

# The Andrew Clark Trust

NEWSLETTER JANUARY 2009



The rainy season was worse than ever and lasted for 5 months, bringing more hardship than usual. During this time there is little or no work for the fishermen and the related work which their wives do, and so many families cannot eat everyday, which is less than a hand to mouth situation.

Quite a number of families had to move their shacks because the land owner wanted to sell, which meant that they had to find somewhere else in the village to squat. This has happened to some three or four times in the last two years.

Medical expenses have been a real drain on our funds, due to the fact that we have two cancer patients, one girl of 15 years with bone cancer in her leg, and a mother of 5 with mouth cancer. For the time being we have had to stop any healthcare for adults, until funds allow.



Two of our older students are studying programming and web design in the city of Yangon, and three of our very bright children are weekly boarders in the nearby town, so that they can get the very best education. This means that they have the luxury of just studying, and don't have to do any work to help their parents. So far all three are doing extremely well and have passed every exam and are in the A class.

Beverley Rogers came for 1 month, and trained our teachers again. She said she was very happy with the dedication of our teachers, and the results they are getting. Our grateful thanks to Beverley.

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In September one of our adult students volunteered to teach badminton to the children, and we made two courts, by marking them out with old bamboo sticks and the children carried sand from the beach to make the ground smooth. This has been a tremendous success and has proved very popular. You can see the children each afternoon in between classes, doing their exercises first and then playing badminton. After two months our coach took two of our sponsored boys to Yangon (a city - 17 hours by bus), and they competed in the national championships. They didn't win, but did very well, considering they had only been playing for 2 months, and as you can

imagine, it was a marvellous experience for them. Our grateful thanks to Ko Tun Tun Oo, who is continuing to coach.

We have planted many fruit trees in the school ground, these include 44 banana trees, 16 cashew nut trees, 19 papaya trees, 2 lime trees, 1 lemon tree, 14 mango trees, 6 avocado trees and 10 lichee trees. Each morning and evening the children water them, and when there is fruit, it will be shared amongst the children. The kids, in fact even the adults, generally do not eat fruit, because it is too expensive for them.

A computer has been donated, and when there is electricity, our older students learn Word and Excel, although we have no internet facility at present.



MAY WE THANK EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT AND HELP, AS WITHOUT YOU, NONE OF THIS WOULD HAPPEN.

WE WISH YOU A VERY HAPPY, HEALTHY AND PEACEFUL 2009.