



WATER SAFETY VIETNAM LTD
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Last newsletter we reported that 2020 was looking to be an exciting year in Vietnam. Little did we know the events which would rock our world.

WSV founding Chairman, Mr Charles Lyne AM, sadly passed away on 13th March 2020. Charles was a 'larger than life' character. Always supportive and ever ready to promote the work we did in Vietnam.

He was past President of Surf Life Saving Victoria (SLSV), Life member of SLSV, Life member Surf Life Saving Australia, Life member of Torquay Surf Lifesaving Club and a member of the Board of Examiners for 32 years. Charles was well known throughout the life saving community and also had a citation from ILS (International Life Saving).

He will be sadly missed by all who knew him. Our condolences go to his wife Robyn and family. May he rest in peace whilst his vision lives on.



Our swim programs have been halted due to the **COVID-19 outbreak**, with children in Vietnam not returning to school for a month as a precautionary measure. Lockdowns and the wearing of masks were mandatory for a period of time. Unfortunately, during the times that children were not at school, some drowning deaths were recorded.

Then with only minimal infections and NO deaths, life has returned to a pre COVID state and children are working on a crammed curriculum in 2020.

It was to our surprise and joy that we received a request to conduct a Water Safety Day for children at St Joseph's Charity School. It was a great opportunity to remind the children of important water safety messages before they went on school holidays.

Our **Program Co-Ordinator, Elvy Tran** and Deputy Country Manager, Sophie Le conducted the session and will offer this to more schools in the future.

Elvy has been busy contacting all our clients to see what assistance WSV can give in 2020. For most, it seems best that we reschedule Teacher Training sessions for 2021.

For the remainder of 2020, our best hopes are that we can continue to assist with bus fares and pool entrance fees for school swim programs as we did last year.

Local Vietnamese school teachers, trained by WSV, conducted these programs, as part of the curriculum.

Left: Charles Lyne happily receiving donations of swim suits from some young supporters late last year.

Message for all Volunteers

Since 2012, more than 120 qualified and experienced swim teachers have volunteered to assist WSV achieve its aims in Vietnam. We really appreciate all the fantastic work you have done over the years.

Unfortunately, we don't expect that the world of travel will ever be the same again and once flights do resume, it will not be cost effective to send Australian Volunteers over to Vietnam for short periods of time.

Our WSV Board has held discussions and in line with our vision for sustainability, it has been decided to try to utilize the resources that we have in Vietnam to staff our children's programs.

We are developing a data base of all 700 teachers whom we have trained over the past few years and also sent a shout out for volunteers via a Facebook page. Already this has proven to be an exciting development in Vietnam and for WSV. COVID 19 may indeed have a silver lining!

Donations make our work possible:

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

Again, we received a wonderful gift of \$10,000 from the Fox Family Foundation. This donation specifically enables us to pay for bus fares and pool entrance fees for hundreds of children. This enables them to get to a suitable, clean pool which is sometimes up to 10 km away from their school.



We continue to receive **donations of swim suits, rashies and board shorts** but now must halt this effort until we clear the stock we currently have.

Thank you to all who have donated in the past. The kids in Vietnam love their swimsuits, dive toys and goggles.



- For cash donations please use the
- **Donate Now** button on our web page www.watersafetyvietnam.com or
 - **Direct Credit** into our Water Safety Vietnam Ltd. bank account BSB 633000 A/c 154433056 or
 - **Mail your cheque** to Robyn Lain, WSV Administrative Manager, at Unit 11/18-20 Fewster Rd. Hampton Vic. 3188.

Include your name and mailing address and all donations will be acknowledged.

WSV is a **Rotary International Project** and so for large amounts, tax deductibility is possible if the donation is made through **Rotary Australia World Community Service. (RAWCS)**. Please phone Robyn for details on 0413 493 893.

More information on WSV can be found on our new website www.watersafetyvietnam.com or follow and like us on Facebook.