

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

From the director

July 2011
Chiang Rai, Thailand

Welcome to the start of another school year, and the start of our fifth year of operation. Within the past few months, we have been using a private donation to replace many things around the house that are showing their age and need to be replaced. We are very grateful for this donation because we spend all the funds on raising the children and try to keep large purchases to a minimum as we do not receive any regular funding.

FOUNDATION



Back at School

I was pleased to welcome our latest volunteers, a lovely couple from Australia, who have proven to be very helpful to me with admin stuff, in teaching English and doing other activities with the kids, and giving the hostel a makeover. This included re-roofing the side garage, as the heavy tiles had made one pole sink lower than the others and the rain was coming in between the badly-fitted tiles and rotting the wooden beams. I also gave Don and Charlie the task of writing this edition of the newsletter. I hope you enjoy reading about what we've been up to.



Don and Charlie Higgins



★ ★ ★ Our Volunteers

Don and Charlie Higgins from Canberra, Australia, arrived in May. They came to experience what international volunteering might be like after hearing about the Ayui Foundation through Gary Allan and the Podmore Foundation. Neither of them had done this sort of work before but wasted no time in throwing themselves in.



During their first weekend they sent the children off to find and wash pebbles of assorted sizes and colours. The children then 'gift-wrapped' the pebbles with wire through which they then fed fishing line and Voila!, a pebble curtain. They have added a touch of colour to the hostel through a weekday program of identification of, and sentence making with colours, to a weekend of decorating the dining room and a visit to the sound and light show at the Golden Clock Tower.



The next project was to build a chicken yard using donated funds from The Tipping Bucket. As we go to press this is almost done. All the material has been acquired, a model made to explain the unique design to the children and all the connections have been colour coded. The idea is to raise chicken to use in the hostel kitchen and to use their droppings to improve the soil in the hostel vegetable garden. The chicken coop has been colour-coded to enable the children to dismantle it and move it about.

Another project under way is to paint the dining area walls. This is to brighten up this area and might also be used for the children paint their own pictures. We will use this opportunity to let the children experience the joys of house painting



★ ★ ★ **Hostel Vehicle Repairs**



When the Foundation was set up in 2007, a used Toyota Hilux Xtra Cab vehicle was purchased. Since then it has served the hostel well and now has 254,548 km on the clock - all on Thai roads - quite an advertisement for Toyota and the House Father's driving. Our vehicle is essential to the safe and efficient operation of the hostel and will remain so. Its primary tasks are: to transport the children to and from school and to weekend activities; and to carry out the numerous administrative tasks in the day-to-day functioning of the hostel. Due to a range of demands on the operating funds of

the Foundation the vehicle has not been able to be serviced regularly and through fair wear and tear a number of minor repairs had become critical.

A generous donation from the Canberra Rotary Club has enabled the foundation to fix the essential safety, mechanical and comfort defects. This donation was well spent and included repairing the gear box, the locks on the tail gate, the door handles, the seat upholstery and the power steering; replacing the front and rear light covers and the radiator; and repainting the safety bars. These defects were removed during several trips to the local garage in May and now the vehicle can now carry out its duties safely.

The new blue trim (rust resistant paint) has given the car a new character.

Fundraising ★ ★ ★

On 24 June we held our second Trivia Night fundraiser - again in the Starbright Hotel. Although the numbers were a little down from the first night, a great time was had by those who attended and it was a networking opportunity for all. The 'Animal Trivia' true or false round was great fun - did you know that goats have rectangular pupils? We had 21 participants and raised over B3,000, some of which came from sales of Akha belts and bracelets made by the girls. Sue presented the winning team and the runners up each with a bottle of fine Australian wine donated by our current volunteers Don and Charlie Higgins. We are planning to have another fundraising Trivia Night in a couple of months time.



The winning team



★ ★ ★ **Thank you** ★ ★ ★

★ A big thank you to our wonderful sponsors who have all renewed their sponsorships for the 2011 school year. And thanks to Mr Brian O'Keeffe for sponsoring the new girl in place of Pimpa, who has moved to Chiang Mai. Your continued support is greatly appreciated by the children you sponsor and the Foundation.

★ Also to Jim Whyte whose generous donation has allowed for the replacement of many of our domestic household goods, most of which had been purchased or donated second hand at the time of setting up the foundation, 5 years ago. This has included a new refrigerator, rice cooker, a larger dish rack and new umbrellas for the children for this rainy season.



★ Thank you to local visitors Virginie Mahe for donating school materials and socks, as well as Bronwyn Larner for assorted books, school materials and snacks for the children.

★ We would like to thank the management of the Starbrite Hotel for letting us hold the Trivia Night.

★ Thanks to long-time supporter Dennis Dicesare for sponsoring our annual Internet costs again this year.

★ And also to new supporter Darin Tinnaprug, in Australia, for her \$100 donation

★ The Ayui Foundation also thanks our volunteers Don and Charlie Higgins for being a very entertaining Quiz Master and Scorer, for brightening up the kitchen and dining area, and for buying a few necessary things for the place, such as the corrugated iron roof

If you would like to visit or support us please contact:
Sumalee Milne - ayui.foundation@gmail.com - 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)

