



A MESSAGE FROM GEOFF & LYNICE



It's been a pretty hectic seven months for us since we opened our Empower shop in Acland Street, St Kilda. Being open every day has its benefits and challenges – we're grateful to our growing number of enthusiastic volunteers who have been such a great help and encouragement. We have an awesome team!

We have enjoyed the vibe of Acland Street, with its locals, backpackers, tourists, activity and diversity – rarely a dull moment! If you haven't been to our shop yet, why don't you get a car-load together or jump on the 96 tram from the city and come for a visit.

What is crucial for us right now? (and what is YOUR role in that?)

We are looking at ways to increase our sales – YOU are an important part of the answer! Keep us in mind when the time comes to buy a gift, or when you deserve a treat yourself. Don't forget that we have an online shop as well as our shop in St Kilda.

We are looking at ways to increase our donations – YOU are an important part of the answer! For those who appreciate the benefit of tax deductibility, that is available for donations to Fasai Home (Clear Skies House) in Thailand. Otherwise you can simply donate to Empower, to enable us to fund various worthy projects. A huge "THANK YOU" to those generous people who have taken up the challenge of donating \$100 per month to Empower during 2018. There is still opportunity for others to join the "100 Club" – if that is a challenge you are up for, email Geoff at geoff@empower.org.au.

Enjoy reading about Empower's current building projects in Thailand and Mongolia – only made possible by your generous donations.

TOGETHER we can make a difference.

FASAI HOME (CLEAR SKIES HOUSE)



HERE'S AN UPDATE!

In our November 2017 Friends of Empower newsletter we introduced a campaign called “Get it Done”, seeking to raise \$26,000 by Christmas to fund the construction of a much needed sickbay/medical room and office at Clear Skies House in northern Thailand. We are thrilled to let you know that this goal was achieved and the building works are well underway. Thanks to all the generous donors who have made this possible in such a short time!

In addition, we have also provided Fasai Home (Clear Skies House) with \$7,150 to provide for the children for the first three months of 2018.

Remember that donations to Clear Skies House are now tax deductible. 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.

Donate!

If you would like to assist to secure the future for the children at Fasai Home please donate now by selecting a



tax deductible payment method below.

Thank you for making a very real and tangible difference in the lives of the children and their community.

Credit Card Payment: www.gdg.org.au/GiveToJ974N

PayPal: www.gdg.org.au/PayPalJ974N

Direct Deposit:

BSB: 064 118

Account No. 10200094

Please use the reference: your name & J974N

Please Email: info@globaldevelopment.org.au with the date, amount donated, project number J974N, your name and email address and a receipt will be emailed to you.

STREAMS IN THE DESERT UPDATE

In January 2017, we provided Streams in the Desert in Mongolia with \$20,000 to contribute to the purchase of a building to be used as a workshop. In December 2017 Streams in the Desert purchased half of the fourth floor of a nine-story building in a great area in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia.

In January, we provided a further sum of \$6,327.00 to assist with the fitout of the building, including internal walls, toilets, bathroom, kitchen and laundry.



Work is almost done and the women are already enjoying their new workshop!

RAGS 2 RICHES

Richard Cutler retired from school teaching at the end of 2017 and in January this year started a fundraising venture for Empower called “Rags 2 Riches”, to help raise funds to provide for



the children at Clear Skies House.

Richard has been working very hard gardening for quite a few satisfied customers and has so far raised the amazing sum of \$3,140.00 for Clear Skies House!

So, if you live in the Eastern suburbs of Melbourne and your garden could do with a spruce up, give Richard a ring and he'll sort you out... and the children of Clear Skies House will benefit!

Keep up the great work, Richard!

SHOP ONLINE!

Before you go anywhere, don't forget to visit our online shop. We have new items, customer favourites, and products for sale, all on our website!

[Click here to check it out!](#)



Our mailing address is:
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