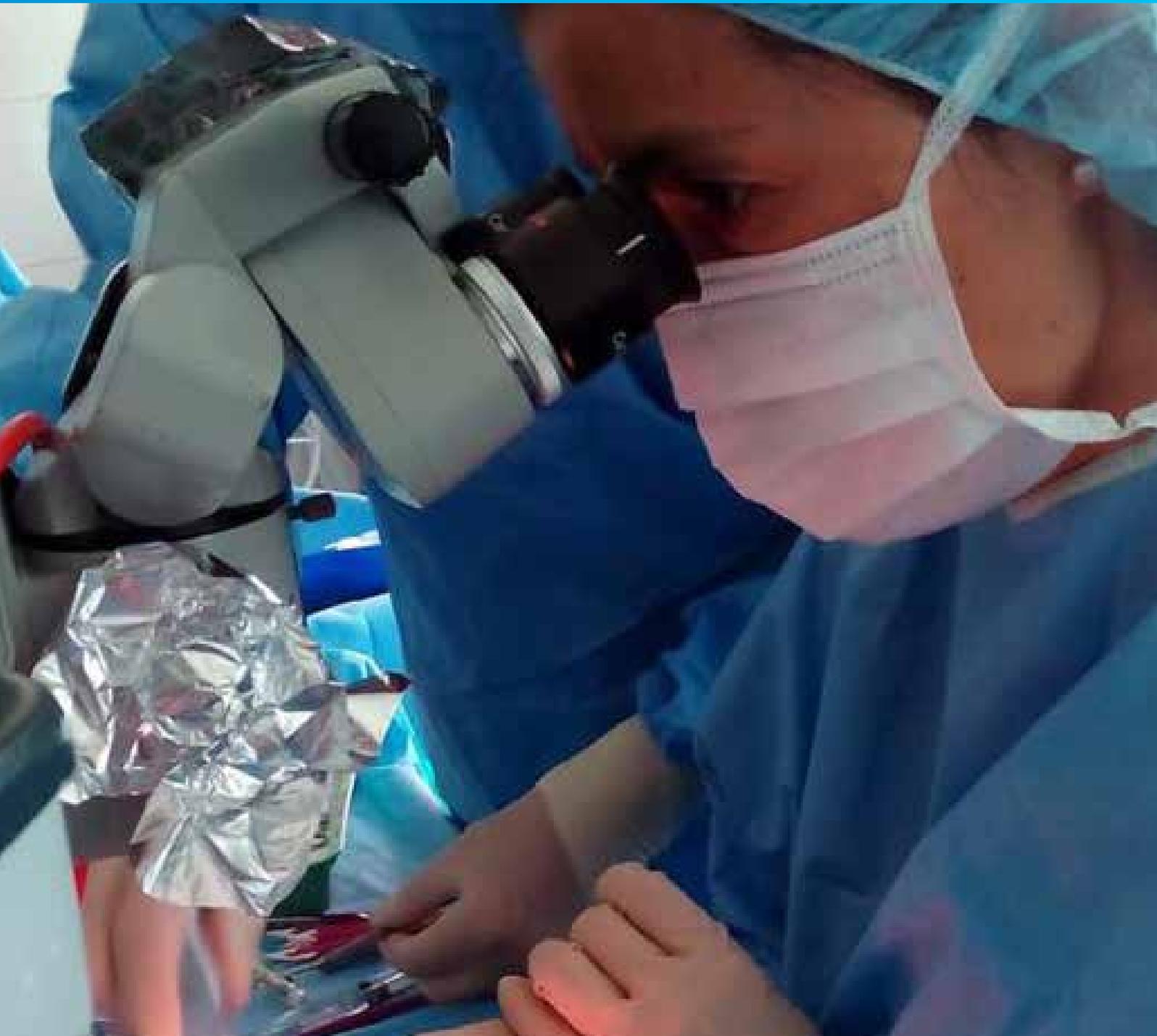


ForeSight

CAMBODIA VISION MAGAZINE

Issue 03, September 2016



Charity programs and missions for Cambodia
cambodiavision.org.au



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WITH ROTARY CLUB
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From the Chairperson **WELCOME MESSAGE**

WELCOME TO THE THIRD edition of Cambodia Vision's ForeSight Magazine. Our previous two editions were very well received, thank you to all who contributed the articles and of course Judy Ly for putting it all together. Please let us know your thoughts about it overall.

I am extremely saddened to report that Cambodia Vision lost two valuable team members: Dr Kim Frumar and Trish Robertson recently. Their contribution to the team was invaluable. Thank you to those who donated to Cambodia Vision in Trish's memory. It was a commendable and sweet gesture. May their memories live on.

This issue's profile is on Richard Lim. A team member and major sponsor in Victoria, Richard and his wife Anh worked very hard to establish the team and in the last three years pulled the Victorian community together. There is now strong support from the local businesses in the Springvale area, some agreeing to have our donation tins in their stores. Thank you all for this.

Sheree and David Lamb share their insights on their first trip with us. Our nurse, Sheree assisted some hospital patients including a mentally disturbed patient with a fractured arm and a burnt patient.

I am very proud that our team was the first on the scene to save two drowned children at the hospital's emergency ward. The team's professionalism was praised and acknowledged.

Kratie province remained a challenge for the team in 2015. Learning from the previous year, a lot of safety measures were put in place to minimise the team's well being. However, the constant electrical failures interrupted all aspects of our service and damaged some of our equipment.

Despite the challenges, the team did an exceptional job under difficult circumstances. We thank the 3,000 patients for their patience and understanding when having to wait longer for service. Thank you to the local authorities and Kratie Referral Hospital staff for doing all they could to assist.

It was wonderful for us to have surprise visits from our previous patients. Our favourite 100 year-old woman whom we assisted in 2014 with one cataract, returned to seek assistance for her other eye. She turned 101 and is still going strong.

The post-C section patient whom Marie assisted brought her one year-old boy to visit and thanked Marie. The boy and mum were strong and healthy.



PHOTO BY KIM SENG TAING

Leakhena's parents also brought her back to see Dr Tung Bui and Dr Peter Wong who saved her from an emergency splenectomy. She continues with her medication.

In November 2015, our South Australia team was born. We held the first fundraising function in Adelaide with great success. I thank the whole team and the community in Adelaide for the support.

I am grateful to all of our continued and committed sponsors and donors. I especially thank the entire team at 2CR China Radio – Loving World program for their fundraising effort for the second year.

Please contact us if you can assist in any way. Let us know if you are interested in having a donation tin in your office/shop/surgeries. Let us know if you would like to volunteer with us. We encourage the younger generation to get involved in charity work and make new friends. It is fun and rewarding!

Chek Ming Ly
Chairperson

COVER PHOTO BY DR TUNG BUI



PHOTO BY CHHONG TAING

Humanitarian Trip 2015 **KRATIE PROVINCE**

WHAT WAS ACHIEVED IN THE 2015 MISSION?

As the Chair pointed out in his welcome message, a mission in Kratie province in 2015 was certainly a challenge that the team had not faced since the start of the project. Frequent electrical failures caused much interruption to all areas of our work. Nevertheless, a fantastic outcome was achieved. Here is a snapshot of the outcome from the mission from 19-25 October 2015:

1. The Optometry team consulted/assessed over 2,715 men, women and children who came from all over the country
2. The optical team provided - 344 prescription optical glasses (glasses were made and picked up on the day) - 802 readymade reading glasses - 1,054 sunglasses
3. The General Practice team treated 710 patients with various illnesses
4. The hearing aids team provided over 500 hearing aids to the deaf
5. The surgical team performed 378 surgeries for cataract and pterygia
6. The team donated boxes of childrens toys to the children of Kratie and to Sihanouk Hospital Centre of Hope
7. 1,000 4.5kg bags of new crop rice was donated to post-op patients; hospital patients in the maternity, children's, TB and general wards as well as the hospital
8. Three patients with retina detachment were sent to Phnom Penh for further investigation and treatment
9. Donated 10 hospital beds - 5 to Kratie Referral Hospital and another 5 to Sihanouk Hospital Centre of Hope
10. Boxes of facial tissues, wet tissues & toilet tissues were donated to both Kratie Referral Hospital & Sihanouk Hospital Centre of Hope
11. Provided training to 15 med students from various provinces studying in Phnom Penh
12. Installed two more air-conditioning units at the Kratie Referral Hospital
13. Built two western style toilets
14. Donated a large amount of general medication to Kratie Referral Hospital
15. Donated clothing and children's books to the children of Kratie
16. The team also helped treat/save a few non eye hospital patients including
 - a young man burned in a motor cycle accident
 - an 18 year-old woman severely burnt by an epileptic seizure and fell in to open fire
 - a young child resuscitated after drowning
 - assisted a cancer patient with treatment

I am sure you agree that this is an outstanding effort performed by the whole team in a week.

It was also wonderful to see previous patients assisted by the team returning to visit and thank the team. This is our greatest satisfaction!



Melanie's Story

IT'S NO HOLIDAY IN CAMBODIA

STORY AND PHOTOS BY MELANIE KELL

With permission to reprint from *mivision* magazine. See original story here: <http://www.mivision.com.au/it-s-no-holiday-in-cambodia/>

I COULDN'T IMAGINE YOU'D

ever see it in Australia... a surgeon calmly performing eye surgery next to another doing a caesarean section. The conditions in Cambodia are Spartan with surgeons working in dimly lit tiled rooms, darkened to minimise the heat and humidity. These are the conditions the Cambodia Vision team worked with, as I found out for myself when I accompanied the 75 volunteers to Kratie Province, in the country's north.

The province of Kratie, on the banks of the mighty Mekong River, to the north of Cambodia, is home to more than 300,000 people, many

of them surviving on just a dollar a day. On one week in October, 3,000 of those people visited the local hospital, some travelling for five hours or more by bus, bike and foot, for free eye checks, surgery, glasses and hearing aids, all courtesy of Cambodia Vision, its sponsors and a team of dedicated volunteers.

Kratie Referral Hospital is an overwhelming place to wander around. The health system, of course, is nothing like what I'm used to in Australia. As one person explained, the doctors do the medicine, the nurses make sure things are running smoothly and the families take care of the patients, fanning them through the long sweltering days and nights, holding IV medicine and saline bags high, washing and feeding them throughout their stay.

Standards of hygiene are low with hospital rubbish piling high on dusty grounds that turn to mud in an afternoon's belting rain. The odours are suffocating. The hospital's one ophthalmologist, Dr. Sokhan Heng, explained to me that frequent changes to funding for medical procedures meant that sometimes eye surgery is affordable for the poorer people in the community and other times not. Right now, at \$65 per cataract, it's the latter, which means Dr. Heng and the Cambodian people are heavily reliant on the support of NGOs like Cambodia Vision.

Interestingly, Dr. Heng said Cambodia Vision's visit to Kratie Province last year had helped by both providing free eye care to over 3,000 people (including 433 cataract procedures) and increasing awareness of the

eye care services available at the hospital. This, in turn, had brought more patients in to see him during the year. On an average month, he now performs about 40–50 cataract surgeries and sees 150–170 patients in the outpatient department.

Providing cataract surgery is just part of the job for Cambodia Vision. The group, which consists entirely of volunteers who pay their own way – from airfares and accommodation through to meals and insurances – has become a well-oiled machine over seven years of operation.

A small contingent always travels ahead of the main team to prepare for the clinics; thoroughly scrubbing down wards vacated by the hospital and setting up equipment. Once the main team arrives there are just a few hours remaining before hundreds of patients descend on the hospital grounds to have their vision and hearing restored. It's the same every year, such is the need, and the demand for sight.

Rooms allocated by the hospital are organised into stations so patients can flow through



registration on to eye checks, testing and then the dispensary.

Patients who require surgery are seen by the GP before being moved across to the anaesthetics rooms, which as you'd expect, flows on to the surgery. Unless they are from the local area, patients sleep over at the hospital on mats supplied by Cambodia Vision, and the following morning have their eye patches removed, their eyes checked and medications explained. Each patient is given a post-op kit, complete with medications. This year, thanks to a new sponsor, they were also given a bag of rice.

Cataract patients who have to travel far to get home also receive US\$5 to pay for the journey. During their stay, lunch and dinner vouchers ensure no-one – neither patient or family member – goes hungry.

Finding Ways to Work

This year, like all years before, the Province's inconsistent power supply caused havoc. Even before the clinic opened, during the set-up process, a sterilising unit blew up due to the erratic supply.

Surgery too, was delayed on day one, with regular power outages shutting down the equipment. "It's impossible to operate with the power going on and off," explained Dr. David Ng. "If the power is out, the microscope won't work – if you have an instrument in the eye at the time, you can't see if it's safe to remove it."

Fortunately, Cambodia Vision has an electrician on board. For the first few days, Campbell McKellar is on the run, moving from one electrical problem to another. When he's not fixing power, he is in the dispensary grinding lenses, a skill he has picked up by since joining the group. "The power supply here is a major problem," said Campbell. "The hospital doesn't have anyone qualified to work on it, so they often ask me to fix problems that have been happening for months. I found one doctor randomly pulling wires from the source, trying to work out how to get things working."

Having got the steriliser up and running, Campbell turned his attention to the main power



a very small group compared to what we usually see – today we will see around 70 patients.”

Asked what he gets out of his trips with Cambodia Vision, Dr. Brown said, “I’m addicted to it, it’s really satisfying, it’s lovely and it’s always a big contrast to Australia where it’s still a great operation but people don’t have the visual problems they have here. So it’s great to know that people who may slowly go totally blind are being visually rehabilitated.”

Dr. Audrey Murugesan was also part of the founding team. She said the first Cambodia Vision team was very small and focused on pterigiums, a surgery that she continues to provide to the people of Cambodia while her colleagues perform cataract surgeries. “It is time consuming surgery but I don’t mind doing it, I’m here to help. There is a much greater prevalence of pterygium here than in Australia, I think because the people spend all of their time outside in the sun from childhood; the dust and dirt might also have something to do with it.”

For the first time in her career, Dr. Murugesan removed a pterygium in a surgery alongside a Cambodian doctor who was delivering a baby by caesarean. “I felt pretty uncomfortable about doing it but the doctor was very calm, and the baby boy was born within 10 minutes. I tried to give him the space he needed but I couldn’t help but look up when the baby was born!”

The young mother was wheeled into the anaesthetics room where eight patients lay waiting for cataract or pterygium surgery. Her baby was handed

supply. “Thida Yang (Cambodia Vision official) put calls out to senior ministers to stabilise the power, and in the meantime, I appointed someone to sit under the mains box. They were instructed to flick the switch every time it tripped,” he said. “It’s make-shift, but it worked.”

Making Progress

Despite these delays, on the first day of Cambodia Vision’s clinic, 33 patients were operated on, 70 hearing aids were fitted and hundreds of people received prescription spectacles, ready-made spectacles and sunglasses from the dispensary. Using ageing equipment owned by the Kratie Referral Hospital, Betty Katsogiannis and her team managed to produce a total of 344 prescription spectacles across the week-long clinic (90 pairs on one day) and dispense thousands of ready-mades.

In post-op on day two, the first 33 patients sat quietly in a circle on the floor waiting to have their eye patches removed and their eyes checked. Most looked stunned by their new vision, still cloudy from the operation. A few needed to be fitted with hearing aids before they could receive instructions about taking care of their eyes during the healing process.

Dr. Chris Brown, who has been part of the Cambodia Vision team since it was established in 2007, said the first surgeries had gone well. “I’ve been to many places many times and always the first day is a bit problematic. Yesterday was more problematic than most with the power shortages but overall things were very good. I’ve seen the patients today and most of them are very happy... overall I’m satisfied with the first day. This is



to the father who carried his little boy out into the bright sun to be introduced to the extended family. Another baby was born by caesarean in the same surgery later that day.

Dr. Murugesan said the opportunity to be part of Cambodia Vision from the beginning was incredibly rewarding.

“You see these people and they are so poor, and they do so well and they see so well after surgery and it just makes you feel so good. Sometimes I think we get more out of it than they do, you want to change the world and make it a better place and this is just a small step. Everyone has something to offer – if we all gave just 5 per cent – whether that’s our time, our talent or our money, the world would be a better place. Giving – you just can’t put a value on that.”

The sentiment was the same, no matter who I spoke to from the team. Back in the optometry area, Vision Eye Institute practice manager Philip Lu was assigned to A-scans for cataract patients. This was his first trip as a volunteer. “Day one was pretty intense. The line of patients just

kept building and I was really aware that they were all there, waiting for me.” By day two, that line had become the norm for Philip, who methodically and gently worked his way through each patient, part of a process to ensure the very best vision can be achieved for these people who have so little.

Similarly, optometrist Marlene Xiao who was on her first trip to Cambodia, said she was feeling a little nervous. “I’m used to being in my own room, knowing where everything is. Once we get going (with screening) I think I will be alright. But there is the added pressure of knowing there is a line of people waiting.” By mid-way through day one, Ms. Xiao looked comfortable in her new environment, working with the help of a medical student to screen patients using an eye chart simplified for use with people who cannot read.

Optometrist Sue Ang quietly works her way through hundreds of people who have queued patiently for hours to have their eyes checked and vision tested. After four trips to Cambodia, she is well seasoned and instrumental to the patients’ smooth passage through eye testing and checks. “My job now is essentially logistics – making sure the team is working effectively, relieving staff, moving patients through the system. This is a steep learning curve for young optometrists – I’m careful to only bring along grads with three or more years behind them – it is such a fast paced environment, you need to have the right combination of clinical skills and life experience so you can make fast, effective decisions.”

Returning Independence

A brief meeting with an 89-year-old man who’d just had his eye patch removed after cataract surgery illustrated to me, just how much Cambodia Vision gives back to these people.

The frail man sitting in front of me had been a village leader until he was evacuated by Pol Pot in 1979. With Thida Yang translating, he told me he had lost everything. Since then, to earn a living, he had advised people on property, however since losing his sight he had been unable to work. He said he was very dependent on people around him, living with his son and relying on his daughter to provide care. The man told me that after cataract surgery his vision was still blurry but clearer than the day before; understandable given the swelling caused by extra capsular cataract surgery necessitated by the inconsistent power supply. He left the hospital with his vision returning and hearing aids fitted, his future – and the future for his family – looking just a little brighter with his renewed independence.



AN ECLECTIC MIX

Husband and wife, Sheree and David Lamb share their experiences in Kratie



PHOTOS COURTESY OF DAVID AND SHEREE LAMB

■ SHEREE LAMB WORKING IN THEATRE

GAPS AND INEQUITY IN

health and education have been major drivers in our lives especially within our indigenous population. Becoming a flight nurse with Air Ambulance has been, alongside midwifery, the best and most valuable nursing experience to date. I'm reminded of a Directors' quote, 'They don't care how much you know until they know how much you care'.

Then we were lucky enough to experience Nepal and Cambodia. Like rural and remote Australia, Kratie Cambodia do the best they can with the resources they have at the time. All the health staff tried to assist the people as much as possible. A major lesson you quickly learn is the challenge of having the knowledge and skill level but not the required technology and infrastructure.

Maly and I gave first aid assistance, comfort and pain relief to a woman with a fractured arm who was pleading for help. Another teenager presented with third degree upper body burns and airway difficulty. A team approach tried to assist her suffering with positioning, pain relief, IV fluids, antibiotics and suggestions for possible transfer to a larger hospital.

Every day in our busy circles of control, we practice mindfulness, patience and empathy. In the bigger picture we are reminded of how lucky we are and how we all have the power to make changes for the better.

'Luck is where preparation and opportunity meet'

Why Cambodia vision?

David and I were drawn to working with Cambodia Vision because of its reputation for providing quality services to those who can least afford them; that it was a not for profit organisation, at its heart it was a deeply ethical and morally centred group committed to working to improve people's lives regardless of background, religion, income, race or gender and; that it was made up of people who had a sense of collective responsibility to making a positive difference.

The Cambodia Vision team is an eclectic collection of individuals drawn from many different ages, cultural backgrounds and locations across Australia and the world. The success we saw was not measured by how many people visited us, how many operations we did, how much money we contributed to the local economy but more by the fact that we changed literally thousands of people's lives forever.

The look on a person's face as they see for the first time in years or hear a loved one's voice is hard to explain but at that time, in that moment, that simple act can't help but bring tears to both their eyes and the team's....that is what Cambodia Vision is all about.... people helping people.

Sheree Lamb

SHEREE AND I WERE LUCKY

enough to experience firsthand the simple mantra, "Giving the gift of sight," as part of an eclectic mix of 65 people on the Cambodian Vision team on a trip to Kratie province Cambodia.

The team came from vastly different backgrounds with different levels of skills and professional capabilities but all with the one common goal to help as many people as we could and make a difference to the lives of people less fortunate than ourselves.

What an amazing team we were part of – passionate, respectful, caring, resourceful, energetic, enthusiastic and tireless – basically just a tremendous group to be around that have left us both with lasting positive memories of the work we did together, the experiences we shared and the life changing work we completed.

Of the trip itself we didn't know what to expect but were welcomed in the team whole heartedly with respect and dignity. The organisation was



■ DAVID LAMB AT THE REGISTRATION AREA

professional, the accommodation and food terrific but such a contradiction to the township we worked in.

The long hours in stifling heat we worked in come with the reward of witnessing life changed by the results of the services we provided. One cannot help but feel a sense of fulfilment when a part of these moments.

It's humbling and a moment that still raises the hairs on my neck when I think about it and resonates deep to the core of what we all can contribute to people less fortunate than ourselves.

Thank you Cambodia Vision.

David Lamb

PROFESSIONAL BACKGROUND

David Lamb has been in public education for over 30 years. He has worked at a number of primary schools in NSW and Queensland as a teacher and an assistant principal. David has been a principal at three schools as well as a principal education officer. Currently he is the Director Public Schools NSW for the Griffith Network.

Sheree Eaton/Lamb has been in nursing for over 30 years. She has worked in numerous areas of public and private health including intensive and emergency care, midwifery and senior health management. She has most recently worked for Air Ambulance NSW as a flight nurse.

They are UoW alumni, where they both graduated at master level and had guest lecture roles.



SPONSOR PROFILE

RICHARD LIM, OAM, JP

I was born in Pursat, Cambodia in 1956. While I was studying Pharmacy at the University of Phnom Penh, the communist dictator Pol Pot ruled the nation. For four years, the people of Cambodia and I endured unimaginable labour and torture, which killed my parents, some of my siblings, relatives as well as over 1.2 million people.

But it was a true miracle that I could reunite with some of my family, and together, we attempted to flee Cambodia. It took four attempts to escape, each time a near disaster. Eventually, the remaining members of my family and myself made it to Khao I Dang Refugee Camp in Thailand. There, I was fortunate to work with the Red Cross team, San Frontieres team and Scandinavian team. We were then placed in a transit camp, then known as Phanat Nikhom Refugee Camp where I worked as a substitute doctor with the Catholic Relief Service Clinic.

My younger siblings and I were then sponsored by my cousin to Melbourne, Australia in 1980. I worked full time during the day and attended an English Arrival course at night.

By 1983, I completed Year 12 again, except this time in Australia. At the same time, I was also working fulltime on an



PHOTOS COURTESY OF RICHARD LIM

RICHARD LIM, OAM, JP

afternoon shift and a weekend job at a farm, while juggling my studies at the same time.

Later, I graduated in 1986 from the Victorian College of Pharmacy, now a faculty of Monash University. Not long afterwards, I held an internship and then, in 1987, a job as a clinical pharmacist at Queen Victoria Hospital, which is now Monash Medical Centre.

I then married my wife, Anh, in 1989. She was my classmate, who I had met on placement at Queen Victoria Hospital.

Afterwards, I resigned to establish Lim's Pharmacy with my wife in 1991.

During the first few years of my business, my two children were

born - my daughter Joanne in 1995, and my son Albert in 1998.

Since then, our pharmacy has won a number of awards, such as the Australian Achiever Awards for three consecutive years (1999, 2000, and 2001). We have also been deeply passionate about serving our multicultural community. For example, we have staff who speak different languages, as well as health seminars in different languages in-store and at community groups.

I also received a medal for serving and contributing to the Springvale Ethnic Chinese Elderly Caring Friendship Association, which was presented to me by former Federal Senator, Mr. Tsebin Tchen, who is currently a Victorian Multicultural Commissioner.

In 2012, I was nominated for Australian of the Year. I have also received a nomination again for Australian of the Year in 2016.

In 2013, out of 5400 pharmacies across Australia, our pharmacy not only won the QCPP Community Engagement Award, but also overall winner of QCPP Pharmacy of the Year for Australia. These awards were presented at the APP Conference on the Gold Coast.

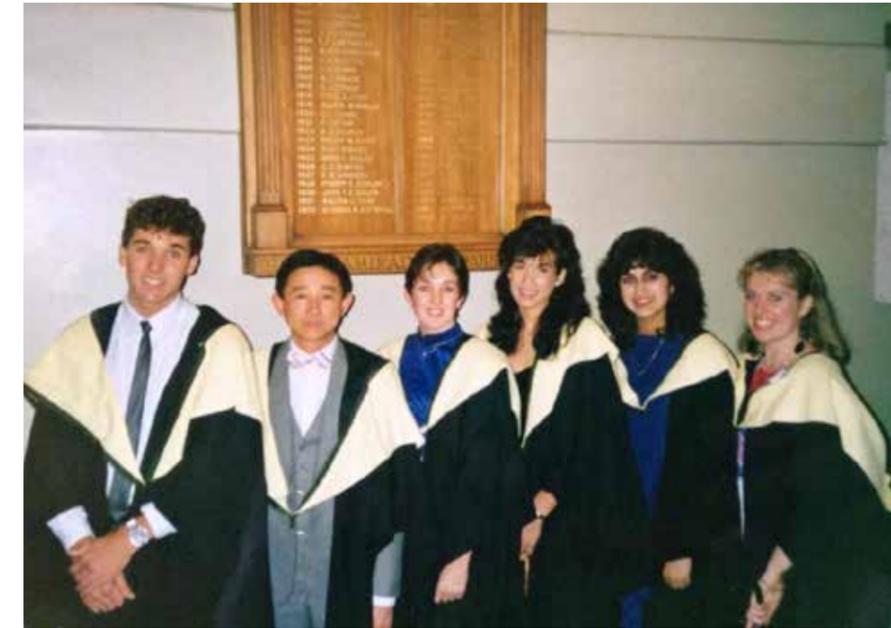
It was a true miracle that I could reunite with some of my family, and together, we attempted to flee Cambodia. It took four attempts to escape, each time a near disaster.

As a result, I was also invited to be a guest on the discussion panel at the Pharmacy Business Network 2013 in Canberra, as well as being named a Paul Harris Fellow, for my outstanding contribution to local and international charities.

This was also the year that we organised our first Cambodia Vision Annual Dinner. All money raised went towards Cambodia Vision, who treats the unfortunate in Cambodia with cataract and other vision problems. Each year, the event is attended by over 600 people, many of whom are respected members of society, as well as volunteers from Cambodia Vision.

We are particularly passionate about supporting Cambodia Vision, as the Cambodia Vision team work purely on a volunteer basis, which means that almost 100% of donations go towards the Cambodian people since expenses such as travelling and accommodation are paid by the volunteers.

Since arriving in Australia, it has always been my passion to serve the wider community. For example, I have established and developed a wide range of community groups such as, Cambodia Youth Association, which I was the founder of; Cambodian Association and the Cambodian Community, Cambodian-Teochew Association etc.



RICHARD LIM GRADUATED IN 1986 FROM THE VICTORIAN COLLEGE OF PHARMACY, NOW A FACULTY OF MONASH UNIVERSITY.

Besides establishing community groups, we also provide ongoing support and sponsorship of community organisations through donations, sponsorship, planning and attending cultural events etc.

We also organise our own fundraisers for charities: Cambodian Orphanage Fund, Cambodian Educational Network, Cambodia Vision and OIC.

Not only do we donate and sponsor local societies such as Save Cambodian Children Fund Australia (SCCFA), but also countless national and international charities, for example, Peter Mac Cancer Hospital, Victorian College

of Pharmacy Foundation, Red Cross, Medicines Sans Frontiers and World Vision for international charities.

Again in 2014, I received a medal from the Cambodian Government for my contributions to the SCCFA School in Cambodia, and to education in general. I was also invited to be a guest speaker at the Cambodia Good Pharmacy Practice Conference in Cambodia, run by the International Pharmaceutical Federation (FIP) which is under the umbrella of the World Health Organisation (WHO), as well as becoming a member of the Advisory Board for Project Pharmacist at Monash University.

2015-2016 FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES

OVER THE LAST 12 MONTHS fundraiser dinners have been organised in four states of Australia: New South Wales, Victoria, Queensland and for the first time in South Australia.

There was a wonderful turn out of 400 people at Angkor Hall for Adelaide's first fundraiser dinner held last year in November. Thank you to the organising team especially Sundara Kong and all the community leaders who helped organise the event. A special thanks and appreciation to the Khmer Buddhist Association of SA for the use of the venue and other temples/ churches/ associations and businesses for their participation and support.



ADELAIDE FUNDRAISER DINNER AT ANGKOR HALL

We also thank the Ing Catering and CBN team. Most of all we would like to thank the participants and donors who helped make the evening an enjoyable and successful one.

Last October the Melbourne Fundraiser Dinner was held at Anabella Receptions, Clayton South, Victoria. An enormous thank you to everyone for attending - with over 500 people, the night was a huge success. Speeches, raffle prizes, singing from Cambodian and Thai pop singers, and dancing made it a night to remember. A special mention to Richard Lim and his dedicated team. Your effort and support will make a lot of people see the world again.

Last March, the Brisbane Fundraiser dinner was held at Michael's Oriental Restaurant and Function Centre in Padstow. Cambodia Vision would like to extend our heartfelt gratitude to the organisers who made it possible, especially Photoline and Derek Cook Photography for their contribution.

Thida Yang and Will Robertson, long time volunteers of Cambodia Vision were interviewed for the Cambodian Broadcasting Network, a Khmer YouTube channel television service, based in Melbourne and Cambodia. A media NGO global voluntary organisation, CBN is an international 24/7 news, information, culture and heritage channel, and broadcasts in Khmer and English for global communities in over 180+ countries and territories across the world.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THIDA YANG

DAVID LIM (SECOND TO LEFT) AT MELBOURNE'S 2015 FUNDRAISER DINNER

The last 12 months saw many successful events and we hope to see continued support for future trips to Cambodia. Any type of donation is highly appreciated, whether it is monetary or volunteering your time. Cheques and bank transfers are welcome. Visit www.cambodiavision.org.au for more details, and Like us on Facebook to be up to date on news and events.



THIDA YANG, MURTHAI AND MING CHEK LY WITH RAFFLE WINNERS AT BRISBANE'S 2015 FUNDRAISER DINNER

In memory TRISHA ROBERTSON

TRISHA ROBERTSON WAS a remarkable woman. Teacher and nurse make a great combination; and she exploited her two degrees with patience and care, as a teacher at public schools in London in the late 90s to 2009 and in Sydney from 2009 to 16. She took her pupils under her wing and ignited a learning passion within them, often turning lives around in the process. The sight saving work we carry out in Cambodia, has a ripple effect into the community. Trisha's work in a tough school had a flow on affect to the families of the kids

and the larger community. You might remember Trisha - she ran the silent auction at the Sydney Cambodia Vision function, but her biggest contribution was her being on the team for the Jog Out of Fog in 2014. This is where Trisha's organisational and carer skills came to the fore, and she made sure Damian had access to medical care at each stopping point on his 1000km jog. Trisha died as a result of a catastrophic brain bleed on the 23rd of April this year, leaving behind husband Paul, parents John and Mary, siblings Colleen, David and myself as well as a



PHOTO COURTESY OF WILLIAM ROBERTSON

TRISHA WITH BROTHER WILLIAM ROBERTSON

host of dear relatives and friends. I am glad to have had her as my sister and closest of friends.

William Robertson

First experience ISABELLA CHUNG

My involvement with Cambodia Vision has been an incredibly humbling and rewarding experience and I was extremely excited to be taken on board. Personally, there was nothing greater than working side-by-side with amazing volunteers and health professionals



PHOTO COURTESY OF ISABELLA CHUNG

ISABELLA CHUNG (FURTHEST RIGHT) IS CURRENTLY STUDYING HEALTH SCIENCE, MAJORING IN EXERCISE SPORT SCIENCE.

such as optometrists, nurses, doctors, surgeons, who share the same goal and passion in helping people, who lack the most basic health care services, which we take for granted. As a 2nd generation Australian Cambodian, the Cambodia Vision program, not only appealed to me because of the opportunity to learn and get involved with medical work in general, but it allowed me to re-connect with my cultural roots by communicating and giving back to Cambodian people. During the first few days my cousin (Estherina) and I were working with the registration and administration team. Our roles included organising and recording patient demographic information, however with

our terribly broken Khmer, it was challenging to communicate effectively. Luckily the translators were very helpful. After completing the administration and registration work, we were both given the opportunity to work in the surgical theatre, by assisting the ophthalmologists and nurses as scouts. The days and hours were long and exhausting, and sometimes challenging dealing with power and network outages, but I always woke up with a smile on my face knowing that I have been blessed with the opportunity to help people. It was a privilege to be working with Cambodia Vision and I know that the experience itself has given me more than I had to offer.



PHOTOS COURTESY OF CAMBODIA VISION VOLUNTEERS

2015 HUMANITARIAN TRIP VOLUNTEERS

Cambodia Vision wishes to thank the volunteers who travelled to serve the people of Kratie province. We are most grateful for your time, energy and generosity to participate and make a difference:

- | | | |
|------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| Dr Smita Agawal | Dr Daniel Lai | Ms Mally Nun |
| Ms Eileen Betts | Mr Tim Lavelle | Ms Marlene Xiao Qianhui |
| Ms Kathryn Body | Ms Melanie Li | Mr William Robertson |
| Dr Chris Brown | Ms Cameal Liu | Ms Chris Rose |
| Dr Tung Bui | Mr Chek Ming Ly | Dr Neil Rowe |
| Mr Kuong Chang | Ms Judy Ly | Mr James William Rudling |
| Ms Kendra Chen | Mr Ngann Ly | Dr Giles Sampson |
| Ms Elizabeth Chu | Mr David Lamb | Ms Lavy Sayumborn |
| Dr Dara Chung | Ms Sheree Lamb | Dr Gary Schiller |
| Ms Isabella Chung | Mr Phillip Lu | Ms Lois Scott |
| Mr David Dale | Ms Estherina Luong | Ms Jenny Smith |
| Mr Allan Davis | Ms Rita Luong | Mr Chhong Heng Taing |
| Ms Lyn Davis | Ms Siv Lang Ly | Dr Clement Tiong |
| Ms Tracey Davis | Mr Les Luxford | Ms Sanna Tormanen |
| Mr Jamison Fahy | Mr Remi Luxford | Mr Jonathan Tse |
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