



Hello and welcome to our second newsletter for 2017. Among the stories we feature in this issue are a sad farewell to a long-serving expat family and a welcome to a new family taking up the reins in Cambodia. Also we touch on how the rescue of vulnerable children is resulting in well-adjusted young adults marrying and making a difference in their community.

Farewell Tim, Trudy and Eli James

Back in 2003, a single woman in her twenties named Trudy first visited Sunshine House. That first taste of our work in Cambodia led to Trudy becoming one of the regular volunteers back home in our Perth office. But that first trip also sparked a dream within Trudy – that one day she would return to Cambodia to help Awareness Cambodia make a difference.

Fast-forward 6 years and Trudy and her brand new husband Tim celebrated their honeymoon in Cambodia. Being back in Cambodia re-ignited Trudy's dream and in early 2012 Tim and Trudy seized the opportunity to volunteer with Awareness Cambodia in Phnom Penh. The newlyweds packed up their life in Western Australia and began a two-year placement – which turned into a wonderful five years working in-country. During their time in Cambodia, they also welcomed their beautiful daughter Eliana to their family.



After five years making a real difference to our operations in Cambodia, the James family are moving back to Perth, to ensure Eliana has the opportunity to spend more time with her grandparents and extended family.

Although sad to be leaving Cambodia, it is an experience that the family will never forget.

"Without hesitation it has been our absolute privilege to have the opportunity to volunteer with Awareness Cambodia and work alongside our amazing Khmer staff, both in our Phnom Penh office but also at Sunshine House in Kampong Speu."



Left to right: Trudy, Tim, Karl and Michelle

Our main goal and focus has been to up-skill our Cambodian national staff in all areas of administration, hosting visitors, computer skills and senior management," said Trudy.

"We want to thank our dear friends Gary and Kim Hewett and our team of supporters who have made the last five years possible. We look forward to what the future holds for Awareness Cambodia and remaining involved as we return to Perth for our next chapter."

We are so thrilled that Trudy and Tim will remain a part of the Awareness Cambodia family and we look forward to their ongoing support.

Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN 69 234 355 895)

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Welcome Karl and Michelle Kivits

Please join us in welcoming Karl and Michelle Kivits to our in-country team. Originally from New Zealand, the couple have lived in Perth for more than 30 years and have now made the move to Cambodia and started their new adventure.

With experience in human resources, construction and business, Karl and Michelle bring valuable skills to our in-country work and they will be assisting in the training and skill-development of our project staff and students.

The dynamic duo are settling right in to life in Cambodia – they've already started learning the Khmer language and are now getting around Phnom Penh on a moto scooter!

You can follow Michelle's Cambodian adventures on radio Sonshine 98.5fm where she has a segment each fortnight discussing life and working with Awareness Cambodia.



Wedding Fever



If you had told us 22 years ago that we would now be attending the weddings of the young orphans we were rescuing and providing a new home and education for, we would have hardly believed it was possible. But our dream is being realised and we are filled with pride and admiration for the young adults that grabbed the opportunities that we provided and are now making their mark on Cambodian society.

Not only are they embracing education to help fulfil their own dreams, but also taking their places in the community, working hard and creating families of their own. We are incredibly proud of our Child Development programs – they are producing well-rounded young professionals ready to make a difference in an ever-changing Cambodia.

And speaking of making families of their own... Wedding fever is definitely upon us and this year we have already celebrated four weddings! Read about just one of these:

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Piseth's wedding



Piseth came to Awareness Cambodia in 2005 and left our Graduation House project just short of two years ago. Since then Piseth has been working in a financial institution in Kompong Speu and achieving high levels of professional success.

Twelve months ago Piseth met Sokhim – a beautiful young woman from Kompong Cham. After a year of dating, they gathered friends and family to celebrate their wedding in Sokhim's homeland in March.

We were delighted to be able to bring together Piseth's Awareness Cambodia 'brothers' (those who had grown up alongside him at Sunshine House, House of Progress and Graduation House) to help celebrate his wedding. Annie, our Graduation House supervisor, even stepped in as 'Mum' to make the day complete.

It was quite the event! Around 400 people attended and the ceremony was steeped in Cambodian tradition (including eight changes of outfits). Celebrations went well into the night, with dancing, food and fun ...then it was on to the bamboo floor to sleep! While our young adults handled this part of provincial life well, Annie said she "felt very old and sore" but wouldn't have

missed it for all the world!

Arriving back into Phnom Penh the following day in time for their study and work commitments, everyone was exhausted but exhilarated. And like everyone at Awareness Cambodia, they wish the young couple every happiness and a very bright future.

Looking for an EOFY donation recipient? Look no further!

Make Awareness Cambodia your charity of choice this financial year. We are making significant changes to the lives of vulnerable children in rural Cambodia by providing health and education services.

As a not-for-profit humanitarian aid organisation we rely on the generosity of our supporters to help us continue our work.

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible and if you make the gift before 30 June 2017 you can claim the deduction this financial year (Australian tax-payers only).

In a global world, we are all interconnected – help us continue to make a positive and long-term difference to the lives of Cambodian children.

How to donate Creating futures – with your generous support

Choose an option that suits you:

Call 8 9370 1457 and one of our staff will assist you in making a credit card donation.

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Account Name: Awareness Cambodia Overseas Aid Fund

Branch No. (BSB) 016-363

Account: 1074-66951

Bank: ANZ

All donations over \$2 within Australia are tax deductible.

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Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

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