



**Caulfield Grammar students got into the swing of fund-raising, donating nearly \$10,000 to Humanitus this year**

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**Students at the Osaom Commune school**



# Season's Greetings...

**...to all our supporters - from Jeffrey, Christopher, Sally, Simon, Angus, Celine and Julie**

As we hurtle towards the end of 2015, it is with an immense sense of pride that I look back on almost eight years of the Humanitus Foundation making a substantial difference to the lives of many children—and their families—in Cambodia and Indonesia. As we have always emphasised, these achievements are only ever made possible through the generosity and loyalty of our supporters—not to mention the selfless donation of many hours of input from our volunteer team at Humanitus.

2015 proved to be yet another outstanding year for Humanitus, and as is fortunately the case every year we were in a position to disburse a considerable amount towards our projects—all made possible through generous donations and fund-raising initiatives.

Included in these disbursements were notably the mid-year provision of necessary funds to bring the new Mkak Primary School classrooms to lock-up stage by way of the supply of materials and fitting of a colossal roof. Previously funds were provided for the supply of doors and windows, and with the floors, walls etc. completed, it was imperative that these be fitted and kept dry by way of this roof. Materials and buildings can quickly deteriorate in the Cambodian climate so we were pleased this crucial and final stage of construction was completed.

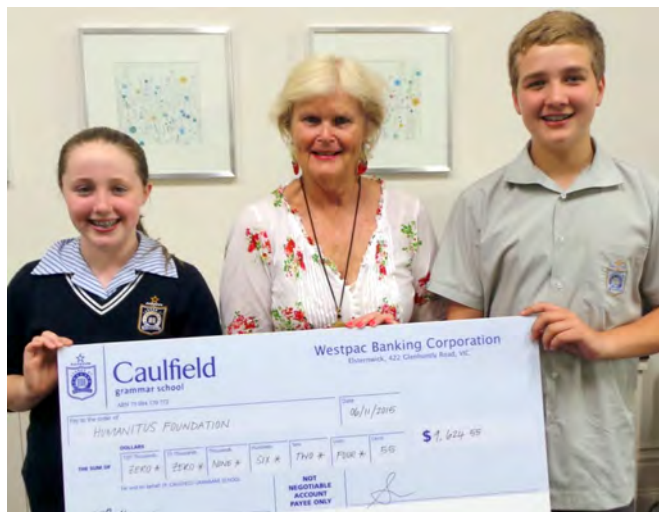
Additionally, on December 1, funds raised by Caulfield Grammar students were disbursed to the Denzil Sprague Pichey Rangsey school for continuation of their critical health-care program. The majority of purchases in Cambodia are made with US dollars, and with an abysmal exchange rate, AUD10,000 became USD7,000 at the click of a "send" button. To help compensate for this shortfall, additional funds were sent from Humanitus emergency reserves.

On behalf of the Humanitus team, and our partners, I send you and your families our very best wishes for the holiday season and a happy and safe new year.

**Jeffrey Richards**  
Executive Director, Humanitus Foundation



**Humanitus supporters**



**Humanitus Projects Director Sally Cordner receives the over-sized cheque from Caulfield Grammar Social Committee Leaders, Claire and Nick**

# ① CAULFIELD GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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**During second term this year, Caulfield Grammar School (Malvern Campus) again worked exceptionally hard to raise funds for their friends, the students at Pichey Rangsey School in Phnom Penh. They held a House General Knowledge Quiz, as well as a football mufti day when students donated a gold coin in order to wear their favourite clothes from any football code to school for the day.**

The General Knowledge Quiz involved the students being sponsored, which brought in the support and involvement of their families. This quiz is always held with strong competition between the houses, as the photos [over the following pages] indicate—and the amount of \$9,624 was an extraordinary outcome as a combined sum raised over both these days.

On Friday, November 6, I was fortunate enough to be invited to attend Chapel at Caulfield's Malvern Campus, and during the service I was presented with the cheque for the raised funds by Nick and Claire, the school's Social Committee Leaders. They are both to be commended—along with their committee, teachers, families and school community—for the enormous effort put into the raising of this money.

The funds raised by Caulfield Grammar will be put towards the continuing Health Program provided for the students at the Pichey Rangsey School. We are some years into this program now and the results have been outstanding, with school attendance at an all-time high, as students are healthier, less fatigued and more receptive to learning. Also, a higher number are pushing through to secondary school to continue with their education, and we will work towards our goal of these numbers continuing to increase.

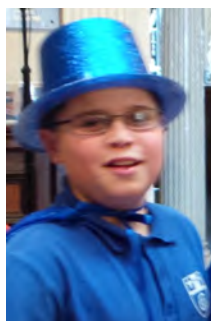
The funds have also been put towards the improvement of technology at the Pichey Rangsey School, and at the conclusion of Chapel it was wonderful for the Caulfield Grammar students to view a video sent by the Pichey Rangsey Upper Primary students expressing their direct thanks to their friends at CGS in both English and Khmer. It is hoped that when the Humanitus Team visits Cambodia in March next year [see p11], direct email links can be set up for student-to-student communication to occur.

**Sally Cordner**  
**Humanitus Projects Director**





**Students at Caulfield Grammar School (Malvern Campus) had great fun fund-raising for Pichey Rangsey School. Events included a General Knowledge Quiz, and the opportunity to dress up in their favourite team colours...**



## ② MKAK PRIMARY SCHOOL

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**Mkak Primary School is the initiative of Humanitus Foundation's Cambodian affiliate, Bright Children Organisation. Bright Children's founder, Piseth Luon (pictured right), started the school in 2003 to benefit the local children and general community in Mkak and its surrounding villages in Siem Reap province. The Bright Children Organisation is a not-for-profit Cambodian-registered Non-Government Organisation (NGO), and all those working for it do so on a voluntary basis, ensuring all monies raised go directly to projects that benefit both the school and the local community.**

There is a high level of community support at Mkak, and Piseth worked closely with the Chief of the Commune, the Chiefs of the villages, the Chief of Education and other district officials in the planning and implementing processes—all working together to determine the future directions of the project. Piseth grew up in this village during a time of war, when education was minimal and when it was dangerous to attend school. However, he was determined to gain an education, studied hard, and become a role model for his community.



Piseth wanted the children of his community to have an opportunity to receive an education to develop themselves more fully and to have more satisfying lives. Piseth is a great believer in the empowering nature of education, and wants students to take responsibility for their learning and to feel pride in their accomplishments. Education in Cambodia is not compulsory, so it is important to make school fun, pleasurable and interesting in order to encourage students to attend on a regular basis.

The first act of the Bright Children Organisation in 2004 was to give each child a kit of exercise books, a ruler, pens, pencils, and an eraser. This was continued and extended in 2005, along with talking to the students about their futures and the importance of an education. During this time, the number of students attending the school began to increase steadily, but there were only three teachers for the 220 students. In 2006, the World Challenge Organisation became involved and started sending groups from the UK and Australia to work with the students and to carry out improvements at the school and village. This was a beneficial relationship that Piseth fostered for the benefit of his community and the school. At that time, teachers were not always attending school every day—most likely due to the low wages they receive. However, because the teachers are involved in the World Challenge Organisation, they do receive a little extra on top of their base wage—but this payment is only made once yearly.



At this point in time neither Humanitus nor the Bright Children Organisation has the funds available to supplement teachers' wages but hope in the future to be in a position to do so—therefore encouraging them to work every day. Donations at this time are mostly being received from family and friends—but we must also at this point sincerely thank the PYP Network for their continued donations which are being put towards the Health Program at Mkak.

To contribute to assist teachers in Cambodia, please go to our website:

<http://www.humanitus.org/>

**Founder of the Mkak Village School, Piseth Luon recently travelled to a new school at the Osaom Commune, in the Veal Veng District of Pusat Province.**

**It is only a small school, and is typically very poor [most of the children's parents are local farmers] - but the children were extremely excited to receive books and stationery purchased from Humanitus funds.**



## ③ MELBOURNE

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Friday, October 23 this year saw the Humanitus team once again setting up for our major fund-raising event of the year at Bopha Devi Restaurant, Docklands. Friends and supporters joined us for a beautiful meal supplied by the restaurant, and I am sure all would agree that the evening was a wonderful success.

The 'fun' side of the night included spot prizes for some lucky attendees, and a rather risqué Auction emceed by Lochlan McLachlan. The two items on offer were bid on spiritedly by several people, but the winning bids went to Mark Sweeney [weekend at Point Lonsdale] and Myrna Bull [George Colville painting].

All in all, after expenses, money raised amounted to just over \$3000—a handy sum which will go towards the Health Program at Mkak Primary School. To be more specific, what Humanitus will be providing for the students will be anti-parasite medicine, immunisations, and vitamin supplements, as well as any specific medical needs of individual children. The funds will also allow Humanitus to provide the essential personnel who provide these medicines—ie, local nurses, a doctor, and drivers, etc. Furthermore, the Health Program aims to eradicate fatigue and general un-wellness in the students, in order to maximise alertness and concentration for optimum learning. And even more far-reaching are goals to include families in the Program, with the hope that their general well-being and standard of living will improve.

Thank you to all attendees and all donors of items; we couldn't do this without you.

**Simon Cowell**  
Humanitus Education & Learning Director



**Above: Jeffrey Richards and Jack Smith**



**Above: Edward Cordner, Sally Cordner, Lyn Simms, Lucy Simms, Stephen Cordner**



**Above: Stephen Humphries, Dale Hardy, Lochlan McLachlan**

**Left: Christine Gilliland and Jeremy Wilkins**



**Top: Mim Davidson and Anne Bishop**

**Above (left): Kerry Inns and grand-daughter, Remy Inns; (right) Philip Fox, Alex Kardamitsis, Jack Smith and Gail Lee**

**Below (left): Nick Beckett and Jane Ryan; (right) Helen Purvis, Joshua Cordner and Ian Cordner**





**Top: Simon Cowell, Jeffrey Richards and Sally Cordner host the “boxed” raffles; Michael Worth [with ‘Tussock’ salad bowl]; Alex Kardamitsis [with Pasta and Stir-Fry cookbooks]; Kate Selby [with Jacqueline Evans’ skin-care package]; Stephen Cordner [with a Jams & Cookbook package from the St Kilda Farmers’ Market]; Lyn Simms [with vouchers for ‘Hide & Seek Cafe’, St Kilda]; Helen Purvis [with “retro”-styled side plates]; Pinky Watson [with Jewelry by Lyn]**



**Top: Kerry Inns [with her Artique cup]** and Remy Inns.  
**Middle row: Anne Bishop and Jeffrey Richards; Mark Sweeney [with his UpLift FairTrade photo frame and coasters]; Vickie Wheelahan [with her Artique cup/saucer & plate set]. Bottom row: Claire Soler [with her ModiMade Cambodia silk scarf & necklace set]; (L-R) Remy Inns, Kerry Inns, Anne Bishop, Myrna Bull, Jeffrey Richards, Lochlan McLachlan, Jacinta Lamb, Mim Davidson**



## ④ CAMBODIA

**It is with great excitement that we bring news to our friends and supporters of plans to visit Cambodia in only a few months' time. Your intrepid Aussie Humanitus team will meet up in Siem Reap on the 26th March, 2016, spend a few days there, then head to Phnom Penh for a few more days, then back to Australia.**

For me, this will be my first visit to Cambodia. The rest of the team have been numerous times since 2005—both on Humanitus business, and occasionally just for pleasure! But this will be a reconnoitre of sorts as I get a first look at the two schools for which Humanitus raises funds—plus, possibly, a visit to SFODA, the orphanage Humanitus also helps support. I have also allowed myself a couple of days extra—one of which I hope to use to visit the legendary Angkor Wat near Siem Reap. Bliss!

My intent—since getting involved with Humanitus—has always been to live in Cambodia for periods of time (determined by either government's regulations!) and to assist the guardians of the schools [Piseth Luon at Mkak, and Denzil Sprague at Pichey Rangsey] in the areas of funding; administration; sourcing manufacturers for clothes, shoes or other school essentials; etc. I am willing to do whatever is required—and I am SO excited! This is giving me a focus and direction for the future, which is lacking at the moment.

I really feel that THIS generation of children in Cambodia is the one which will start to ask questions about WHY things are done the way they are in that country. Already changes are happening within the school system to make it more difficult for cheating to occur—and that means that children who complete their secondary and tertiary education will actually HAVE the qualifications necessary for the jobs that they will be doing. I'd like to be a part of this...

**Julie Cordner**  
**Humanitus Media Coordinator**



**Left: Aerial view of Angkor Wat, near Siem Reap (photo by Michael Freeman)**



**Above: New classrooms at Mkak**  
**Below: Organic garden at Mkak**



**Above: Pichey Rangsey students**  
**Below: SFODA Orphanage**



## UPDATES

► **On Monday 15th June**, I was asked to meet with a Year 3 class at Koska Hall, Xavier College, to talk to the students about being a volunteer for Humanitus. This was in line with their values as part of the Primary Years' Program. The students were responsive, and had knowledge of Cambodia and of Humanitus' role in supporting schools there. We talked about giving of yourselves in practical terms by supporting and raising funds, but also feeling that it might make you a better person if you think about those less fortunate than yourselves. We also discussed the differences in the lives of the children in our Cambodian schools compared to theirs and how best we can help them improve their education. It was a warm and engaging half-hour and I was very grateful to be invited. The thoughts and ideas of children can never be undervalued...

► **On Friday 7th August**, I was invited to the Early Learning Centre at Caulfield Grammar Junior School, Malvern Campus, to accept a cheque to the value of \$300. The Kindergarten and Pre-Prep students during Term 2 had been very busy making tea-towels to sell. These tea-towels depicted each class involved, with individual self-portraits of each student—and were fabulous! The students sold them to family and friends and raised the money to be donated to the Pichey Rangsey School in Phnom Penh, where Caulfield Grammar school continues its alliance. Some parents had also called in to join us when the cheque was handed over by three young students. It was wonderful to see so many faces listening to my description of how this money will be used at the school to continue the wonderful Health Program there, as well as to provide dentistry and much-needed bicycles. On behalf of the students at the Pichey Rangsey school and the team at Humanitus, I would like to sincerely thank the students, staff and families of the Early Learning Centre at CGS, Malvern. This money is so very much appreciated, and the thoughts and hard work that have been put into this effort, we are indeed very grateful for.

**Sally Cordner, Humanitus Projects Director**



### SUPPORTER INFO: JACQUELINE EVANS' SKIN-CARE

Jacqueline Evans' Naturopathic Skincare is a premium organic range founded on naturopathic philosophies, and made from the purest and highest grade natural and certified organic ingredients—with a focus on continued research to ensure safety and effectiveness.

Each product has been meticulously formulated and made by hand in small batches to ensure absolute freshness and efficacy—with no harsh chemicals included. Products are available for both men and women, and the company's eco-friendly focus is demonstrated even to the extent of the packaging, which is minimalist and respects the environment.

Read Aussie Jacqueline's story via her blog, or on the website:  
<http://www.jacquelineevans.com.au/>

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