



Health And
Development Aid
Abroad –
Australia Fund Inc.

ABN 43 739 862 351
Registered Charity No. 1273

Office Bearers

President: Neil Young
Phone: 07 5564 7476

Secretary: Dr Peter Moody
Phone: 07 3264 8209

Treasurer: Dr Chris Houghton-Allen
Phone: 0418 378 466

HADA : hada@pobox.com

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NEWSLETTER

Issue 18. February 2004

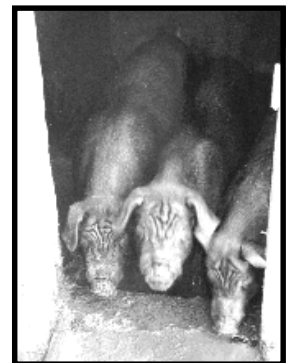
President's Summary of Activities in 2003

ONCE again another year has slipped by. Much has been achieved and much is still to be done.

Yunnan, China

In October 2003 Chaney Carter, our Project Officer, and I visited a number of the projects run by the HADA Yunnan office.

We visited very remote rural areas of the province where local farmers had been lent funds for projects to lift their current income level. This enabled them to send their children to school. We were greatly impressed by the quality of livestock and other projects to which the funds had been put. The Government officials were most helpful and always desirous of more funds for other projects. All funds loaned the previous year have been recovered and more projects are being assessed.



Astana, Kazakhstan



The Pregnancy Crisis Centre in Astana continues its work and is mainly run by locals under supervision of the HADA Astana team. This year the team have been lecturing in schools and universities on public health matters. Another project is being planned to train local men for work in the building and construction industry. There is a shortage of trained labour in this industry and as the new capital of

Kazakhstan is being built there are many jobs available.

Where else have we sent funds?

Iraq has received some donated funds and these will be used among the Kurdish refugees along the Iranian border.

In Cambodia, Harvest International continues to receive funds towards their Vocational Training Centre.

China

The project with our affiliated organisation of SAI working in the Tibetan autonomous region of China has received help through HADA. Their major focus this year has been treating Hydatids patients who have been unable to receive medication locally.



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Accreditation

Our application to become a "tax deductible gift recipient" is still working its way through the various levels of Government. I have been advised that we have met all the requirements and only need the appropriate minister to "Gazette" our approval before we can accept gifts and give receipts that are tax deductible to the donor.

Finances

Our audited Financial Statement is attached for members and is available on request for other interested people. An amount of AU\$80,364 was raised in total by the various arms of HADA. Of this AU\$31,159 was raised independently of our Australian office. These amounts have not been included in our audited figures because of difficulty in verifying the figures against differing overseas accounting standards.



Membership

This year we introduced a three year membership plan which has proved successful. Our current membership level is 120 and has reached the goal that I set the previous year. We need to maintain our current level of membership to meet ATO requirements.

Future

We are looking to expand HADA in the future as more projects and personnel present themselves. The main goal for 2004 is Gift Tax Deductibility.

Thanks

To all those volunteers who have assisted this year with the various facets of the expanding horizons of HADA, a sincere thank you. Thanks also for those who have sent donations. We continue to be able to send all your gifts in their totality, less bank charges, to the projects and this is a real benefit to each project.

Neil Young, President

Danielle

DANIELLE'S uncle was back... but this time I was prepared. A friend had been to the provincial capital, met Danielle, and brought back pictures, a letter from Danielle, a flier from the school, and a phone number where she could be reached. Thankfully, my well-intentioned plans had been rearranged by Susan's unpredictable school schedule and I had returned the evening before, fully loaded. Her uncle had his eyes glued upon me as I walked out of the classroom. He didn't return my smile. Undaunted, I went for the ammo.

One look at the pictures and, this time, he could only shoot back with an uncontrollable grin that stretched the width of his face — he had never had a photograph before. Yet, the weapon that wouldn't be overpowered was the phone conversation with his contented niece.

My principal had been irritated that Danielle's uncle didn't trust that we were providing his niece with an incredible opportunity; fearing instead that he would never see her again. He said that if the uncle came questioning again, he would simply say she would have to come back. That all changed two days later when my principal walked in on a conversation at the administrative office down the road. Two young girls had recently been kidnapped for brides from one of our neighbouring villages. He no longer blamed the uncle for his suspicions.

However, a few days later his perspective changed yet again. One of his friends reminded him that being of the Yi nationality, Danielle was at the bride-selling age. If she were at home, her uncle could get a year or more wages for her. I should note that my principal and his friend are Mosuo. Since they despise the Yi generally, and disapprove of the practice specifically, they use the term "sell." I would assume that the Yi use a term like dowry. I maintain the optimism that the uncle is truly concerned about his niece's best interest. Danielle herself is blossoming and loving school.

Note: This type of venture is possible because someone is paying for the students' transportation and covering all costs once they arrive in the city.

The author, Renee, is a school teacher in the mountainous region of Yunnan, China



Renee's Principal

Tribute to Three Wise Men

This year is the end of an era for HADA as it is the sixth year of full operation as an Incorporated Body

BECAUSE of our Model Rules, three of our original Board Members are required to stand down at the coming AGM and will not be eligible for re-election for another twelve months. This has the effect of giving them a break from HADA so that they can re-assess where their futures lie. It also allows HADA to bring in new Board members.

In 1996, I approached a number of people to see if together we could set up an aid organisation. Dr Peter Moody, Mr Brian Allbutt, Mr Ron Pilkington and others were approached to help form a Steering Committee. After a series of meetings, we received legal registration in 1997 and Peter, Brian and Ron came on as foundation Board members.

Since then, HADA has achieved its aims and objectives and the organisation has continued to grow because of the selfless sacrifice of these people.



Dr Peter Moody was recommended to me by a mutual friend as a possible Board member. When we initially approached him he had some interesting comments and after some discussion Peter agreed to be part of the Steering Committee. At the time he was working in the Emergency Department at the Toowoomba Hospital. Peter became the first President of HADA, then took on the role of treasurer. In more recent years he has served as secretary. I have valued Peter's personal friendship and his wise counsel over these past years.



Mr Brian Allbutt is a long time friend who I really got to know while we were working on a project together in Fiji in 1992/93. Brian has been Vice President since HADA's inception and has stood in as President a number of times when required. He is currently the Editor of our Newsletter and has agreed to continue in this role in the future even though he is no longer a Board member.



Mr Ron Pilkington is a long term friend of my wife, Jeanie. He is a man who gives very wise counsel, has vast experience working and relating to people, and has an accounting background.

When we first approached Ron to assist, he explained that he had many responsibilities but he could give us one year to assist with the setting up and running of HADA. That is now six years ago. I would like to thank Ron for his wise counsel and guiding hand in our Board discussions and with government officials over his time with us.

These three wise men will be greatly missed and it is our hope that they will return to the Board in twelve months. My best wishes go with them in their future endeavors.

*Neil Young,
President*

HADA'S Vision: *To see medical, education, agricultural and sanitation programs established in countries as needed.*

Current HADA Projects

Yunnan, China

- Pig farming
- Chicken farming
- Sponsoring children for schooling
- Training English teachers

Astana, Kazakhstan

- Pregnancy Crisis Centre
- Community health

HADA has provided funding to the following associate organisations for some of their projects.

SAI, China

- Sponsoring mature rural students to language and medical school
- Sponsoring children for schooling
- Assisting a hospital for the poor
- Supporting a school for the children of nomadic families
- School renovations
- Hydatids treatment and eradication project
- Yak micro-loan project
- Community health training

IAM, Afghanistan

- The Herat Ophthalmic Centre
- Herat Community Development Program
- Herat Mental Health Clinic
- Ophthalmic Technicians Training Program
- Maternal Child Health – training women health workers
- Primary Mental Health Program
- Disaster Management Program

Harvest International Services, Cambodia

- Vocational training
- Village education
- Street kids

HADA wishes to thank **Anthony Smith & Company** for the printing of this newsletter. Anthony Smith and Company (07) 5531 6333 can assist you with all your accounting and body corporate services.

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Notice is given that HADA will hold its Annual General Meeting for all members at 261 Beacon Road, North Tamborine, Queensland on Saturday, 13th March, 2004 at 4.15 PM.

Dr Peter Moody, Secretary

AGM AGENDA 13th March 2004

- Welcome
- Apologies
- Proxies
- Minutes of AGM 08.03.2003
- Business Arising
- Chairman's Report
- Financial Report
- Election of Management Committee

Making an Impact in Astana

IT'S not easy being a pensioner in Kazakhstan, after having worked for decades. When the Soviet Union collapsed so did all social security from the State. Pensioners were one of the hardest hit groups. Things have improved over the years but we still remember hearing of a high suicide rate among them and that they "lived" on bread and tea. Knowing that they were in need was not so obvious at first either. If they had occupied a flat it was handed over to them when the Soviet Union ended. But the equation "flat-owner = well-off person" did not apply here. It was possible for a successful businessman with a Mercedes in front of the house to be living in the same apartment block as a starving pensioner.

Things don't seem to be that desperate anymore as the country has been working hard on their pension system. However, while there might be enough money now for food and paying utilities of the flat,



the old winter coats might not be so warm after years of constant wear and tear. With the motto "any extras welcome" we were able to provide good clothing from our container in conjunction with a local NGO who is helping pensioners.

Another disadvantaged group is the prisoners. From reliable reports we know that a prison term could become a life sentence through contracting TB. Basically everything we had was needed and though we were not able to provide everything, the pillows and blankets we supplied were gratefully welcomed.

HADA Astana is glad to be able to have an impact in different ways on these and other disadvantaged groups.

Edith Hanke, HADA Astana, Kazakhstan