



# 2011 ANNUAL REPORT

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**Cover Image:**

A Happy School student dressed in a traditional Khmer costume

#### 1.4 A word from our Co-Presidents

This year will go down as one of ACE's best. It was a bumper year for fundraising and The Happy School has undergone a major transformation due to our new School Director and the implementation of vocational training and career pathways. The mood at ACE is definitely upbeat and we're really excited about the direction we're heading in.

People who have known us for a long time will know we often do things a little differently, and once again this year we have two Co-Presidents. Clayton Newell has been in the role for a couple of years and Mardi Brown was appointed in 2010 with the support of the ACE committee. Mardi's impact was felt immediately as she was the driving force behind the ACE Amore Gala Ball. This was a huge effort with Mardi and the super talented team pulling out all stops. Without a doubt this was ACE's biggest fundraiser and what a truly amazing night it was.

We only held a few events this year but each one was an absolute cracker. There was Beer for Books which was a great day taste testing boutique beers and eating gourmet sausages in the sun at the Abbotsford Convent. This was followed a couple of months later with Funkin' The Bay, a 70's themed funk boat party aboard the Victoria Star and then there was the ACE Amore Gala Ball in the gorgeous Art Deco surroundings of the San Remo Ballroom. Each event was very different and loads of fun. As always the crowd was stylish and absolutely lovely at each event. We love the ACE crowd.

One of the most heart-warming things we've experienced this year is watching good friends of ACE step up to lighten the load for us a little. It has been incredible to witness creativity and passion, and then see it translate into donations to The Happy School. Class 8A at Camberwell High held fundraisers within their school, the events management class from Swinburne held The ACE Race, Sarah Massey did a fun run for ACE and Living Fundraisers generously donate a percentage from every sale to ACE. We have also seen a huge surge in regular donors; we have an amazing group of sponsors that donate every week or month directly into the ACE bank account.

To everyone who made the effort to donate, participate or raise funds this year... You are awesome!

The Happy School is at the heart of everything ACE does and this year we have witnessed some huge steps forward. We now have a solid partnership with The Intercontinental Hotel, providing vocational training in the hospitality industry to Happy School Students, which is our first step towards ensuring our students have a genuine career path. We will continue to seek out opportunities in other local, burgeoning industries that provide students with important life skills and work place opportunities. The Happy School board is finding its feet and is moving closer towards sustainable self-governance every day. This is one of our long term goals.

So as you can see The Happy School is travelling well with 65 kids being educated, trained and nurtured to ensure they have a really strong chance to succeed in life.

Another success story this year is ACE's first foray into the social media arena with a new Facebook page. Wow that thing took really off! We now have around 300 followers and we regularly interact with our members via this channel. It's also proving to be an excellent way to communicate with our members and a great way to stay in touch with ACE.

After presiding over an organisation like ACE for a while, you start to realise that this sort of thing is really hard work and at times you ask yourself "What am I doing?" but the truth is the answer is the same every time... "Everyone at ACE is doing something positive for people who need help and we have the energy to make it happen." This is the essence of ACE, a "can do" attitude, a love of people, a love of parties and the belief that we can help people far away in a far less fortunate position than us. It's the least we can do and it's nice that a few of you have joined us for the journey.

Thank you again for your incredibly generous support over the years.

Kind Regards,

Clayton Newell & Mardi Brown  
Co-Presidents – ACE Australians for Cambodian Education

## 2. The ACE story

Australians for Cambodian Education (ACE) is a non-profit, non-government, voluntary organisation whose vision is to “support the right of a child to learn and play”.

The Happy School was established as a community initiative in Phnom Penh, Cambodia in response to the large number of children unable to access basic education. Initially set up as an ‘out system school’ the project was run without resources on borrowed land.

The facilities were basic but despite this, it was still a place where underprivileged children could go to gain basic literacy and numeracy skills. In January 2003, a small number of foreigners were asked to help out at the school by teaching children English and Art for a few hours a week.

They turned up for work one day in April to find that the school had been blown away in a storm. The volunteers, determined to re-build the school, wrote to family and friends in Australia and Ireland asking for help. Their friends responded by holding fundraisers and raising enough money to resurrect the school.

From this situation ACE and The Happy School was born.

### 2.1 Vision

*“To support the right of a child to learn and play”*

### 2.2 Principles

- To always be informed in our goals and activities by the specific needs of the Happy School.
- To operate in a transparent and inclusive way that provides members and the public with access to information and decision-making at every level.
- To seek participation and involvement above the raising of financial resources.
- To focus on providing accurate and culturally aware information about Cambodia and the Happy School.

### 2.3 Aims

- To raise resources to support the Happy School project
- To create awareness among Australians about the Happy School project and life in Cambodia

#### **Volunteering... How rewarding is it really?**

ACE has around about 20 regular volunteers who do everything from graphic design to floral arrangements. At ACE there are no real rules about what you can or can't do as a volunteer and there are no set hours. In fact you don't even have to come to every meeting. It's pretty flexible and its loads of fun. It's all about giving our friends and members a good time for a good cause!

No-one is paid, there are no offices, everything is done on personal time and everyone has a day job so you can feel pretty busy at times. Peter Gurr who joined ACE last year puts it like this; “At times I do wonder how I fit it all in with everything else I have going on, but I just squeeze whatever I can in because I know every little bit I give will have a huge impact on the lives of our students. That makes me feel really good.”

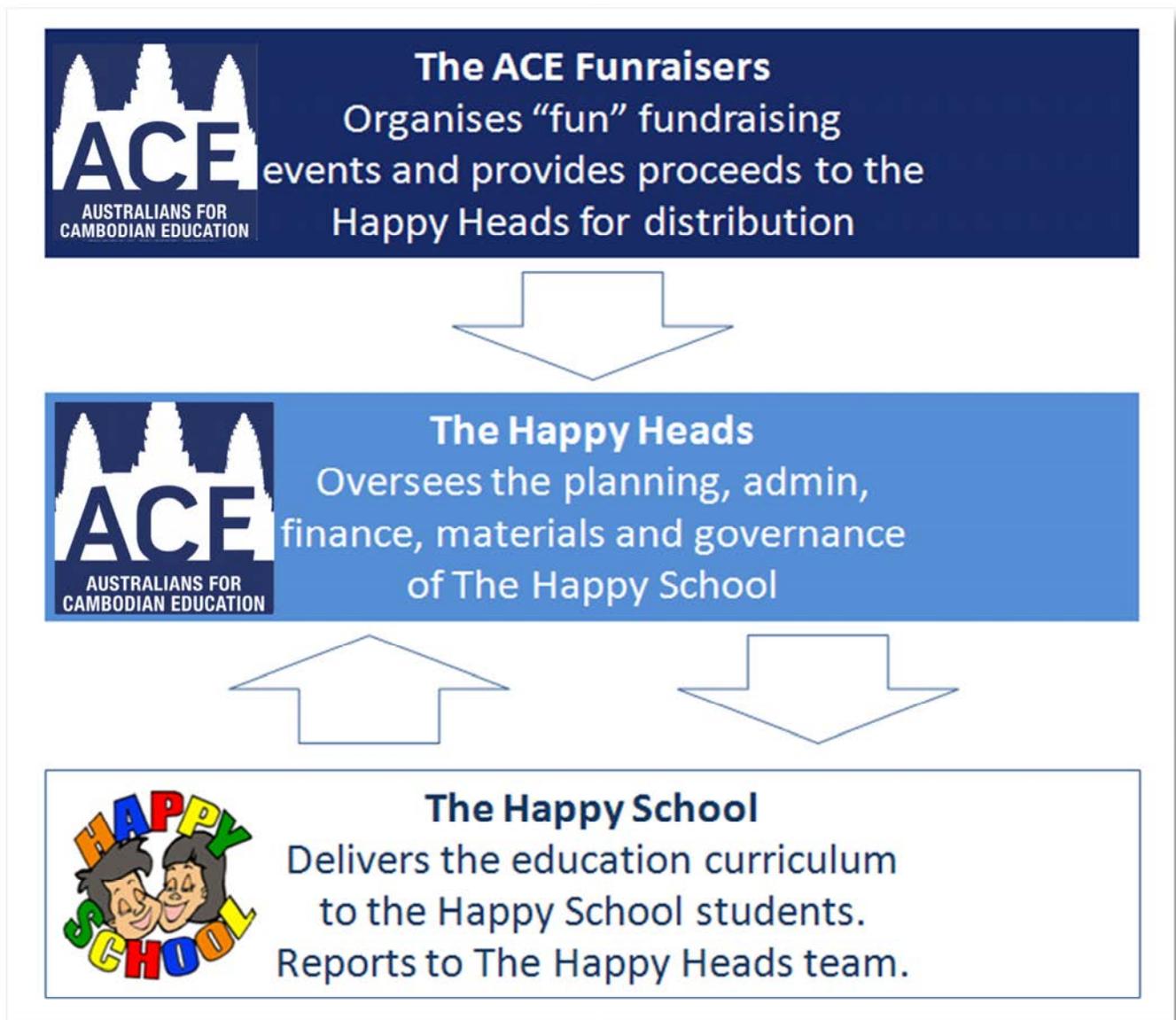
Would you like to get involved? Email us at [info@acecambodia.org.au](mailto:info@acecambodia.org.au)

### 2.4 The ACE Operating Model

ACE is focused on sustaining one project only, The Happy School. This single focus allows us to maintain a simple and very lean operating model that enables us to respond to the needs of The Happy School quickly.

There are three unique teams who each play a key a role in maintaining The Happy School. This is outlined in the diagram below.

The Happy Heads are the main team that interact with the school to ensure that ACE is aware of the needs of the school and provides the necessary support to ensure day to day continuity of the school curriculum.



### 3. Treasurer's Report

#### 3.1 Detailed Profit and Loss - Period Ending 30 June 2011

Income	2011	%	2010	%
Donations Received	\$11,236	14%	\$3,565	26%
Fund Raising Events	\$67,183	86%	\$9,923	73%
Interest Received	\$69	0%	\$92	1%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$78,488</b>		<b>\$13,580</b>	
Expense	2011	%	2010	%
Advertising and Promotion	\$850	1%	-	0%
Administrative	\$42	0%	\$41	0%
Bank Fees and Charges	\$70	0%	\$50	0%
Donations - Happy School	\$26,493	41%	\$29,700	88%
Fundraising Expenses	\$33,877	53%	\$2,334	7%
Merchandise	-		-	
Printing and Stationery	-		-	
Telephone	-		-	
Travel, Accommodation and Conference	\$200	0%	\$956	3%
Insurance	-	0%	-	0%
Donations - Other	\$2,877	4%	\$240	1%
AGM	-	0%	\$300	1%
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$64,409</b>		<b>\$33,621</b>	
<b>Profit/(Loss) from Ordinary Activities</b>	<b>\$14,079</b>		<b>(\$20,041)</b>	

#### 3.2 Notes on Income:

It is immediately obvious from the figures above that ACE had a bumper year in terms of income. At the start of this financial year, our Co-Presidents set a target of \$40K – in 2011 we have almost doubled that amount. It is worth noting that we achieved this income through investing more in fundraising, however considering total donations out exceeded \$29,300 and there was a profit of over \$14,000, we can confidently look our Co-Presidents in the eye and say – job done.

After a quiet 2010 and with the very real threat of budget cuts looming, ACE needed to explore new avenues on the fundraising frontier. This year saw two brand new events in the fundraising calendar and with them, a much needed cash injection.

#### The main income producing activities for 2011 were:

- The ACE Gala Ball generated a gross income of almost \$53,000, which for a first time event, set a new standard for fundraising within ACE, a great effort from everyone involved. Funkin' the Bay (shared with Happy Football Cambodia) raised just over \$8,000 and Beer for Books in Spring 2010 grossed approximately \$2,500.
- Donations to ACE increased three fold in 2011, this was attributable to members increasing their regular donation commitment to ACE. Living Fundraisers donating \$3,500 through the sale of their herb growing kits and Sarah Massey raised \$1,100 through sponsorship for a fun run.
- Sister organization Ireland for Cambodian Education (ICE) contributed \$3,700 which, given the current state of the Irish economy, is a huge effort and we very much appreciate their continued support.

### 3.3 Notes on Expenses:

Expenses increased considerably for the year ending 2011. For the first time in ACE’s history expenses exceeded Donations to the Happy School, however before we set fire to our charitable credentials, it’s important we clear the air.

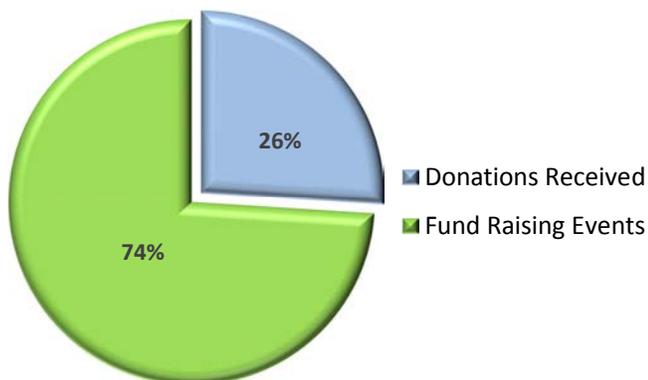
ACE prides itself on keeping expenses to an absolute minimum. Year after year our ratio of expenses to total outlay has been between 8 and 11%. This year we hosted the largest fundraising event in ACE’s history and with that came significantly increased revenues. Fundraising expenses accounted for %53 of total outlay in 2011, 45% was in the form of donations, however it’s important to note that all other expenses came in at less than %2 of total outlay.

#### Further notes on Expenses:

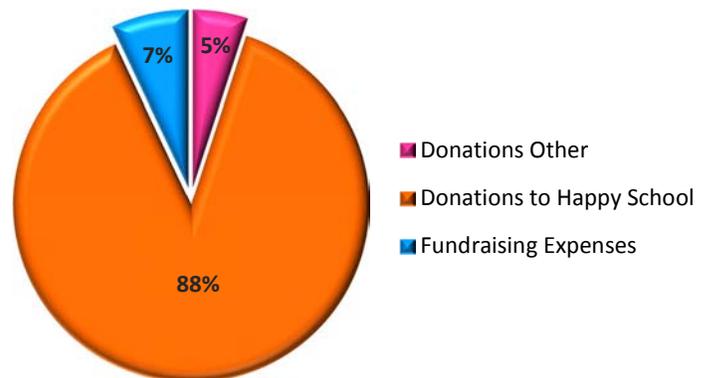
- Almost 90% of fundraising expenses related to the ACE Gala Ball, the remaining 10% was split between Funkin’ the Bay and Beer for Books.
- Donations to the Happy School reduced in dollar value however this is entirely due to the strong Australian dollar as all transfers to Cambodia are in US currency.
- ACE contributed \$2,877 to Happy Football Cambodia, which was primarily accounted for in the shared Funkin’ the Bay fundraiser.

### 3.4 Summary of Funds in and out of ACE:

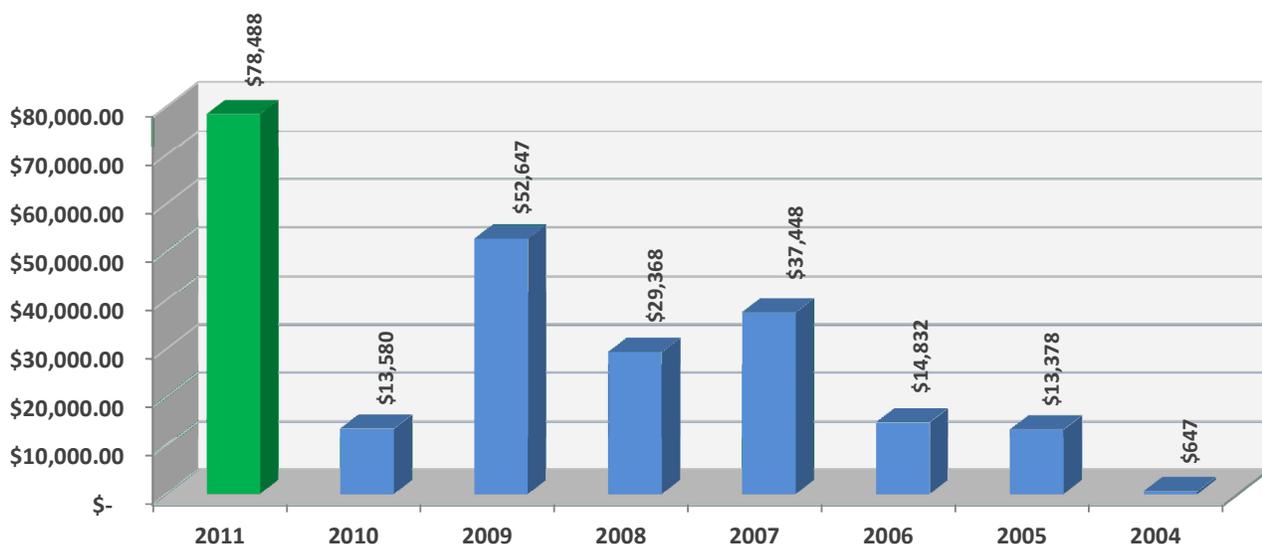
Where does it come from?



Where does it go?



#### Year on year fundraising comparison:



#### 4. Fundraising Summary:

##### **Beer for Books – October 2010 – Raised: \$2500**

It was a very sunny day in the Heritage Gardens at the Abbotsford Convent and a great day for people to experience over a vast range of local and international boutique beers. JCW from 'Better Beer' was on hand to talk the crowds through the different beers on offer. Delicious gourmet sausages were sizzled away on the BBQ thanks to The Sausologist.

##### **Class 8A, Camberwell Primary School – December 2010 – Raised: \$500**

Some very welcome new friends of ACE & The Happy School – Class A at Camberwell Primary School got on board with some fundraising this year at their local Fete, cooking up some delicious baked goods, with all the proceeds going to The Happy School. We thank you all so dearly for choosing to support ACE in your efforts.

##### **Funkin' the Bay – February 2011 – Raised: \$5400**

Once again we asked Melbourne's finest to come aboard the Victoria Star, to comb their afro's, polish their platforms and get their boogie on 'cos the funkiest boat on the in the bay was about to set sail. Chris Gill from Northside Records and Soul-A-Go-Go's Vince Peach, Pierre Baroni, DJ Manchild and Miss Goldie all cruised the high seas and helped ACE and Happy Football Cambodia Australia (HFCA) raise a packet. Profits were split 50/50 between ACE & HFCA.

##### **The ACE RACE – May 2011 – Raised: \$1100**

In May this year several Event Management Students from Swinburne Universities Prahran Campus put on a fundraising event as part of their required curriculum for 1<sup>st</sup> year. Thanks to the expert guidance of teacher, Fiona Simpson, 'The ACE RACE' was born. Several students, friends and participants (including an ACE Team) ran around a guided course around the beautiful city of Melbourne, with clues that drew everyone to finish line. It was an exceptionally well run event & we thank everyone involved!

##### **ACE Amore Gala Ball – June 2011- Raised: \$20,000**

ACE held its first Gala Ball at the San Remo Ballroom in Carlton this year. The evening was a resounding success with \$20,000 profit from the most generous and warming show of support yet. Just shy of 400 people attended the event at the San Remo Ballroom and were entertained by the internationally lauded Mikelangelo hosted the evening keeping everyone in raptures.

Star performances throughout the night included the one and only Tripod, Elana Stone and Brian Campeau with their new project 'The Rescue Ships'. The honey drenched lyrics of FLAP, will have you laughing, dancing and wanting more. Special guests for the evening include the statuesque cabaret diva Jane Badler and the melodious Saint Clare.

ACE would like to sincerely thank everyone who had anything to do with the amazing night and its incredible outcome.

## 5. Happy School Report:

### 5.1 About the Happy School:

The Happy School provides free remedial/informal education to children unable to access the government state school system due to reasons mainly relating to poverty and disadvantage.

The school also offers integration and support into government schools, providing pathways to vocational training as well as art and recreation programs to develop and inspire young minds.

The Happy School in cooperation with its funding partner ACE and ICE are dedicated to upholding a child's basic right to education and play. The project principles are focused on supporting local leadership and to provide a sustainable and self-managed resource for the local community.

### 5.2 Happy School: A Short History:

The local community initiated the Happy School in 2001. It was set up and run for three years by Buddhist monks from Wat Toul Tom Pong and former civil servant and state school teacher Mr. Men Sovann with cooperation of the local council (Sangkat) to serve the needs of local children living in poverty who were unable to public (state) education. The school operated with few resources and on land borrowed from a local landlord, Mr. Sar Saroen. On invitation from Mr. Men Sovann, three Australian volunteers became involved in establishing a permanent structure for the school and providing assistance to expand the operational scope of the school.

In 2004 Australians for Cambodian Education (ACE) was formed to increase and legitimize fundraising efforts, with an aim to support and develop Happy School activities. ACE raises funds to support Happy School operations and provides management support, financial monitoring and mentoring to the Happy School Director. The overarching goal of Happy School is to provide marginalized children, living in Psar Doum Thkou, with access free, quality, basic education. This education provides them with opportunities to integrate into State School or vocational training and ultimately, the chance to gain sustainable employment.

### 5.3 The Happy School Vision:

The following vision and strategic objectives were revised in partnership with the Happy School staff and the local community.

The vision of the Happy School is: 'to support a child's basic right to education, health and play. Through education and training programs we support Cambodian children to achieve a basic level of education and provides opportunities for children to obtain sustainable livelihoods.'

To achieve this vision the Happy School will:

1. Provide Primary education (Grade 1-6) to marginalized children, through class-based teaching and a variety of extra curricula activities.
2. Support and encourage children to complete lower secondary education at State School.
3. Provide locally available adequate and nutritious food to children (food and school materials are provided to children that attend the Happy School)
4. Establish opportunities for students to develop vocational skills and practical working experience.
5. Build relationships and educate communities to strengthen their family and neighbourhood structures so that they become communities of mutual help.

#### 5.4 Student Enrolments

The Happy School delivers the Cambodian national curriculum from Grade 1 to 6, both formal and non-formal bridging programs to mixed ability classes. In addition, a life skills course was delivered to for this first time this year to students who have exited the School and are seeking employment or future education. The School intends to incorporate life skills training into the curriculum of all students in the coming year. Extra-curricular activities including English, dance, reading, weaving and information technology are also provided to Happy School students.

Overall, enrolments have increased since last year. However due to the transitory nature of the families in the local community, student numbers fluctuate from quarter to quarter. As always we notice decreases in student attendance during the monsoonal months of July, August and September. At this time whole families return to the provincial homelands to work on their farms. As has been the trend over the past 8 years, students that leave during these months tend to return in fourth quarter of the year. The table below summarises the numbers of enrollees over the past year:

##### Happy School Enrolment Data 2010-2011:

Enrolments	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Total Enrolment	49	60	52	64
New Enrolment	1	15	2	0
Re-enrolment	2	0	0	0
Drop-outs (All Programs)	5	9	6	0

#### 5.5 Governance

The Children for Better Future Board of Directors was established in December 2009. The Board is represented by 6 Directors: 5 Khmer professionals and one ACE representative, Kirk Gibson. Board meetings in Phnom Penh occur on a quarterly basis.

The Directors have a range of experience in across the community development, business and education sectors. The Board has continued to demonstrate strong commitment to the Happy School, ensuring financial transparency and legal compliance, while supporting the effective management of the School. The Board have become increasingly active in the development of new activities at the School, both at a decision-making level and through limited personal fundraising efforts.

In the next financial year ACE plans to work more closely with the Board to ensure that all governance responsibilities are undertaken efficiently and effectively.

### 5.6 Staffing and Management

The Happy School has grown over the past year. The School now employs 7 full-time staff: School Director, Finance & Administration Officer, Head Teacher, Life Skills Teacher, two core curriculum teachers and two security guards; and three part-time staff: Dance Teacher, English Teacher and Computer Training Teacher.

The recruitment of a new School Director in February 2011 has led to significant improved the management of the School. Through the School Director the Happy School has been able to secure local funding for specific activities and through increased networking the School has built sustainable relationships with local community, the government, private donors (local and international) and across the non-governmental organisation and education sectors.

Despite limited funding over the past year, staff continue to receive professional training, accessed via capacity building programs of the Cambodian government and non-governmental organisations.

### 5.7 Happy School Educational Programs:



## 5.8 Overview of Programs:

PROGRAM	SUMMARY
<b>Core Education Grade 1-6</b>	The core education programs at the Happy School are made up of two non-formal Education teaching classes Grade 1 to 3 and Grade 4 – 6. The curriculum includes literacy and numeracy, Khmer language, Math, science and Hygiene. The non-formal curriculum is designed prepare students for their re-integration into the State School System of Education or into the happy school vocational training program or an alternative vocational training program depending on the goals of the student.
<b>Rice Day</b>	Rice giving days are conducted every quarter and each family with students attending the Happy School receives 25kg of rice from the school to help supplement family income and act as an incentive to improve student attendance. The day is an opportunity for the school to open its doors to the community and is a celebration of the student’s creative and academic achievements over the last quarter. The day is wonderful opportunity to bring the happy school community together, promote the schools activities and show support to families who may be suffering from food insecurity.
<b>Happy Talk/ Happy Share</b>	Happy Talk/ Happy Share is a partnership with world Education Cambodia which delivers basic computer skills training to 20 Happy School students per year. Computer literacy is crucial for students to pursue employment or higher level studies post Happy School.
<b>Happy Reading Room</b>	A recent initiative from School Director Vanna, this program will increase the number of books and resources in the Happy School library and offer workshops in remedial reading for students.
<b>Football Program</b>	This program offers students the opportunity to play football as part of the Happy Football Cambodia ( <a href="http://hfcaustralia.org.au/">http://hfcaustralia.org.au/</a> ) program- aimed at supporting young Cambodians out of poverty through the medium of football. One Happy School student recently played in the Cambodian National Homeless World Cup team in Paris.
<b>Dance Program</b>	The Dance program offers Happy School students the chance to learn traditional Khmer dance and contemporary styles like hip hop. Classes are offered twice a week and the Dance group has performed at a number of events for other local organisations, receiving very favourable reviews. The group has also been paid for some performances offering a small extra income for the program.
<b>Happy Breakfast</b>	A healthy breakfast is offered every day to all Happy School students with the aim of improving concentration in class, attendance and general well-being. Research indicates that poorer students often come to school without adequate nutritional intake, hampering their ability to concentrate and maximise learning progression.
<b>English Program</b>	English is crucial for many aspects of business and employment in Cambodia, including the tourism and service sectors. General English is offered to Happy School students as a compliment to their core studies. A specialised employment focused English course has also been developed for the students exiting the Happy School into vocational training.

**Overview of Programs (cont'd):**

PROGRAM	SUMMARY
<b>Life Skills Program</b>	Life Skills is a recent initiative based on the long term Happy School goal that all students pathway into further education or employment. The life Skills training aims to equip students with core skills around work readiness, career planning and communication. This program has just been piloted with seven students with the aim that it be embedded in the curriculum for all students in their final years at the Happy School.
<b>Vocational Training</b>	Following on from Life Skills training, the Vocational Training Program seeks to connect students not continuing with state school education with vocational training programs or traineeships. The end goal is sustainable employment. A recent partnership with the Intercontinental Hotel will see two Happy School graduates undertake a 6 month hospitality traineeship at the Hotel, which if successful will lead to full time employment.
<b>State School Integration</b>	Scholarships for students to attend State School: Grade 6- 12, once they graduate from Happy School. An annual amount that includes uniforms, books and stationary. Without this support students would be unable to continue their studies to a higher level.

**5.9 What's next for Happy School?**

With a strengthened governance structure in place, a new teaching team and strong management in place at the Happy School will continue to build upon the success of its core education, recreational, vocational and wellbeing programs in 2012.

ACE and the Happy Heads are also considering future plans for the location of The Happy School due to rising rents and occasional flooding at the current site. We will look for assistance from donors should we decide to undertake the task of re-locating the school. Please note flooding is common in most areas of Cambodia.

In addition to that the Happy School will start working towards a transition of governance plan with ACE and CBF

## 6. Support

Without the support of our members, sponsors, benefactors, committees and teachers The Happy school would not survive. We love every single one of you and deeply appreciate the support and sacrifices that you have made to ensure this wonderful project continues to chug along.

### 6.1 Supporters of ACE during 2010/2011:

- Mikelangelo
- St Clare
- Elana Stone
- Tripod
- RRR
- PBS
- Joy FM
- The Flap
- Clarence
- Better Beer
- Living Fundraisers
- Camberwell Primary School – Class 8A
- Swinburne University – Prahran Campus
- Australian Cricketers Association
- Choice Hotels Australasia
- War Botanicals
- Rikki's Bikki's
- Rail Retreat
- Punt Road Wines
- Anton's
- Todd Bond Salon
- Barrique Wine Store
- Mieka Salon
- The European
- Globe Café
- Rubican Valley Horse Riding
- The Shahine & Ramia Family
- Alex Shahine
- Quintessence Soaps
- Wendy McCrae – Marriage Celebrant
- Anderson Family
- Nutri Metics
- Sarah Massey
- Harper Massey
- St Stephens Church, Williamstown
- Bopha Devi Restaurant
- Dara & Outola Tang
- Eliza Hull

### 6.2 Benefactors during 2011 – These amazing people have generously and consistently donated to ACE during the year:

- Kirk Gibson
- Rosalinda Mercuri
- Lana DeJager
- Matthew Hunter
- Michael Harris
- Eloise Wall
- Bobilee Shahine
- Mardi Brown
- Peter Gurrie
- Clayton Newell
- Tracy Rennie
- Sarah Massey
- Emily Brimson
- Maria & Loren Zanin
- Santa Mercuri
- Maria & Joe Casamento
- Jacqui Moses
- Anna Mackrell
- Harry & Emily

**From the bottom of our hearts... Thank you!**

### 6.3 The ACE Family



#### **Clayton Newell – Co-President, Event planning, Fundraising Strategies**

After attending several ACE events Clayton decided it was time to step up to the plate and use his nerdy spreadsheet and project management skills for the forces of good. “One of the things I love about ACE events is that we get to throw great events and catch up with friends, and at the end of it we make a positive impact on the lives of The Happy School students. A good time for a good cause. It’s perfect”



#### **Mardi Brown – Co-President, Event planning, Marketing and PR**

Mardi put her stamp all over ACE by pulling together the Long Lunch and ACE Amore events which were amazing. Mardi is a marketing guru and brings a high level of energy and organisation to ACE.

Mardi recently visited The Happy School and was deeply moved by the experience and is excited about her new Co-President role.



#### **Kirk Gibson - Happy Heads Committee member**

Non-formal education is one of my passions and currently I work at Swinburne with young people who don't go to school, supporting them in connecting with vocational education and training. I like it. I get to come up with interesting ways to connect people to education... like through coaching soccer or selling street magazines. One day I hope to develop a similar program in Cambodia, connecting the Happy School students into training and jobs.



#### **Michael Harris (Faz) – Treasurer Double Degree in accounting and computing**

Faz brings a solid knowledge in Projects and Business Administration to the ACE table. His experience in corporate doings splashes a refreshing bucket of water in our not-for-profit faces and makes us all feel more secure about avoiding arrest for incompetent organisational management.



#### **Sharni McDonald –Happy Heads Committee Member**

Sharni spent several years in Cambodia helping to set up the Happy School project before returning to Australia in 2004 to found Australians for Cambodian Education. She gets a massive kick out of helping to create good opportunity for Cambodian kids and loves working with her clever and good looking comrades at ACE. Sharni has visited The Happy School and reports that the kids still LOVE the Happy School and everything about it.



#### **Lana De Jager - Designer, Fun Raiser Team Leader Design/Marketing**

Lana is the creative force behind ACE and has developed some wonderful event campaigns. Her design skills are incredible, she is always up for a little bit of DJ action at ACE parties and she's just lovely. Lana and Matt just moved to Newcastle. We miss them!



**Dr. Matt Hunter- Health Promotion, Events  
MD-Newcastle Hospital**

Matt brings his fantastic analytical skills, deep knowledge of children's health and funky 70's moves to the ACE mix. Like Faz, Matt adds a marked air of legitimacy to the public face of ACE, especially when he is wearing his stethoscope.



**Paraic Grogan - Happy School project support/Founder/ Chairperson ICE/ Happy Heads team member**

Paraic is one of the ACE founders and his efforts in the school development have been tireless. He has raised more than \$40,000 through ACE's sister organisation in Ireland (ICE). Paraic also co-ordinates activities for Happy Football Cambodia who raise funds to enable a Cambodian team to compete in the Homeless World Cup. He works very hard and achieves very big things!



**Eloise Wall – Honours Degree in Biochemistry and a Masters in Business Information Technology.**

With a background in project management and consulting and a passion for all things online, Eloise brings another pinch of corporate savvy and professionalism to the ACE team. Eloise is heavily involved in ACE's online communications and adds a bit of common sense whenever it is needed.



**Rosalinda Mercuri – ACE committee member, Happy Heads committee member and wordsmith**

After falling in love with The Happy School on her first visit to Phnom Penh in 2007, Rosalinda is not just an overly enthusiastic supporter of all ACE fundraising activities but, being a professional editor/writer, imposes her grammatical iron fist upon as much ACE literature as the rest of the committee lets her get her hands on.



**Tracy Rennie – Event planning and Fundraising  
Diploma in Marketing**

Tracy brings her marketing and business development skills to the table. Her energy and enthusiasm for ACE is infectious and the impressive combination of natural networking skills and a smile that lights up a room will ensure Tracy helps ACE to keep delivering amazing events.



**Rebecca Reid – Event organizer  
Hospitality Management Diploma/Remedial Massage Diploma/Event Manager**

With years of experience in organising events, Bex is dedicated and passionate about creating memorable events and raising money for the Happy School.



**Iccy Harrington – Happy School project support and Graphic Designer**

Iccy began teaching at the school in 2003 and along with Sharni and Paraic and was the force behind the Happy School project and development. His knowledge of the Khmer language and culture has been vital in connecting with the Cambodian community. Iccy works as a freelance graphic designer and is proud father to Indi Mac.



**Janice Bell – Merchandise and Events**  
**Bachelor of Shiatsu and Japanese Acupuncture - Melbourne College of Natural Medicine**

Janice's mastery of stubby holder manufacture and her skills in set construction have seen her act as a mainstay in event logistics and merchandising. JB always works hard often doing the work of 7 or 8 people. We love her "can do" attitude AND her lovely smile.



**Liz Harrington – ACE designer**  
**Bachelor of Education (Visual Arts), University of Melbourne**

Liz's love for the Cambodian folk has grown over several visits and as a founding member of ACE she has used her skills in design, dancing, teaching & many other random things to help beautify ACE and raise the all important funds, most recently through the development of the annual Happy Feet dance program.



**Phoebe Robb – Happy school project support**  
**Bachelor of Arts (Humanity), Latrobe University**  
**Diploma of Events Management, Holmesglen TAFE**

Phoebe's vast experience in festival and event management combine with an unstoppable energy to make her one of the driving forces behind the organisation.



**Bobilee Shahine – Event planning and Fundraising**

Bobi worked at the school back when it was a tarpaulin over a dusty floor. The children stole her heart and life would never be the same again. Now she pools all her talents together to book awesome bands for fundraisers, entertain us with her dancing and creative sales techniques, make crafty thank you cards, CD covers or whatever we need.



**Lucy Gray - ACE committee member, Happy Heads committee member, Project Manager**

Lucy has a world of experience working for NGO's and not-for-profit organisations and brings a wealth of experience to ACE. In a team full of idealists and modern day hippies, Lucy brings a level of expertise and organisation that is needed to bring our vision together. We love Lucy, she is helping ACE get to the next level.



**Peter Gurrie – Event planning, Digital Media strategy**

Peter is a digital media guy, he know stuff about websites and data and online things. We need Pete.

Peter brings a wealth of expertise to ACE and is helping ACE to expand its online presence. Pete is also an amazing artist and is interested in getting involved in creative projects with The Happy School.



**Lisa Johns – Event planning and Fundraising**

Lisa brings event management expertise to ACE and made sure everything went smoothly on the night at the ACE Amore ball. With a can do attitude and a lovely smile we look forward to working with Lisa on may ACE events to come.