



## NEWSLETTER

November 2009

### Where the money went in the 08/09 financial year

Last year we spent \$14,223, thanks to your generosity. During this last financial year we began working with four more schools to develop their libraries as well as continuing to support the original two schools.

However prior to the purchase of more books, we needed to train librarians to ensure that the books were well maintained and the libraries operated effectively.

But then there was nowhere to put the books so the Trust purchased the materials and the schools' communities built the shelves.

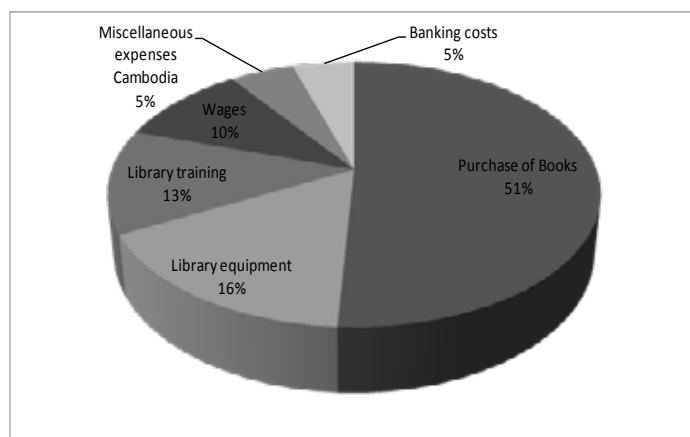
These two items mean that we had proportionally less funds available for the purchase of books during the year. However now this vital foundation has been laid, in the coming year a higher percentage of the

money raised will be spent on books.

You may be wondering how the money listed as wages was used. We pay a small sum to librarians who regularly attend the on-going support and development meetings. Plus we pay a small honorarium to Siphon and Mach our Cambodian partners for all their work on the ground—liaising and supporting the schools and their librarians, advising and facilitating book purchases and processing the books to ensure that are tracked and well maintained.

What's covered by Miscellaneous—cartage, petrol for travel in Cambodia, library stationery.

And those bank costs! Yes they are high but they include the hire of an EFTPOS machine for the Book Fair fundraising event, travellers'



*Expenditure 08/09*

cheque charges, and transactions in Cambodia which result in fees that make NZ bank charges look a pittance!



### Christmas Shopping!

Avoid the rush and panic! Give the gift of literacy and let us buy the books for you!

You can make a donation on behalf of a friend or family member - we will send you a card and gift certificate to let

the recipient know you have made a donation on their behalf. Look at the pleasure your gift brings to Cambodian children!

You can use the donation slip enclosed.





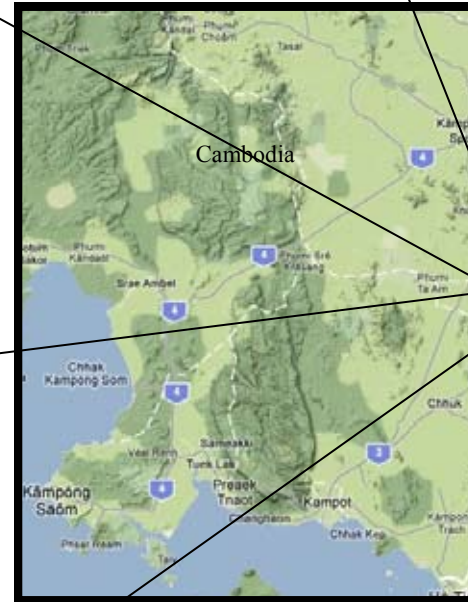
What's on that table was the full range in the library at Tnort Chum Junior High School ( 622 students) before the Trust supplied books. All the books on the shelves are text books.



Im Mach is the deputy director of Kla Kr (635 students), the first school the Trust a wife, Siphen are our Cambodian partners. English lesson with Helen Walch, a trustee



When we visited Angroka High School (2435 students) the pupils had just finished assembly and were heading towards the classrooms. Children everywhere! It will be a real challenge to get an adequate supply of books for such a large school.



The grounds at Ang Run Junior High School (599 students) were beautifully laid out with vegetable and flower beds plus this petanque ground. All of the work has been done by the students and teachers. They were delighted to know that they were going to have books for their empty library shelves that they had made.



Phnom Penh Junior High School assisted. Mach and his friend. Here he is discussing an English book.



Siphen Meas (left) one of our partners and an English teacher at Moy U Sophea High School (2300 students) checks out some of the books bought last summer. This school, the second one we assisted, has two trained librarians and students who are very keen to look at the new range of books.

A Goggle Earth map



**The six schools the Trust currently supports are all in Takeo province about one and half hours drive south of Phnom Penh. It is a rural area, with schools located on dusty roads amongst rice fields. In total about 7854 children attended these schools.**



The librarians from Leay Bo High School (1263 Students) were two of those who participated in the Librarians' Training course sponsored by the Trust late last year. But it's hard to be a librarian if you have virtually no books. We were initially only able to provide a limited number to this school and will be increasing the range this summer when Jennie Wilson is over in Cambodia and doing the major book buying for the year.

Source:  
Ministry of Education, Youth and Sport,  
Cambodia 2004

## Current Issues and Challenges

Child Friendly Schools were first implemented in Cambodia in 2001 to respond to persistent issues hampering the achievement of universal enrolment and completion of nine-year basic education. Major challenges to the education system include:

- About one-third of children in Cambodia aged five to 14 work, leaving them with less time to concentrate on school
- Late enrolment in school leading to an over-aged school population with an average age of 10.8 years in primary and 15.8 years in lower secondary
- Primary school retention is low, with nearly half of the children not reaching grade six
- Low efficiency of education system and services with only 43 per cent of children completing primary education
- One third of primary schools do not offer the full six grades
- Only 57 per cent of primary schools have access to safe drinking water and only two thirds have appropriate toilet facilities
- Only 10 per cent of children aged three to five years have access to early child development services
- Children who enter secondary school represent just 26 per cent of those of eligible age
- While gender disparity in primary school enrolment is diminishing, it exists at the secondary school level, with only 12 per cent of girls of eligible age who attend, compared to 20 per cent of boys
- While there are yet no standardized measures of overall quality, there is general perception that pupil achievement is low

## The Trust says Thank you

### *To Marie Nicholls*

For her work as a trustee. She was an inaugural Trustee, becoming involved after the first VSA Adventure trip. Marie has had to resign because of increasing pressures of work. Marie was involved in the purchase of books this August.

### *Also to Pacific Discovery*

for the fundraising donation from the Discover Cambodia tour that is running in January 2010. There are still a few places left on this fabulous trip, 28 Dec—11 Jan, and it will also run in the New Year holiday in 2011. For information, check out [www.pacificdiscovery.org](http://www.pacificdiscovery.org).



**BOOKS FOR CAMBODIA**

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