

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

F rom the director

July 2012
Chiang Rai



L-R: Catherine Johnston, Lee Panting (President), Annette Pilloni, Bruce Millar, Gary Lymbery (immediate past President)

We start out our sixth year of operation with some really exciting news. I would like to thank the Lions Club of Gungahlin, in A.C.T., Australia, for their generous donation of AU\$14,000 to be used to purchase a better second hand truck. Our current truck (second-hand 1992 Toyota) was purchased 5 years ago and is now quite old. It has to be repaired often and the roofing and back seats are slowly deteriorating. Housefather Lek found an Isuzu DMax, only

7 years old, which looks and drives as good as new. The donation will also cover the cost of putting in a roof and 3 rows of seating in the back. The Ayui Foundation would like to thank our Australian representative Annette Pilloni for accepting the donation on our behalf and Cath Johnston for tirelessly selling chocolates to raise money towards this.

It was great to see the kids back again after the long break. Ploy and May are so glad they were able to skip a grade and start in Grade 7, after having to do some Grade 6 assessment work over the holidays. Before the holidays, as usual, we had a meeting with parents/guardians to answer any questions, make sure parents of the new kids understand the support we provide and their responsibilities, and to hear feedback from other parents. We are pleased to report that many parents say they see a difference in their children's behavior when they go home for the holidays, in that they are more willing to help with housework and do things like cooking and washing dishes that they previously didn't do. We are one of the few hostels here that, instead of hiring a cook, teach the children to go shopping at the market, write a receipt of their purchases, cook dinner (with Lek's guidance) and clean up afterwards. They learn many useful life skills, feel a sense of family and responsibility, and enjoy doing it.



Cath surrounded by chocolates



*Rachanee, Buyer, Sriwan and Pasanee doing their chores
FYI: We have updated the website with new photos, so check it out !*

A Warm Welcome

The Ayui kids have warmly welcomed three new children this year. Ahmer (13) was recommended to come here by Pui's mother, and is in Pasanee's class. Last year her mother and step-father separated so she had to move into her aunt's house with her mother and sister. Ahmer is being sponsored by Elizabeth McQuillan, who teaches at the same school as the Foundation's Director.

Somchart comes to us from Paduea Akha village and is in Grade 5. He is the youngest of five children, and one of his sisters never went to school. Somchart's Thai reading and speaking skills need a lot of improvement, so we purchased reading textbooks for Grade 1 to Grade 5 and he has to practice reading every day to catch up. Somchart found this

hard at first but the other kids help him along. Somchart quickly bonded with Yohan and Daniel (the houseparent's son) and they are now inseparable. He is being sponsored by former Chiang Rai resident Monika Mueller, all the way from Switzerland.



The Ayui Foundation students of 2012



Ahmer, Somchart and Buseu

Buseu comes from Somchart's village, and when his father heard she would have to drop out of school if she didn't get support, he told her mother about the Ayui Foundation so she came and applied. Buseu's father died when she was little, and her mother raised her and her sister alone. Buseu's older sister is only semi-literate in Thai so her mother has a lot of hope for Buseu, who is a very good student and enjoys school. Like Ahmer and Suchart's family, they do not own any land. Buseu is being sponsored by Elizabeth's mother, Christine McQuillan, in the UK. It is the first time the three children have lived away from home, so they are a bit shy but they have settled into the hostel very well.



Lek's new bamboo shoe shelf

Thank You

Housemother Tip wants to make sure we, again, thank those who generously donated towards the cost of making her traditional Akha outfit, which she has never had before. She will wear it when representing us at cultural/village events, when she gets up to introduce the foundation before the girls perform Akha dances. The outfit was made over the school break. The longer strips of beading and red-dyed chicken feathers hanging from the hat, as well as the silver, indicate her status as a married woman. The conical hat shows she is of the Ulo Akha sub-group. Thank you to Annette and Bruce, Don and Charlie, Ross Higgins and Alanna Maclean for contributing to the cost of Tip's traditional Akha outfit.



A big thank you goes to Baker's Delight in Woden Shopping Centre, Canberra, Australia, for helping us raise over \$260 from selling their delicious hot cross buns during Easter.

The children send a big thank you to Cath Johnstone for her personal donation specifically to take them on a fun outing. We took them bowling one Saturday, and it was the first time for some - with hilarious results. As we all know, sport is not about winning or losing but it's about how hard you can throw a ball to knock something down!



Welcome to our new sponsors, including Monique Navarro and husband Jose Marte, who work in Chiang Rai and are sponsoring Pantiwa (Pui) for her final year of high school, and Abhishake Saini in Canberra, Australia, for bring Buyer's first sponsor.

And thank you to our regular supporter, a lovely lady in Monash, Canberra, for her donation of \$500. In recognition of her support over the years, we have planted two frangipani trees at the hostel, in memory of her son and sister.

Last, but not least, we are grateful to Stuart Dixon for updating our website.

**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 B50,000 or US\$1,650. All donations welcome.



Donations transferred to

Australian bank account:
Bendigo Bank
Acc no: 133516195 **BSB:** 633-000

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)

