

# Grace House Cambodia Charity Inc.



You are receiving this newsletter as you have visited or volunteered at Grace House, are Australian, and/or are aware of the Grace House Cambodia Charity, Inc.

Membership is now open.

## FROM THE CHAIR - ANN BROWNLIE

I'm delighted to share some very positive news. In our first newsletter, I mentioned that Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) status was imminent. We can confirm that this was approved in early February and has been backdated to July 2025. Establishing the charity has been a steep learning curve, and I expect there will be more challenges ahead, but I'm feeling increasingly confident thanks to the wonderful support around me.

Thank you to everyone who has already donated via the bank account and to those who have expressed interest in becoming members. Growing our membership is our key focus over the coming months. Included with this newsletter is a membership application form, as required by ACNC guidelines. I warmly encourage you to join, and to invite friends and family to join as well. Your membership truly makes a difference: 200 members equates to sponsoring one classroom, and every cent of membership fees goes directly to Grace House. There are no administrative deductions—our committee and friends will be donning aprons at Bunnings BBQs to cover those costs!

I've recently had the opportunity to speak at several Rotary clubs in Toowoomba, helping to raise awareness of the Grace House Charity and its mission. There is growing interest in a group trip to Cambodia early next year, and UniSQ is exploring a partnership with Rotary to sponsor two Special Needs Masters students to work with the Grace House staff for a month in January. It's exciting to see these new relationships forming and the possibilities they bring.

We are also grateful to Peter May, who visited in February and has generously volunteered his expertise to rebuild the Grace House website.

If you haven't already, please follow Grace House Community Centre on Facebook or Instagram to keep up with the incredible work being done by the staff.

## NEWS FROM GRACE HOUSE

Student numbers continue to grow at Grace House, helped by the introduction of a new class designed specifically for older students who are beginning English with no prior learning. The students chose the name Elephant Class—perhaps a nod to the strength and resilience they know they'll need as they take on this challenge. To create a suitable learning space, the former stage area used for monthly performances has been transformed with an extended roof, new walls, desks, chairs, cupboards, a data projector, and cooling fans.

It was a pleasure to welcome Ruby Dakin as a volunteer supporting Sophea in Chicks and Bees. Ruby is a former St Ursula's student from Toowoomba and a long-time member of the Care for Cambodia service group, which has supported Grace House for many years.

"It was so sad to say goodbye to the kids and the wonderful staff. I really enjoyed my time there... I'm really keen now to try and get people over to volunteer." We are grateful for Ruby's enthusiasm and contributions.

The expansion of the garden area has become a wonderful hands-on learning opportunity. Each class now tends its own vegetable plot, giving students the chance to learn outside the classroom. Excursions are also an important part of this learning approach. This year, classes have visited the lotus farm and the botanical gardens, with more excursions planned in the coming months.

Grace House is fortunate to welcome groups who support our mission through health checks, dental and hygiene education, children's rights sessions, and parent support for special needs. It is a busy, vibrant place, and we are deeply appreciative of the ongoing support from both international and local organisations.



## MEET THE STAFF SŘĚY HÖŪŦG

**Position at Grace House:**  
Head Teacher



I began studying English 18 years ago when I was a child at a pagoda with a monk. 5 years later, I moved to town and continued my studies at another pagoda, where I met a generous teacher who supported my education by paying my school fees. In return. This opportunity marked a turning point in my English learning journey. I continued my studies with another teacher who kindly allowed me to continue studying free of charge. With her support, my English proficiency improved significantly. I later earned a Bachelor's Degree in Arts, Humanities, and Languages. I continue to gain skills through professional development training in teaching methodology at TDSO and American Corner. I also completed a public speaking course at ICF.

What I like about Grace House is that students not only study English, but also learn Art, Math, Computer skills, and other subjects that can make a difference in improving their lives and future opportunities. The most important point is that Grace House provides health care for the student, staff and also supports their families.

I hope to see the children confidently speaking English everywhere at Grace House. I believe we can help them reach higher levels of English and unlock greater opportunities for their future. I truly believe that the education they receive here will shape their learning journey and empower them to build better lives.

## Support Grace House by:

- Become a member
- Follow Grace House Community Centre - Cambodia on Facebook and Instagram.
- Like and share the Grace House Community Centre posts
- Hold a fundraising event
- Donate to Grace House Cambodia Charity Inc. All funds go directly to Grace House Cambodia.
  - BSB 638-260
  - A/c# 16879465
  - Please provide name/email for receipt
- Volunteer at Grace House Community Centre - Cambodia