

GKtimes

Australian Quarterly Newsletter Jan 2008 Issue 7 www.gawadkalinga.org

Australian Contributions to GK:

- More than 19 Australian GK villages
- 891 New houses built
- 300 Sponsored children
- Over \$2M raised for GK villages in the Philippines and PNG

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Groovy Cool Bayanis celebrate Christmas Down Under

GK Youth and ANCOP Australia celebrated its annual end-of-year party on Saturday, 22nd December 2007 at St Patrick's Hall, Parramatta.

There was plenty of fun games including "Bottle" of the sexes, "Hot chocolate musical pairs", "Share a plate" and the ultimate "GK X Y Z Game". The winners were all gridders during the night!

Special mention goes towards the winners of the Groovy Kool Bayani Awards 2007, where the audience chose their favourite nominees during the evening, for each particular category.

Congratulations to our winners:

1. ANCOP Photo of the Year - Lourdes Zaballa "Yes! I beat Jono!"
2. GK Youth Photo of the Year - Austin Musa and Donnie Velasco

- "Ransom"
3. Group Photo of the Year - Alan Lucas and GK YGATers 07 "Tarsiers"
4. Video Clip of the Year - Anonymous "The Aloy Dance"
5. Best Song Performance - The GK YGAT 07 Choir "I still call Australia home" and Donnie Velasco "Corina, Corina!"
6. Best Dance Performance - Christian Iligan "G what?"
7. Best Theme Costume - Joekarl Diaz "Straight from work"

The Christmas Party was also a grand reunion as the ANCOP Australia Representative in the ...continued from page 1

Philippines, Rhona Cuaresma was there during the night. Joekarl Diaz, also shared some of the

APO Australia Young Ambassador Project 2007



The Young Ambassadors of
2007

There is simply no age range to become a hero. On December 16, 2007, Alpha Phi Omega (APO) Australia Incorporated organised the Talent Show and Awards Ceremony of the 2007 APO Young Ambassador Project. 12 young heroes participated in last year's event, and altogether raised the remaining funds needed to build the first Multinational APO Australia GK Village in Paranaque, Metro Manila, Philippines.

The 12 young candidates were involved in organising their own GK events, selling tickets and raising awareness for GK over the last few months. The audience at Quakers Hill Community Centre was given a spectacular show during the awards ceremony as the event started with a special dance number by all of the participants. In order to get to know more about the Young Ambassadors, the program consisted of different segments including sports wear, a talent portion, formal wear and Q&A.

The event was hosted by Eileen Racca (Miss GK NSW Runner-up 2006) and Albert Prias. Josie Musa, designated chair of last year's Young Ambassador Project, stated

"the project has been a challenging but exciting task and the participants, together with their parents and relatives have continued to truly display their passion in helping the poor."

The judges, led by Mr Eleazar Arranz, were amazed how talented all the candidates were at such a young age. John Miko Manaloto was proclaimed as the 2007 APO Young Ambassador, he was able to raise over \$4,000.

Overall, the APO Australia Young Ambassador Project was a great success and construction of the first 10 houses in the Multinational APO Australia GK Village has already begun.

APO Australia has been a proud partner of GK ANCOP Australia in the last few years. They have held numerous GK events such as the Dance Revival Night and have their own APO Australia GK Collab Program. APO Australia also celebrated its 82nd Anniversary last month. More details on their website

<http://www.apoaustralia.net/>

By GKOM Australia News Bureau

GK1World Expo 2007

Under the slogan "GK1 World: One Hope. One Vision. One Global Army Against Poverty", thousands of volunteers, partners, businesses and Government officials gathered together for the GK1 World Expo on October 31, 2007, to celebrate the fourth anniversary of the Gawad Kalinga (GK) movement.

The expo's main focus this year was on the productivity of GK sites and their on-going sustainability, taking into account the surrounding environment. In line with this theme, the expo commenced with an Environment Forum, showcasing a number of "environmentally friendly" initiatives for GK sites. These included: the provision of efficient

waste management systems, community based forest management programs and the introduction of efficient cultivation methods. This was followed by the official opening of the expo by the Vice President of the Philippines, Noli De Castro, joined by GK founder, Tony Meloto, GK Executive Director, Luis Oquiñena, and Couples for Christ Director, Joe Tale, and a tour of the various productivity stalls at the expo grounds in the SM Mall of Asia.

This year's productivity stalls were manned by high school students who participated in the Teenpreneur Challenge - the country's first inter-high school entrepreneurial contest

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"We can bring the country out of poverty if we build together. The expo is a gathering of those who believe in the greatness of the Filipino spirit....We have to show that God did not make a mistake when he made us Filipinos. We can build first class Filipinos...with the help of Filipinos abroad"

Tonv Meloto

where students' innovative ideas are used to improve the business performance of livelihood projects for GK communities. On display were: lamp shades made from capiz shells, hand bags made from recycled cloth, slippers made from water lilies, candelabras, photo frames, place mats and baskets made of woven paper. President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo presented Manila Waldorf School with the Best Selling Product award for their lamp shades and the San Beda School with the Most Improved Product for their eco-friendly, biodegradable detergent. At the same awards presentation, The Philippine Centre for Entrepreneurship also presented three GK communities with the Most Inspiring Entrepreneurial Communities for 2007. These communities were: GK Freedom Ville in Sta. Rosa, Laguna for its candle making business, GK Sunshineville, in Las Piñas for their baskets made from water lilies and GK Selecta Village for producing vegetables, herbs and orchids at its integrated urban farm.

The second day of the Expo began with a GK Marathon at six o'clock in the morning. Runners had the choice of either going for the 5km or 10km run. A lot of partners, volunteers and supporters of GK joined the competition that was sponsored by Adidas Philippines, with the theme 'Run for Love'. All participants were

rewarded with a certificate, free Adidas singlet and a free cup of Milo at the end of the race. In the afternoon, there was a Parade of all the GK Partners, Province and Metro Manila Delegates called 'Martsa ng Mga Bayani' (Heroes' March), where colourful flags from the different GK Sectors and partners were paraded along the main streets of the GK Expo venue. Caretaker Teams and Kapitbahayan members of GK Sites all around the Philippines were also part of the march, and proudly represented their respective groups.

Other formalities of the expo included the Salo-Salo ng mga Bayani (or "the Gathering of Heroes"), where everyone shared an afternoon 'miryenda' (snack) and at which the youth from various GK villages performed a play about the significant impact GK has made on daily village life, entitled 'TAO PO'. Luis Oquinena and Tony Meloto, paid special tribute to the GK partners and volunteers for their advocacy and support. Special mention given to: Rotary, for their support in building 900 homes, Globe Telecom and Meralco, for their significant employee involvement in GK villages, and Shell for their assistance with building several GK farms. Tony Meloto also thanked the GK Builders Corp volunteers (from the USA, Germany, Australia and New Zealand) for their support of GK both in the Philippines and overseas.

By Louise Davies and Rhona Cuaresma

Groovy Cool Bayanis celebrate Christmas Down Under

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exciting activities for 2008 including the upcoming REVERSE GKY GAT. Pids Catabay, part of ANCOP Donor Services, also shared some of his great moments of 2007. The night finished with the "GK Down Under 2007" year-ender video and the participants of GKY GAT 08 led the audience in a few Christmas carols.

GK Youth and ANCOP Australia would like to wish everyone a very joyful, safe and very HAPPY HOLIDAYS!!

We look forward to serving with you in 2008 as we focus on this year's theme of "Achieving Unity and Growth".

By EJ Cuaresma

Highlights of GK Australia 2007

The year of 2007 was a year full of achievements and broadening of boundaries for GK Australia, with the hearts of the volunteers here becoming more and more committed and remaining as enthusiastic as always. Just in case you miss it here are some of the best of 2007

GKY GAT 07 – With the beginning of 2007, 77 willing youths volunteered their time to help our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the Philippines, taking part in the annual GK Youth Great Adventure Tour. They spent several days in Iriga, in the Bicol region, not only building homes for those in need, but also getting to know the beneficiaries of completed homes at a level that most people will never get to experience, and for those who have, will never forget.

GK Harvest – After returning from their 2 week adventure, the 2007 YGATers organised their very first event after undergoing GKOM training. During the GK Harvest, the YGATers were given the opportunity to share their experience with the wider community, which they achieved quite successfully.

Miss GK – After the phenomenal success of Miss GK 2006, it was hardly a surprise that Miss GK 2007 would be anything less. The candidates from Queensland, New South Wales and Victoria all brought to the competition extraordinary commitment and enthusiasm. Special mention goes to GK Youth Melbourne who organised the national coronation in Moonee Valley Racing Club, Melbourne. By the end of the night Bianca Lucas, the NSW candidate, was crowned Miss GK Australia 2007. Congratulations to all the candidates who participated, who were able to raise \$74,000, allowing for the construction of an Australian GK village in Marinduque.

PNG GAT – Following in the steps of the pioneers of GK PNG in 2006, another group of individuals volunteered to go to Papua New Guinea, to continue the work that was begun in Gerehu Stage 6, Port Moresby. This time around they were able to complete a greenhouse for the village, an opportunity to maintain the villagers' livelihood. PNG GAT is now an annual event, and has opened the doors for further GK ventures in

different countries, by GK Australia, such as GK Cambodia with the first trip scheduled for March of this year.

City2Surf – 2007 saw the first year of the involvement of 70 avid GK partners and volunteers in Sydney banding together to take part in the annual Sydney City2Surf. Over \$28, 000 was raised from donations towards the GK ANCOP team, and GK ANCOP was named the top fundraising team for the 2007 City2Surf.

GK One Day – In celebration of the anniversary of GK, One Day is an annual event held in Australia, where *'One Day is a dream that one day there will be no more slums'*. This year's celebration was, to say the least, successful, with food and goods stalls and even sumo wrestling as part of the attraction for the day. One Day was concluded with Rock4GK 2, a concert of live performances from various bands including Sonic Junkie.

GK YO!GAT – GKY GAT is an opportunity for the youth of the community to help in the Philippines, and YO!GAT is an opportunity for those who were Young Once to also travel to the Philippines and experience GK first hand. 2007 was the first year the YO!GAT was held, and involved 13 heroic participants from around Australia. The program was not as long as GKY GAT, however it did not diminish the special and memorable moments that were experienced. YO!GAT will be an annual event for all those who are interested.

2007 was not just about holding events or raising funds, it was greatly about spreading the awareness of GK to the wider Australian community, whether it was through events or by the creation of partnerships. Several strong partnerships and foundations were laid to increase the support and awareness of GK, including presentations that were held in the University of New South Wales and the University of Sydney. With what was achieved in 2007, even greater things can be expected in 2008. GK Australia is not standing still, we are not letting the wind take us to different places blindly; we are bringing GK to different levels as loudly and as proudly as we possibly can!

For more information and photos on any of the above mentioned or future events please feel free to visit www.gk-youth.org or www.gkancopaustralia.org

Games Korner

SUDOKU

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

Taken from 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]

Some holiday fun!



Both Images Taken From www.yourhub.com

Coming Events for 2008

Jan 20-Feb 2 – GKY GAT 2008

Philippines

Jan 27 – GK Forum

Special guest – Tony Meloto
St Patrick's Cathedral Hall
Parramatta
2pm – 5:30pm

Feb 23 – GK Youth Orientation and GKOM Training

Loyola College

Mar 15 – GK Harvest

Lowenthal Auditorium
Westmead Hospital

Mar 15 - Miss GK NSW 2008 Launch

Lowenthal Auditorium
Westmead Hospital

Aug 2 – Miss GK National Coronation

Sydney

Aug 17 – City to Surf

Sydney

For more information and to register as part of the
GK-ANCOP team please visit www.gk-youth.org

Sep – One Day & GK Expo

TBA

Oct 25-Nov 4 – YOGAT

Philippines

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

- www.gawadkalinga.org
- <http://www.gkancopaustralia.org>
- www.gk-youth.org

