



Annual Report 2013

The year has been very kind to Platypus. We launched our first project in August last year in Quang Nam Province in Central Vietnam, assisting 100 youngsters on their journey through the school process.

We were surprised and delighted at the support we found at our inaugural fund-raising dinner. A marvellous dinner group turned up and at the end of the evening Platypus had almost \$25,000 in the kitty, a vast improvement on the \$120 we showed at the beginning of the year. What stood out for us, besides the generosity of those who attended and contributed in so many ways, was the goodwill demonstrated and kindness expressed during the evening. We have found supporters who may stay with us for many years.

Our fundraising success has enabled us to launch a second project in Ha Giang Province in the far north of Vietnam on the China border. Our local partner, the Vietnam Women's Union, has selected 50 youngsters from mostly the Dao and Hmong ethnic minorities and we were happy to approve the project. I will be in Ha Giang city and elsewhere in September to attend the launch and will visit the Quang Nam project also to monitor the effectiveness of our funding.

At a time when the cost efficiency of charities and NGOs comes under increasing scrutiny we are pleased to advise that we honoured our pledge that 100 cents of every dollar donated or offered by way of sponsorship will find its way into the hands of a deserving family for purposes of education. We raised a total of \$34,000 and have handed over \$29,000 so far (\$18,000 after balance date) with \$6,000 in reserve while we consider further ways in which we can help. The money will find good homes and none of it will be absorbed by overheads that totalled \$1,600.

Platypus is now registered with the ACNC, the independent national regulator of charities, and we are about to commence the process that should result in our donors being able to claim donations as a tax deduction. We will then be able to approach corporations with the aim of building a financial foundation to lock in self-funding projects so we never have to pull a child out of school because of fund-raising problems.

It has been a great year: our second year of operations is off to a flying start, we have a small temporary reserve sum, a new project has been funded and we have committed friends out there who care about what we are doing. We have started a newsletter, The Platypus Bill, and will circulate that to friends to keep them informed and we will update our website regularly so that everyone can see exactly where the dollars go. We are also always happy to discuss our activities with anyone who contacts us.

Thank you to all of you who have contributed to a very fine year.

Best wishes,

Bob Greer

Chairman

1 September 2013