

Euroa Rotary Club International Service Project 2016-2019 - March, 2018, Update

Subcommittee report:

Ross Wright, secretary of the CHOICE Cambodia organisation made the trip to Euroa on March 26 to join our international service subcommittee meeting. Also in attendance by SKYPE from Sydney was Don Rosenfeldt, chair of the CHOICE Cambodia Board and Chris Taylor, President of Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club. Peter Morley, Bob Irving, Des Nicel and Michael Bell represented the Euroa Club with Mandy Edwards recorded as an apology for the meeting.

Ross and Don have recently returned from Cambodia. Ross lives in Cambodia and he is an original founder of CHOICE (Charitable Humanitarian Organisation in Cambodia by Expats). He has managed CHOICE for the past 12 years. Don also lives in Cambodia but he retains a tourism business in Sydney. He is a Rotarian connected to the Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club.

Chris Taylor is the current President of Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club and the DWWRC has supported the Choice Cambodia project and been successful in making application to the Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) for endorsement of the project.

As Des stated at the March 27 meeting, our subcommittee is undertaking due diligence in regard to the Project.

Recommendation:

The subcommittee will recommend to the Board that we enter a partnership with the Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club. Both clubs will unite to invite one of the two Rotary clubs in Phnom Penh to sponsor the project.

Sponsorship of the project by a Rotary club in Cambodia is a necessary criteria for a global grant application to the Rotary Foundation. With Ross and Don living in Cambodia it makes sense that DWWRC approaches the Phnom Penh clubs with a supporting letter from Euroa.

CHOICE:

Currently CHOICE supports over 200 families by providing free education (kindergarten), medical and family assistance. The current school is run down and has less than four years to run on its lease. CHOICE has purchased new land on which to build.

CHOICE relies on an income of \$US65000 which pays for 15 Khmer salaried staff, children's lunches and rent. No Western people receive any funding. The fees from four separate onsite accommodation units currently provide additional income.

Our interest:

The segment of the project that is of interest to us is the building of a school comprising seven classrooms and a library. The school will be made of bricks and cement with a tin roof. The school will accommodate 200 students and will cost around \$US70000. Local builders will be employed to construct the school.

Finances:

Euroa Rotary Club will contribute \$A15000 and Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club will match that contribution. CHOICE has another \$US20000. A further contribution of \$A45000, attributed to the Rotary Club of Euroa will come from RAWCS. That makes achievement of the project almost reachable.

Global grant application:

Euroa and DWW Rotary clubs sponsored by a Rotary Club in Phnom Penh plan to make an application for a Rotary Foundation Global Grant. Euroa will support the DWWRC application. Any grant funding will secure the school building and help furnish the classrooms as well as contribute to the supply of clean water (water available from wells is polluted with arsenic) and enable a kitchen and toilet to be constructed along with a training workshop.

Due diligence – visits to Cambodia:

Representatives of Euroa and DWW Rotary clubs will visit the site in Phnom Penh in June, 2018. The application for a global grant will be registered early July.

A working party from Euroa will go to Cambodia in March, 2019, to assist the construction team.

Rob Morphet has expressed interest in joining the subcommittee. Anyone else is welcome. Des will continue to brief the Club and remaining subcommittee members have roles to play in regard to the grant applications.

Michael 28/3/2018