

# GKtimes

Australian Quarterly Newsletter Dec 2006 Issue 3 [www.gawadkalinga.org](http://www.gawadkalinga.org)

**Australian Contributions to GK:**

- 15 Australian GK villages
- 530 New houses built
- 196 Repaired/repainted houses
- 245 Sponsored children

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## ONE DAY

On the 28<sup>th</sup> October, Loyola College was the site of the festivities that took place to celebrate One Day. The One Day program was not just a celebration of the dream that one day there will be no slums, but also a celebration of the availability of tax deductibility on donations made towards GK. The One Day program encouraged people to donate towards GK to further the dream of eradicating slums from the world, and that a donation no longer was seen as a 'painful' sacrifice due to the tax deductibility of the donations. Members of GK Youth, SFC, YFC, future YGATers and members of the public enthusiastically participated in the festivities, not only as customers to the various stalls that were present, but also as vendors.

The event was a 12 hour marathon beginning from 11am to 11pm, with stalls during the day and during the evening a concert. There were food, game, clothing and toy stalls throughout the day and even a

makeshift café. A 'GK Idol' competition was also initiated, where people were nominated to sing during the concert, and for a small fee people would vote for the nominees, those with the highest numbers of votes were required to sing during the concert. As the sun began to set and the stalls were closing up, the voting became more interesting as the numbers soared. To help keep everyone energized and entertained there was music provided by DJ's, a One Day jail and water soaking for nominated individuals, which to say the least became very interesting.

As the temperature dropped and the final signs of daylight had disappeared the concert began, with many bands performing during the night and various karaoke songs performed by the nominated individuals of 'GK Idol'. Despite the length of the event, spirits remained high and signs of fatigue were

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## ACE4GK



As the date draws nearer for GKY GAT '07, the YGATer's are going into overdrive to raise funds for the upcoming trip, and one of these fundraising ventures included the recent ACE4GK concert. The concert was held at Doonside Community Centre on the 17<sup>th</sup> of November, with a fantastic turnout where the audience consisted of not only the young but also the 'seasoned' members of the community. Many performers volunteered their talents to help the YGATers, not only bands but solo performers, acoustic performers and even DJ's.

Eleazar Arranz and Ania Aquino hosted the concert with a lively enthusiasm to get the crowd excited. There was food, entertainment, and even door prizes, with the major prize being a cruise. Performances varied from rock, religious songs,

ballads and even OPM (Original Pinoy Music), something for everyone! The night was made a success by the performers, and they included Jose's band - Tai Mai Shu Lei, El Shaddai band - Out of Tune, Portico 77, Faith Love and Hope, Don Valix – acoustic trio, El Shaddai dance group – Out of Step, Joe & DJ P-mode, Wea Cenidoza, Cheryl, Frenzel and Raphael – Wing it.

The concert to say the least was one of great enjoyment for all involved, and helped raise needed funds for the upcoming GKY GAT. The YGATer's of 2007 would like to thank all those who showed their support during the concert and also to those who helped the organisation and running of the concert, including Raphael Canillas and Chris Davidson who helped with the lights and sounds.

## GK PNG GAT

Imagine a place full of darkness, guns fired almost every day and night, children and families fearing every time they choose to step outside of their shanty homes. Before, a breeding ground for criminals and rascals well known for poverty and violence wherein local people living in the outskirts would never even set foot in the grounds of this place. These are just some of the stories we have heard, shared to us by families living in Gerehu Stage 6, until it became the first GK site in Papua New Guinea. It was hard to imagine how such a dark and violent place ever existed in Gerehu, where I and others who attended GKY GAT PNG felt that it was one of the safest places, with a beautiful people that I now call family too.

I joined 3 other youths, Joekarl Diaz, Josanne Musa and Stephen Tutoka for the 17 day GKY GAT PNG. We were also blessed that our visit in PNG was also in line with Dylan Wilk's visit and we found ourselves

moving as a team of GK advocates! From the Corporate/executive/government official Breakfast forum to GK workshop for CFC to GK & GK Youth presentation to schools, National Youth SUMMIT to 3 hour radio talk show interview, courtesy visit with the Governor General, Interview with The National Newspaper and more. Dylan was able to speak of GK and where it is now and his personal experiences, at the same time the 4 of us were able to witness the practical side and the reality that it is happening now. GK is about Loving God and country, GK is about loving neighbour, GK is about transformation of lives and communities, GK is about being a **HERO** to each other and if we want a better future for the next generations to come or even for young people to have a better country ahead of us, it will need to start with each one of us.

By Joy Lopez



Building a GK house in Gerehu Stage 6



A completed house with Josanne, Joy, Joekarl and children of Gerehu Stage 6

***“ONE DAY is the dream that one day there will be no more slums; it is a program that encourages true heroism and being heroes to each other.”***

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nowhere to be seen, and as the program came to an end, all the participants left with a feeling of success and accomplishment in helping the cause of GK.

The One Day program began from the 4<sup>th</sup> October, in association

with the anniversary of Gawad Kalinga, and continued throughout the month of October, concluding with the festivities on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The entire One Day program raised over \$12,000 in pledges and profits, which was a tremendous achievement as a result of combined efforts and commitments of many.

## Homecoming...

### Nuestra Senora de la Soledad Gk Village; Tabon, San Isidro, Nueva Ecija

Thursday 12 October 2006, my parents and I together with a friend, Jocytte Musa, embarked on a journey to re-visit the village where I and other GK Youth Great Adventure Tour (GKY GAT) 2006 participants built homes and lived with the poor earlier this year. The Nuestra Senora de la Soledad GK Village is a few hours drive north of Manila, in the town of San Isidro and the province of Nueva Ecija. The village consists of 60 homes, equivalent to 60 families. It was great to see everyone (whom we met earlier this year) again.

It was my second day upon arrival in Manila when we decided to re-visit the village. I wore my favourite Gawad Kalinga t-shirt, packed all the letters and hundreds of photos from GKY GAT participants in my bag then off we went to the GK site.

As the car pulled in to the site and I saw the GK Village sign, memories started flashing back and I was excited to see everyone again. I was eager to see my foster parents whom I stayed with for 5 days during the GKY GAT Build session. We were welcomed by the Mabuhay Team, together with Jet Ong, the GK volunteer assigned to the village, which I also met earlier this year.

My parents were awed at the colourful homes and the kids running up to them to greet them in the Filipino way of “mano po” (a sign of respect given to elders). Nanay Nisa was outside their house when I came and as soon as we saw each other,

we both screamed and ran towards each other, ending up in big warm hugs and kisses. It was as if a homecoming of a daughter who had been away from her family and had finally come back home.

We were invited to have lunch at their Multipurpose Hall. They served us their homemade ‘tocino’ and fried fish. We were amazed at how everyone in the village helped put in something for our lunch. One lady brought rice; another brought new plates while someone else donated a bottle of coke! It was such a humbling experience yet very heart warming.

After lunch was served, we walked around the village delivering letters and photos from GKY GAT ‘06 participants, taking pictures and visiting their new Bakery - another addition to their livelihood in the village! I couldn’t help but also notice the 2 Sibol classrooms they had nicely painted for the kids. They didn’t have this before when we first visited the site. It’s great to see so many improvements and developments in this village within only a few months.

As we said goodbye, there were tears in some of their eyes, including mine. But I know that visiting this village again has made the beneficiaries feel so loved, which is what the true spirit of GK is all about.

By Rhona Cuaresma

## FYI – GKY GAT '07

- Arrive in the Phillipines Jan 21
- Day with the Sibol at Enchanted Kingdom Jan 23
- GK Immersion Jan 24 - 28
- GKOM training Jan 31 – Feb 1
- R&R Bohol Feb 2 - 5
- Farewell and Departure Feb 6
- 65 Heroes from NSW
- 5 Heroes from QLD
- 3 Heroes from Northern Territory
- 1 Hero from VIC
- 1 Hero from ACT



Tito Tony Meloto

## GK Goes To Parliament

The members of the Australian GK Community knew that great things would come when members of the Australian Parliament visited GK villages in the Philippines. The NSW Parliament speaker, Honourable John Aquilina, has shown great support for GK since his first visit to a GK village, attending many events and speaking publicly of his views and experiences with GK. It was on the 18<sup>th</sup> October when he and other Parliament members held a fundraising cocktail party at the NSW Parliament house, in honour of Gawad Kalinga.

Many renowned personalities attended the events, and the guests included the Honourable John Aquilina, Jeff Hunter, and the Consulate Generals of the Philippines, United States of America, China, Indonesia, Canada and Mongolia. Representatives of various Filipino communities within NSW were also present, including those from GK ANCOP, GK Youth, Fil-Oz and many more.

The evening began with a meeting and greeting of members of Parliament with members of the Filipino communities. The night was opened by Jeff Hunter, who introduced Hon. John Aquilina as the first speaker of the evening; he shared his views on the work of GK and highlighted the significance of the event itself. The fact that many countries were represented in the room showed a united welcome of GK to Parliament and the great support to come. Mr. Marcy Mission, from GK ANCOP, followed explaining the GK initiatives and the great achievements thus far.

All proceeds from the cocktail party went towards GK as a contribution from the NSW Parliament. No doubt the night marked a great leap forward for GK in Australia as it gathers more partners and strength, its name and message will become more widely known in Parliament and thus the greater Australian public.

By Arbie Mojica

## GK Empowerment Day – A Symposium with Tony Meloto

During the September visit of Tony Meloto, executive director of GK (aka Tito Tony), to Australia, the members of the public had the opportunity to spend an afternoon with him. During this GK Empowerment Day, held on September 17, at Dooley's Catholic Club, Tito Tony addressed the audience on every aspect involved with GK, beginning with his membership to the CFC community and the conception of GK, to the accomplishments reached so far for GK. He spoke of how during the early stages of GK its aims and goals were seen as impossible to achieve, but as time progressed the so called 'impossible dream' was coming to life.

He commended the youth of the wider community both in the Philippines and internationally on their involvement with GK and also the collaboration of Muslims and Christians towards one goal, which was achieved through the realization that *"Gawad Kalinga is not a project but it is about a friendship"*. Along

with Tito Tony, a number of other speakers were invited to address the audience, speaking of their experiences with GK and how it has affected their lives.

Several prominent members of Parliament and the public were part of the audience who attended the symposium including Paul Lynch – Liverpool State MP, Barbara Perry – Auburn State MP, Laurie Ferguson – REID Federal MP, Julie Owen – Parramatta Federal MP, Rose Swadling – Councilor for Rockhampton and advocate for Australian Aborigines, and many more.

By the end of the afternoon it was evident that the audience felt a growing passion within them from the words spoken by Tito Tony and the other speakers, as seen by the commitment to support GK by several audience members. Hence the aims of the afternoon were fulfilled, which was to create greater awareness, raise funds and draw support for GK.

# Games Korner

Find the 7 locations where there are GK sites, the 7 GK workers and the 7 GK acronyms in the find-a-word below to reveal a simple message.

D	B	H	G	G	E	I	B	R	A	G
I	O	N	A	E	K	V	E	A	N	L
F	R	M	I	P	R	O	V	T	I	P
F	E	H	E	G	R	E	M	Y	R	B
U	H	T	O	M	N	R	H	E	O	I
N	O	A	T	N	E	I	R	U	C	M
A	H	G	R	Y	A	K	A	R	U	B
N	O	Y	A	K	C	Y	A	K	C	O
C	H	R	R	G	I	O	S	T	T	M
O	P	E	K	I	M	A	J	A	H	S
P	O	R	T	M	O	R	E	S	B	Y

- |              |         |       |
|--------------|---------|-------|
| BOREHOHO     | ARBIE   | NSW   |
| GRAFTON      | DASHER  | ANCOF |
| GEREHU       | BIMBO   | GK    |
| BURAKAY      | KATHY   | RTA   |
| QUIRINDI     | COMET   | GKY   |
| DIFFUN       | CORINA  | PLG   |
| PRAYER MTN   | JAMIKE  | YGAT  |
| CASINO       | JOCYTTE | GKOM  |
| PORT MORESBY | RHONA   | MIB   |
| KAINGIN      | RUDOLPH | MIP   |



Taken from [www.ponandzi.com](http://www.ponandzi.com)

## SUDOKU

1	2		8	3		5	9	
			7			1		
		6	1					
		3	5		1		6	4
7				4				8
6	1		2		8	9		
					7	8		
		9			3			
	4	1		5	2		7	9

Taken from [www.websudoku.com](http://www.websudoku.com)

To solve a Sudoku, every number from 1 to 9 must appear in:

- \*Each of the nine vertical columns
- \*Each of the nine horizontal rows
- \*each of the nine 3 x 3 boxes

Remember no number can occur more than once in any column, row or box.

Have Fun!

[Taken from *mX Sudoku rule*]

## Coming Events

### **Dec 7 – Christmas cruise**

Harbour Queen Cruises

7pm departure from King St Warf

(in association with Engineers Without Borders Aus.)

### **Dec 15 – GK Youth and ANCOP Christmas Party**

Broughton Street,

Campbelltown Youth Hall

(Between Queen St & Moore Oxley St)

### **December 1-25 – Christmas Carolling**

Marickville Baptist Church 10am Dec 25

Silver St, Marickville

[For more bookings contact Marco Palmero -

mob:0420302810 or email: mpalmero@gmail.com]

### **Januayry 21-February 7 GKY GAT '07**

Philippines – For last minute registrations please visit

[www.gk-youth.org](http://www.gk-youth.org) or contact

Corina Velasco: 0414778181 or Reggie Santos: 0433179274

### **March 17 2007 – GK Harvest**

For more information on any of the events and articles please visit:

- [www.gawadkalinga.org](http://www.gawadkalinga.org)
- <http://www.gkancopaustralia.org>
- [www.gk-youth.org](http://www.gk-youth.org)

