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WSV 2013 NEWSLETTER

Welcome to our 2013 WSV Newsletter. It is hard to believe that it is almost 12 months since our first Newsletter and such a lot has happened during that time.

The WSV Directors and Committee members have all worked extremely hard during the year to send **four teams** of AUSTSWIM qualified teachers and volunteers to two parts of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC) and Ho Tram, a small fishing village 40 minutes from Vung Tau.

Team 1: Hong Bang University International, May 2012



Jean and Tim Kemp went to Hong Bang University International in HCMC in May. Their task was to assess the trainees who had attended the course conducted by Jan Williams in February, to ensure that they completed all AUSTSWIM requirements, mainly their 'in-water component' and CPR. These were PE student teachers and swim coaches.

Altogether 37 teachers fully qualified with AUSTSWIM qualifications and 38 full CPR.

A new intake of 60 candidates is planned for April.

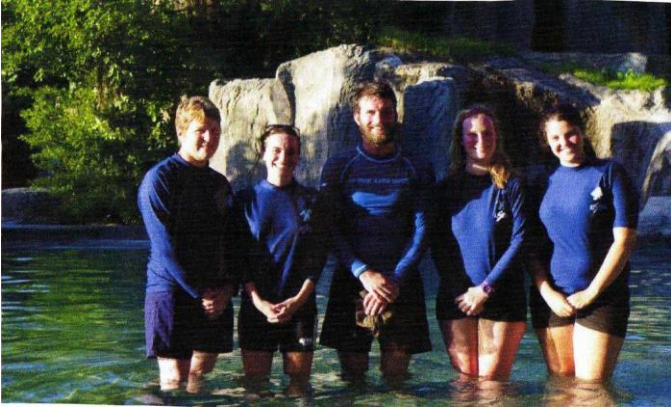
Team 2: Ho Tram, June, 2012



Using the beautiful pool at Ho Tram Beach Resort, Judy Muir and Jacqui Robertson started off with 40 enrolments but after day 2 had 56 enrolments as families were obviously spreading the word. Assisting in the water were 5 trainee teachers. These men (Beach Boys and Security Men) from local resorts, were fantastic and really took their responsibilities seriously. This is what the Train the Trainer program is all about. Children of all ages and abilities learn very fast. They are so happy to be involved they give everything a go. All children were very quickly able to put their face in the water, float and stand with and without aids. Lessons focus on water safety, i.e. drowning prevention in addition to the swimming program.



Team 3: Ho Tram, October 2012



Claire McCormack and Donna Gadsby worked with Whitney Foster and Stuart Kamp, two volunteers who were travelling in Vietnam and Stephanie McGuinness from S.L.S.A. in Danang. This resulted in another successful children's Swim Program with 51 children attending and all receiving certificates of participation.



15 candidates, staff from local resorts, attended the **Train the Trainer** course presented by Donna. Paramount to our work is the involvement of these men (and other previous graduates and trainees) in the Children's Swim Program so as to enable them to complete their AUSTSWIM qualifications and to give them more practical experience in teaching children.

The CPR component is open to all resort staff. This skill, once learnt, could help save a life. 19 people received their CPR certificates kindly donated by Life Saving Victoria.

Team 4: Ho Tram, February, 2013:



Jacqui Robertson and Tim Kemp arrived in Ho Tram to be confronted with 78 children for the first day of the swimming program! This time we were using the opulent pools at MGM Grand, Vietnam's second casino and resort, which has not yet opened.

Luckily the local AUSTSWIM teachers all volunteered (graduates from the previous year, all Vietnamese young men) and we were able to teach such a high number. Stephanie McGuinness, Robyn Lain and Pam O'Reilly also assisted. We have a further 39 children on the waitlist for June!

This sharp increase in numbers, shows the huge interest by parents and the community, in teaching children to swim. Three local primary schools are now involved.

The men we have trained, to AUSTSWIM teacher standards, are the future of swim programs in Vietnam.

Our role now is to mentor and coach them.



Tim, Jacqui and Stephanie, conducted an AUSTSWIM **Train the Trainer** course for MGM Lifeguards and Activity Staff. These were all very talented young men. In week three they completed the exam and started helping teach in the children's swim program.

Given their previous experience, 8 Lifeguards were assessed as completing all AUSTSWIM requirements and will be awarded their Teacher of Swimming and Water Safety certificate next month.



Donations:



Thanks to all the wonderful donations of bathers from our supporters including Speedo, we were able to fit out all children, boys and girls.

Fundraising:

Of course at the centre of all this excitement is the need to raise funds to send our volunteers to Vietnam. We had several fundraisers during the year, but our 'piece de resistance' was our **Annual Dinner** at the Rye R.S.L. in November.

Rye R.S.L. very kindly allowed us the use of their main Bistro which holds 220 people. The night consisted of music by the amazing Rosebud Secondary College Swing Band with a wonderful vocalist who just happened to be Tom Hafey's granddaughter! We had 20 main items to be auctioned and a huge range of silent auction items. Each table had a raffle book which was drawn at the end of the night. We also asked people to bring along pairs of bathers, which we send over to Vietnam. We were very excited to have raised \$13,000, which was beyond our wildest dreams. Thank you to all involved especially to our donors and to Guy Hoevenaars, our auctioneer from Ray White in Rye.

Claire McCormack and her family, organized a **Geocaching Event** which was held at the Flagstaff Gardens in March. Inclement weather didn't dampen the enthusiasm of Superman and his accomplice, clear winners on the day! Thanks to the McCormacks and other volunteers from our Committee and to our donors, including Polperro Dolphin Swims, Sorrento.

Charles Lyne, Pam O'Reilly, Judy Muir and Donna Gadsby have been guest speakers at a number of **Rotary and Probud Clubs**, who have been generous in their donations.

Please contact us if your club would like to hear more of what we do in Vietnam.

The work continues:

Our teachers are packed and ready to go next week for another program. All we need now are funds for this valuable work to continue.

Our major sponsors, Jayco and AUSTSWIM are essential to our operations and we thank them sincerely.

The future of WSV in Vietnam:

The future looks bright! We have received many more requests for swim programs.

Pam and Robyn spent time attending several meetings for future sites, including a meeting with World Vision and Blue Dragon, another Australian charity in Hanoi.

We met with the Education Department for Xuyen Moc District and discussed providing swimming lessons for all primary schools in the District during the school term. There are 700 children.

A two week swim program is organized for April in a small charity school in Dong Nai Province. This Province has the fifth highest drowning rate in Vietnam. 60 children will attend the program. Another Australian charity, the Hope Foundation, will fund the shuttle bus to and from the pool.

In June this year WSV is eligible to apply for NGO status.

And now, in conjunction with the **Ho Tram Water Safety** (a Consortium of like minded people in Ho Tram), construction of a 25m x 8m Community Swimming Pool is well underway. The Local People's Committee has donated the land.



The pool (above) is being rendered at the moment and WSV will have the use of it in the June-August school holidays for swimming lessons for children in the area.

Contributions and donations are still required.
www.hotramwatersafety@gmail.com



Our volunteers are passionate about what we do and as our programs grow and develop, we realize what a great cause this is. We get so much help from our enthusiastic Vietnamese volunteers, (too many to name!) At the end of the day, the smiles on the children's faces and the warm handshakes of the parents, makes it all worthwhile.

BUT we are always looking for more volunteers, not just AUSTSWIM teachers but if anyone thinks that working on our Committee sounds like a good idea, please don't hesitate to contact us:

Our website, www.watersafetyvietnam.com

By phoning Robyn Laine on 0413 493 893

or 'like us' on Facebook



Thank you, from the little kids in Vietnam!