



## **Platypus Charity**

### **Annual Report 2019**

We were able to raise \$ \$52,181 , (2018: \$50,853) in continuing difficult economic conditions through the ongoing generosity of our supporters, with motorcycle fundraising rides generating a gross \$12,000 (2018 \$ 9,000). We were thus able to maintain our scholarship value at US\$110 per student despite a continued weak Australian dollar. This programme cost \$ 30,419 (2018: \$27,907).

We did no additional micro-lending as no suitable borrowers emerged. We visited Bac Me District in Ha Giang Province where we had lent \$4,500 to 9 Tay women in 2017 to enable them to commence silkworm farming. Harsh weather conditions reduced their crops from a potential maximum 5 to 2 for the year so we granted a 1-year loan extension for 50% of the loan with the rest payable on due date.

The Pass the Pig scheme is still in operation but we have not invested fresh funds as the Women's Union is having difficulty keeping up with reporting at present.

Our university student in HCMC graduated with distinction in June and has since secured a good position with Samsung. She has completed a further course with our help and has an additional course awaiting her. She will participate in setting up a Platypus vocational guidance website to assist our school students in finding employment.

Dungg Dungg, our young high school graduate from Quang Nam Province graduated the 2-year VET course at KOTO in Hanoi. She has found employment with a major hotel chain and is continually improving her English. With support from Nolita Restaurant in Claremont we will continue our working relationship with KOTO has an ongoing copper coin corkage arrangement in place, and with their approval we intend passing on their generosity to KOTO who support youngsters from poor backgrounds so superbly.

Our 4 young short-term KOTO students graduated the 6-month KOTO course and all found employment in hospitality in their home province. We have since placed more Dao youngsters on this course, including a mother of 2 who has a baby residing with her at KOTO. This is a welcome KOTO initiative as single mothers do it particularly tough in Vietnam. We will monitor her progress with great interest.

Anh Dao, our young law graduate Liaison Officer in Hanoi works for us on a part-time basis and we are enjoying the benefits of having her on board as the benefits of her efforts are clear

Our cash resources are currently \$20,000, on a par with last year, but we have plans to restore that to a healthier level with a fundraising ride in April 2020. Platypus continues to enjoy tremendous support, but we must become less reliant on the amazing, generous supporters who have been our pillars for many years.

The tragic death of a keen Platypus supporter in Malawi inspired us to form the Chris Rees Memorial Scholarship. We had hopes for a young Hmong high school graduate from Ha Giang, but he found factory employment before we could assist him with further education. We were able to locate him and he is now our inaugural Chris Rees Scholarship student studying veterinary science at university. We played no role in his university entrance (his admission was of his own initiative) but he enjoys support that will enable him to compete on a more playing field with his fellow students.

Supporting education remains our core activity, and we are happy to assist with community development in other ways when a suitable opportunity arises and funds permit. We travel without blinkers and occasionally good causes come to our attention that deserve our consideration; where possible, where we believe our supporters would like us to lend a helping hand, we step in.

We thank our supporters for once again making the year a memorable one for really good and deserving people. And of course, for all of us at Platypus.

Bob Greer

Chairman

28 November 2019