



WATER SAFETY VIETNAM LTD
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WSV March 2015 NEWSLETTER

After such a busy time in Vietnam in June and July last year, it might be expected that we rest up a little but that was not to be! October, November and December are our **main fundraising months** and many wonderful people contributed.

Claire McCormack and her family organized a **Trivia Night** at the Metropolitan Hotel in the city and 120 people had a great time.

The **Balnarring Providore** hosted a **jazz afternoon** and was exceptionally generous in donating the venue, food and wonderful music by the Red Hill Bakery Band and jazz singer, Pippa Wilson. We sincerely thank them for their generosity.

Already in 2015 our programs in Vietnam are in full swing.

Swim teachers from MLC and Genezanno (a group of friends) went to Ho Tram to help Mr Loi with the children's program in their January school holidays. They also taught adults in the mornings as we now have a demand for adult's classes.

They managed to visit local schools during their stay and donated kickboards and bathers to the children at Ho Tram. Thank you all!



February in Vietnam is the season for Tet, the main holiday on the Vietnamese calendar and so things slowed down a little then.

In March, Tim Kemp and Adam Barrett from Maffra, conducted an AUSTSWIM Train the Trainer program at **Hong Bang University International** in HCMC for 55 candidates.

Jan Williams is all booked and ready to go in April to assist local teachers teach their children at **St Josephs, Bien Hoa**, a small charity school in Dong Nai Province. (This Province has the fifth highest drowning rate in Vietnam).

All of the **new programs** initiated in 2014 want us back and so programs are planned at:

1. **Blue Dragon Children's Foundation in Hanoi.** Gail Mortimer and Bec Schatz from Geelong will continue the work started last year.
2. **Hoa Hoi in Xuyen Moc District.** Jan Williams will continue the work here with these schools.
3. **Tra Tan in Binh Thuan District.** Last year our teachers travelled 140 km north east of HCMC to Tra Tan and ended up with 80 kids in the water! This year we will concentrate on teacher training and improving the water quality in the pools.
4. **Zenna Resort.** (Between Vung Tau and Ho Tram, on the coast) Marilla Gorman will lead this training. Again our focus will be on training school teachers from the surrounding district.
5. **Than Thach in Ben Tre.** (Mekong) From our association with Heartreach, an Australian NGO, this school was recommended. Riahana Wilon and Sam Harris will develop this program and we hope to include at least one other school.

Ho Tram Community Pool

We will continue to support and advise as required at Ho Tram. Marilla Gorman is booked for June school holidays. A brand new school is opening close to the pool and so we hope to involve those children in swimming for safety, health and fun.



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.

Our AYAD (Australian Youth Ambassador for Development) volunteer, Molly Ferrier, from Perth, has been steadily working away in her role as Water Safety Officer. This funding is from AUSAID. Molly has been visiting schools spreading the water safety message and assisting Mr Loi at the pool.



Donations:

Loyal supporters (both individuals and companies) continue to make donations and we sincerely thank you all. These include:

Bowen's Timber and Hardware who have made a generous pledge for the next three years.

The **Carji Club** have pledged support with an initial donation. So too, **Pat Nagle, Brighton Barrister and Solicitor.**

These pledges, on an ongoing, annual basis, provide financial stability to enable our programs to grow.



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.



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



Mr Daryl Leonard, president of the Rotary Club of Melton, presents a cheque for \$500 to Gail Mortimer, WSV committee member. The Rotary Club of Coburg has again donated generously.

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

The future of WSV in Vietnam 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 we will be able to deliver programs to all existing and **new clients in 2015**.

In summary, since 2012 we have:

- Sent 44 teachers to Vietnam
- Recruited 8 from within
- Taught 1000 kids to swim
- Trained 341 local adults
- Trained 8 assessors
- Trained 264 adults in CPR.

We are very proud of this achievement.

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, including translating, transporting, interpreting 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

Our fundraising continues

Please see our Website or Facebook for details.

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 website www.watersafetyvietnam.com or watch what we do and like us on Facebook.