of months covered in both Annual Audit of Accounts reports.

Table 1: Monthly income over 2 years

Year	Annual Income	Average Monthly Income
2013 – 2014	\$ 966,830.00 (12months)	\$ 80,569.16
2014 - 2015	\$ 1,589,642.34 (14months)	\$ 113,545.88
Difference	\$ 622,812.34	\$ 32,976.72

The table shows that in the financial year 2014 – 2015 the actual financial monthly income grew by \$32,976.72 per month. This increase is due to the new projects that were taken on in that period. Some of these projects moved substantial amounts of money through the 911 fund to their projects.

If one looks at the monthly average over a 12 month period then the total company income would have been \$ 1,362,550.56 which is an increase of \$395,720.56 on the previous 12 months.

Donation Income

Donations were up in the financial year 2014-2015. This again was due to the increase of projects. Table 2 shows that the total average increase of donations for the year was up \$52,000.24 on the previous year. When these figures are averaged over the 12 months then the estimated donation income would be \$1,330,250.04

Table 2: Donation Income over 2 years

Year	Donation Income	Average Monthly Donation Income
2013 – 2014	\$ 706, 247.19 (12 months)	\$ 58,853.93
2014 - 2015	\$ 1,551,958.40 (14 months)	\$ 110,854.17
Difference	\$ 845,711.21	\$ 52,000.24

Other sources of income for the year included;
Interest \$5,699.87
Other Income \$31,984.07

The bulk of the other income would be the sale of mosquito nets via the Buzz Off website.

Expenditure

Australian Mercy services both national and international projects amongst the poor and needy. Without a doubt the strongest proportion of our funding and effort is centred on international projects, but a significant effort is still spent on helping those in need within Australia. All of our projects are listed on page 8 of these reports.

International Projects

The largest single expenditure item in this year's audit was funds to international programs which was \$1,168,521.69. International program support costs were \$ 42,515.94 making a total of \$ 1,211,037.63. This means that 76.18% of total income for the year was disbursed to international projects.

National Projects

The audit of accounts shows that in the 14 months covered by the report \$ 128,360.51 was expended on the National projects. This represents 8.07% of total income.

So putting these figures together we see that in the 14 months of this financial year the total amount expended by Australian Mercy on National and International projects was \$ 1,339,398.14 which represents 84.25% of total income.

These figures are expressed in table 3 below.

Table 3: Project expenditure over 2 years

Year	Expenditure	Percentage of total income
2013 – 2014 National Projects	\$ 166,806.53 (12 months)	17.25%
2013 – 2014 International Projects	\$ 572,431.30 (12 months)	59.21%
Total 2013 – 2014	\$ 739,237.83	76.46%
2014 - 2015 National Projects	\$ 128,360.51 (14 months)	8.07%
2014 – 2015 International Projects	\$ 1,211,037.63 (14 months)	76.18%
Total 2013 – 2014	\$ 1,339,398.14	84.25%

Administration and Accountability

The reports show that over the 14 month period covered in the report that Australian Mercy spent \$197,057.29 or 12.39% of its total budget on administration and accountability. This is an increase of \$56,488.05 on the previous year.

Some of the areas that caused that increase were;

- Renovation of the National Office
- Purchase of computers
- Increased property rental
- Increased offices with new projects

Admin is always an area that we work hard on to reduce – however it is not possible to reduce much more than we already have. As a percentage of income our admin and accountability costs were 2.15% less than the previous year.

Table 4: Admin and accountability expenditure over 2 years

Year	Admin	Percentage of total income
2013 – 2014	\$ 140, 569.24	14.54%
2014 – 2015	\$197,057.29	12.39%

Table 5 shows expenditure over two years.

Table 5: Analysis of income over 2 years

Item	2013 – 2014	% of total	2014 – 2015	% of total
International Projects	\$ 572,431.30	59.21%	\$ 1,211,037.63	76.18%
National Projects	\$ 166,806.53	17.25%	\$ 128,360.51	8.07%
Admin and accountability	\$ 140, 569.24	14.54%	\$ 197,057.29	12.39%
Total	\$ 739,237.83	91%	\$ 1,536,455.43	96.64%

The missing percentages 9% in 2013 – 2014 and 3.36% 2014 -2015 represent funds that were in out bank accounts or were invested at the end of the financial year.

In 2014 – 2015 Australian Relief & Mercy Services Ltd had an operating profit of \$ 52,885.91.

This audit of accounts shows us to be in very healthy financial position we thank our auditors T A Khoury and Co for their hard work in preparing these reports and for all of our staff who have contributed to them.

Details of our audit of accounts can be found on pages 71- 85 of these reports.

A full copy of these accounts will be made available upon written request to the Australian Mercy National Office;

**PO Box 132
Port Kembla
NSW 2505**



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.

ADMINISTRATION FEES

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 (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 (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 has 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 \$7,755,613.90 for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

A full explanation of how we arrived at these figures is published below.

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 85 years of age and our youngest volunteer in 2014 / 2015 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 DFAT Recognised Development Expenditure scale, (which is the standard used to estimate volunteer rates). These pay scales are represented in Table 1. The source document can be found here; https://dfat.gov.au/about-us/publications/Documents/rde_notes.pdf

2014 / 2015 volunteer hours.

In 2014 / 2015 the number of donated volunteer hours was 231,583.75 hours which we valued at \$ 7,755,613.90.

Of these hours, 62,312.50 hours were for National Projects; 162,595.75 were for Overseas Projects; and 6,675.50 were put in by the Board.

Our datasheet for 2013/2014 is reproduced in Table 2.

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 73,910 volunteer hours donated. Another project Home of the Ark in Thailand saw 36,950 volunteer hours donated.

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.

Table 1: Pay rates used to estimate volunteer hours.

Designation	Pay scale
1. Project Assistant	\$43,368 – 47,364
2. Project Officer/Technician	\$56,895 – 62,012
3. Middle Professional	\$63,755 – 67,967
4. Project Manager	\$70,302 – 75,122
5. Team Leader	\$96,542 – 107,970
6. Higher Professional	\$116,611 – 131,751

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
PO Box 132
Port Kembla NSW 2505
info@arms.org.au**

Table 2: Volunteer Hours Data Sheet

Estimated Volunteer Hours 2014 - 2015							
Office	Project Assist	Project Officer	Proj Manager	Middle Prof	Team Leader	Higher Prof.	TOTAL
Adelaide	458.00	-	-	342.00	-	-	798.00
Bumie	2,860.00	-	250.00	215.00	-	235.00	3,560.00
Canberra	1,434.00	-	-	-	-	-	1,434.00
Darwin	19.00	-	-	-	-	-	19.00
Nowra	1,740.00	300.00	-	-	-	-	2,040.00
Perth Office & CD	1,332.00	-	-	2,256.00	1,369.00	-	4,957.00
Port Kembla	-	1,835.50	-	-	-	-	1,835.50
Rahab	-	-	1,248.00	-	1,248.00	100.00	2,596.00
RescueNet	964.00	135.00	-	3,800.00	1,774.00	-	6,673.00
Townsville	38,400.00	-	-	-	-	-	38,400.00
Burma	-	-	-	250.00	-	-	250.00
Cambodia	-	30.00	2,352.00	-	-	-	2,382.00
China	413.00	3,960.00	100.00	213.00	200.00	20.00	4,906.00
Congo	-	7,254.00	-	-	-	-	7,254.00
India	1,440.00	5,040.00	-	2,830.00	4,300.00	134.00	13,744.00
Philippines	20.00	100.00	40.00	-	250.00	2.00	412.00
Thailand ARK	-	28,194.00	3,230.00	-	5,502.00	24.00	36,950.00
Thailand HOOH	-	2,500.00	-	-	-	-	2,500.00
Thailand HSTK	142.00	172.00	1,468.00	1,690.00	4,032.00	-	7,504.00
Thailand Mae Sot	-	150.00	-	-	-	-	150.00
Timor Leste Ossu Huna	-	-	70.00	-	-	30.00	100.00
Timor Leste Hera	-	1,813.00	1,456.00	6,070.75	168.00	364.00	9,871.75
Solomon Islands	-	2,420.00	-	-	-	-	2,420.00
Vanuatu	-	168.00	10.00	40.00	-	24.00	242.00
YWAM Ships	-	33,830.00	9,220.00	6,280.00	18,800.00	5,780.00	73,910.00
Total Hours Projects	49,220.00	87,901.50	19,444.00	23,986.75	37,643.00	6,713.00	224,908.25
Total Hours Directors	-	-	-	4,175.50	2,500.00	-	6,675.50
Total Hours	49,220.00	87,901.50	19,444.00	28,162.25	40,143.00	6,713.00	231,583.75
Hourly Rate	22.40	29.39	32.94	36.32	49.97	60.24	
Total \$	\$ 1,102,528.00	\$ 2,583,425.09	\$ 640,485.36	\$ 1,022,852.92	\$ 2,001,931.41	\$ 404,391.12	\$ 7,755,613.90



Audit of Accounts

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 June 2015.

1. Directors

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

David Skeat
Rodney Alan Richards
Nicholas John Matthews
Matthew John Colwell
Kris Leonard Thomson
Bruce Colin Skinner
Christopher Lee Harrison
Dianne Margaret Clark
Kevin Ewart Clark
Jennifer Anne Keatch

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	Year ended
30 June 2015	30 April 2014
\$	\$
52,885.91	86,913.93

3. Principal Activities

The principal activities of the company in the course of the year were the provision or relief to persons in 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, 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 2014-2015 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 June 2015.

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.

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

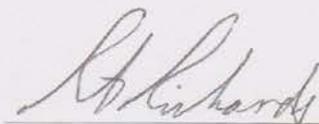
11. Auditors Independence Declaration

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



Rodney Richards
Director

Dated: 15/11/15

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Statement of Financial Performance
For the year ended 30 June 2014

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Revenue			
Donations and Gifts			
- Monetary	2	1,551,958.40	706,247.19
- Non-Monetary	1	0.00	0.00
Bequests and Legacies		0.00	0.00
Grants			
- AusAID		0.00	0.00
- Other Australian		0.00	0.00
- Other overseas		0.00	229,432.69
Investment Income – Interest Received		5,699.87	9,064.81
Other Income		31,984.07	22,085.31
Profit on Sale of Assets		0.00	0.00
Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs		0.00	0.00
Total Revenue		<u>1,589,642.34</u>	<u>966,830.00</u>
Expenditure			
International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure			
- International Programs			
- Funds to International Programs		1,168,521.69	515,276.32
- Program Support Costs		42,515.94	57,154.98
- Community Education		0.00	0.00
- Fundraising Costs			
- Public		301.00	109.00
- Accountability and Administration		197,057.29	140,569.24
- Government, multilateral and private		0.00	0.00
- Non-Monetary Expenditure		0.00	0.00
Total International Aid and Development Programs Expenditure		<u>(1,408,395.92)</u>	<u>(713,109.54)</u>
International Political/Religious Adherence Promotion Programs Expenditure		0.00	0.00
Domestic Programs Expenditure		128,360.51	166,806.53
Total Expenditure		<u>(1,536,756.43)</u>	<u>(879,916.07)</u>
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over Expenditure		<u>52,885.91</u>	<u>86,913.93</u>
Funds available for future use at the beginning of the year		439,830.22	352,916.29
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over Expenditure		52,885.91	86,913.93
Funds available for future use at the end of the year		<u>492,716.13</u>	<u>439,830.22</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Statement of Financial Position As At 30 June 2015

	Note	2015 \$	2014 \$
Current Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	3	458,128.95	377,593.58
Other financial assets		8,241.20	29,828.20
Total Current Assets		<u>466,370.15</u>	<u>407,421.78</u>
Non-Current Assets			
Property, plant and equipment	4	34,730.29	44,283.29
Total Non-Current Assets		<u>34,730.29</u>	<u>44,283.29</u>
Total Assets		<u>501,100.44</u>	<u>451,705.07</u>
Current Liabilities			
Trade and other payables	5	6,933.61	3,196.58
Current tax liabilities - GST		1,450.70	8,678.27
Total Current Liabilities		<u>8,384.31</u>	<u>11,874.85</u>
Total Liabilities		<u>8,384.31</u>	<u>11,874.85</u>
Net Assets		<u>492,716.13</u>	<u>439,830.22</u>
Equity			
Retained Earnings		492,716.13	439,830.22
Total Equity		<u>492,716.13</u>	<u>439,830.22</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Cash available at the beginning of the year \$	Cash raised during the year \$	Cash disbursed during the year \$	Cash available at the end of the year \$
Designated Purpose A – Papua New Guinea	13,017.44	0.00	0.00	13,017.44
Designated Purpose B – Thailand, Burma	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Designated Purpose C – HOOH	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Total for All Other Purposes	364,576.14	1,589,642.34	1,542,176.39	412,042.09
TOTAL	377,593.58	1,589,642.34	1,542,176.39	425,059.53

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Statement of Changes in Equity
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	Retained Earnings	Reserves	Total
	\$	\$	\$
Balance at 1 MAY 2014	439,830.22	0.00	352,916.29
Excess/(Shortfall) of Revenue over Expenditure	52,885.91	0.00	86,913.93
Amount transferred (to) from reserves	0.00	0.00	0.00
Balance at 30 JUNE 2015	<u>492,716.13</u>	<u>0.00</u>	<u>439,830.22</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Statement of Cash Flows
For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
<hr/>		
Cash Flow From Operating Activities		
Receipts from customers	1,583,942.47	957,765.19
Payments to Suppliers and employees	(1,542,176.39)	(899,241.67)
Interest received	5,699.87	9,064.81
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities (note 2)	<u>47,465.95</u>	<u>67,588.33</u>
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	47,465.95	67,588.33
Cash at the beginning of the year	377,593.58	310,005.25
Cash at the end of the year (note 1)	<u>425,059.53</u>	<u>377,593.58</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited

ABN 84 008 643 258

Income and Expenditure Statement

For the year ended 30 June 2015

	2015	2014
	\$	\$
Funds to Domestic Projects		
National Office	95,875.58	86,115.27
Perth	1,451.00	250.00
RescueNet	5,698.62	
Shoalhaven		69,063.20
Canberra	25,335.31	11,378.06
	<u>128,360.51</u>	<u>166,806.53</u>
Fundraising Costs		
Public	301.00	109.00
	<u>301.00</u>	<u>109.00</u>
Total expenses	<u>1,536,756.43</u>	<u>879,916.07</u>
Profit (loss) from ordinary activities before income tax	52,885.91	86,913.93
Income tax revenue relating to ordinary activities	0.00	0.00
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	<u>52,885.91</u>	<u>86,913.93</u>
Total changes in equity of the association	<u>52,885.91</u>	<u>86,913.93</u>
Opening retained profits	439,830.22	352,916.29
Net profit (loss) attributable to the association	52,885.91	86,913.93
Closing retained profits	<u>492,716.13</u>	<u>439,830.22</u>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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 June 2015.

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 association's 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.

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited

ABN 84 008 643 258

Notes to the Financial Statements

For the year ended 30 June 2015

Note 1: Statement of Significant Accounting Policies

The financial statements are a general purpose financial report that have been prepared in accordance with applicable Accounting Standards, other mandatory professional reporting requirements (Urgent Issues Group Consensus Views) and the Corporations Law. The financial statements have also been prepared on the basis of historical costs and do not take into account changing money values or, except where stated, current valuations of non-current assets. Cost is based on the fair values of the consideration given in exchange for assets. The accounting policies have been consistently applied, unless otherwise stated.

Income tax

The company has received endorsement as an Income Tax Exempt Charity and accordingly no provision for income tax has been made.

Fixed assets

Property, plant and equipment are brought to account at cost. The carrying amount of property, plant and equipment is reviewed annually by directors to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount from those assets. The recoverable amount is assessed on the basis of expected net cash flows which will be received from the assets employment and subsequent disposal.

The depreciable amounts of all assets are depreciable over their useful lives commencing from the time the asset is held ready for use.

Investments

Investments bought to account are at cost or at valuation. The carrying amount of investments is reviewed annually to ensure it is not in excess of the recoverable amount of these investments.

Dividends and interests are brought to accounts on the profit and loss account when received.

Cash

For the purposes of the statement of cash flows, cash includes cash on hand and in at call deposits with banks or financial institutions, investment in money market instruments maturing within less than two months, net of bank overdrafts.

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 \$7,755,613.90 for the financial year ended 30 June 2015.

Change in report period

The company has changed its financial year end from April to June. Accordingly, the 2015 figures are for the fourteen months from May 2014 to June 2015.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

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 June 2015 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



Rodney Richards
Director

Dated: 15/11/15

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

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.

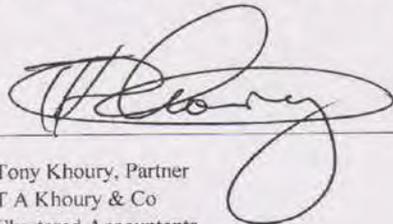
In the normal course of its business, the company derives a substantial portion of its income from donations and sales to related parties. As the effective control over such transactions are not established until they are received and entered in the accounting records, we have been unable to independently 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 June 2015 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: 16TH November, 2015.



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

Australian Relief and Mercy Services Limited
ABN 84 008 643 258
Auditor's Independence Declaration

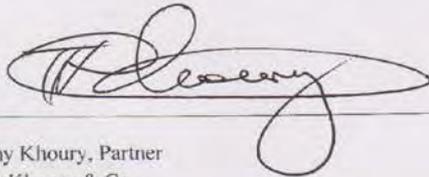
**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C OF THE
CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

TO THE DIRECTORS OF AUSTRALIAN RELIEF & MERCY SERVICES LIMITED

We declare that, to the best of our knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2015 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the *Corporations Act 2001* in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit has been breached.

Signed on : 16TH November, 2015.



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

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
www.australianmercy.org
www.buzzoff.org
www.myanmar.buzzoff.org
www.donnamcdermid.org
www.rescuenet.org.au
www.goldcoingiving.com





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

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 2014 - 2015.





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

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

End of Reports

