



lotus outreach australia
education-opportunity-action



**Preventing child labour and trafficking in Cambodia
by enabling education and helping change lives.**

ANNUAL REPORT 2017



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Lotus Outreach Australia Overview 2017

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. LOA works closely with a local NGO to implement our projects on the ground. Cambodian Womens Crisis Centre, formed 20 years ago, is a leading women's organization working to protect the human rights of women and children. It is recognized by the Cambodian government, civil society and international agencies. CWCC in turn works closely with local groups made up of village and community leaders, teachers and school principals so that the effectiveness of the projects can be monitored closely at the classroom and family level. LOA is pleased to be working with these groups to effect real change in communities affected by dire poverty, particularly in its work with educating women and girls.

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 child 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 in 2017 has continued its work in supporting girls in Cambodia from poor backgrounds, keeping them in school where they are not only receiving an education, but are protected from child labour and exploitation. Our emphasis has been increasingly on getting girls to continue secondary education and seeing them through to graduation.

The partnership with CWCC and local leaders allows us to monitor and meet with students and their families. This encourages the girls to attend school consistently and achieve the grades required to progress and graduate.

In 2017, Lotus Outreach Australia's GATE program:

- Provided books, uniforms and stationary to all scholarship students
- Provided rice support to some of the poorest scholarship students
- Referred students for extra health care beyond the general health screening
- Covered fees for extra classes (private tuition) for all scholarship recipients
- Provided computer training for older students
- Provided new bicycles to new students and those needing replacements
- Provided funds for maintenance for bicycles
- Facilitated workshops to review the GATE recipients perceptions of the program, their challenges and how they can be better supported
- Held group meetings for GATE scholarship girls to encourage and motivate them
- Saw several GATE girls graduate class 12 and move onto tertiary education
- Many GATE students in other grades were in the top 10 of their class with an "outstanding" score

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 recognized by the Department of Foreign Affairs and the Australian Tax office.



Letter From Our President

December 2017 brings us to the end of the 3-year MOU between Lotus Outreach Australia and the Cambodian NGO, CWCC that was signed in January 2015, guaranteeing that we would provide the GATE PP program with funds to support the education of approximately 150 girls each year.

With the ongoing help of our many supporters this was achieved and the GATE program continues to be a sustainable and important initiative in helping to alleviate poverty by educating girls. Additionally support was provided for vocational training for some of our graduates. We are pleased to commence a new MOU with CWCC in 2018 to continue this highly successful program.



Over this last 3-year period we have seen LOA go from strength to strength. LOA has full DGR 1 status with the Australian government, ACNC accreditation and excellent governance. It has earned the ongoing support of 2 corporate sponsors and many individual sponsors and donors. LOA is operated by a dedicated small group of very committed individuals who volunteer their time and skills and have together built this grass roots charity to a stable, robust and sustainable position.

2017 was a stand out year for raising funds and awareness in many ways. Both Macquarie Foundation and ASX Thompson Reuters have been most generous with their support – Macquarie Foundation dollar matching our fund raising efforts with City to Surf, and ASX TR awarding us a grant and including LOA in their fund raising events. Dedicated supporters ran fund raising events in Perth and Brisbane, and in Sydney a film premiere was a highlight of the year. Additionally we now have more than two dozen generous donors who sponsor girls with monthly donations.

The context in which LOA operates has become increasingly difficult and faced with that difficulty our work in Cambodia is even more important. The impact of a weakening democracy on those most in need, is felt especially in areas of health and education. Large numbers of children from poor backgrounds continue to drop out of school by grade 7 and 8 and some 32% of Cambodian children under five have stunted growth. Many orphanages in Cambodia are facing closure, with children (rightly) being returned to their communities. However this does not automatically guarantee the basic needs of education and health care are met for these children.

Groups like Lotus Outreach play an ever more important role when such social instability threatens education and livelihoods. Fortunately Lotus Outreach and its work in Cambodia is in a secure and stable position since we partner with a well established and well recognized local not-for-profit and non-political organisation, CWCC. Additionally the local branch of Lotus Outreach in Phnom Penh, LOCAM is developing its own flagship aid programs which further establishes a stable presence.



The 2017 academic year ended on a slightly somber note for some of our year 12 LOA girls. As a rule, recipients of LOA scholarships have a higher rate of graduation than the national average. However this year's rate was lower than the national average. This was a surprise not only to us but also to those girls who did not pass the exams. With the help of CWCC, LOCAM and our In Country LOA representative, an investigation was undertaken to determine the cause, and plans were set in place to help those girls who did not graduate.

Teachers in the public education system in Cambodia are paid poorly and are increasingly demanding more and higher private fees be paid by students themselves for outside of school hours tuition, just so they receive the full syllabus. This impacted a number of the GATE girls adversely. Our contacts with the local area education liaison groups are ensuring such demands will not impact our scholarship recipients in future years.

Several girls are repeating Year 12 (with support from our sponsors) and others have been found positions that offer vocational training. The girls who did graduate are undertaking further tertiary training.

Finally, as always, a heartfelt thank you to all those who support this grass roots charity (either with your donations or with your time and skills), one that achieves substantial changes in the lives of young girls living in poverty, with relatively modest funding - but a vast desire to effect change in the world.

Jane Lyttleton,
President





Our programs

Girls Access to Education (GATE)

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

The program provide health checks for the girls, and with the Nutritional Support Program, the very poorest families receive 30 kilos of rice each month, 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

Our In-Country partner CWCC and the Local Education Working Groups 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 and communities of educating girls: and the consequences of trafficking, domestic violence, and child rights.

Real, positive outcomes

Less than 36% of girls in Cambodia are enrolled in high school, and attendance rate is only 44%. Lotus Outreach Australia is deeply committed to improving that statistic. Lotus Outreach Australia programs, like Girls' Access to Education (GATE), provide scholarships in order to enable hundreds of at-risk girls to finish their schooling. Girls whose parents 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 siblings and future children will be educated and independent too.



Yanida never thought she would be able to finish class 12 – but she did, and was so successful that she had multiple programs to choose from. She is now studying at the Royal University of Law and Economics!



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.



The poorest girls tend to live on the very outskirts of their villages. Many of our girls travel up to eight kilometers to get to school, leaving in the early dawn and often returning after dark. When girls attempt to walk this distance, they are put at real risk of being assaulted or even kidnapped. This is one of the main reasons parents don't let their daughters go to school, resulting in many dropouts when girls reach puberty.

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

Lotus Pedals is supported by LOCAM funding.



Marady has been with LOA since primary school, when she was a student at our most remote school. After primary school, Marady's father tried to take her out of school. He was worried about his daughter having to travel the extra ... kilometres to the nearest high-school. LOA's implementing partner CWCC visited the family to discuss their options. Only after Marady was approved for a bicycle through Lotus Pedals was she allowed to enrol in high school. She is studying class 12 now.

Nutritional Support

When children go to school hungry, they have more trouble learning. Hunger is a real barrier to education. Hunger also causes girls to miss school altogether. Many of our girls report skipping school to help their parents work simply so they can afford rice to feed the family.

The nutritional support program provides the poorest girls with a monthly allocation of rice. Occasionally families are added to the rice support program as a last attempt to prevent drop-out. Often the provision of rice to a family is the only thing convincing parents to keep their girls in school – they fear losing that support if their daughter drops out of the LOA program.

The nutritional support program is supported by LOCAM funding.



Catalyst with our affiliate Lotus Outreach International

Creating Brighter Futures

Lotus Outreach Australia and Lotus Outreach International recognise the need to provide the 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 graduating 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 more advantaged students for a place at University or tertiary training.

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



Most of our LOA graduates, like Pisey above, go on to do some sort of graduate training, with the help of scholarships or financial support from LOA or LOI. For example, currently some of our LOA graduates have won partial scholarships to attend Passarelle Numerique Cambodia where they learn English and IT skills. Others are attending University or other vocational training programs.

In 2017 LOA and the Catalyst program expanded their form of support to help girls who didn't pass class 12 exams, to enroll in the "home study" program, which allows girls to work to earn a living and still sit for their examinations for another chance to gain their class 12 certificate.



Case studies

Rith Kakada

Kakada passed her class 12 exams last year and is now studying accounting at Vanda Institute under the support of the Catalyst program. There are around 80 students in her class but so far she feels like she is keeping up. Her program is for 2 years and 8 months, and is run as a condensed course that would otherwise be four years. She studies from 7-11, Monday to Saturday, completes private English and computer classes each day, and helps her mother to grow vegetables in her spare time.

She has one brother and one sister who are still studying at school. Her father, a construction worker, is committed to ensuring all his children finish class 12. Both parents are pleased that Kakada is continuing her studies, especially as she is receiving the support through LOA's partner program, Catalyst.

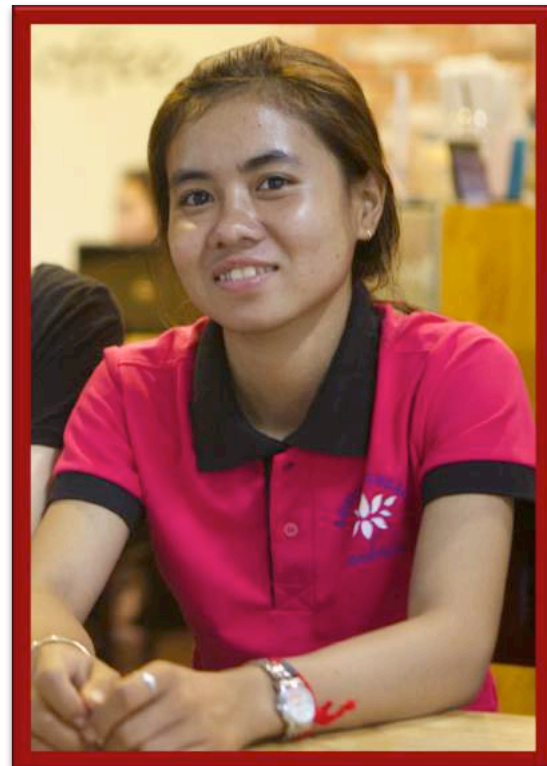
Kakada believes she will have a bright future. While only in her first year, she is already starting to think about her job opportunities. She would like to work in banking, and has some friends who will help her to apply. She most looks forward to being able to use her income to help her parents because they have been so supportive of her education.

Her success in graduating and gaining entry into Vanda Institute she attributes to being a committed student who never missed school, and her achievements can attest to her effort.

On passing her exams:

"I liked my teachers and felt like they knew who I was, but that's probably because I was a very active student in my class. We had 60 students in my class so some people sat at the back and didn't say much. I took tuition for all my subjects and was lucky that my teachers gave me a discount because I have NGO support. My parents also really wanted me to finish my school so they saved money from selling vegetables to help me."

LOA advocates for girls' education by working with parents and families to ensure they understand the benefits of keeping girls in school.





Chhoun Sophanna



Sophanna has been supported by LOA since she was in primary school. Last year she took her class 12 exams but failed, along with most other students in her class of 40. The GATE Program Officers helped her to explore her options, including the possibility of repeating, however she was successful in passing the entrance exam into Passerelles Numeriques (PNC), one of our Catalyst partner organisations that trains students in IT professions, and has chosen to continue her education there.

The PNC program allows Sophanna to complete her course in two years so she can start earning an income much sooner than if she repeated class 12. This is important to her because she has received so much support from her sister and her mother for her education so far. Sophanna's sister dropped out of school in class 3 after repeating a

few times, and has been working in a garment factory ever since.

Still dreaming of the certificate

Sophanna is planning to enrol in the Year 12 Home Study program when enrolment opens in March, where she can study and prepare in her spare time and re-sit her exams in 2018. Having her class 12 certificate will open up more opportunities for Sophanna in the future and she will be the first in her family to achieve this. LOA partner, LO Cambodia, will support her enrolment process.





Kreach Sophea

Sophea failed class 12 last year and is repeating this year, still supported by LOA.

Sophea had originally decided to leave school after failing her class 12 examinations last year, however she received counselling from the GATE program officers who encouraged her to remain in school and try again. There are positive changes this year – new teachers who are using better methods, keeping the students engaged – and she is feeling much more confident.



Sophea in English class in primary school

The pressure to drop out of school continues...

- Sophea is worried about her mum being alone all day, as her older sister is now away from home for work.
- As she is repeating her subjects, she struggles to stay motivated with what sometimes feels like a waste of time.
- Sophea has little time to study as she has to work to pay for extra tuition.
- Sophea's tuition is far from her house and she has to get a lift with friends or cycle a long way.
- She is already 21 years old and wants to start working in a proper job.

But:

Sophea has seen friends drop out of school and end up working in karaoke bars, which are notorious for sex trafficking and underage sex work, and has decided that she doesn't want that life so she perseveres with school.



Sophea and her mum on the steps of their house, built on her aunt's land. Their house was built with the support of a generous LOA donor.



Fundraising and awareness activities for 2017

June 2017 – AXS Thomson Reuters Foundation Grant



This year LOA was again 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 Australia, through many of its activities like a regatta and golf and racing events, and the art union raffle. LOA was presented with a grant of \$25,000.



August 2017 – City to Surf



Macquarie Group
Foundation



Joanna Weng and Marina Lee from Macquarie Group carried the Lotus Outreach Australia banner on a sunny Sydney day in August for the annual city to surf race. In addition to completing the challenging course themselves, they also raised sufficient funds to provide full education for a year to 65 young girls from poor areas on the outskirts of Phnom Penh. The generous support of Macquarie Group Foundation which dollar matched Joanna and Marina's sterling efforts under its staff support policy, provides a further 65 girls with this opportunity. Macquarie Foundation is Lotus Outreach Australia's major corporate supporter.



June 2017 - International Day of Yoga

Yoga Bare Hawksbury, as one of our small business sponsors, held a "Yoga Mala Challenge" fundraiser on June 24th in Windsor, for International Day of Yoga. Participants completed 108 Salute to the Suns before grabbing a coffee across the road at The Bridge Café, who generously donated \$1 from each coffee sold.



August 2017 - Film Premiere



Lotus Outreach Australia hosted the Australian Premier of Hema Hema, an award winning film by Lotus Outreach's founder and chairperson, Khyentse Norbu, who introduced the night at the Dendy Cinema in Sydney. The screening sold out and the enthusiastic audience entered into the spirit of the film and the event wearing stunning masks and costumes.



April 2017 - Urban Descent Perth



LOA supporter Peta Turnbull completed a challenging 40-floor abseil on the QV10 building in Perth, in the name of girls' education. Having never abseiled before, a very courageous Peta raised nearly \$5000 for Lotus Outreach Australia, keeping over ten girls in school for a year.



March 2017 - International Women's Day



On International Women's Day Dolma Gunther, our Fundraising Director, was invited to give a 20 min presentation at Thomson Reuters on the work Lotus Outreach Australia does. It was an inspiring and empowering event that showcased the strength and compassion of women around the world.

July 2017 - Girls spreading the message

Our youth ambassador, Phalin Berry, originally from Cambodia herself, and her lovely family hosted their annual fundraising luncheon for friends and local community on a sunny weekend in Brisbane. Phalin's mum, Maria cooked up a feast to feed the multitudes, and all who attended came away knowing a bit more about how we can look after girls less fortunate than those in our own families and how our support for them will contribute in a meaningful way to reducing global poverty.



Lotus Outreach Australia welcomes anyone who wishes to support our fundraising efforts. We can provide information, fliers and donation boxes which small businesses find very effective.

All funds raised go towards our Girls Access to Education Program and make a direct impact on the lives and education of some of Cambodia's poorest girls and families.

We also truly value our long term sponsors, regularly donating to keep girls in school. Your continued support allows us to plan for the future and be confident in the support we provide the girls.

To make a donation or sponsorship visit <https://lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au/donations/>



In country liaison officer report

Charlie Cristi, LOA In-country Liaison Officer, visited the programs this year to follow up with some of our students who had not succeeded in passing the national Year 12 exams. Charlie has known many of the girls since they were in primary school, she knew how dedicated they were to their studies so was surprised to hear that they didn't pass their final exams. She headed out to the homes of 5 girls who failed and one who passed to investigate.

Phnom Penh is expanding rapidly. Areas where our girls live used to be rural and are now the outer lying suburbs. While people with money are moving into the area and building new houses and roads, our scholarship girls are actually finding it tougher to get by. Prices for food, transport, and most importantly, extra tuition, have gone up exponentially while the families of the GATE girls are finding employment more difficult to find.



The biggest challenge for most of the GATE girls was the lack of access to extra tuition necessary to cover the entire curriculum. Teachers in some schools were asking an extra \$50 per month for tuition, and to cover this girls were missing class to work, cleaning clothes for wealthy neighbours from 5am until they slept, helping mums to sell snacks and other small jobs, all of which made it very difficult to find time to attend class let alone study for exams. Many girls were being tempted to drop out of school.

Charlie and LOA have recommended that our implementing partner, CWCC, review the agreement we have with our schools to ensure girls are not being forced to pay for extra tuition when the system should be providing quality education free of charge.

Some of the girls Charlie met with had decided to repeat year 12, with continued support from LOA, however some were a bit lost, simply working in temporary jobs that didn't match the dreams they had for themselves. Charlie arranged for the Catalyst program to step in and support these girls to enrol in the "home study" program, where they can re-sit their examinations after a year of studying while being able to earn an income. These girls deserve a second chance. Charlie will follow up on the progress of these students via Catalyst over the coming year.





Board and management committee

The Board and Management Committee

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.

Anna Harper

Vice President and Lotus Outreach International Liaison



Anna Harper's consulting firm, Cultural Shapeshifters, works with Australian and international 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 equitable, 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 University of Melbourne and a Masters of Teaching at the University of New England. 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.

Shona Black

Treasurer and Risk Assessment Officer



Shona trained as a journalist at Wellington Polytechnic and worked in newspapers there for four years. She was practice manager of a large multi-disciplinary Holistic Medical Centre from 1987 to 1994. During this time, Shona began training in Traditional Chinese Medicine and has worked in that field since 1994. Having witnessed first hand 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. 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. She recently made a short film and is 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 Liaison 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, 5 star hotel interior design, large rail infrastructure developments in Sydney and 12 years expatriate work in London, the Middle East and SE Asia. Her time in Asia engendered deep appreciation of Asian cultures and the plight of disadvantaged and oppressed girls. Jill has 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

Public Relations



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 the 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.



Management Sub-committee

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 to survive and thrive.

Alistair Donnelley

Technical Consultant and Media Specialist



Alastair is a mechanical engineer, programmer, and award-winning film-maker. His background in both the arts and sciences expresses itself in a passion for deploying intelligent technology to help people communicate better, and to solve business and societal problems. Alastair contributes to Lotus Outreach Australia's photographic and video content, and helps manage its digital presence.

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 Australia'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 Advocate



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.

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, focusing on culturally appropriate youth engagement initiatives. She received Outstanding Dedication Awards for her work during the 2010/11 and 2013 devastating floods in QLD. 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. 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 whenever possible.



In Country Sub-committee

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 volunteering with the Ministry of Education in Bhutan, developing Inclusive Education policy and programs for children with special educational needs. She visits Cambodia annually to meet with LOCAM, and the girls.

Raksmey Var

Country Representative, Cambodia



Raksmey 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, Raksmey decided she wanted to do more to help children. Raksmey 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. Raksmey'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

Lotus Outreach Australia

Australian Business Number: 133 588 760 11

PO Box 3379

Tamarama

NSW 2026

Australia

ON THE WEB: www.lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au

BY EMAIL: info@lotusoutreach.org.au

DONATIONS: treasurer@lotusoutreachaustralia.org.au

Follow us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/LotusOutreachAustralia



Our Affiliates

Lotus Outreach International



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 filmmaker 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 attuned.

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.



Thank you 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 our organisation. And all those who donate to and support Lotus Outreach Australia sustain it. Together we are a small, nimble, highly effective Non Profit Organisation with successful outcomes.

The girls in Cambodia regularly 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 circumstances face greater barriers and less opportunities than we have in our own country.

The generosity of all our pro-bono advisors, our supporters, our donors and the many others who volunteer their time, skills and efforts, is what keeps Lotus Outreach Australia going. On behalf of the board, the girls and their families, we thank you.

A word of thanks from Troppisey, who is one of our star graduates, having completed her tertiary education, started work and decided to continue her studies further while she earns.

"I am very proud of myself and very happy. I never thought I would be able to get a job like this... I now don't need to ask my family for money and I can support them, especially my sister who is in her first year of University. I am always grateful to the support from Lotus Outreach Australia who helped me to get here now."





lotus outreach australia
education-opportunity-action

Lotus Outreach Australia Incorporated

ABN 13 358 876 011

Annual Financial Report

30 June 2017

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 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
Donations and fundraising income	106,129	81,919
Membership fees	404	334
Interest income	295	332
Total revenues	<u>106,828</u>	<u>82,585</u>
Employee expenses	-	(16,609)
Management fees	(1,800)	(2,810)
Fundraising costs	(12,216)	(2,028)
Consultants expenses	(584)	(871)
Bank charges	(2,793)	(1,303)
Other expenses	(3,290)	(2,538)
Total expenses	<u>(20,683)</u>	<u>(26,159)</u>
Net surplus before payments to beneficiaries	86,145	56,426
Funds provided to beneficiaries	(71,180)	(67,847)
Net surplus/(deficit) for the year	<u>14,965</u>	<u>(11,421)</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 2017

	Accumulated funds \$	Total funds \$
Opening balance 1 July 2015	144,771	144,771
Net deficit for the year	(11,421)	(11,421)
Closing balance 30 June 2016	<u>133,350</u>	<u>133,350</u>
Opening balance 1 July 2016	133,350	133,350
Net surplus for the year	14,965	14,965
Closing balance 30 June 2017	<u>148,315</u>	<u>148,315</u>

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 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Assets			
Cash and cash equivalents	5(a)	88,721	42,153
Other assets	3	59,594	91,921
Total current assets		148,315	134,074
Total non-current assets		-	-
Total assets		148,315	134,074
Liabilities			
Trade and other creditors	4	-	724
Total current liabilities		-	724
Total non-current liabilities		-	-
Total liabilities		-	724
Net assets		148,315	133,350
Funds			
Accumulated funds		148,315	133,350
Total funds		148,315	133,350

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 2017

	Note	2017 \$	2016 \$
Cash flows from operating activities			
Cash receipts from donations and fundraising		65,156	31,158
Cash payments to suppliers		(18,883)	(21,417)
Cash payments to beneficiaries		-	-
Interest received		295	332
Net cash from operating activities	5(b)	<u>46,568</u>	<u>10,073</u>
Cash flows from investing activities			
Net cash from investing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Cash flows from financing activities			
Net cash from financing activities		<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>
Net increase in cash and cash equivalents		46,568	10,073
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of the year	5(a)	<u>42,153</u>	<u>32,080</u>
Cash and cash equivalents at the end of the year	5(a)	<u>88,721</u>	<u>42,153</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 2017

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 2017

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

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
	59,594	91,921
	59,594	91,921

Notes to the financial statements
For the year ended 30 June 2017

	2017	2016
	\$	\$
4. Trade and other creditors		
Trade payables and accruals	-	724
	<u>-</u>	<u>724</u>

5. Notes to the statement of cash flows

(a) Cash and cash equivalents

St George Bank Freedom Business	183	19,396
St George Bank Cheque Account	3,258	22,757
St George Bank Relief Fund 1	2,761	-
St George Bank Relief Fund 2	82,519	-
	<u>88,721</u>	<u>42,153</u>

(b) Reconciliation of cash flows from operating activities

Surplus/(deficit) for the year	14,965	11,421
Change in assets and liabilities	31,603	1,348
Net cash from operating activities	<u>46,568</u>	<u>10,073</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 2017 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 2018