



West Coast Eagles Visit Sunshine House

Since 2010 a group of players, senior coaches and support staff from the West Coast Eagles Football Club has travelled biannually to Cambodia.

In November 2017, West Coast Eagles (WCE) players embarked on a five-day community service tour to an underprivileged village in Kampong Speu. The team's itinerary included a fun-filled visit to Sunshine House.

Sunday, 19 November

As dusk settled upon Sunshine House, the WCE fleet of vans arrived. The excitement in the air was palpable as the 52 children in our care, aged six to 19, eagerly waited to greet their heroes. The smaller children stared up at the visiting giants wondering if Nic Naitanui was with them. Nic had made such a big impression when he first visited in 2010 that our kids refer to the team as the "Nic Naitanui people"!

A quick freshen up and the WCE boys settled into the volunteer huts at our development centre. Tummies were rumbling, and everyone was ready for a hearty meal at Sunshine House Café. Cook didn't let us down and it was a delicious spread. Following the meal, Gary Hewett, our CEO, gave a talk on all things Awareness Cambodia. Then it was on to the night's main attraction – the concert. A few of our female students performed traditional Khmer dances, but it was our little ones who stole the show with their rendition of the 'chicken dance'. Not to be out done, the WCE boys had our children and staff in fits of laughter with as they strutted their stuff to the 'Macarena'. Paul Morrison (aka Moro), WCE Chaplin and radio announcer on 98.5 FM Perth, played and sung two songs he composed about the life-changing trips he has made to Cambodia with the WCE teams.



Awareness Cambodia Inc (ABN 69 234 355 895)

Email: cambodia@awarecam.org.au **Address:** Unit 2/48 May Street, Bayswater, Western Australia 6053

Mail: PO Box 3040, Bassendean DC, Western Australia 6942 **Telephone:** +61 9370 1457 **Fax:** +61 8 9370 4657

www.awarecam.org.au

Monday, 20 November

Up early to find the unseasonal rain had done its darndest to drench everything – except everyone’s enthusiasm! In a new tradition, the WCE boys planted fruit trees on the property. The idea is that the team will take photos by the trees each time they visit – a living timeline. This year they towered over the small saplings, but Sunshine House is known for encouraging strong growth and it won’t be long before the trees, like the kids in our care, rise up! In fact, the kids can’t wait until the day when they can pick fresh fruit from those trees and savour not only the taste of the bounty but also their memories of the WCE’s visits.



Gardening over, the excitement then grew as the WCE boys and our Sunshine House team warmed up for the all-important Kompong Speu Volleyball Challenge. The first set was won by the WCE; the next set went to the Sunshine House team. With the score tied at one set each, the pressure was on for both sides. The final set was a hard-fought contest, but our Sunshine House team bought it home – becoming the undefeated champions for the 4th consecutive time. As ‘We are the Champions’ played, our team claimed the victory trophy. Smiles and high-fives all round were the winners’ reward.

These moments create wonderful childhood memories that will not only stay with our children but help plant the seeds for them to dream big for their futures.

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WEST COAST EAGLES

December 13, 2017

Gary Hewett
Awareness Cambodia Inc
PO Box 3040
Bassendean DC WA 6942

Dear Gary

Now that the boys are back home and into the full swing of training, we wanted to thank you and your team at Awareness Cambodia for ensuring that the West Coast Eagles' stay at Sunshine House in November 2017 was comfortable, memorable and educational.

The West Coast Eagles' house-building mission to Cambodia offered a wonderful bonding opportunity for our young players; giving them real sense of perspective on life; opening their eyes to the harrowing history and resilience experienced by the Cambodian people; taking them out of their comfort zone and developing their sense of empathy. This experience will stay with them and all of us forever.



We cannot thank you enough for allowing us to visit

The night that we spent with you at Sunshine House is one the boys will never forget. They were amused to learn that the children were awaiting a visit from the "Nic Naitanui people". Nic Nat's reach is endless! As per previous years, the dinner and concert performance were terrific - we hope everyone enjoyed our best Macarena at the end! Please thank all of the volunteers and children involved. Let's not mention the volleyball (4-0 to Sunshine is unbelievable...!)

Thank you again and we wish you, your family and everyone at Sunshine House a blessed and wonderful Christmas.

Yours sincerely


Russell Gibbs
Chairman - West Coast Eagles


Gavin Bell
Head of Development - West Coast Eagles

A Case for Change – get on board for 2018!

Case 4 Change 2017 saw 597 backpacks filled with education materials distributed to Ang-por Primary School students.

On 11 July 2017, we had an amazing 8-strong volunteer team from Dreambuilders Network in Australia help us distribute the schoolbags and supplies at the primary school in rural Kampong Speu.

We are forever grateful for the amazing people who give of their time and resources to assist us in all that we undertake in Cambodia. With their help, from 2008 to 2017, we distributed more than 11,000 backpacks filled with school supplies to some of the poorest children in Kampong Speu.

Want to know how you can get involved with this project?

We would love for you to partner with us for this great cause!

For each \$15 you donate we can buy a backpack, fill it with school supplies and give educational tools to the rural poor. If your school, church, business or organisation would like to be involved, we would love to hear from you (the donation may be tax deductible).

In recognition of your support, your logo is displayed on the school bags your generosity enabled us to purchase. You'll also receive an appreciation certificate together with photos taken on the day when the bags you contributed are distributed at a school.

Case 4 Change 2018 – partner with us to help positively impact the future of these children through the power of education.

Register your interest today by calling the office on +61 8 9370 1457 or alternatively email kim@awarecam.org.au



Christmas at Sunshine House



As the saying goes – photos don't lie!

We had a wonderful Christmas, full of fun and laughter as staff, past and present students, friends and family joined together to celebrate this special day.

It was an early start with the setting up of marquees and sound desks, and the pre-Christmas concert rehearsal. And of course, the kitchen was abuzz preparing a Christmas feast for over 80 people.

Our little ones kicked off the concert with the Christmas story, which saw baby Jesus dropped out of his basket in their haste to exit the stage before the next item. Everyone was in fits of laughter as they hurried to put him back into his basket. Not to be outdone our next item was a dance routine also by our little ones. The audience faces were covered in big smiles. They danced their little hearts out to 'Anhjek' a current popular Khmer song. Our older girls performed traditional Khmer dancing, which was just beautiful to watch and the traditional costumes they wore were hand made in our Sunshine House sewing room. The morning was completed with games and a few Christmas carols. Working up a great appetite we moved to a delicious Christmas feast that our cooks had prepared, and was tucked into with gusto.

Tummies full, excitement mounted as we all headed back to the stage and concert area for the gift-giving. Each child and staff member received a specially selected Christmas present, sparking laughter and joy as the gifts were unwrapped. Next up, our staff, students and guests took to the stage to join in the western and Khmer dancing.

We must thank Lamberta and her husband Kevin Groves, together with youth leaders Rebekah, Jessyn and Carly from Mona Vale CLC (New South Wales), who joined us for the day's celebrations. Christmas Day 2017 will forever be etched into our memories.



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How to donate

Creating futures – with your generous support

Awareness Cambodia provides a holistic range of services to help vulnerable Cambodian children and their local communities in impoverished areas. Rescue, education and medical services are at the heart of what we do. We are a not-for-profit humanitarian aid organisation that is able to operate life-enhancing programs due to the generosity of our supporters.

Choose an option that suits you:

Call + 61 8 9370 1457 and one of our staff will assist you in making a credit card donation.

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

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Awareness Cambodia
Rebuilding the Children of Cambodia

Please return by post or email

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