



## Changing lives through education



## Lotus Outreach Australia

Preventing exploitation and sex trafficking in  
Cambodia by empowering girls through education

ANNUAL REPORT 2016



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# Lotus Outreach Australia: Overview 2016

Lotus Outreach Australia is a Not-For-Profit organisation. Our mission is to ensure the education, health, and safety of the most marginalised and exploited women and children in Cambodia. We also advocate for their human rights. We are guided by the UN's Millennium Development Goals regarding extreme poverty, universal education, gender equality and empowerment of women.

## What we do

Working from the basis that prevention is better than cure, we work in partnership with respected Cambodian Government registered NGOs, to identify girls at risk of the worst forms of child labour and trafficking, and provide them with education and opportunity through our Girls' Access to Education (GATE) scholarships program.



## Our projects

GATE is a highly successful program, seeing girls from the very poorest families through high school onto vocational training or to university.

By supporting families in dire poverty to become self-sufficient, we create the possibility of an alternative future for these girls and change the potential opportunities for whole communities and future generations.

Our projects focus on sustainable change for families and communities through the education of their girls. We provide:



Scholarships, uniforms, school supplies, bikes to transport to school & healthcare for up to 150 at-risk girls



Nutritional support for families in dire poverty to lessen the pressure to put their girls into child labour to feed their families - which tragically often leads on to sex trafficking.



Advocacy, in association with CWCC, to inform the community of the dangers and brutality of trafficking, the importance of human rights, and the immense value of girls' education to their families in terms of gaining employment and future economic opportunities.



## Our outcomes

Lotus Outreach Australia continues to support approximately 150 girls in Cambodia, keeping them in school where they are not only receiving an education, but also remaining protected from the dangers of child labour and exploitation.

Lotus Outreach Australia works alongside our In-Country partner Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) who in turn work with Local Education Working Groups (teachers, principals and community leaders). Thanks to this kind of partnership, this allows us to keep both monitoring and having regular meetings with students and their families' which means that the girls attend school consistently and achieve the grades required to progress and graduate.

In 2016, Lotus Outreach Australia through our GATE program, provided funding for educational materials, uniforms, health care and financial support for extra classes and pocket money for 132 scholarship recipients. Rice support of 50 kg per month, was provided to the families of 35 recipients. 30 bicycles were provided to girls who live too far to attend classes by foot. And 11 scholarship recipients were selected to receive intensive computer skill training.



## Our status



We are:

- a registered charity with Australian Charities and Not for Profits Commission (ACNC)
- incorporated as a Registered Charity with NSW Department of Fair Trading 2004
- a fundraising authority with NSW Office of Liquor, Gaming and Racing
- an affiliate of eight Lotus Outreach organisations globally, originally founded by renowned lama and film-maker Khyentse Norbu Rinpoche. However Lotus Outreach Australia programs are entirely under our own direction, and we raise all our funds ourselves.
- a successful, effective organisation with strong governance and proven programs



We have:

- an ABN, plus charity tax concessions with the Australian Tax Office.
- tax deductibility through our OAGD status recognised by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Tax office.



## Letter From Our President.

### 2016 - A Year in Review

As we reach the end of another year, it is time to reflect on the year's activities, achievements and lessons. One of the things that has been reinforced for us again this year is that simple and small can be remarkably effective. We don't need to be a big organisation to make a real difference.

Lotus Outreach Australia continues in 2016 to make its mark in combatting child labour, slavery and trafficking. It does this in the most effective way known – by educating girls. Sadly, the numbers of girls who receive no education still numbers in the many millions world wide, but it is the work of initiatives like LOA's GATE (Girls Access to Education) program that gradually but surely reduces those figures.



LOA funds education scholarships for between 130 and 150 girls at any one time. These girls attend one of 5 different schools in 2 districts of the Phnom Penh region. The girls are carefully selected by a group of elders (the "local education working group" - LEWG), respected people who are local to the area, including high school teachers and principals and village leaders. In the last 6 years nearly 70 girls from impoverished families, have reached Year 12 on LOA scholarships. The number of these girls who then pass the National Board exams is well above the national average. This is because, despite their challenging origins, these girls recognise the opportunity they are given and are unusually highly motivated. And importantly, they are always monitored and mentored by members of the LEWG. In this way LOA's GATE program ensures not only that a girl has a chance of an education, but that she is encouraged to see it through. This is not easy given the often difficult circumstances. For example, some of the LOA GATE girls don't get the opportunity to start school until they are older sharing a classroom with much younger girls. Other girls take on paid menial work after school to help the family and then have to study for their classes during the night.

Getting to school is another challenge. These girls often live in small shacks on the outskirts of quite remote villages; no one in the family owns a vehicle to take them to school, and so they must cycle the long distances. However, these courageous girls are going on to change the view of what is possible in their families and communities – and most importantly, it is their capacity to get meaningful work that starts to turn around the relentless poverty cycle.

LOA is a small charity run by a dedicated group of volunteers who donate their time and skills. LOA is so effective in what it achieves because more than 95% of donated funds go directly to the projects in Cambodia. There, a small amount goes a long way to dramatically changing people's lives and futures. Lotus Outreach Australia was granted OAGD status by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the ATO in 2016; this means that all donations made to Lotus Outreach Australia are tax deductible.

This year LOA has pursued some new directions. We now have a number of sponsors who make an ongoing monthly donation to cover the costs of one girl's education. This continuity is vital because it means that LOA can guarantee ongoing secure sponsorships for the girls. We are now working with Australian school students to get more young people involved with helping highly disadvantaged youth to get an education.

I would like to acknowledge the extraordinary generosity of our many kind donors, the unstinting help of Chris Allenby from KPMG and the invaluable assistance of Macquarie Foundation and ASX Thomson Reuters Charity Foundation in supporting Lotus Outreach's work. The volunteer management committee warrant special thanks for their hard work and unfailing commitment to ensuring LOA is such an effective and accountable organization.

Jane Lyttleton  
President



## Girls Access to Education (GATE).

Lotus Outreach Australia currently provides scholarships to 150 Cambodian girls, along with shoes, uniforms and school supplies. Without these items, children are not permitted to attend school. Funding for GATE & The Nutritional Support Program comes entirely from donated funds.

We provide health checks for the girls, and with our Nutritional Support Program, we provide 30 kilos of rice per month to the very poorest families, supporting parents to be able to allow their daughters to stay at school instead of having them go out to work to supply family income, and ensuring girls have the energy to attend school and study.

### How the girls are chosen

Lotus Outreach Australia works alongside our In-Country partner Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC) who in turn work with Local Education Working Groups to identify girls most at risk in our target communities and offer them scholarships to attend school. Both monitoring and regularly meeting with students and their families means that the girls attend school consistently and achieve their grades.

### Working with the Community

We underpin this by helping to run Community Education Sessions on Human Rights issues: the value to families, communities of educating girls: and the consequences of trafficking, domestic violence, and child rights.

### Real, positive outcomes

Less than 35% of girls in Cambodia are enrolled in high school, and Lotus Outreach is deeply committed to improving that statistic. Lotus Outreach programs, like Girls' Access to Education (GATE), provide scholarships in order to enable hundreds of at-risk girls to finish their schooling. Girls whose families are illiterate, are becoming the first high school graduates in their families. Mothers are coming forward to tell us how important schooling is for their daughters. Many of the girls are starting to see themselves in a new light - focusing on graduating, going on to further education and a good job, and in turn making sure that their future children will be educated and independent too.

Of the 150 girls enrolled in our GATE program, 90% of them remained in school, due to the financial support and regular follow-ups provided. Out of these, a total of 28 scholarship recipients were awarded with outstanding results putting them in the top ten of their class. Our advocacy program was also successful and indicated that 90% of the scholarship recipients' parents acknowledged the importance of girls' education for the community.





## Lotus Pedals

Lotus Pedals provides heavy terrain bicycles to rural Cambodian girls that would not otherwise be able to traverse the considerable distance to the nearest school.



Lack of transport prevents many girls getting to school. Some girls walk up to eight kilometres to school in the early dawn, or after dark, with a real risk of being assaulted or even kidnapped.

Providing girls with a bicycle and repair kit ensures girls in rural areas have the means to attend school. It also reduces time travel time, so girls have more time to study.

Lotus Pedals is paid 100% from Donor Funding.

Nita was identified by Lotus Outreach's local partner and granted a Lotus Pedals bicycle for safe transportation to and from school.

When asked about how she felt now that she had a bike, Nita exclaimed: "I am extremely delighted because I now have a bicycle to pedal to school like others. I no longer walk, and I arrive at school on time and regularly. I also have time to help with household chores. On top of that, I have become a member of Village Child Club gaining new knowledge and taking part in group activities to educate the villagers on the Anti-Human Trafficking Campaign, and the Children Forum, along with others."





## New Directions



### Deductible Gift Recipient tax status

This year after extensive and lengthy analysis by the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs, Lotus Outreach Australia has been granted "Overseas Approved Gift Deductible Status." This means that from now on all donations received by LOA are eligible to receive a tax deduction.



### Monthly sponsorships

An initiative to develop ongoing monthly sponsorship of girls by individuals and small businesses - several small businesses and a couple of dozen individuals have already committed to making a monthly donation that will cover the cost of one girl's annual education. Such ongoing commitment allows LOA to plan ahead with security for the girls.



### Youth supporting youth

LOA is developing initiatives whereby youth are encouraged to support youth in circumstances much less advantageous than our own. Many young people these days are keen to be involved in global problems in a meaningful way and a particularly effective way is help young people whose living conditions denies them an opportunity to be educated.

We are working with 2 young ambassadors (in Year 9 and Year 12), who are actively informing students in Australia how they can help girls from very poor families in Cambodia to get an education. We are keen to get more schools involved with this initiative.



### Thomson Reuters ASX Foundation support

Through our involvement in the Thomson Reuters ASX Foundation we hope to be able to establish a working network of charities and supporters - and to increase corporate sponsorship.







## GATEways with our affiliate Lotus Outreach International

### Creating Brighter Futures

Lotus Outreach Australia and Lotus Outreach International recognise the need to provide the 150 girls in our GATE program with the best possible chance of further education and training once they have finished school to secure good jobs, meaningful lives and economic opportunity. Girls in Lotus Outreach Australia's GATE program are now beginning to graduate high school. These girls don't have anything like the same advantages as those from affluent middle class families. Yet they will still be competing with those same more, advantaged students for a place at University or tertiary training.

The GATEways Program is implemented by our affiliate Lotus Outreach International to help Lotus high school graduates gain access to university or vocational training, and find accommodation. GATEways also seeks out vocational opportunities that suit the girls' individual needs. Girls in GATEways are encouraged to 'give back' by helping their communities during their holidays.

Most of our LOA graduates, like Roth on page 10, go on to do some sort of graduate training, with the help of scholarships or financial support from LOA or LOI. For example, currently there are 3 LOA graduates who have won partial scholarships to attend Passarelle Numerique Cambodia where they learn English and IT skills. Lotus Outreach Australia is looking at ways to find extra funding to cover all our GATE girls for GATEways so that our girls can find well paid jobs, and be in a position not only to be of help to their families, but perhaps also to help the other little girls in their communities needing assistance to stay at school.





## Case Study # 1- Daa

**Daa, a 12th grade recipient of our GATE, Lotus Pedals, and Rice Support programs welcomed our Field Director on a recent site visit to her families home.**

During the visit, Daa very proudly stated "I enjoy study and receive the 2nd highest marks in my class of 39 students on a monthly basis. My Grandmother gives me all the time I need to study. My only household chore is to gather wood for cooking and I sometimes look after the small children here and there".



As with many Cambodians living in poverty, Daa was left with her grandma as a two year old baby in order to allow her parents to migrate to Thailand as laborers.

Daa said, "my parents home is very far from here, in the opposite direction of my school so I hardly ever see my parents even when they are at home".

While her family issues may have had a profound impact on Daa's self esteem, it is clear from her responses to our questions that she is doing really well in her class work. She is committed, resilient, and highly disciplined. Daa is now in her 3rd year under support from the Girls Access to Education Program and she tells us, "The GATE program provides me two sets of uniforms, shoes, books, hat, raincoat and a monthly stipend of \$25. I spend almost all the stipend on extra tuition classes and occasionally, a snack at school.



When asked about her bicycle she said, "without the bicycle provided by Lotus Pedals program I couldn't possibly cover distance of 15kms to school and back every day. I'm at school from 7am till 6pm everyday and with tuition classes in between so I have to take a packed lunch." Daa told us she that before getting the new bike she used her grandma's wobbly and often broken old bike to get to school. Since the beginning of the 2015-16 academic year Daa has had a brand new heavy duty Lotus Pedals bicycle of her own!



## Case studies - Roth and Nita



**Roth**, now 21 years old, is an exceptional student and a successful graduate of the Lotus Outreach GATE program. She completed the school program and will soon graduate from university. Roth has already had a number of job interviews and is planning to become a social worker in Cambodia, which will enable her to help underprivileged girls like herself. She was interviewed by our Vocational Programs Officer, Janis Hall. "When I was young I could not get to school because my family did not have money for school or even for food sometimes. When I could manage to get to school I felt bad because I did not have uniforms or materials like the other children. I was very happy when I was accepted for the GATE scholarship because I knew my life would change. I wanted to study hard to get a good job to support my family. If Lotus Outreach Australia didn't help me, I would be a garment factory worker like my two sisters. I tell my community, especially the girls, about the importance of education and that they must stay at school, but they drop out because of financial problems and the girls go to garment factories to support their families."



**Nita**, a resilient 14-year-old, is in 6th grade. She was orphaned at birth and was passed around to different relatives. She was eventually given to her cousin, Eang, a motor taxi driver who already had two children of his own. The five of them lived off of meager earnings which could not provide for Nita's education. She lacked study materials and the means of transportation to get to school, which resulted in frequent tardiness and low performance.

Now that she has a bike to get to school Nita told us: "My dream is to finish high school and look for a job while continuing to university, so that I can support myself and help to support this family to repay them for raising me like their own child without complaining regardless of all the difficulties they face." She added, "I will study hard to turn this sad situation into a bright future. I would like to pay gratitude to the program for the support. I wish everyone success and prosperity so you can continue to help other children!"

Nita's resilience and positivity is something to be greatly admired by all. It is with the small token of a bicycle that Nita found hope. It is our wish to grant as many at-risk girls with tokens of hope as we can; whether it be through scholarships, clean water, a safe refuge, or a bicycle.





## Our fundraising activities in Australia

**ASX THOMSON REUTERS**  
CHARITY FOUNDATION  
CORPORATE AUSTRALIA HELPING THOSE IN NEED



### June 2016 - ASX Thomson Reuters Foundation Grant

This year LOA was chosen by the prestigious ASX Thomson Reuters Foundation to be a beneficiary of their yearly fundraising program.

This is a significant honour, as the highly respected TR Foundation puts each charity through rigorous scrutiny before they are selected, and only charities who have a highly effective and lasting beneficial impact are chosen. ASX TR raises funds in order to help its chosen charities such as Lotus Outreach, through many of its activities like a regatta and golf and racing events, and the art union raffle.



### June 2016 - Fundraising lunch

LOA supporter Maria Berry hosted a fundraising lunch in her back yard, and raised enough to support 5 girls and their families.



### July 2016 - Salsa night Fundraiser

Kathren Sieminski & Lesha Mohan (pictured) hosted a Winter Salsa Party led by well known Sydney Salsa teacher Bert Loyeung thereby funding 5 LOA girls for another year.



### August 2016 - Sydney City to Surf,

Joanne Rhee from Macquarie Bank and number of other wonderful runners ran for LOA in this year's City to Surf. Thanks to the Macquarie Foundation who very generously matched Joanne's efforts (and donations made by her friends, family and work mates) enough funds were raised to educate 25 girls through to Year 12 and onto vocational training.



### October 2016 - Business sponsorships

Chinabooks, Jessie Gibson Yoga School, HealthCo and the Paddington Medical Centre all sponsor LOA girls on an ongoing basis.



### December 2016 - Clothing Sale

Neutral Bay Health & Wellbeing held a very successful Christmas fundraising sale of preloved and new clothes for colleagues and patients. Many thanks to Monique Howley for organising this event.



## Other educational activities and events

### October 2016 - Information evening

"Is She Safe" is part of a series of information evenings sponsored by the Catholic Mission, and contributed to by Lotus Outreach, Unicef, Red Cross and others. LOA's WA representative, Jennifer Mellet, gave an informative talk about the impact effective education programs can have.



### Raising awareness in schools

Phalin Berry hosted an educational lunch with her school mates and has given classroom presentations on the topic of empowering girls and reducing poverty through education.



## Charlie Cristi in Phnom Penh, Cambodia - 2016

Charlie Cristi – In-country Liaison Officer and board member since 2008, visited the programs this year. Charlie has previously lived in Cambodia so asked to meet with some specific students to follow up on previous meetings and to understand their current situations. Here she is meeting with personnel from CWCC, our local partner NGO who implements our GATE program, and LEWG members who recruit and mentor the GATE scholarship recipients.



Charlie recently caught up with GATE scholarship recipients at Chhuk Va High School. These girls are doing really well in their classes. Charlie was concerned to hear about one of the GATE graduates who had succeeded well at school but had dropped out of PNC, the vocational college for IT training, so she visited Thong Yanida at home to check on her.

Yanida (standing beside Charlie) explained that she was needed at home to look after her mother and could not attend the full time course at PNC. Instead she now helps her mother, and works part time as a maid putting her wages toward part time university study in Economics which is her first interest. Charlie was pleased to hear that Yanida was making choices that worked for her.



Charlie and Raksme from Lotus Outreach Cambodia, (LOCAM) had a productive meeting to discuss the progress of the students who are supported through our GATE program. Raksme looks after communications with the beneficiary girls and allocation of LOA funds.





## Jane Lyttleton

President



**Jane Lyttleton is an author, teacher and practitioner of Traditional Chinese Medicine (TCM) specializing in gynaecology and infertility.**

She trained in genetics and biochemistry at the University of London, and studied TCM in Australia and China. She lectures at universities in Sydney and internationally. Jane has long been dedicated to the education and health of women and children. She helped establish Lotus Outreach Australia in 2004 after she and a group of Lotus Outreach members travelled to Thailand and Cambodia meeting local groups working to combat sex trafficking. She continues to visit Cambodia and Lotus Outreach projects regularly.

## Anna Harper

Vice President and Board Member Lotus Outreach international



**Anna Harper's consulting firm, Cultural Shapeshifters, works with Australian and international businesses and organisations, and with the United Nations.**

Anna specialises in developing global leaders for the future. She has two Masters degrees: M.Arts in Chaos, Complexity and Creativity, and M.Applied Science, and a Bachelor of Fine Arts, which influence her mission to contribute to making the world more equal, fair and sustainable — this plays into her great commitment to helping at-risk Cambodian girls and their families gain safe, fulfilled and independent lives. Anna was Treasurer for Lotus Outreach Australia from 2004- 2012, and sits on the board of Lotus Outreach International.

## Kelly Tracey

Secretary and Child Protection Officer



**Kelly completed a BA in Dramatic Arts at the Victorian College of the Arts, University of Melbourne. She worked as an actor for the next 12 years in film, television and theatre.**

A founding member of Ranters Theatre Company, Kelly became Secretary of the Board, managed large-scale fundraising events, designed marketing material and toured as an actor with the company both nationally and internationally. Kelly has travelled extensively throughout Europe and Asia and has witnessed the disparity in many underprivileged communities. Her strong desire to put compassion into action, particularly where young children are at risk, is now being realised through her involvement in Lotus Outreach Australia. Kelly is currently completing a Master of Teaching at University of New England.

## Shona Barker

Treasurer and Risk Assessment Officer



**Shona trained as a journalist at Wellington Polytechnic and worked in newspapers there for four years. Shona then began her training in complementary therapies in 1987.**

She was practice manager of a large multi-disciplinary Holistic Medical Centre from 1987 to 1994. Shona began training in Traditional Chinese Medicine and has worked in that field since 1994. Having witnessed firsthand the devastating effect the lack of education has had on Asian girls being trafficked to Australia, Shona is a strong believer in education as the key to a better life for vulnerable young women.



## Dolma Gunther

Fundraising Director and Governance Officer



**Dolma Gunther has worked as a lawyer for two small law firms in Sydney and is now working as a Senior Legal Editor for Thomson Reuters.**

She has a Law degree from Sydney University and an Arts degree in Anthropology from Melbourne University and her main area of interest is human rights law and international law. She has lived in Europe for eight years and India for over a year where she recently made a short film. She is currently working on a documentary featuring Tibetan refugees living in the Himalayas. She is passionate about human rights issues in global development and is especially interested in helping disadvantaged children in developing countries.

## Kate Edwards

Communications and Media Director



**Kate joins us with over 15 years of Category Management & Marketing experience in the FMCG Retail sector.**

However, it was while studying her Yoga Teacher Training in 2015, that Kate became aware of Lotus Outreach Australia and their role in providing vulnerable girls access to education in Cambodia. Kate now aims to combine her marketing ability with her passion for the empowerment of women through education, to raise awareness for Lotus Outreach Australia and their programs.

## Jill Morrison

Donor Liason and Chair of LOA Public Relief Fund



**Jill Morrison is a project manager for major developments, with a background in architecture and design.**

Her significant projects include the Sydney Olympic Games, front of house design and fitout of two 5 star hotels in SE Asia, large rail infrastructure developments in Sydney and 12 years expatriate work in London, Middle East and SE Asia. Which engendered deep appreciation of Asian cultures and the plight of disadvantaged and oppressed girls. Jill's academic achievements span technical, humanities and business areas with a Master of Arts Leisure sociology (UTS), Diploma of the Company Director's Course (ICDA), Graduate Diploma Event Management (UTS), High Diploma Interior & architectural Design (London).

## Jennifer Mellet

Western Australia Representative



**Jennifer is a graduate of University of Western Australia and a screenwriter, actor and broadcaster.**

A regular writer for television drama, she also taught Spoken English, English as a Second Language, Drama and Video to children in Australia, UK and Middle East. Jennifer previously worked pro bono with the Eastern Kuku Yalanji Traditional Custodians in Far North Queensland, on their Cultural Heritage Mapping & Recording Project. She has filmed Lotus Outreach Australia's projects in Cambodia, and attends meetings and conferences for us in WA.



## Sue-Ann Muller

Social Media



**Sue Ann has worked in the community sector in Sydney developing and delivering recreation programs for families and children.**

Most recently she worked at the Australian National Maritime Museum and UNICEF Australia. Sue Ann has a degree in Leisure Studies and has recently studied journalism. She spent a year living in Hyderabad, India and Moshi, Tanzania which inspired her to use her communication and programming skills to help children in developing countries survive and thrive.

## Phallin Berry

Youth Advocate



**Phallin was adopted from Cambodia when she was a baby, and now lives in Brisbane where she is in high school.**

She advocates strongly for the rights of young girls to have an education and the rights of young people to stay with their family and to choose their future. She is supporting Lotus Outreach's efforts to ensure that vulnerable girls in Cambodia have access to education and a chance to shape their future. Any free time she has she loves to spend with her kittens.

## Bella Deary

Youth Ambassador



**Bella is a student in Brisbane, interested in creative industries such as visual art. She has had a passion for helping people from a young age and aspires to create positive change in the world, by finding ways to achieve peace and equality for people all over the world.**

She is especially passionate about seeing a world of gender equality, including seeing girls in Cambodia avoid not receiving an education. Bella has been a youth ambassador with Lotus Outreach since 2016, and is working on changing the lives of Cambodian girls through inspiring those in her school community.

# In Country Sub-committee

## Janis Hall

Vocational Programs



**Janis moved from corporate IT&T into support and advocacy for homeless, socially marginalised people at Sydney's Wayside Chapel.**

She spent 4 years as Community/Youth Development Officer at Lockyer Valley Regional Council SE Qld, focussing on culturally appropriate youth engagement initiatives. She received Outstanding Dedication Awards for her work during the 2010/11 and 2013 devastating floods. With a BA in French and politics from UWA, Janis spent 17 years working in Paris and now interprets pro bono for police and refugees in Qld. Janis was Senior Project Manager at Disneyland Paris, and Manager Strategic IT at Voyages Resorts & Hotels in Sydney. Janis travels to Cambodia to meet with the Lotus Outreach Australia graduates annually.





## Charlie Cristi

Country liaison, Cambodia



**Charlie has lived in Phnom Penh for many years, after spending 2010 as an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development, an AusAID initiative, during which time she helped set up the English Language Program for Lotus Outreach Australia.**

She subsequently worked closely with LO Australia and LO Cambodia as a volunteer, at the same time as working as a teacher of Art and Design at one of the British International Schools. She has gotten to know many of the GATE girls and their families and has been an important mentor for them. Currently she is working with the Ministry of Education in Bhutan, developing programs for children with special educational needs. She plans to return to Cambodia when this work is completed.

## Raksmei Var

Country Representative, Cambodia



**Raksmei volunteered as a teacher and mentor for a youth group providing social services to poor children, where she taught kids about children's rights.**

While also working as an English teacher at a private school, Raksmei decided she wanted to do more to help children. Raksmei completed her Bachelor of Business Administration degree in Accounting in 2004 at the National University of Management in Cambodia. In 2007, she received her Master's in Gender and Development Studies from the Asian Institute of Technology in Thailand. Raksmei's particular areas of focus include children's education, child and youth mobility and employment, livelihood development, child labor, human trafficking and sexual exploitation.

## Contact Details

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DONATIONS: [treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au](mailto:treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au)**

**Follow us on Facebook. [www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia](http://www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia)**



## Our Affiliates



Lotus Outreach Australia is proud to be an affiliate of Lotus Outreach International, based in California, USA. Lotus Outreach was originally founded by renowned lama and film-maker Norbu Khyentse whose award winning films include 'The Cup' and 'Travellers and Magicians'. He noted a need to give a voice to abused and exploited children in Asia, and helped set up Lotus Outreach as a secular Not for Profit. Today this highly regarded organisation has 8 affiliates worldwide - Australia, USA, Canada, UK, France, Germany, Hong Kong and Taiwan. Between us we enjoy a healthy and productive working rapport that bridges 14 time zones.



### Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre (CWCC)

CWCC is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its primary purpose is to provide assistance to women and children who are victims of domestic violence, sexual abuse and trafficking, working towards creating equality, peace and development. CWCC works hand in hand with Lotus Outreach International, Lotus Outreach Cambodia, and Lotus Outreach Australia on program needs and implementation, ensuring all projects are effective and culturally atuned.



### Cambodian Organization for Children & Development (COCD)

COCD is a local NGO registered with the Royal Cambodian Government's Ministry of Interior. Its vision is for a society where all people are equal, all children are free from abuse, and are protected, cared for, and have their rights respected. COCD aims to improve the welfare of vulnerable children, their families and communities through the implementation of integrated development and empowerment projects. Lotus Outreach Australia has worked with COCD in the building of wells for safe drinking water and for use in growing crops – part of the pursuit of sustainable livelihoods.

### Action on Poverty



AOP is an independent secular, non profit, fully accredited Australian NGO incorporated in NSW. It is a leading agent for poverty alleviation through innovative and appropriate community based development, underpinned by AusAID policy requirements. AOP provides support to Australian Partners involved in sustainable international development programs.



## Thankyou to Our Supporters

The pro bono Board of Lotus Outreach Australia is one part of our organisation. Our Cambodian staff and Partners working with us forms another vital part. The girls and the families we serve are naturally the focus of the organisation. And all those who donate to and support Lotus Outreach Australia sustain it. Together we're a small, nimble, highly effective Non Profit Organsiation with successful outcomes.

The girls in Cambodia and their families continually ask us to thank the donors and supporters. Both mothers and daughters talk of the important psychological component of knowing there are people in Australia who know about and understand their plight, and who are trying to make a difference in the lives of those who by birth and circumstance face greater hardships and less opportunities than we have in our own country.

The generosity of all our pro bono advisors, our supporters, our donors and the tireless people who assist us, is true compassion in action. On behalf of the board, the girls and their families, we truly thank you.





**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**

**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Annual Financial Report**

**30 June 2016**

**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

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**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Statement of comprehensive income**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
Donations received	72,216	153,460
Fundraising income	9,703	49,588
Membership fees	334	350
Interest income	332	87
<b>Total revenues</b>	<u>82,585</u>	<u>203,485</u>
Employee expenses	(16,609)	(44,455)
Management fees	(2,810)	(15,071)
Fundraising costs	(2,028)	(6,637)
Consultants expenses	(871)	(9,493)
Bank charges	(1,303)	(1,779)
Other expenses	(2,538)	(3,325)
<b>Total expenses</b>	<u>(26,159)</u>	<u>(80,760)</u>
<b>Net surplus before payments to beneficiaries</b>	<b>56,426</b>	122,725
Funds provided to beneficiaries	(67,847)	(91,852)
<b>Net surplus/(deficit) for the year</b>	<u>(11,421)</u>	<u>30,873</u>

*The Statement of Comprehensive Income is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on page 5 to 7.*

**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Statement of changes in funds**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	<b>Accumulated funds \$</b>	<b>Total funds \$</b>
Opening balance 1 July 2014	113,898	113,898
Net surplus for the year	30,873	30,873
Closing balance 30 June 2015	<u>144,771</u>	<u>144,771</u>
<b>Opening balance 1 July 2015</b>	<b>144,771</b>	<b>144,771</b>
<b>Net deficit for the year</b>	<b>(11,421)</b>	<b>(11,421)</b>
<b>Closing balance 30 June 2016</b>	<b><u>133,350</u></b>	<b><u>133,350</u></b>

*The Statement of Changes in Funds is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on page 5 to 7.*

**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Statement of financial position**  
**As at 30 June 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Assets</b>			
Cash and cash equivalents	5(a)	42,153	32,080
Other assets	3	91,921	122,366
<b>Total current assets</b>		<u>134,074</u>	<u>154,466</u>
<b>Total non-current assets</b>		-	-
<b>Total assets</b>		<u>134,074</u>	<u>154,466</u>
<b>Liabilities</b>			
Trade and other creditors	4	724	9,675
<b>Total current liabilities</b>		<u>724</u>	<u>9,675</u>
<b>Total non-current liabilities</b>		-	-
<b>Total liabilities</b>		<u>724</u>	<u>9,675</u>
<b>Net assets</b>		<u>133,350</u>	<u>144,771</u>
<b>Funds</b>			
Accumulated funds		<u>133,350</u>	<u>144,771</u>
<b>Total funds</b>		<u>133,350</u>	<u>144,771</u>

*The Statement of Financial Position is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on page 5 to 7.*



**Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated**  
**ABN 13 358 876 011**

**Statement of cash flows**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	Note	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>Cash flows from operating activities</b>			
Cash receipts from donations and fundraising		31,158	74,155
Cash payments to suppliers		(21,417)	(56,014)
Cash payments to beneficiaries		-	(32,496)
Interest received		332	87
<b>Net cash from operating activities</b>	5(b)	<u>10,073</u>	<u>(14,268)</u>
<b>Cash flows from investing activities</b>			
<b>Net cash from investing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
<b>Cash flows from financing activities</b>			
<b>Net cash from financing activities</b>		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		10,073	(14,268)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	5(a)	<u>32,080</u>	<u>46,348</u>
<b>Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year</b>	5(a)	<u>42,153</u>	<u>32,080</u>

*The Statement of Cash Flows is to be read in conjunction with the notes to the financial statements set out on page 5 to 7.*

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

**1. Basis of preparation**

**a) Non-reporting entity**

Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated (the "Association") is an association incorporated in New South Wales, Australia, under the Associations Incorporation Act 2009 and undertakes fundraising activities in New South Wales, Australia, under a licence issued by the New South Wales Department of Fair Trading under the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991.

The principal activities of the Association are conducting fundraising campaigns, marketing and promotional activities and undertaking all manner of charitable work in order to raise funds for the purpose of supporting the education, health and safety of vulnerable women and children in Cambodia. The Association is a member of the Lotus Outreach International network and partners with the Cambodian Women's Crisis Centre ("CWCC") and Cambodian Organization for Children and Development ("COCD") for local implementation of programs.

In the opinion of the Associations' Committee Members, the Association is not publicly accountable nor a reporting entity. The financial report of the Association has been drawn up as a special purpose financial report for the use by the Committee and to fulfil the Association's financial reporting obligations under the Constitution.

**b) Basis of accounting**

The special purpose financial report has been prepared in accordance with the requirements of the recognition and measurement aspects of all applicable Australian Accounting Standards ("AASBs") adopted by the Australian Accounting Standards Board ("AASB") and other authoritative pronouncements of the AASB.

The financial report does not include the disclosure requirements of the following pronouncements having a material effect:

AASB 101	Presentation of Financial Statements
AASB 1048	Interpretation and Application of Standards
AASB 1054	Australian Additional Disclosures

**c) Basis of measurement**

The financial report is prepared on the historical cost basis.

**d) Functional and presentation currency**

The financial report is presented in Australian dollars which is also the Association's functional currency.

**e) Use of estimates and judgements**

The preparation of financial statements requires management to make judgements, estimates and assumptions that affect the application of policies and the reported amounts of assets, liabilities, income and expenses. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

Estimates and underlying assumptions are reviewed on an ongoing basis. Revisions to accounting estimates are recognised in the period in which the estimate is revised and in any future periods affected.

There are no judgements made by management in the application of AASB's that have significant effect on the financial report or estimates with a significant risk of material adjustment in the next year.

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

**2. Significant accounting policies**

**a) Financial instruments**

A financial instrument is recognised if the entity becomes a party to the contractual provisions of the instrument. Financial assets are derecognised if the Association's contractual rights to the cash flows from the financial assets expire or if the Association transfers the financial asset to another party without retaining control or substantially all risks and rewards of the asset. Financial liabilities are derecognised if the Association's obligations specified in the contract expire or are discharged or cancelled.

Non-derivative financial instruments comprise investments in equity, trade and other receivables, cash and cash equivalents, loans and borrowings, and trade and other payables. Non-derivative financial instruments are recognised initially at fair value. Subsequent to initial recognition, non-derivative financial instruments are measured as described below.

Other non-derivative financial instruments are measured at amortised cost using the effective interest method, less any impairment losses.

**b) Finance income and expenses**

Finance income comprises interest income on bank accounts. Interest income is recognised as it accrues in profit or loss, using the effective interest method.

Finance expenses comprise interest expense on borrowings. All borrowing costs are recognised in profit or loss using the effective interest method.

**c) Revenue recognition**

Revenue is recognised to the extent that it is probable that the economic benefits will flow to the entity and the revenue can be reliably measured. Control of a right to receive the donation is attained, usually evidenced by receipt of cash, or in the case of donations received through the Australia Foundation for Peoples of Asia and the Pacific ("AFAP") account when those funds are credited. The AFAP account is not considered "cash or cash equivalent" and accordingly donations received and payments made from that account are not included in the statement of cash flows.

**d) Income tax**

The Association has been registered under the provisions of the Charitable Fundraising (NSW) Act 1991 and under Subdivision 50-B of the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997, it is an income tax exempt charitable entity.

**3. Other assets**

Funds in APAF account

	2016	2015
	\$	\$
	<u>91,921</u>	<u>122,366</u>
	<u>91,921</u>	<u>122,366</u>

**Notes to the financial statements**  
**For the year ended 30 June 2016**

	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>4. Trade and other creditors</b>		
Trade payables and accruals	<u>724</u>	<u>9,675</u>
	<u>724</u>	<u>9,675</u>
<b>5. Notes to the statement of cash flows</b>		
<b>(a) Cash and cash equivalents</b>		
St George Bank Freedom Business	19,396	1,551
St George Bank Cheque Account	<u>22,757</u>	<u>30,529</u>
	<u>42,153</u>	<u>32,080</u>
<b>(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities</b>		
Surplus/(deficit) for the year	11,421	30,873
Change in assets and liabilities	<u>1,348</u>	<u>(45,141)</u>
Net cash from operating activities	<u>10,073</u>	<u>(14,268)</u>

**6. Commitments and contingencies**

The Association does not have any commitments or contingent liabilities not otherwise disclosed in this report.

**7. Subsequent events**

There has not arisen in the interval between the end of the financial year and the date of this report any item, transaction or event of a material and unusual nature likely, in the opinion of the Associations' Committee Members, to affect significantly the operations of the Association, the results of those operations, or the state of affairs of the Association, in future financial years.

**Association's committee members' declaration**

In the opinion of the Association's Committee Members of Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated (the "Association"):

- (a) the Association is not publicly accountable nor a reporting entity;
- (b) the financial statements and notes, set out on pages 1 to 7, are drawn up, in accordance with the basis of preparation and significant accounting policies described in Notes 1 and 2, so as to present fairly the financial position of the Association as at 30 June 2016 and its performance, as represented by the results of its operations and its cash flows, for the financial year ended on that date; and
- (c) there are reasonable grounds to believe that the Association will be able to pay its debts as and when they become due and payable.

Signed in accordance with a resolution of the Associations' Committee Members:



President

Sydney,            January 2017