



# News Update

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## Pride of Australia Winner—Dr Gary Hewett

In August, a surprise phone call arrived informing our CEO Gary, that he was a finalist and in contention for the inaugural "Pride of Australia Medal". Gary was overwhelmed to find that he had been nominated in the "Peace" category. These awards pay tribute to everyday Australians achieving extraordinary things.

On the 3rd of September a ceremony was held for the winners and their families. Gary, along with 9 other recipients, were honoured for their courage, selflessness and community spirit.

Some of the Awareness Cambodia team in Perth, along with Gary's wife and two children were present to see him honoured. Upon accepting his award he thanked the organisers - The Sunday Times and paid tribute to the Awareness Cambodia team.



Front row left to right:  
Gill & Rob McCullough, Gary & Kim Hewett & daughter Jessica.  
Back row left to right: Lesley Hewett,  
Dr Neil Hewett and Justin Hewett (Gary's son)



Above: Gary after his win

## AWARENESS CAMBODIA INC

Issue 3 2005

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## Welcome new additions to Sunshine House



Above: Baby Oisín Au

### Baby Boy!

We are excited to let you know that Brenda & Ka Ming Au have a new addition to the family.

Little Oisín (pronounced Uh-Sheen) was born on the 12th September at 5:15pm. Brenda is our Health Manager and lives on site at Sunshine House. It has been her care and devotion that have seen some of our sickest children recover from serious illness. Brenda and Ka Ming are due back in Cambodia next month, but until then, they are enjoying some well earned family time.



Above: Roisin, Brenda & Oisín

### New staff member!



Above: New staff member Si Raem (centre) on her first day. The children just loved her.

# Sunshine House News!



Reporter: Pushpa Nabham  
Sunshine House Co-ordinator

Hi! I can't believe it's October already! Soon it'll be Christmas and we'll be ushering in the new year.

2005 has been a great but challenging year and one of change and development at Sunshine House.

The latest developments include the conversion of the sandpit into two rooms. (see photos). One is the children's playroom fitted with a TV, DVD player, beautiful and colourful mats, wall hangings, throw cushions, story books and all kinds of toys. The younger children are learning to enjoy supervised play while the staff and older children are becoming good supervisors. They look forward to going to the room, getting them to line up and keep the toys in their proper bags after play is unbelievably easy these days.

The second room is the music room, which is very popular with the older children. We now have acoustic guitars,

tambourines, harmonicas, keyboards and recorders. The favourites are the 2 electric guitars and drums. A music teacher has been employed to come once a week and we believe we've got the best. We plan to buy a lead guitar and mixer next week. Soon we'll have our very own Sunshine Band.

There's the sewing room fully equipped with sewing machines, overlocker and work table (for drawing patterns and cutting). The older girls have taken to sewing like ducks to the water and are sewing hair scrunchies, skirts, bags, and blouses. They're so proud to wear their handiwork. Robyn works patiently with them. The boys have bags sewn for them too and these bags go to school every day.

A local comes every day to teach English to both the staff and children. He's very popular with the kids, as he is gentle and shows a lot of enthusiasm. He is such a hard worker too.

This year we have bunk beds for the boys, and we're slowly changing the look of the boys' dorms. They now have no reason to look with envy at the girls' dorm. They are all smiles.

Our eco-farm co-ordinator (Tim) and his wife (Robyn) have been such fantastic team players, developing the eco-farm to self-sufficiency. They have setup the sewing room and playroom. Assisting, the children with sewing and producing

skirts, blouses and bags.

This month we have welcomed a new staff member and a new child to our family at Sunshine House and look forward to another 11 joining us by end of the year.

In early November we will welcome Oisin born to Ka Ming and Brenda Au our nurse to Sunshine House. Our family at Sunshine House is slowly but surely growing.

The above are some of the more apparent changes taken place at Sunshine House this year, with these changes as with all changes come challenges and adjustments which involved hard work, teamwork, lots of patience, time and money. This report will not be complete without giving thanks and appreciation to all the local staff and expatriate long term volunteers at Awareness Cambodia. We couldn't achieve what we do without our sponsors, donors and supporters. Your words of encouragement and financial aid allow us to make a difference. Lastly a big thanks to our children who make the journey so worthwhile.

Please continue to support Sunshine House as we pull our efforts and resources together to invest in the lives of these children. We strive to make a difference in their lives and play our part in making a new generation to change Cambodia.

*Pushpa*

Photo Gallery @ SH



Above: Children's school bags & dressmaking skills on show.



Above: Robyn training the children in dressmaking.

Thanks Robyn



Above: Children at Sunshine House have taken to this skill with much flair!

Picture 1: Original undercover sandpit.

Picture 2: Construction using local builders from surrounding villages.

Picture 3: Only final touches to go!



Above: Children's sandpit was infested with biting ants and couldn't be utilised to its full potential. It was decided we would use the structure and convert into a playroom and music room. This was achieved with only US\$2900.00.

**"We can achieve amazing results in Cambodia with very little outlay."**

## Pension no barrier to sponsorship for creative couple

Pensioners, Ian and Phebe Clarke in Perth, Western Australia sponsor seven children with Awareness Cambodia. They are proof that living on a fixed income is no barrier when it comes to sponsorship.

*Here is there story:*

As a hobby Ian & Phebe decided to breed cats. This is how Gethsemane Cats was borne. Along with that idea was the thought that maybe the cattery could be used to fund a "sponsorship dream" that Ian held in his heart - to sponsor 10 children.

"Anyone can do what we do, you do not need to breed cats to have extra to give to the children" said Ian. "My son Luke, got a

small part time job delivering junk mail. (Luke is a university student and also sponsors a child.) You could give up two drinks at the local and a packet of smokes a week and sponsor a child. Whatever way you can find to look after someone, who is not as well off as you are. Our family now sponsors a total of nine children with Awareness Cambodia and we hope to sponsor at least four more by June 2006.

We in Australia and other affluent countries are the most blessed people we do truly live in the safest and freest parts of the earth. We can have more than we will ever need by giving away a little of what we so abundantly have".

If you would like to be inspired on how they are making a difference visit Ian and Phebe's website:

[www.gethsemanecats.com](http://www.gethsemanecats.com)

## Age no barrier - to fundraising

Report: Lamberta Groves

On June 23<sup>rd</sup> 2005, year twelve students at Pymble Ladies College challenged the teachers to a trivia night in order to raise funds for Awareness Cambodia, specifically for the project Sunshine House. Students came dressed as either a Barbie, Disney or fairytale character. "I went with several others to make up a table as a representative of "Awareness Cambodia." The students welcomed us and presented us with a cheque at the beginning of the evening.

I was very humbled by their passion and concern for those less privileged than we are in Australia.



Just over \$3000 was raised.

Congratulations Pymble Ladies College.

*What a marvelous effort!*

## Abilities no barrier - to helping



Kevin Evans, a professional photographer, traveled last month to Sunshine House and took stunning black and white photographs of "Life at Sunshine House & the Eco-Farm projects. He has offered them to us for use in our promotions. *"Thank you Kevin!"*



## New Car in Phnom Penh



Due to the dangers of driving on motos, obtaining a vehicle become a priority. Motos is the most common form of getting around Cambodia. After bartering with a local, you go pillion on his motorcycle and hold on for dear life!

Unfortunately with the rice harvest failing, robberies are becoming a huge problem. Thieves on motos drive past and grab your hand bag. This isn't really the worst of it, falling off a moving bike has resulted in broken limbs for some of the victims. With safety concerns especially for our older team members we added a car to our wish list. Thanks to the generous folks who helped make it a reality. We now have a safer ride for our long term volunteers in Cambodia.



Above: Lesley Hewett (Project Manager) at Awareness Cambodia. Its great to know that we have a safer and more comfortable ride for Lesley as she hits 70 yrs.

**Who is Awareness Cambodia?**

Cambodia saw the systematic execution of the top 25% of its population under Pol Pot in the late 70s and now reels under a 2nd disaster, having the highest rate of AIDS per capita outside of Africa.

After a life-changing visit to Cambodia in 1995, Perth dentist Dr Gary Hewett founded Awareness Cambodia Inc. Awareness Cambodia Inc is a not-for-profit charity which takes in orphaned children in Cambodia, who either have been orphaned by AIDS or who are themselves HIV+ or suffer from AIDS. Sunshine House is where we house, feed and educate our children. Attached is a eco-farm which helps feed and train our children. Over the next 5 years, we're looking to transform Sunshine House from its current "small village" status into a larger community called "The Awareness Cambodia Community" - Kompong Spoe. Consisting over time of medical and dental clinics, half way house for our older children, a day hospital and eco-farm business development.

**We have updated  
our web site!**  
[www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au)

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*How do we fund Awareness Cambodia?*

Awareness Cambodia is funded solely by donations & sponsorship. Our staff is made up primarily of volunteers in Australia and Cambodia. We employ local Khmer staff to act as carers and role models at Sunshine House.

This has at times proved challenging but we have a firm commitment to ensuring our donations get to the Cambodian people and our on the ground programs. This edition of our newsletter contains a few stories on how previous donations have been used to change lives.

*Within Australia all contributions made to Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund are fully tax deductible.*

**Yes I want to support Awareness Cambodia!**

Please fill in the form below and return by

**FAX/POST/EMAIL**

**YOUR DETAILS: (Please Print)**

I Wish To Pay By Cheque/Money Order/Credit Card

Name:

.....

First Name

Surname

Address:

.....

Country:

Post Code:

Email:

**PAYMENT DETAILS:**

Please debit my (Circle)

Visa

Amex

MasterCard

Card Number:

Expires:...../.....

Signature:.....

*Our money in the hands of someone who has already committed themselves to work at the "coalface" may just be the most effective way for us to make a difference.*

**5 Year Plan**

If you would like a copy of our 5 year plan please go to our web site [www.awarecam.org.au](http://www.awarecam.org.au) and download a free copy. Alternatively contact Kim in the office and a booklet can be posted.

