



## A MESSAGE FROM GEOFF AND LYNICE

We have hit the ground running in St Kilda and are gathering momentum as we head towards a busy Christmas season. It has been great completing Christmas orders from our various producer groups and opening boxes containing such amazing products. We encourage all of our supporters to consider Empower as you plan your Christmas purchases and either come into our Empower store or check out our on line shop. It is very important that we maximize our sales between now and Christmas and so we would be very grateful if you would keep Empower in mind.

We welcome Emma, Jody, Charlie, Jenny and Sonia as new Empower volunteers and also thank Jemma for her ongoing assistance since we have re-located to St Kilda. Empower is very much a team effort and it has been a great encouragement to watch our team grow.

We are very pleased to announce that donations for Clear Skies House in Thailand can now be tax deductible. In this newsletter there is information about an exciting new project regarding Clear Skies House and the process regarding donations.

We are also seeking 100 supporters to commit to donate \$100 per month during 2018, in order to assist in funding various Empower projects. Please consider whether this is something that you would be willing to do and let us know if you would like to be a part of the "100 Club".

Keep a lookout for a major overhaul of Empower's website in coming months and also follow us on Facebook and Instagram. As always, we thank you for your ongoing support and acknowledge the many people who contribute to the work of Empower in so many varied and crucial ways.



Geoff and Lynice Wigney




## CLEAR SKIES HOUSE

For quite some time we have been going through the process to enable donations for Clear Skies House to be tax deductible for those donors who would benefit in this regard. To achieve this we have partnered with Global Development Group, (GDG), an Australian-based NGO which is approved by the Australian Government to be involved in aid and development activities in approved countries and to provide tax deductibility for donations for this purpose.



A receipt will be provided to donors for tax deductibility for donations (min \$2.00) made for Clear Skies House via GDG. GDG will provide the governance support and oversight for the Clear Skies House project and will retain 7.5% of donations it receives for the provision of this service.

Donations for Clear Skies House to be made via GDG can be provided by any of the following ways:

	Australia Details for <u>TAX DEDUCTIBLE</u> donations	Instructions
<b>Credit Card</b>	<a href="http://www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ974N">www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ974N</a>	Login or create an account
<b>PayPal</b>	<a href="http://www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ974N">www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ974N</a>	Complete details
<b>Direct Deposit</b>	<b>BSB:</b> 064 118 <b>Account No.</b> 10200094	Deposit Reference: Your name & J974N Email your donation details* to <a href="mailto:info@globaldevelopment.org.au">info@globaldevelopment.org.au</a>
<b>Cheque</b>	<b>Payable to:</b> Global Development Group	Include a note with the donation details* and <u>Post to:</u> PO Box 651, Rochedale South QLD 4123
*Donation Details: date, amount, project number (J974N), name & email/ address		

Any donations for Clear Skies House provided via Empower will continue to be forwarded to Clear Skies House in full.





With those formalities out of the way we are pleased to introduce....

## J947 FASAI HOUSE (CLEAR SKIES HOUSE) UPGRADE

This is the formal title of the Clear Skies House project. "Fasai" is the Thai word for "Clear Skies". The overall project is made up of three parts as follow:

### 1. Construction of sick bay/medical room, kitchen and office

This is a much needed addition for Clear Skies House and the provision of a sick bay is a requirement of the Thai government authorities. The estimated cost of construction is \$26,000.00. We are seeking to raise this amount by Christmas, so the building works can be completed in early 2018.



*Children at Clear Skies House enjoying mealtime together*

### 2. Child Sponsorship

Each three months 150,000 Thai Baht is forwarded to Clear Skies House to provide for the ongoing needs of the children. At the current exchange rate, this equates to \$6,050.00 per quarter (the next payment is in December 2017).





### 3. Happy Families Project

Clear Skies House provides a parenting program to enable children to maintain relationships with their parents (where applicable) and to return to their homes when it is safe to do so. Programs cover issues such as domestic violence, drug and alcohol counselling and gambling. Camps are also run at Clear Skies House where parents stay in tents with their children (*pictured right*). The budget for the Happy Families Project is \$5,000.00 per year.



Your contributions to the Clear Skies House project would be much appreciated. The most pressing need is to raise \$26,000.00 by Christmas to enable construction of the sick bay/medical room, kitchen and office. If more funds are received than needed we will expand the work at Clear Skies House. If you have any questions regarding the process of making your donation, please contact Geoff via telephone on 0408348359 or via email at [geoff@empower.org.au](mailto:geoff@empower.org.au)



*Children playing at Clear Skies House*

