

# NEWSLETTER



## Digging Deep For MYANMAR

# 2017

Look what we have achieved with your support as another incredibly productive Digging Deep for Myanmar trip comes to a close. A huge thank you for everyone's generous donations and support.

This year we completed six toilets, built a house for a disabled homeless lady and her son and carried out major repairs to another house for a family in desperate need of help.

We employed local tradespeople to do the bulk of the work thereby providing valuable income for the local community. Our volunteers assisted and supervised the work with the help of our man on the ground Htein Lin. People benefiting from the projects also assisted where it was feasible.

Digging Deep is in it's fifth year and we are delighted and proud to announce we have now built 22 toilets since inception, which provide clean and hygienic facilities for over 500 people in Lintha. We have also built three houses and repaired and improved many others.

We continue to provide health & hygiene and dental care training at the English language school. The value of these programs to the community is substantial.

### Six toilets built in Lintha village;



Htein Lin with Jamie measuring the septic tank with Tim and Luke supervising.



Robin and Brant check requirements for the roof and door to complete the toilet.



Tim supervising Jamie and Brant's handy work at the Yoma Cherry workshop.



The 2017 Digging Deep Team with some of the villagers, behind is their completed toilet, generously donated by The Munmorah Summerland Point Lions.

**We donated over 100kg of clothes and 180 pairs of reading glasses;**



Zar Ni Win leads the way to give out clothing at a village with Jenny, Jane, and Hilary.



Jenny and Jane handing out clothing in the village.

**50 tooth brushes and toothpastes for young kids and the schools first technology class. Plus school supplies, including solar calculators;**



Jack teaching dental care at the school.



Jenny and Brant teaching a group of kids how to use the iPads, recently donated to the school by a group of Australian teachers.

**A new house built for a disabled homeless lady and her son;**



Htein Lin and the builders. Building was underway for a house funded by Digging Deep for Ma Than Tin, a homeless lady and her son.



Ma Than Tin in disbelief as Jenny, Jo and Jane arrive with kitchen and bedding supplies for her new house.



Clothing for Ma Than Tin, her son and her neighbours.



An overwhelmed Ma Than Tin with Jo, Jane and Jenny,

**Games Day – 30 soccer balls, frisbees, skipping ropes, hand ball games and cuddly toys;**



80 kids joined us on the beach for a Games Day. Htein Lin explains to the kids while Brant, Tim and Jamie demonstrate the Nippers Flag race.



All eyes on Htein Lin to say 'Go'



Tug of War, a Games Day favourite.



The girls Tug of War focus before the start.



Winning boys Tug of War team



Winning girls Tug of War team



Jamie, desperate to stay longer poses as a Yoma Cherry staff member at the airport to collect new arrivals. Nice try Jamie.

This year's Digging Deep volunteer group were Jo, Tim, Jack and Luke Banner, Jamie and Jane Maslen, Brant and Jenny Maslen and Robin and Hilary Evans (UK). All travel and accommodation costs were met by our volunteers ensuring that 100% of your donation is spent on the ground where it is needed most.

A special thank you to Kerry and Ken Campbell and family who sponsored the construction of their third toilet in Lintha and to Munmorah Summerland Point Lions Club for their donation of a toilet.

Jo Banner raised more than \$1500 on-selling loo paper through the "Who Gives a Crap" initiative as well as donating another \$1000 given in lieu of gifts at her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday party.

Also to Jamie and Jane Maslen who organized the Boxing Day Elvis Festival held at Tea Gardens Hotel and raised \$350 in donations on the day. This event is getting bigger and bigger.

A big thank you to the following people who donated more than \$200. Sue & Bob Freebairn, Peter & Maureen Evans, Kerrie & Terry Ward, David & Tracey Pass, Maarten & Rudy, Pip & John Burgess and Atif Khan and family.

A big thank you to Htein Lin for his unselfish commitment and for ensuring that the program runs so smoothly. His input and connection with the local community is invaluable. Also to Sue, Sahin and the staff at Yoma Cherry Lodge who looked after our every need. Your ongoing support is greatly appreciated and we look forward to seeing you again next year.



Htein Lin



Sue and Sahin