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Newsletter  
#12

ARE YOU READY TO TAKE UP THE CHALLENGE?

## Cambodia in the spotlight

Greetings from the Cagliero office!

There has been so much going on in the Cagliero Office and lots to look forward to as we move into the second half of the year and we welcome some warmer weather. We congratulate Lauren and Peter on the arrival of their baby girl, Emilia.

We currently have three volunteers working hard in their placements. Romina and Melissa are at Don Bosco technical school, Pnomh Penh, this edition of the newsletter will be sharing some of their insights into their life in Cambodia. Emma Smith continues to be a positive presence in the lives of the young girls at City of Joy as well as keeping busy supporting the local community in any way she can. We are very proud of these three girls

and we wish them all the best in the second 6 months of their 12 month stay.

On Wednesday November 26<sup>th</sup>, The Cagliero Project and a team of dedicated people will be facilitating Trivia Night to raise funds for Don Bosco technical school in Pnomh Penh, Cambodia. This will be a very special week as Fr Roel Soto will be visiting Australia as our special guest on the evening. You can find out more about Fr Roel and this special event in this newsletter.

Thanks again for your ongoing support of the Cagliero Project. We hope to see many of you at our Trivia night. Many blessings till we write again!

Jess and Lauren

*Our volunteer in Zambia- Emma*



*Romina and Melissa with some of their students in Cambodia.*

DON BOSCO TECHNICAL SCHOOL  
CAMBODIA

Some of the students at Don Bosco dancing



Some of the students with the t-shirts from the printing press



## Cambodia Reflection

by Romina Martinello

Upon completion of seven wonderful months at Don Bosco Technical School (DBTS) Phnom Penh, it seems timely to reflect on the journey so far and share some of our experiences with the Salesian community back home in Australia. Perhaps I should start by mentioning that they sure don't call Cambodia the 'Kingdom of Wonder' for nothing. Khmer culture and tradition is as bright and rich as any other - we have fallen in love with many Cambodian rituals; namely the various dancing related traditions. Inasmuch as this country has captured us with its vibrance and personality, the Kingdom of Wonder has often left us 'wondering'. We wonder why most of the population still lives on \$2 a day and why getting even a basic education still proves so difficult for many young Khmer people.

We've come to see and understand Don Bosco Technical School as a beacon of hope and opportunity for Cambodia's poorest youth. It couldn't be clearer that our school is providing a service to the young that is scarcely available elsewhere. While other NGO's and institutions are providing education to poor youth, Don Bosco is providing much more. Students at Don Bosco receive a formation and education for life. We really feel like a part of the Cambodian Don Bosco family and feel so blessed to live among such fantastic and

humorous missionary priests and brothers.

The beginning of any international volunteering experience can be tedious, given the obvious cultural and language barriers that exist. The warm welcome I received from my students and their continued gratitude toward me really made my transition into Cambodian life and culture exceptionally smooth. I very soon realised that there are a few things that Cambodian young people and Australian young people have in common. Namely, it is that they are both *young* and that they are both *people*. The global nature of the Salesian family is of course testament to this. I've come to appreciate that all young people want to be loved, and need to know that they are loved. It is for this reason that Don Bosco's vision and philosophy transcends culture, national borders and even religion. It has been a wonderful privilege to become part of Cambodia's Salesian family, contributing to the work of Don Bosco in the Kingdom of Wonder.

My role here is as English ESL teacher for Second Year students. In August, I said goodbye to my beautiful students as they finished up at Don Bosco and began their SIPT full time work placements. Melissa began her mission here working with Fr Roel on marketing material for the school and

# October 15

This is the next deadline for applicants wishing to depart for volunteer placement in January 2014.

# November 26

This is the date of our fundraiser for Cambodia trivia night with Fr Roel.

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dedicated most of her time to creating a much needed new website, aimed at providing foreigners, potential donors and volunteers with information and an insight into the school. After deciding early on to continue her mission here for a full 12 months, Melissa took up the position of English Grammar teacher for First Year students. With Melissa taking on the role, the entire English department is now run by volunteers. We are hoping the website will be launched soon to open the door to online donations and eventually online t-shirt orders; meaning that individuals and groups around the world will be able to order t-shirts to be printed in our

school printing department. This will provide us with much needed funds and invaluable work experience for printing students.

Melissa and I are looking forward to starting the new teaching year at the beginning of October. The greatest source of growth for the two of us has undoubtedly been the connections and relationships we have established with the students. As the great Maya Angelou told us, 'people will forget what you said, people will forget what you did, but people will never forget how you made them feel.' Though the faces of the young people of

Cambodia may eventually fade from our memories, the love they have made us feel and the beautiful marks they have left in our hearts will never leave us.

*If you are interested in volunteering just like Melissa and Romina please visit our website [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au)*

### Applications closing

A reminder that applications for a January 2015 departure in the Cagliero Project close on **October 15<sup>th</sup>**.

Please contact Jessica or see the website for more details.

[jquinn@salesians.org.au](mailto:jquinn@salesians.org.au)

## Cagliero news...

### Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> November

#### Trivia night for Cambodia

As you know we are having a trivia night for Don Bosco technical school, Pnomh Penh, Cambodia.

#### Fitzroy Bowls Club

**578 Brunswick St, Fitzroy North**  
**7.30pm**

If you would like to book a table or tickets please contact Jessica at [jquinn@salesians.org.au](mailto:jquinn@salesians.org.au)

Or follow us on our Facebook page for more information and details-

**The Cagliero Project**



The Hichaaba family- Peter, Emilia, Xavier and Lauren

### Congratulations Hichaaba family!

A lovely little girl Emilia Neve was welcomed into the Hichaaba family on Saturday August 16<sup>th</sup>. Emilia weighed a healthy 4.2 kg or 9.2 pounds. The family are all very happy to have little Emilia in their lives and blessed with the joy she brings them. Emilia now shares her birthdate with Don Bosco!

Lauren and Peter thank everyone for the well wishes.