

The Ayui Foundation is a non-religious, non-government organisation that provides a home, educational opportunities and future pathways for disadvantaged Akha hilltribe teenagers.



Director  
Sumalee Milne

# Ayui

## F rom the director

April 2011  
Chiang Rai, Thailand

*Greetings from Australia! I am here for a few weeks for a family wedding and am also taking the opportunity to personally meet with child sponsors and supporters in Canberra, catch up with former volunteers and meet two future volunteers. I was also honoured that my former Thai professor invited me to give a lecture on the hilltribes and trafficking at my alma mater, the Australian National University. The day after I left Thailand, I heard about the earthquake in Chiang Rai/Burma and can only hope the children are okay, back in their villages during these school holidays. For those who asked for news, Housemother Tip gave birth to a healthy baby girl in February. On Children's Day, January 8, the kids joined in the Children's Day activities held at Baan Jalae village, and I was very proud that they offered to perform a dance on stage for the other children, in Akha dress.*

FOUNDATION



*As the four year term for Board members has expired, two members will not be continuing on the Board, and joining in their place are Housemother Tip and two Thai teachers. Kru (teacher) Mit Berkban works in Mae Salong district at the local Non-Formal Education Center that provides adult and weekend classes, mostly for hilltribe people and whom our housemother once studied with, and Kru Sayumporn Smitinund is a primary school teacher at Anuban Chiang Rai School, where the Ayui Foundation's Director also teaches.*

*In February, we held our first Trivia Night fundraiser at the Starbrite Hotel in Chiang Rai. We had 33 participants and raised over B4,000, some of which came from sales of Akha belts and bracelets made by the girls. The winning team was presented with a bottle of wine, generously donated by Amy Coonradt-Seymour. Due to popular demand, we will look at the possibility of organizing a Trivia Night every couple of months.*



The winning team

## ★ ★ ★ Our Visitors

*\* On January 14, we were visited by members of the Glenorchy Rotary Club from Tasmania, Australia, led by Mr Kerry Bowerman and incoming president Rosalie Marine. The Club has been sponsoring Gulagarn (May) for the past two years so we were really looking forward to meeting them and showing them what Baan Ayui was all about. Kerry had asked me what gift they could provide that all the children could benefit from and I told him that the kids had once asked for a table-tennis table, so the children were pleasantly surprised when one was delivered on the day of the visit.*



Kerry Bowerman giving Pantiwa a pencil case



Rotary members and the kids with the new table-tennis table



Rosalie Marine presenting sports equipment

*When the Rotarians arrived, they watched a dance performance and listened to the kids sing an Akha song, then they were shown around the two houses and had a chance to ask questions about the Akha and the Foundation. More donations were in store, when they presented each child with a pencil case filled with school supplies, as well as a stuffed Australian animal toy, to remember the visit by. The generous group also donated more sports equipment, such as badminton racquets, table-tennis bats and balls, and a soccer ball.*

*I would like to thank the members of the Glenorchy Rotary Club, again, for their support, generosity and warmth that they showed to the children and the Foundation. Gulagarn and a few Rotarians were a bit emotional when they finally had to leave, which is a testament to the impact on both sides when a sponsor gets to visit and meet their sponsored child.*



*\* In February, we were visited by Annette Ellis, Patron of the Australia-Thailand Association, and friend Robyn Kelly. They were treated to an Akha dance performance by the girls, and got to meet all the children. They were given a tour of the houses and asked very pertinent questions on the issues faced by the hilltribes today.*



## ★ ★ Supporters in Australia



### CANBERRA BOYS GRAMMAR SCHOOL ★ ★

On April 8th, Ayui's Director was invited by Bronwyn Norrie from Canberra Boys Grammar School to talk to the boys of Garnsey House, who have done several fundraising activities over the last two years, on our behalf, including helping with the House Fund. Every year, a group of students are taken to visit Thailand and carry out some volunteer work and visit schools and hostels, and we have had the pleasure of welcoming the boys to the Ayui Foundation twice now. After a brief slideshow and talk about the Ayui children, the Director was presented with a Garnsey House shirt and made an honorary member. We look forward to seeing Bronwyn and some of the boys again when they visit Baan Ayui later in July (and the challenge of a volleyball match with the Ayui kids still stands).

### ★ ★ ★ ★ CHILD SPONSORS

On April 9th, former volunteers Annette Pilloni and Bruce Millar held an afternoon tea for child sponsors and supporters in Canberra, as well as representatives from the Lions Club of Gungahlin and the Podmore Foundation, to meet with the Foundation's Director. The Director was also pleased to finally meet Catherine Johnston, our 'Chocolate Fundraising Lady' as the kids know her, and Rosemary Higgins who will be volunteering in May with husband Don. Annette and Bruce gave a slideshow and talked about their three months with us, then the Director gave a slideshow for sponsors to see the new house and grounds, and the various activities the children do. We would like to say a big thank you to all our child sponsors, everywhere, for their support over the past year.



Canberra sponsors, supporters and volunteers

### ROTARY CLUB OF CANBERRA ★ ★ ★



Michele Whitters presenting the cheque to Sumalee Milne

On April 11th, Ayui's Director was invited by Michele Whitters, International Service Director, to attend a meeting of the Rotary Club of Canberra where she presented a \$1,000 donation to the Ayui Foundation. This donation will go towards fixing up our pick-up truck as the one we have now, used to take the kids to school and on trips, was purchased second-hand, four years ago, and is showing its age. We'd like to thank the Rotary Club of Canberra, on behalf of the Ayui children.

# ★ ★ Thank you ★ ★

**As another school year ends, we would like to thank the following for their support:**

★ *Jim Whyte, from Vancouver, Canada, for his very generous donation of \$5,000*



★ *Herb Dockery, in Chiang Rai, for his donation and for taking us shopping for groceries.*

★ *Gordon Paulsen, for his donation, specifically for us to buy two months' worth of groceries and house supplies and a brand new computer. This is greatly appreciated as we've only had second-hand computers that often needed repair*



★ *Wendy Thomas, from the UK, who visited and donated art supplies and sewing materials, that the kids always need.*

★ *Thank you to Darin Trinnaprug, Richard Hield and Alisa Krasnostein, all from Australia, for their individual donations.*

★ *The Starbrite Hotel in Chiang Rai for letting us hold the Trivia Night, and donating towards prizes.*

★ *Orn's Bookshop in Chiang Rai for the book voucher prizes*

★ *David Dixon, also in Chiang Rai, for donating a modem splicer that enables the children to use the Internet on both computers at the same time.*



★ *Last, but not least, thank you to Kru Sayumporn and her students for donating their old clothes for our Annual Clothes Donation.*

**If you would like to visit or support us please contact:**

**Sumalee Milne - [ayui.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:ayui.foundation@gmail.com) - [www.ayui.org](http://www.ayui.org)**

**Thank you for thinking of us.**



**Without regular funding, we rely solely on small grants and donations and, therefore, try to keep expenses as low as possible. If anyone is able to support the hostel for a month at a time, our monthly average expenditure is B45,000 or US\$1,500. All donations welcome.**



### **Donations transferred to**

Australian bank account:  
Bendigo Bank  
Acc no: 133516195

Thai bank account:  
Siam Commercial Bank  
Acc no: 5072669424

**Tax deductible donations in Australia cheques to: Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund  
(46/2007-8) Ayui - & mailed to: Garry Gunnell, PO BOX 807, Strathfieldsaye VIC 3551  
(with donor's address clearly written)**

