



Abundant Water

December and January Newsletter

I hope 2011 has begun well for you and yours. Here is an update on what we have been doing for the last two months.

Highlights

Janet Fieldhouse (Canberra based potter) visited the compound

Janet Fieldhouse visited for three weeks in January. She worked alongside Noukham to design and build a new kiln. The new small hybrid kiln is a good balance between simplicity, cost efficiency for remote areas and being able to fire a quality product.



Vientiane Rotary Club is now officially active

The Vientiane Rotary Club is now officially registered and active. This follows over two years of ground work. We are looking forward to working with Rotary in a greater capacity. Rotary's endorsement of the project has increased the amount of interest that senior member of the Lao Government are showing in our project.



Training Centre is now accepting volunteers

We have now had a few groups of international volunteers through the training centre. They've certainly helped out and I think may have had a bit of fun while doing so. The Centre is now officially open for business, so if you know anyone coming through Lao who wants to help for a day or a month please get in touch.



Vientiane Trivia Night

We recently held our inaugural AW Vientiane fund-raising trivia night. The night was an unqualified success and with money still rolling in we have so far collected a touch over USD3000. The night was a testament to everyday generosity and a fantastic flash mob of event organisers.



Barbara, Stuart, and Casuarina visit the compound

Over their Christmas holiday Barbara, Stuart and Casuarina spent ten days at the compound helping in many ways. Here Barbara lays the undercoat for the logo that will be painted on the shipping container.



Update

- Work is also underway on the training video that shows the complete process to make and fire the water filters. This includes the training curriculum and the script for the video, which is also underway.
- Chantana is now employed as a community development worker and, after 6 weeks of training, is heading to the field this week to communicate with the first potential villages.
- Alice and Dickon (two English gap year volunteers) have just arrived and are currently working on landscaping and preparing the facilities at the training center so that it is suitable for hosting tour groups.

Did You Know?

It seems that most people who become aware of our work hear about it from Bab's prodigious social media and online communication efforts. If you have not heard from her in the last little while and are wondering why, it is because Babs has been unwell. She is now on the road to recovery, we all send her our best wishes.

All the best from the AW Team