

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.



NEWS FROM THE CHAIR Ann Brownlie

As I write this, I'm looking out the window and listening to the happy voices coming from the classrooms of Grace House here in Cambodia. It is wet season, but so far, the days remain hot and humid with only light rain.

Craig, our Treasurer, recently spent a week here focusing on plans for the Toowoomba Rotary Club group who will join us at the end of January. They'll be building new sensory play equipment, carrying out much-needed painting, and supporting classroom activities. January promises to be busy with volunteers — some returning and some new to Grace House. Clare Watson, Gillian Meyers, and I will be here for varying periods, joined by Angela Collins, Sandra Searston, and Elizabeth Gillam, who will be experiencing Grace House for the first time.

We are fortunate to have been allocated several Bunnings BBQ dates at Toowoomba West, which continue to be a successful fundraising effort. Upcoming dates are August 14 and 23, September 4, October 16, November 20, and December 4. If you are in Toowoomba, please come along and support the charity or if you have a couple of hours spare, there is space in the roster for helpers.

A reminder that the next general meeting will be held on August 31, followed by the AGM. It is pleasing to report that Alistair Webb has joined the Board as Director of Governance — a most important position that strengthens our leadership.

Before the end of the financial year, we transferred funds that bring us close to having funded two classrooms at Grace House in just twelve months. This is a remarkable achievement, and I am deeply grateful to everyone who has contributed — whether through donations, memberships, or in-kind support.

If you know of a business or corporation that might be interested in learning more about the work of the charity, please let me know. Together, we can continue to strengthen Grace House and provide lasting opportunities for the children and families we serve.

NEWS FROM GRACE HOUSE

The wet season is upon us, and with it the threat of dengue fever rises sharply. Dengue is painful and debilitating. In severe cases it can be life-threatening, with young children the most susceptible. Over 500 cases are being detected daily in July, with Siem Reap among the provinces most affected.

Many households cannot afford mosquito nets, one of the simplest and effective tools to prevent bites during the night when families are most vulnerable. Teachers have spoken to children about practical measures to protect themselves — wearing clothes that cover arms and legs and avoiding dark areas and stagnant water.

Thanks to funding from the SE Asia Foundation, new nets have been purchased and distributed to families, professional spraying of the school grounds has been conducted to reduce mosquito populations, and mosquito spray has been provided. Raincoats have also been purchased for the children, as it always seems to rain at school pick-up time!

Parent meetings were held for all classes in May, with a high attendance rate. Parents who could not attend received a follow-up phone call. Three teachers also attended a short course run by TDSO, “Empowering Primary School Teachers.” This NGO has provided valuable professional development for our staff at no cost.

A review of child protection has been completed for all staff, and a more formal presentation from another organisation is planned for August, along with the annual first aid course.

Student numbers remain strong, although morning attendance has dropped slightly due to state school schedules. Encouragingly, over 60 children are now attending English classes after school hours from 3:00–4:00 pm, showing their keenness to continue learning.

MEET THE STAFF - TE TAM

I work as an Assistant Social Worker. In this role, I support children's education and well-being, assist teachers with classroom activities, communicate with parents, and help families access the support they need.

My family supports my education. After I graduated from Grade 12, I was honored to receive a scholarship from the PEPY Organization. The scholarship supports my university education, and allows me to learn English.

I continue to improve my English at university. I practice every day by speaking English with my teachers and friends, reading English books, watching English videos, and using online learning resources. I believe that practicing every day helps me become more confident and improve my English communication skills.

I am currently studying TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages). I want to become a professional English teacher in the future.

What I like most about working as a social worker is helping children and families. It makes me happy to see students become more confident, learn new skills, and have better opportunities for their future. I also enjoy working with parents and encouraging the community to understand the importance of education. I believe that education can change people's lives and create a brighter future.

I want to learn new social work skills and become a better teacher and social worker. By gaining more knowledge and experience, I hope to provide better support to children, families, and the community. I want to continue contributing to the Grace House and make a positive difference in the community.



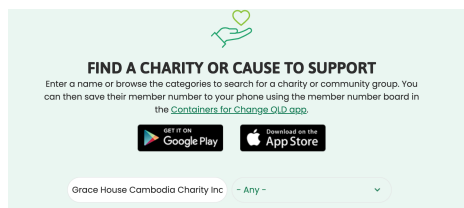
FUNDRAISING UPDATE

Off to a flying start, recent activities include Bunnings Sausage Sizzles in Toowoomba, a Christmas in July (Winterfest) market stall at Unity College, and registration with Containers for Change. We are also looking forward to our upcoming lunch events in Caloundra on 5th September, and Toowoomba on 14th September. Please join us for these events and bring a friend. These lunches will include raffles, and we would be very grateful for any donations of prizes, big or small, to help make the events a success.

Fundraising is a major focus in the support of Grace House. This helps to cover the administration costs of running the charity (website & database management system), ensuring every donation goes directly to Grace House. If you would like to host a fundraising event, let us know and we will help to advertise and promote this.

Shout out to Sammy Ryan who has set up Containers for Change collections at her workplace. Please share the number below with friends and family and the funds go directly into the charity account. Every little bit helps.

Grace House Cambodia Charity – Containers for Change - Member number: C11772108



Join us for an afternoon of fun and friendship

Enjoy hor'dourves and prosecco on arrival, Cambodian Curry main, followed by dessert. Choice of non-alcoholic beverages.

Event Details:
5th September
12noon - 3 pm
28 Harboursights Way
Pelican Waters.

\$50

*** Lucky Door & Raffle prizes to be won ***

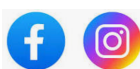
Payment/Donation

A/c: Grace House Cambodia Charity Inc.
BSB: 638-260 A/c #: 16879465

Reference: Name & Lunch

RSVP: 22nd August

0423231754
gillianmeyers@me.com



Follow us - **Grace House Cambodia Charity**
Share your Fundraising efforts with us.

Akun Tom Tom

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The next General Meeting is scheduled for 31st August at 7.00pm with the AGM to follow. Further communication regarding positions will be forwarded shortly. We look forward to seeing you all either online or in person. Thank you so much for your support and stewardship of Grace House.

GRACE HOUSE CAMBODIA CHARITY Inc.



No: IA4871467
ABN: 21160477178

REGISTRATION OF MEMBERS INVITATION

Thank you for your interest in becoming a member of **Grace House Charity Inc.**, a not-for-profit organization dedicated to breaking the cycle of poverty for those living within the community (rural villages near Siem Reap Cambodia) to build a brighter future for Cambodian children providing sustainable, quality education and family support by:

- fostering the value and love for learning and education
- improving learning conditions and teacher training
- strengthening family and community support

As a member, you will have the opportunity to contribute to the direction and impact of our work, stay informed about our projects, and play an active role in shaping our future. Membership is open to individuals who share our commitment to compassion, service, and community development.

To proceed with your application, please click on the link below to confirm the following.

- ☐ I support the purpose of Grace House Charity Inc.
- ☐ I agree to comply with the constitution of Grace House Charity Inc.
- ☐ I agree to pay the annual membership fee of \$50.00. This gives you voting rights, regular newsletters and advance notice of fundraising functions.

You will also be required to enter personal details for the Member database. Please check these details carefully before submitting.

The Rules of Membership require a Proposer and a Secunder. Many of you will have met and know the Chair (Ann Brownlie), Treasurer (Craig Mathieson), and Secretary (Gillian Meyers) of the charity. Please use the names you know as your Proposer and Secunder on the Forms link.

<https://forms.cloud.microsoft/r/9eRCpCEYd9?origin=lpLink>

Please make payment to

Grace House Charity Inc

BSB: 638-260

A/c No: 16879465

SUPPORT GRACE HOUSE BY:

- Become a member
- Follow Grace House Community Centre 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