



**WATER SAFETY VIETNAM LTD**  
**ACN 148 965 904 ABN 42 148 965 904**  
Chairman, Charles Lyne 0428 107 540  
Secretary, Robyn Lain  
[charleslyne@optusnet.com.au](mailto:charleslyne@optusnet.com.au)

151 Melbourne Road, Rye Vic. 3941  
[www.watersafetyvietnam.com](http://www.watersafetyvietnam.com)

## WSV January 2014 NEWSLETTER



Happy New Year and welcome to our WSV Newsletter. We've had such a busy year and look forward to 2014 with much optimism and with plans underway to continue our work in Vietnam.

### Since 2012 we have:

- Sent 26 teachers to Vietnam
- Recruited 8 from within
- Taught 400 kids to swim
- Trained 320 local adults
- Trained 5 assessors

We are very proud of this achievement and thank the many volunteers who have made this possible.

The WSV Directors and Committee members have all worked extremely hard during 2013 to send **seven teams** of qualified teachers and volunteers to **five areas** of Vietnam, Ho Chi Minh City (HCMC), Bien Hoa, (north west of HCMC) Vung Tau, Xuyen Moc and Ho Tram, a small fishing village 40 minutes from Vung Tau.

### Other Achievements in 2013

As well as the fantastic swimming and training programs mentioned above there are other milestones we are very happy to report on:

Our proudest moment came with the opening of the community pool in Ho Tram in August. Over the past few years WSV has worked closely with Carl Gay and the **Ho Tram Water Safety Consortium** and a 25m x 8m Community Swimming Pool has been built. For this small, rural, fishing village to have such a facility is just amazing!



The pool (above) is now being managed by one of our graduates, Mr Loi and local teachers, trained by WSV, are conducting swimming lessons for children. [www.hotramwatersafety.com](http://www.hotramwatersafety.com)

Another achievement came when WSV was accepted as a **Rotary International Project**. Pascoe Vale Rotary Club is our sponsor and we thank Peter Toomey for his support. This means that all donations made to WSV through Rotary International are now fully tax deductible.

**Dr Laura Alfrey, Senior Lecturer in Health and Physical Education at Monash University**

conducted research and was able to ascertain by interviewing previous course graduates that our training was indeed making a difference.

**Adam Fuller** was also in Vietnam, **filming a documentary** which will be invaluable for WSV for promotion purposes and/or for attracting Government and business sponsorship.

**Training staff at resorts:** At the completion of the last course for 2013, we now boast having trained staff from **five local resorts** on the Ho Tram Coast. Paramount to our work is the involvement of these men (and other previous graduates and trainees) in Children's Swim Programs so as to enable them to complete their AUSTSWIM qualifications and to give them more practical experience in teaching children.

**Donations:**



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

**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. We held our **Annual Dinner at the Frankston R.S.L.** in November and then topped the year off with

another dinner dance and auction at the beautiful **Couta Boat Club** in Sorrento in December.

We had many main items to be auctioned and a huge range of silent auction items. Thank you to those who attended and supported us and to the donors of amazing prizes.

**The work continues:**

Our teachers are keen and ready to go for another year of programs.

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 now established strong links and partnerships with wonderful people in Vietnam.

We have received many more requests for assistance and hopefully in 2014 will conduct programs in one of the **Mekong provinces** in conjunction with **Heart Reach**, a well established Australian NGO in Vietnam.

We will continue to work with the **Education Department for Xuyen Moc District** and hope to be able to train teachers to provide swimming lessons for all primary schools in the District during the school term.

We will continue to work with the **Ho Tram Water Safety Consortium** at the new community pool and the teachers we have trained and the Manager, Mr Loi.

We will continue to work with the **Vung Tau Water Safety Project** and Robert Reeves, training more teachers and lifeguards.

A two week swim program is again organized in March for children at **St Josephs, Bien Hoa**, a small charity school in Dong Nai Province which is funded by the Hope Foundation. This Province has the fifth highest drowning rate in Vietnam. This time we will train teachers as well.

We will continue to work with PE graduates and swim coaches from **Hong Bang University International**, our loyal partners from the inception of our programs in Vietnam.

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

This year it is envisaged that WSV will apply for **NGO status** and to seek **Government funding**. Already meetings have been held to prepare for this.



**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.

**Thank you, from the little kids in Vietnam!**

**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:

On our website, [www.watersafetyvietnam.com](http://www.watersafetyvietnam.com)

By phoning Robyn Laine on 0413 493 893

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