

Platypus Inc

Annual report 2012

The initial meeting of members of Platypus took place in Perth on 22 August 2011, at which meeting officers were elected and responsibilities allocated.

Platypus Inc was incorporated in WA on 13 October 2011. Charitable Collections Licences were obtained for WA (licence no 21263 dated 23 January 2012), Qld (licence no CH2133) and NSW (licence no CFN/22235 dated 12 March 2012).

A website was activated (www.platypus-charity.org) and is being constantly improved. However, as we were unable to commence fundraising until licences had been issued, we ended the year on 30 June 2012 with \$120 in the bank.

In the meantime, our Chairman visited Hanoi to meet with a prospective patron, and to seek out the best possible local partner to participate in future ventures. It was our good fortune to enlist the Vietnam Women's Union (WU) as our partner. The WU has represented women's causes for over 80 years, and is active on matters such as alcohol and drug abuse, AIDS, domestic violence and gender discrimination. It has a wide – reaching network of officers throughout Vietnam, and reaches the most remote corners of the country.

A Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) was discussed at length, as was the outline of projects Platypus contemplated undertaking. The WU had considerable input into a draft MOU, and locations for a first project discussed.

That was where Platypus found itself at year's end, but subsequent events saw major progress by the time of our first AGM.

A final MOU was agreed upon, and both parties signed on 1 August 2012. Shortly thereafter Platypus members contributed generously so that the Chairman could go to Vietnam and commission the first project in late August.

Platypus has its project in 3 districts of Quang Nam Province in Central Vietnam, with 100 school students from 8 ethnic minority groups attending school until high school graduation. They are all from disadvantaged families, were selected on a non-discriminatory basis and look forward to years of education. Most have expressed the wish to remain within their communities following whatever education they receive, and that is consistent with the Platypus philosophy of helping community development through education.

The Women's Union will provide local supervision and management, as well local support to our First Centurions.