

Newsletter

QUARTER 2 : 2017

Welcome to our second newsletter for 2017. With the busy summer period now over our new years plans are in full swing and we'd like to update you on their progress.

FLOORING

Our flooring is being replaced at the end of May into the first couple of days of June. We are endeavouring to keep disruption to the practice to a minimum, however as this is an extensive task which includes disconnecting and removal then replacing all of the dental chairs there is no other option but to close the practice. RDG will be closed on **Wednesday 31st May** and will reopen on **Wednesday 7th June**. Appointments will be kept aside for emergencies either side of this closure period. We apologise in advance to anyone inconvenienced by this necessary closure of the clinic.

PAPER FREE

By law we require a signed medical history update every 12 months. Previously we have been posting these out prior to appointments when due; however if you have registered an email address with us we will now email these with a form in a PDF fillable form which can be emailed back to us. We will still post medical updates to anyone with no email address on file, and patients are still more than welcome to fill one in at the clinic.



CDBS UPDATE

We announced in our last newsletter that the government did not pass legislation to close the Child Dental Benefits Schedule, but the benefit amounts were being reduced from \$1000 to \$700 every 2 years per child. We are pleased to announce that there has been a revision of this and funding has been increased back to \$1000.



SEEING EYE DOG SPONSORSHIP UPDATE

For our patients following Ivy's progress, unfortunately she was released from the program and is now someone's beloved pet. On average only 50% of the trainee pups graduate as Seeing Eye Dogs.

Our new sponsor dog is Ingrid and well, she's a bit cute! We'll keep you updated on her progress.



MALCOLM IN CAMBODIA

In January I was lucky enough to return to Cambodia for my 10th trip volunteering as a dentist for M'Lop Tapang in Cambodia, the broad achievements of this wonderful locally based NGO over the years are amazing. For me it is best exemplified by the development of a young girl I met on my second trip to Sihanoukville 5 years ago.

Pech a 7 year old who tried to help support her family selling souvenirs to tourists on the beach instead of attending school came to M'Lop Tapang for the first time alone, suffering from the worst abscess I have



seen on a deciduous molar. It was too swollen for local anaesthetic to work effectively but needed to be extracted. In Australia we would have put her in hospital with an IV antibiotic drip prior to extracting the tooth along with her other badly decayed teeth under general anaesthetic. This not being an option in Pech's Cambodia we explained to this beautiful young 7 year old that we needed to extract the tooth but it would hurt dreadfully, she agreed and after an ago-

nisingly painful local anaesthetic injection that hardly worked we put her through hell extracting the tooth as quickly as possible.

It was the most pain I have ever had to inflict on a patient but would hopefully result in relief from her long term discomfort. The patient, nurses and dentist were all in tears.

The next day I was surprised to hear this plucky young 7 year old at the door requesting to have the rest of her bad teeth removed, she came back of her own choice every day for the rest of the week for further extractions. On my next visit



the first three patients were Pech's younger brothers and her mum.

In January I caught up with the now 12 year old Pech again, she has great oral hygiene, healthy teeth with no decay and is achieving great results as a full time thriving school student. She has also developed via M'Lop Tapang into a truly gifted traditional Khmer Apsara cultural dancer.

I think her story is a fantastic example of what good locally based NGOs can achieve when they take a broad approach to all the problems within a community. These desperately underprivileged families need solutions for their problems and truly appreciate help in improving their situation.

You can learn more at

www.mloptapang.org
www.facebook.com/fuellingmloptapang
www.childsafetourism.org