



# AFAP Newsletter

Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia and the Pacific Limited

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## Looking good - Operation Cleft - the gift of a smile

Many AFAP members will remember Christine Murphy, the former Africa Program Manager who left AFAP in 2005 to start a family. Well she is now back at AFAP working on a new project..... Helping people to smile again.

Approximately one in 700 births anywhere in the world will have a cleft lip and/or cleft palate. In developing countries, the repair of such deformities is not considered a priority so many children grow into adulthood with their cleft left untreated.

Morsheda, the young girl you see in the before and after pictures, is nine years old and is the oldest of three children. Her father is a vangari driver from Dinajpur, but even though he has a job the family struggle to meet basic needs. Morsheda was born with a bilateral cleft and as a result, her life chances were not looking good as children who have such a condition are often discriminated against in many ways. But things are looking up for Morsheda who was just one of a number of children who had access to cleft repair surgery on the 12<sup>th</sup> February 2007 as part of the Operation Cleft Project.



AFAP, The Glencoe Foundation and the Rotary Club of Box Hill Central Victoria are proud to be promoting the Operation Cleft project which aims to help the poor access surgery that will change their lives.

Operation Cleft works by employing local qualified surgeons in Countries such as India, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh to undertake these operations. This strategy keeps the costs down very low with each surgery costing around \$200.00. To date this project has funded 1,347 operations *and that is another good reason to smile.*

AFAP is a not for profit organisation concerned with emergency relief operations, sustainable international development and the eradication of poverty worldwide.

AFAP promotes self-reliant community development projects in the areas of:

institution building;  
health;  
water and sanitation  
education;  
literacy;  
agriculture;  
environmental protection;  
hospital rehabilitation;  
village improvement;  
disaster relief; and  
small industry development  
which emerge from the aspirations of the local people.

AFAP supports projects that are environmentally and economically sustainable, gender balanced and supportive of the integrity and self-determination of local communities.

AFAP aims to improve the status of women, children, ethnic minorities, handicapped and other disadvantaged or marginalised sections of society.

AFAP is a membership organisation, which provides opportunities for Australians who wish to volunteer their services in supporting our overseas development programs.

### AFAP aims to:

Promote the advancement of education and the relief of poverty and sickness through innovative and appropriate community based development throughout the developing world where needed.

### Tax Deductible Donations

Donations to AFAP of \$2.00 or more are Tax Deductible.

Call 1800-007-308

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## Project Cambodia provides clean water

The Buddhist Library Cambodia Project is supported by AFAP, the Buddhist Library of Sydney and Paget Sayers and is involved in health and education projects. Principally the construction of concrete rain water tanks. As of June 2007 they have built over 240 tanks in 62 schools. Right now they are ready to build up to 60 tanks per month in 4 provinces, Kampot, Kompong Speu, Takeo and Kendal. There is a real problem in Kendal, which has arsenic in the new wells with over 60% of villagers affected in some areas.

Apart from providing access to clean water, Project Cambodia also provides an education and literacy program. Khmer teachers assist in the education curriculum with 12 part time English teachers who teach English 2 hours a day, 6 days a week. These classes are designed to assist students and young adults to gain employment. Sewing classes in 2 provinces provide salary and materials and assists girls to get good jobs on graduation as they have learned a new useful skill.

The Cambodia Project is classified as an integrated program as it targets health, nutrition and hygiene programs. The community are informed of health awareness, good nutrients to feed children for health growth and hygiene to help bring down infectious and water related diseases.



## Water—more of it closer to home

David Brett, Africa Program Manager

For families in rural Africa collecting water in a bucket or jerry can is part of every day life. It's not unusual for women and girls to walk ten kilometres to fetch water from a distant stream. That's certainly the case in south eastern Zambia – where AFAP is working with our partner, the Chikuni Home Based Care Program (CHBC). At Chikuni, water is a much valued commodity. In an average year, the annual short rainy season is just enough to grow a subsistence crop of maize and beans. But someone still has to trek to fetch the water for drinking, cooking and washing. It's a hard, time-consuming chore. And, in most cases, the water that's collected is not clean enough to drink. Dirty water exposes people to an increased risk of gastro-intestinal illnesses such as diarrhoea or life-threatening diseases such as cholera. Children under five and adults with diseases which suppress their immune system (such as HIV) are particularly vulnerable.

It's not hard to imagine the joy which comes with a water pump installed close to your home. When I visited Chikuni in June this year, I had the privilege of meeting a group of positive women and their families who had just become the proud custodians of a brand new borehole. The women are members of one of Chikuni's thirty Positive And Living Squads – PALS clubs – which have been formed by Chikuni HBC to support positive people help themselves.



Their new borehole will give an assured supply of safe water for club members. With the time saved from having to collect water, the women and their families have already started preparing a small block of land (about half a hectare) for a communal kitchen garden, where they plan to grow vegetables and fruit trees. The garden produce will provide them with the benefit of an improved diet as well as additional income from the sale of surplus vegetables and fruit. Chikuni HBC has given the club members training on pump maintenance and on how to grow vegetables. And, when I spoke to the club, they had just finished agreeing on a timetable for the work and how each of them would participate fairly. It was also encouraging to see that their local village had committed to help the club, particularly those members who would not be physically able to do heavy work in the garden.

Before I left Chikuni the club members asked me to pass on their deepest thanks to all those in Australia who helped pay for the borehole. One of them – Maria – told me how much it meant for her to receive support from people thousands of miles away: "...from people who do not know us and who will never come here. It means so much. So much. Please thank them for me."

*The borehole is one of many small projects of AFAP's African Women's Program, which is supported by the generosity of individual contributions. Funds also come from an annual benefit concert given by Annalisa Kerrigan and Christopher Saunders. It is organised by AFAP supporters, Dianne Drew and her Tamworth friends.*

### The FSPI Network

AFAP is a member of the FSPI (the Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International) network, which was formed by independent organisations in 1990.

FSPI's network of affiliates work together with their respective governments and community groups in a broad range of community development initiatives, focusing on primary health care, education, community-based natural resource management (terrestrial and marine), capacity building, local institutional building, conflict management, and sustainable enterprise development.

### FSPI member organisations are committed to:

Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development

Striving for world justice and peace through programs of social, cultural and economic development, relief and reconstruction

Continuing to work at institution building and the development of self reliance

Building public awareness and understanding as a necessary prerequisite for humanitarian assistance

Initiating and continuing dialogue with government and public bodies on public policy issues of importance to the member organisations

Being accountable to the individual constituencies, partners in development and the people we strive to assist

Respecting the diverse perspectives and methods of operation of member agencies as a source of strength and creativity

Working in a spirit of collaboration as the most effective way to achieve common objectives

Encouraging professional competence, ethical practices and quality services

Advocating and fostering human dignity and sustainable development



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### Donations

Call 1800-007-308

### MEMBERSHIP

If you are interested in becoming a member of AFAP please request a Membership Application Form. Membership fees are \$25.00 per annum including GST.

### FSPI Member Organisations

- ◇ Australian Foundation for the Peoples of Asia & the Pacific (AFAP)
- ◇ Partners in Community Development Fiji (PCDF)
- ◇ Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific, Kiribati
- ◇ Foundation for People and Community Development, PNG
- ◇ Foundation for the Peoples of the South Pacific, Vanuatu
- ◇ Counterpart International, USA
- ◇ Solomon Islands Development Trust
- ◇ Tonga Community Development Trust
- ◇ Tuvalu Association of Non-Government Organisations
- ◇ O le Siosiomaga Society (OLISSI), Samoa
- ◇ Timor Aid, East Timor

### AFAP International Partners

- ◇ FSPI
- ◇ Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP), Nepal
- ◇ Sikkim Development Foundation, India
- ◇ Neo-Synthesis Research Centre (NSRC), Sri Lanka
- ◇ Commutech, Zimbabwe
- ◇ Concern Universal: Malawi, Kenya, Mozambique
- ◇ Chikuni Mission, Zambia
- ◇ Bairo Pite Clinic, East Timor
- ◇ Alola Foundation, East Timor
- ◇ Moris Rasik, East Timor
- ◇ Arte Moris, East Timor
- ◇ Pradet, East Timor

## Handover Ceremony—Tien Lang Health Centre in Vietnam receives Medical Equipment from AFAP

At the request of government officials in Viet Nam, AFAP donated a shipment of medical equipment to Tien Lang Health Centre. The health centre was in need of good hospital supplies, eg beds, wheelchairs, patient trolleys and baby cots and only recently a new road was constructed to link Hai Phong to Tien Lang, making it possible to easily transport equipment from the port of Hai Phong. Uma Menon, Director of AFAP Viet Nam attended the handover ceremony on the 26<sup>th</sup> of July 2007 and visited the health centre. The ceremony was witnessed by a representative of Ministry of Health, PACCOM, Deputy Director of Hai Phong Department of Foreign Affairs, Chairman of Tien Lang District PC, Director of Tien Lang Health Centre and staff from the centre. "This valuable gift from the people of Australia and AFAP given to this province, will certainly improve the health care of our local people," the Deputy Director of Hai Phong Department of Foreign Affairs commented during the speech ceremony. AFAP's Phase I Dengue Control Program was implemented in the province.



AFAP's Medical Supplies Service (MSS) was first developed by a group of doctors working as volunteers for AFAP who 14 years ago identified the need to send medical equipment and supplies to developing countries. The objective is to support health centres in countries where AFAP operates and ensures that tonnes of superseded medical equipment is reinvested into health systems overseas instead of being thrown into dumps of Australia. Volunteers, including the Rotary Club of Lane Cove participated in the shipment by loading the container at our St Mary's Warehouse.

