

The Kampong Thom Teacher's Across Borders Program – July 2014

On Sunday 13th July two Auburn South Primary School teachers, Jane Endersby and Amanda Schraer, set off from Cambodia's bustling tourist town, Siem Riep, on journey to Kampong Thom to participate in the Teacher's Across Borders' teacher training program. The program consisted of 12 Australian teachers running teacher training clinics for over 160 Cambodian teacher participants.



Over the next 5 days (7th -11th July) both Amanda and Jane conducted a primary school mathematics workshop for 20 Cambodian primary school teachers from the local area. The workshop aimed at teaching mathematics through hands-on and fun games that could be easily adapted to different year levels. This last point was extremely important seeing that the teachers taught different age levels from grade 1 to grade 7.

The workshops were conducted at the PTTC (Teacher Training College) and although the days were relatively short (8.30-11:30am) they felt longer due to the teaching conditions. The classrooms were very basic consisting of shuttered windows without glass, no lighting, basic concrete flooring and a few ceiling fans. The days were extremely humid and the temperature ranged from 30-35 degrees. All the teacher training was done through a classroom translator. In these tough working conditions Amanda and Jane had to remind themselves that these conditions were a lot better than most of the conditions their teacher trainers were subject to.



During their visit to Cambodia Amanda and Jane were also able to visit two Cambodian primary schools. One was Chass Primary School to whom ASPS and ASPS families have donated to in the past. A large number of picture story books, as well as \$1200 US cash was donated. This cash will be used to complete a large area of paving that had been commenced with the money donated by the **Blackman family** earlier in the year. Another school that was just starting up received donations in the form of clothing for the school children. This school consisted of a dirt floor and tree stumps for seating. Teachers Across Borders has donated money and rebuilt two classrooms, built a toilet and supplied a few Kmher Books, sports and maths equipment. The school is given approximately \$50 US per annum from the Education Department to maintain buildings and provide equipment. Considering a 30kg bag of rice is \$30 US this is



a small amount.

This amazing experience in Cambodia allowed both Amanda and Jane to grow both professionally and personally and the relationships formed with their teaching colleagues, workshop organisers and workshop participants were priceless. It was an extremely rewarding program for all involved.

A huge **thankyou** to the **Mia Blackman** and **Blackman Family** for organising a fundraising day earlier in the year and then on their travels visited Chass Primary School. Also special thanks to the organisers of the **ASPS Fun Run (Parents Asociation)**, **Silvia Shaw** and **several other families** who generously donated books and clothing.



If your family is travelling to Siem Reap Cambodia, make a visit to Chass Primary School. We can put you in contact with Samnang Sok one of the key local organisers of Teachers Across Borders, a school council member and a registered Cambodian travel guide. You will see for yourself the difference that the generosity of Auburn South families has made to the school over the last six years. For further information please refer to:

<http://teachersacrossborders.org.au/>

We would like to thank the School Council, Susie Lachal and Marcus Wicher for providing us with the opportunity to attend the TAB Program.

Amanda Schraer and Jane Endersby

