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WSV July 2015 NEWSLETTER

Most of our 2015 training and swimming programs in Vietnam have now been completed.

So far this year we have **sent 10 teachers to Vietnam and have conducted 11 training programs**. Many of these involved mentoring the local teachers, who we have trained in previous years to teach children to swim.

 Tim Kemp and Adam Barratt kicked the year off with training at Hong Bang University International. As well as PE students, pharmacy students joined the training and CPR component.

2. Jan Williams and Ben Asmussen assisted local teachers teach their children at **St Josephs, Bien Hoa,** in Dong Nai Province. They also taught Sisters and other adults to swim. For many adults this opportunity has never before existed for them in Vietnam.

3. Hoa Hoi in Xuyen Moc District. Jan Williams, Nicole Kruger and Marilla Gorman had a busy time responding to many requests in this area. For the first time we included a Secondary school in our program. These kids were such quick learners and in under a week many were swimming. Other new primary schools came on board.

4. The **Vung Tau People's Committee** and local education authorities combined to ensure that Primary school teachers in the area had the opportunity to participate in a 5 day training program. 23 teachers completed the course and now are skilled to teach their own students to swim.

5. Tim Kemp and Adam Barratt travelled 140 km north east of HCMC to **Tra Tan in Binh Thuan District** and concentrated on teacher training and providing advice on improving the water quality in the pools. 90 children participated in the program.

6. Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in

Hanoi. Gail Mortimer and Bec Schatz from Geelong went to Hanoi to continue the work started last year. Staff and children participated in the program.

7. Gail and Bec then taught children at an **Orphanage in HCMC.** We hope for more orphanages to come on board in 2016.

8. Than Thach in Ben Tre. (Mekong) From our association with Heartreach, an Australian NGO, this school was recommended. Riahana Wilson and Sam Harris had 70 children enrolled.

9. Ho Tram Community Pool

We will continue to support and advise as required at Ho Tram. Marilla Gorman visited during the June school holidays and re qualified five AUSTSWIM teachers.



A highlight this year has been the visit of **Olympian Sophie Edington.** In April Sophie spent a week visiting some of our programs and assisting in the water at St Josephs Bien Hoa. She was very impressed. The children were delighted!

Fundraising

September, October, November and December are our **main fundraising months** and many wonderful people contribute.

Mark in your diary:

- Friday 18th September for dinner at a Vietnamese Restaurant in Hawthorn.
- Friday 13th November for dinner at the Rye RSL. Details to follow.

Loyal supporters (both individuals and companies) continue to make **donations and pledges** and we sincerely thank you all.

Committee members have been guests at **Rotary and Probus Clubs** throughout Victoria who have been most generous with their donations.

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

Thanks also to all the wonderful donations of kickboards, bathers and caps we are able to fit out all children, boys and girls, with swim gear.

Kingswim of Frankston and Langwarrin and **Funkita**, makers of Funky Trunks, have again kindly donated new children's swimwear for 2015.



It has truly been a team effort

We sincerely thank our amazing **volunteer swim teachers** who work under extremely difficult conditions in some instances. They are just so prepared to do anything they possibly can to enhance the WSV name and reputation in Vietnam. They also work hard here to raise funds to contribute 50% of the total costs of sending them to Vietnam.

Whilst our Australian volunteers are passionate about what we do, we also get so much help from our enthusiastic **Vietnamese volunteers** who assist in many ways. This includes translating, touring, transporting, interpreting, socializing and making us welcome into their homes.

BUT we are always looking for more volunteers, not just qualified swim teachers but if anyone thinks that working on our Committee sounds like a good idea, please phone Robyn Lain on 0413 493 893

Of course donations are always welcome. Please go to the *Donate Now* button on our web page

www.watersafetyvietnam.com or

mail your cheque to Robyn Lain, Administrative Manager, WSV 151 Melbourne Rd. Rye. Include your name and mailing address and all donations will be acknowledged.

For large amounts, tax deductibility is possible if the donation is made through Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund.(RAOAF) Please phone Robyn for details on 0413 493 893

More information on WSV can be found on our websit <u>www.watersafetyvietnam.com</u> or watch what we do and like us on Facebook.