



Dear members and friends,

It has been many months since our last gala fund-raising dinner. To provide a new opportunity for our members and supporters to catch up with one another we are holding a BBQ on 4 Dec 2011.

The venue for the event is the beautiful Parramatta Lake Reserve, at 28 Bourke St, North Parramatta, NSW.

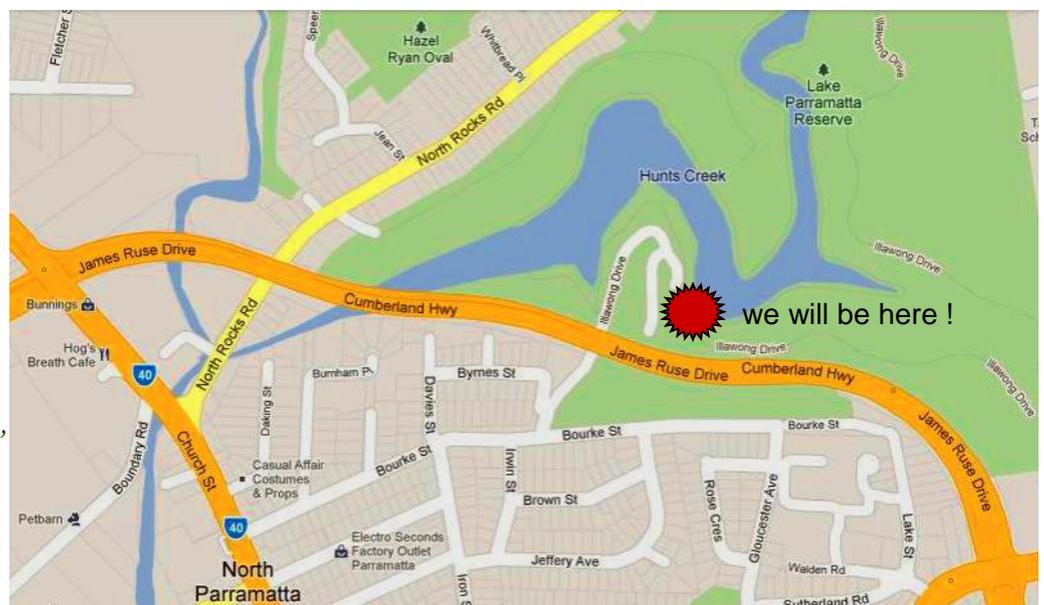
The reserve has plenty of off-street car parking spaces, picnic areas, a children's playground, rowing boats for hire and many enthralling bush walking trails. The tranquil bush land, now in full glory with a multitude of exotic, colourful blooms, is a perfect setting for sharing a relaxed day with good friends. As all food and drink for the event will be provided please help with the catering by indicating your attendance to mail@vietnamfoundation.org.au.

We look forward to see many of you at this gathering. We also hope that this newsletter will fill you in sufficiently on our activities in the last few months.

We thank you very much for your continuing support and appreciate a renewal of your membership if you have not done so for this financial year.

Our best wishes for peace, good health and happiness to all!

The BOD of the Vietnam Foundation.



*Masthead photo:
Children at 'Mai Am Hong An'
orphanage in Tay Ninh.*

Map of the BBQ location

Exquisite Greeting Cards

With the new festive season coming, you may be looking for beautiful cards to carry your greetings to your friends and loved ones. There are no better cards for the purpose than those made especially for the Foundation by two keen photographers on our Board: Dr Nhan Ly and Mrs Tinh Tien Le .

Each card consists of a glossy colourful photograph mounted on a folded white hard paper base of approximately 15.5 cm x 10.5 cm. The photographs were personally taken and printed by Nhan and Tinh Tien. They come with different themes such as Sydney Opera House in Vivid Sydney (Festival of Light), Western Australian wild flower season 2011, etc.

The exquisite hand-made cards are individually prepared by the two photographer artists and as such, unique, small works of arts which are not sold in any commercial outlet. The cards are ideal for many occasions, not just for the coming



A typical photo mounted on the cards

Christmas and New Year festive seasons only. You just simply fill the blank pages with your personal messages.

The cards are available in sets of 6, including 6 envelopes, at the cost of \$10 per set. All proceeds of the sales will go toward funding our aid projects in Vietnam.

If you are interested in these cards, please contact us at mail@vietnamfoundation.org.au



Typical greeting cards

Super software for medical practitioners

Over the years our main source of income has been the generous donations from our members and supporters of cash or time and efforts in holding various fund raising dinners and activities.

To help us having a more secure income stream, one of our members, Dr Ken Ho-Le, has kindly offered to share with us some of the proceeds from the sales of his long-nurtured fruit of labour: the two suites of management software for medical practices, **PRACTICE 2000** and **MEDINET**, which have been well used and loved by many medical practitioners in Australia and worldwide.

Both software suites are Windows-based and easy to use. They are very stable as they have been constantly improved and updated since development in 1995.

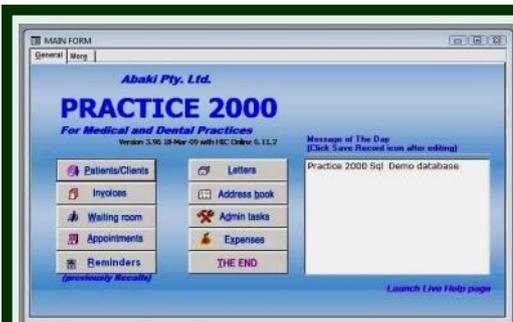
Used together they will provide a complete paperless working environment for single practitioners or small clinics with up to 15 users. Thanks to its ease of use and efficiency, the software have been

indispensable tools helping many medical practitioners save valuable productive time. Existing users have also highly commended Dr Ho-Le and his team of dedicated software professionals at **Abaki Pty Ltd** for their super support and customization services.

Any doctor who has used Medical Director (another clinical software used in Australia), should have no trouble using **MEDINET** as it has a similar interface. Moreover **Abaki** will provide free data transfer for the doctors who want to switch from other software to **Abaki's**

You can find out more about these software at <http://www.abaki.com>

If you would like more information, want to know **Abaki's** reference sites or, more importantly, to see a demonstration of the systems please contact us on mail@vietnamfoundation.org.au or **Abaki Pty Ltd** as described at <http://www.abaki.com/contact/index.htm>



PRACTICE 2000 is a Practice Management System which provides facilities for receptionists and other staff to handle tasks such as:

- booking appointments,
- making electronic billings,
- submitting Medicare claims,
- managing of patients' medical records,
- management of invoices, accounts, payrolls, etc.

MEDINET

helps doctors write prescriptions by providing a complete list of all available drugs, their full information, recommended dosages and, importantly, the interaction between drugs to prevent adverse effects on the patients. The suite thus:

- keeps full patients' medical records (progress notes, medical histories, allergy issues...) which are displayed in time order,
- assists prescription writing, including PBS, RPBS, authority scripts, etc.,
- is integrated with the MIMS drug database, including drug-drug interactions and the more advanced drug-health and drug-allergy interactions,
- provides facilities for pathology/radiology downloading in HL7 format,
- processes and stores documents, including X-rays, scanned documents, voice recordings,
- provides templates for letter writing,
- provides facilities for recalling records for urgent problems,
- incorporates reminders for Preventative Health Care,
- provides regular updates of MIMS database through the Internet.

Sanitation project for Daklak hill tribes

In many rural and mountainous parts of Vietnam, because of tradition and a lack of clean toilet facilities, open defecation is still widely practiced. As a result, the local population lives in a polluted environment and frequently suffers many serious communicable diseases.

In response to a request from Sister Nguyen Thi Duc of the Kim Thanh church, in Cu Kuin District, Daklak province, Vietnam Foundation lent its support to her programme of building toilets for the 450 Ede families living in buon Hra Ea Hing and buon Hra Ea Tla. The first phase of the programme consisted of building 76 toilets for 76 families. In parallel with the

toilet construction, classes teaching hygiene practices and healthy life style were also organised for this ethnic minority group.



Photos clockwise:

- *A local resident happy with his new toilet.*
- *Dr Thuy Mai-Viet, one of our directors, with Sister Nguyen Thi Duc and the proud owners of a new toilet.*
- *Typical housing of the local hill tribes.*

Vietnam Foundation contributed about one third of the costs of this first phase. About 70% of the toilets have already been built.

If the programme proves to be successful, 200 more toilets will be built in the next few years for the remainder families in these 2 communities. It is hoped that at the end of the project, these ethnic minority families will have a cleaner living environment, a more hygienic life style and many of their diseases are things of the past.



New bridges for rural Binh Thuan

Tánh Linh is a rural remote district of Binh Thuan province. Many roads in the district are very old, in bad condition, with small, narrow, worn-out or unstable wooden bridges. The bridges are therefore not only serious public safety risks but also great impediments to reliable transport and productive economic activities for the local population.

In response to a request for help from Thien Chi, an NGO based in Binh Thuan, Vietnam Foundation

supported the local population to replace 2 small bridges in Bac Ruong and Nghi Duc communities by contributing 1/3 of the cost of the bridge replacements.

Thien Chi requested support for further bridge constructions in Tanh Linh and Duc Linh districts. However as the designs and construction standards of the above 2 bridges were not of the high quality expected by the Foundation, we declined further support.



Old and new bridge in Nghi Duc village

Old and new bridge in Bac Ruong village

Heifer project in Soc Trang

Back in 2007, we lent support to Heifer Vietnam (HVN), the Vietnam office of the US-based NGO Heifer Project International (HPI), to start a project helping 44 families in Ke Sach district, Soc Trang province, to improve their living condition. They were gifted with young calves, trained in cattle raising, loaned micro-credits and helped with other income producing activities.

The project is now in its fourth years. The young calves of 4 years ago had produced offspring which were then passed on as gifts to other families. The micro-credits had been repaid and were recycled as credits for other families.

With this 'Pass-on-the-gifts' mode of operation, as of August 2011 our original outlay has brought benefits, ie improved living standards, to not 44, but 87 families. Over time, more families are expected to benefit from the programme.

A farmer family with their incense-making machine which was bought with the micro-credit

Due to the success of the project, HVN requested us to support a similar project for the people in Hau Giang province. However, very fortunately, HPI and the local population are now able to fully fund that planned programme. Our earmarked fund for the Hau Giang project will now be directed to other projects.



A farmer is proudly passing on the gift of a young calf to another happy fellow farmer

Rare hand-knitted scarves

To raise fund for our aid projects in Vietnam one of our generous and dedicated members, Mai Attuell, and her sister-in-law, Be, spent many hours during last winter producing for us 60 beautiful, unique products: hand-knitted scarves.

Although the scarves were available mainly through words of mouth, the high quality of the knitting and design were such that they were all

snapped up as soon as they were produced.

We thank Mai and Be very much for the kind thoughts that they reserved for us and for the poor and disadvantaged in Vietnam.

The fruits of their efforts are the treasures that the lucky few of us much appreciate and are proud to cherish for the many years to come.



Some of the scarves knitted by Mai and Be

Annual General Meeting

Our AGM was held on 15 October 2011 at the office of UPC in Bankstown. The normal presidential and financial reports were presented, discussed and accepted. All directors were 'conscripted' for another year of service.

One of the enquiries we frequently received in our meetings are enquiries about potential support for aid projects in Vietnam.

In order for our Board to consider any project, we must receive a formal, written proposal, preferably in the format of the 'Funding Application Form' which is available from our website. We cannot consider requests which come verbally with no signed, written application.

We may require further information on the proposal once the application form is received. When we have all

the information we need then we start a formal assessment process. The merit of the proposed project is assessed on a number of criteria such as: feasibility and sustainability of the project, number of target beneficiaries, contribution or participation of the beneficiaries to the project, benefits and risks, etc.

This vigorous process is to ensure that all our precious aid money, which is entrusted to us by our generous donors, is used effectively for the target beneficiaries and for the intended purposes.

If you receive enquiries on this issue, please advise this procedure to the inquirer. The procedure is also described in more details on our website.

'Ve Mien Tay' fund-raising dinner

Despite the global financial crisis which affected all of us and the proliferation of fund-raising functions in aid of Queensland flood victims at the time, nearly 350 came to give support to our gala fund raising dinner on 18 March 2011.

Danny Low, our guest speaker from the Rotary Club of Mosman hurriedly returned from overseas the night before so that he could come and share with us his experiences on aid projects in Vietnam. The celebrated guest artist Nguyen Le Tuyen with his unique guitar technique was well appreciated by all. Well-loved, acclaimed dancing teachers Ly Ly and Phuong Lam as well as artists Thien Huong, Hoang Phuong, Thanh Tam, Kim Thuy were hugely popular and provided many hours of joyful

entertainment for the dinner attendants. Kevin Cahill was so overwhelmed by the thunderous applause for his impressive rendition of 'Chuyến Xe Miền Tây' that he had to give an encore with 'Cô Đơn Minh Anh'

We raised about AUD 13,000 during the night. Some donations were also received by bank direct transfers after the dinner.

We sincerely thank you for having come to give us support, offered your valuable free time and services, worked very hard for the event and its entertainment programme, and/or generously donated us cash or precious arts items for auctions.

Photos clockwise:

- *Danny Low with MC Truong Quang Minh*
- *Nguyen Le Tuyen*
- *A view of the dining room*
- *Kim Thuy*
- *Dancing teachers Ly-Ly and Phuong Lam*
- *Kevin Cabill*

