



CNCF Australia Newsletter

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Mongolia CNCF news: 'Give a Ger' campaign update

With summer well and truly over in Mongolia, it is sobering to consider the harsh conditions and freezing temperatures that lie ahead for our friends and the children living in Ulaan Baatar, the coldest capital city in the world. Temperatures regularly remain at -30°C for weeks on end, and even -40°C isn't regarded as unusual.

As in many poor countries, housing in Mongolia accounts for a large part of a family's budget, and it is often inadequate for the climatic conditions. It's not unusual to find families of up to eight people living under unheated stairwells in city apartment blocks, or in dilapidated wooden huts, or in a ger (a traditional felt tent supported by a wooden frame) that has long passed the end of its useful life.

From the start of its operations in Mongolia, CNCF has provided housing assistance to hundreds of



Christina with some residents of the Blue Skies Ger Village, Mongolia

homeless families, or families in danger of becoming homeless or who are living in barely habitable conditions. This form of assistance was formalised with the establishment of the 'Give a Ger' campaign fund in 2001, which uses donated funds to provide a furnished ger to a needy family.



Ready for winter in a comfortable ger

CNCF Australia Newsletter kindly sponsored by:



The Christina Noble Children's Foundation is dedicated to helping children in need with education, medical care, social opportunities and job placement. The Melbourne National Office manages the sponsorship of over 300 children in Vietnam and Mongolia, as well as volunteers who raise money via various community activities for projects in both Vietnam and Mongolia.



CNCF Australia Projects Report

September 2008



Proud owners of a new ger

Being provided with a home of their own, often for the first time, gives such families security, hope and optimism for the future.

The 'Give a Ger' program also provides support to children who have outgrown our Ger Village, children who have been released from prison with nowhere to go, and some of the older street children, by providing them with alternative accommodation to their often squalid and unhealthy living conditions.

Unfortunately, the prices of gers have increased, as a result of steadily rising costs in Mongolia. The Mongolia CNCF office has advised: 'For a ger with a floor, table and four chairs, wardrobe, kitchen cabinet, sink cabinet, two beds, stove and flue, the price will be \$1,200 USD, and this is good until the end of April 2009. It is still great value for a furnished home.'

Many of our donors and sponsors have raised funds to provide a furnished ger to a needy family. Following the presentation to the family, donors are sent a report and a photo of the presentation of the ger to the family. If you are interested in donating a ger, please contact Kylie in the Melbourne office: Australia@cncf.org or (03) 9510 7337.



Mongolia

CNCF Australia is funding the construction of a building to house an Arts & Music Program, in the Blue Skies Ger Village in Mongolia (a residential care facility for homeless and abandoned children). The building, which opened on 20 September, incorporates a small stage, changing rooms, storerooms and toilets.

The children will receive tuition in dance and traditional Mongolian instruments, and it is hoped they will be able to form a complete orchestra over time. The children also love art and painting, and the intention is to hold an annual exhibition of the works created in the program. In addition to funding the capital works, CNCF Australia is also very pleased to fund at least the first year's operating costs.

Vietnam

Looking to our future project plans, the CNCF Australia committee has expressed a very strong interest in taking on at least half of the funding in 2009 of the Social Centre for Disadvantaged Children in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. This is the largest program run by CNCF and provides international-standard free healthcare to children from poor families or local orphanages. Beyond 2009, our ambition is to raise enough funds to support the centre by ourselves. This would require us to achieve the status of a Deductible Gift Recipient charity with the Australian government, and to substantially increase our fundraising activities. We are excited by the challenges that lie ahead as we attempt to achieve these goals.



Arts & Music Theatre under construction, Blue Skies Ger Village, Mongolia



The first event



Visitors to Foundation in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam

Hale School, Perth

Jill Maskiell, Student Service Learning Coordinator

The visit in April to Ho Chi Minh City by 15 Hale School Year 12 students, two staff members and three adult family members was an extension of Hale School's Student Service Learning program. As such, it involved the boys participating in voluntary work during their time in Vietnam. This included an amazing four days at the CNCF in Ho Chi Minh City.

The students had been encouraged to research Christina's work, which included reading *Bridge Across My Sorrows*. They soon discovered that although their research was very valuable, nothing could really prepare them for the reality they confronted on meeting the children assisted by the Foundation.

Our four days at CNCF began with a visit with the children from the Sunshine School to the Saigon Water Park. The day was a lot of fun, and it was truly uplifting to share in the happiness that resonated from these



Hale School students bonding with the children in Ho Chi Minh City

children. The communication barrier was soon overcome, and everyone had a very rewarding, if exhausting, day.

The next morning was spent at the Social & Medical Centre, where the Hale boys had a great time interacting with the babies,

toddlers and kindy kids. Surprisingly strong bonds were formed with the children in just a short space of time. In the afternoon, the students visited the Boys' Shelter, which was fantastic fun, with singing, dancing and a great deal of laughter.

Day 3 was an all-day excursion to CNCF's Centre for Visually Impaired Children at Tay Ninh, where we had a truly wonderful visit with the children. We were impressed by their musical abilities and very happy dispositions. The children were very welcoming, and everyone had another memorable day that included more dancing and singing.

Our last day was spent back at the Social & Medical Centre, where the boys spent the morning with the children and the afternoon painting murals on the walls of the teenagers' room. This gave the students a great feeling of accomplishment.

It was with sadness that we farewelled our new friends at CNCF. Many thanks to Megan Miles in Ho Chi Minh City for coordinating our visit, and to the wonderful children and staff at CNCF who made us feel so welcome.



Fun and games for all ages



Saint Ignatius College, Adelaide

Greg Dinon

Seventeen students and five teachers from Saint Ignatius College, Adelaide, enjoyed a three-week trip to Vietnam and Cambodia in July. A highlight of the trip was three days spent visiting with the children at the CNCF Centre and the Girls' Shelter in Ho Chi Minh City. The students were able to donate goods such as sporting equipment, clothes, bags and toys to the Foundation, purchased with funds raised prior to their visit.

At the Shelter, the students performed songs and dances for the girls, and organised a number of craft and sporting activities. In addition to spending time with children with disabilities and orphaned babies at the Centre, the group was able to visit a nearby government orphanage with the Volunteer Coordinator, Megan Miles.

The group was impressed by the work being done at the Foundation, and found it to be a valuable learning experience.

The students and teachers from Saint Ignatius College are very grateful to Megan Miles, and to the staff and volunteers at the Foundation, for the time they gave to ensure the success of the visit. They will remember their time at the Foundation fondly.



Saint Ignatius School visitors to the CNCF Centre

A Family Visit

Bryan Carroll, Victoria

In July, the Carroll family made a wonderful three-and-a-half-week trip to Vietnam. Without doubt, one of the highlights was our visit to the CNCF Centre in Ho Chi Minh City.

Prior to our trip, our two children, Alexandra (aged 12) and Liam (10) invited their classmates at Barwon Heads Primary School in Victoria to donate items from the Foundation's 'wish list' for us to take with us. The result was two large suitcases filled with everything from art materials to toiletries to clothes and toys. In addition, as an employee

of Telstra, I was able to secure two recycled laptop computers for the Foundation.

On our arrival at the Foundation's Centre in Ho Chi Minh City, we were met by one of the staff, Ciarna. It was evident that Ciarna — and all the staff that we met on our tour of the Centre — are immensely passionate and committed to fulfilling Christina Noble's dream. All of us were deeply moved by the children we met at the Centre and impressed by the many fantastic programs offered by the Foundation.

We will always remember our visit to CNCF Vietnam. I would encourage anyone visiting Ho Chi Minh City to share in this sobering, yet uplifting experience.



CNCF Christmas Cards

Artwork by the children of CNCF Vietnam and Mongolia

Share the Christmas spirit with our beautiful Christmas cards, illustrated by children of our Foundations in Vietnam and Mongolia.

Packs of 10 cards are available.

To request an order form, please email afc@cncf.org.





Administration Officer Report

Christmas will be here before we know it! In October, Kylie Jeffares will again provide all sponsors with a Donation Form in the event that you would like to send an extra monetary gift to your sponsored child for Christmas.

Please note: The children and their families do NOT expect gifts for Christmas, so please don't feel obligated to provide a gift for this occasion. Your regular monthly sponsorship support goes a long way to enabling the children and their families to enjoy this time of year. However, we know that many sponsors like to send a small extra donation to be given to the children at the December Sponsorship Distribution Day.

The last Sponsorship Distribution Day before Christmas will be **4 December in Vietnam**, and **13 December in Mongolia**. In order for CNCF Australia to notify the Vietnam and Mongolian offices in time, we will need to receive notification of your extra monetary gifts by mid-November. If you are posting gifts, cards or letters, we would advise posting them in early November.

Also, please let Kylie know if you intend to travel to Vietnam or Mongolia and may be able to assist with transporting items

between the offices. Kylie can be contacted at australia@cncf.org or (03) 9510 7337 on Tuesdays and Wednesdays.

GIFT SUGGESTIONS

For those sponsors who would like to send a personal gift for Christmas to their sponsored child, please remember to include your child's **name** and, most importantly, their **reference number** on any items that are sent. To ensure that the staff have adequate time to translate any cards or

letters before the Sponsorship Distribution Days in December, it is advisable to post your gifts early in November, as the postal service can take two weeks or more to deliver parcels to Vietnam and Mongolia.

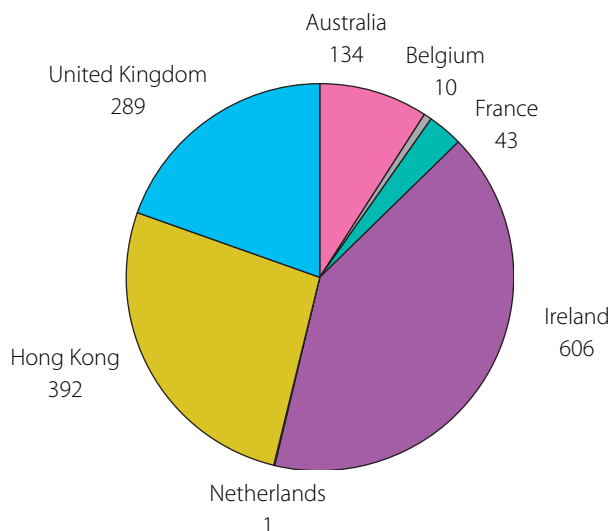
Please note that all items sent by mail must be new, not secondhand.

Children in Vietnam and Mongolia have similar interests to Australian children. Here are some suggestions for gifts that they might like to receive:

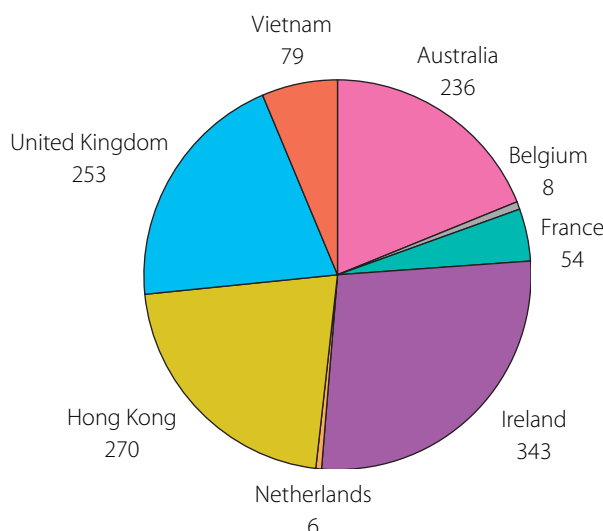
GIRLS & BOYS	GIRLS	BOYS
Winter hat (Mongolia)	Jewellery	Leggo or construction toys
Scarf (Mongolia)	Hair accessories	Matchbox cars
Gloves (Mongolia)	Dolls	Spiderman/Batman accessories (8-13)
Notebooks	Toiletry sets	Belt
Stationery – pens, glue	Hair gel (13+)	Transformer toys
Balls/Volleyball/Basketball	Kitchen sets (under 8)	Walkie-talkies
Game Boy/electronic game	Soft toys	
Socks & underwear	Cosmetics bag (13+)	
Drawing books/sets	Hand cream	
Colouring books	Shower cream	
Chocolate eggs		
Walkman/MP3 player		
Flash disks (teenagers)		
FM radio		
T-shirts/cotton scarves		
Stickers		
Vitamins		
Jumping rope		

CNCF – Child Sponsorship

Sponsorship of Children: Mongolia (June 2008)



Sponsorship of Children: Vietnam (June 2008)





CNCF Fundraising Events



Trivia Night Fundraiser

Thursday, 23 October, 7-11 pm

Come and join a wonderful night of fun and trivia with a difference ... and help make a difference to the Children of CNCF!!!!

Tickets: \$30 per person. Includes entry, finger food and, when pre-paid, you will be in the running to win a door prize. Seating is in tables of 8, so organise a team and secure a table today.

At The Elgin Inn, 75 Burwood Road (cnr Elgin Street and Burwood Road), Hawthorn VIC 3122.

For ticket sales and enquiries, please call Mariam McDonald on 0406 386 584 or email silverservice@maggierealestate.com.au.

What to bring: yourself (dressed in smart casual) and your change to participate in whacky games and raffles.

Donations of prizes, or products for raffle or auction, be they big or small, are also much appreciated and will help us ensure an enjoyable and successful evening. It is hoped the event will raise a minimum of \$4,500 for the Foundation, so we encourage you to get a group of friends together and make up a table.

CNCF Great Ocean Walk Charity Challenge

October 2008 and March 2009

Have you thought about doing a Charity Challenge but weren't sure about taking on that level of fundraising or physical challenge?

Walk the Great Ocean Road and make a difference!

Discover deserted beaches and quiet inlets along this spectacular coastline; see prolific wildlife and bird life; hike along the magnificent Johanna and Station beaches; tour the Cape Otway Lighthouse; experience the remote Milanesia and Wreck beaches; walk through forests of giant Mountain Ash; spot koalas from your accommodation; enjoy a picnic lunch at pristine Aire River Inlet; see the Twelve Apostles.

Payment & Fundraising Option 1

Deposit \$290 + Fundraise or get sponsored \$800-plus

Payment & Donation Option 2

Deposit \$290 + Pay \$400 + Donate or fundraise \$100-plus

WE ONLY HAVE 25 PLACES AVAILABLE FOR THIS THREE-DAY TRIP!

Please contact Kिर्रily on 0413 308 035 or email k.graham@cncf.org for more information and date availability.



Give a gift and encourage a friend to sponsor a child



So many people have been inspired to sponsor a child in need after reading the remarkable story of Christina Noble's life, as told in *Bridge Across My Sorrows* and *Mama Tina*.

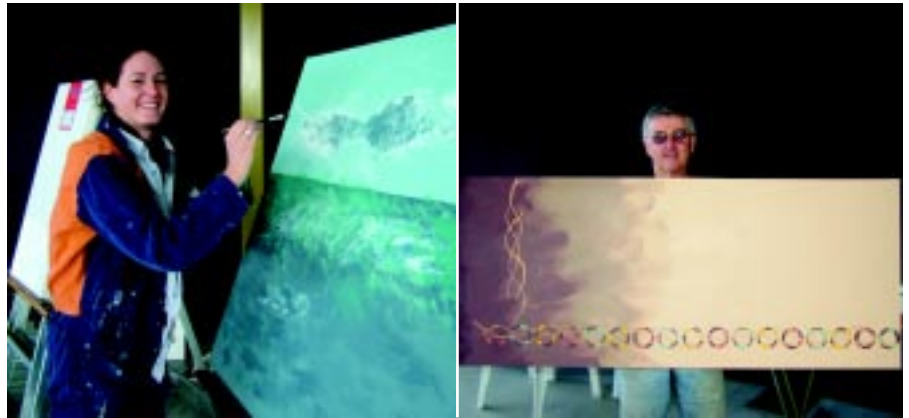
Christina takes us from Dublin, where she was herself a street child, to the streets of Saigon and the Children's Prisons of Mongolia, and recounts her experiences as a staunch campaigner for children's rights. To purchase a copy of either book for \$20 plus postage and handling of \$5, please email australia@cncf.org to obtain an order form. If you have ever felt impotent in the face of Third World poverty, Christina's story will prove that it is possible to help, if we choose to.





CNCF Fundraising Events

Pinot Noir Painting — *be creative, laugh, drink, chat & eat* — held on Sunday, 14 September, was organised by Jodie Taylor, Michael Naismith and John Naismith as part of their fundraising for the Cycle Vietnam Cambodia Charity Challenge to be held in November. The group had a fun day learning to paint their own masterpieces on canvas, while tasting wines at the beautiful Yarra Valley Lillydale Estate. After a delicious meal, jazz musician Neil Taylor entertained the group while they completed their artworks.



It's on again! The last event was a sell-out, so don't miss this one...

Pinot Noir Paddle

2 November and 18 January

Join us for a fun day floating down the Goulburn River, wine tasting and gourmet picnicking. Transport available, but seats are limited.

Go to the link: www.webcreate.com.au/PinotNoirPaddle.htm for more details, or contact Michael Naismith on 0411 087 338. We hope to see you there!





Cycle Vietnam & Cambodia 2008 Charity Challenge Profile: Ciara Shouldice

What do you do for work?

I am a physiotherapist (which may become useful at some point in the cycle!). I graduated in Ireland last year as a 'mature student'. Before that I studied science, also in Dublin.

Any family?

My close family and parents live in Dublin, but I have many cousins, aunts and uncles scattered around Australia. I'm determined to visit them all in the not-too-distant future!

What are your hobbies?

In Ireland: Horse-riding, running, taekwondo. In Vietnam: I have taken up yoga and pilates, swing dancing and *di choi* (going out)!

How did you get involved with the CNCF charity challenge cycle through Vietnam and Cambodia?

Last year, I was fortunate enough to be able to come to Vietnam to work as a volunteer at the CNCF Social and Medical Centre. It was a fantastic three months, and I loved

playing with the children and helping the local staff look after them. Last December I started working for the CNCF Office in Vietnam as the overseas physiotherapist. It's a fantastic opportunity for me to be part of such a wonderful organisation and to see more of the wonderful work being done here on a daily basis.

Have you done anything like this before?

Like crazy cycling in a tropical country? Not really! But I have participated in a lot of charity events, especially running. I've completed the Dublin Marathon twice and the Belfast relay three times.

Had you previously travelled to Asia?

Before coming to Vietnam, I had never been to Southeast Asia, but I spent 10 days in Japan a few years ago. I have yet to see Laos, Malaysia and Thailand, and I would love to visit them, as well as Cambodia, of course!

What concerns do you have about the event?

That I will get very saddle sore!



What do you hope to get out of being a part of such a worthwhile event?

Raising much-needed funds for a fantastic cause and meeting some more like-minded people!

Fundraising suggestion: Puddings galore

Everyone loves a good pud, and our passion for puddings provides a unique fundraising option.



PUD FOR ALL SEASONS is a boutique pudding company located in Central Victoria. All

their puddings are hand-made, based on an old family recipe. Each pudding weighs 800g and serves eight people. Made with all natural ingredients, they have a shelf life of 15 months and don't require refrigeration. Some flavours are gluten and/or dairy free.

Available in traditional plum, double chocolate and orange with Cointreau, date and butterscotch, brandied peach and cinnamon, honey and macadamia nut, and cranberry and white chocolate. Dessert sauces also available.

For further information about bulk orders for fundraisers, visit www.pudforallseasons.com.au. If you would like to run a Pudding Drive fundraiser for CNCF at your school or workplace, please contact us.



If you wish to sponsor a child in Vietnam or Mongolia, contact Kylie Jeffares on australia@cncf.org or (03) 9510 7337 for further information and an application form.



The Christina Noble Children's Foundation

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www.cncf.org

'Each and every one of us can make a difference'