

*The Ayui Foundation is a non-religious, non-government organisation that provides a home, educational opportunities and future pathways for disadvantaged Akha hilltribe teenagers.*

# **Ayui Foundation**

## **NEWSLETTER**



*Sumalee Milne, OAM  
Director*

October 2020  
Chiang Rai, Thailand

### **FROM THE DIRECTOR**

Greetings from Chiang Rai. It has been a very quiet 3 months as, due to the coronavirus, we have not had any visitors or volunteers. As donor organizations are focusing all their funding efforts towards those affected by Covid we have had hardly any donations since the start of the school year, and we are in desperate need of funds. If you, or anyone you know, are able to make a donation to the Ayui Foundation or hold a fundraiser, we would really appreciate your help to get us through the next few months.

After many years, we have produced a new website - still at [www.ayuifoundation.org](http://www.ayuifoundation.org) - so please take a look when you have time. To make a tax-deductible donation from Australia or donate via PayPal, you can click on the Donations page.





For the first time since starting the foundation, the children organized a Mother's Day surprise for me, and I was very touched. The children also gave me a birthday cake because, they said, as my birthday is during the long summer break, they never get to celebrate it with me. One of the girls gave an emotional thank you speech, they sang a Mother's Day song, then presented me with the cake and cards, and lined up to give me a hug and flowers. It was an unforgettable night for me.

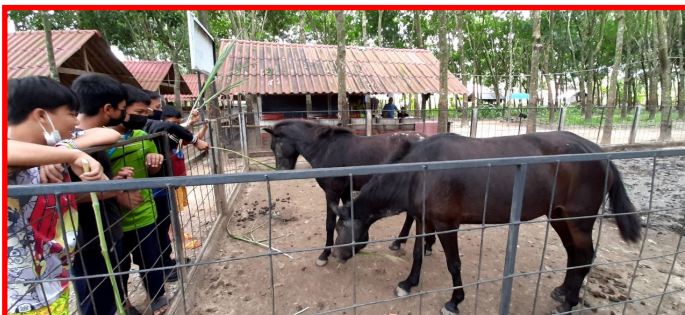




We got a friend for our disabled dog, Panda, so she would have company while the boys are at school. This puppy was unwanted and the owner was going to leave her at the rubbish dump if nobody took her so we rescued her just in time. The boys named her Peepo, and she has fit right in at the Boys Home.



Now that the threat of Covid in Thailand has been handled and the rainy season has almost finished so we will resume our agricultural activities soon, we thought it was time for a nice outing and took the children to the Doi Hang Agro-Tourism and Learning Center. We looked at how they raise frogs and hens, fed the goats, horses and sheep, and sampled some of the grapes and other produce grown. There is a also a model of a heavy wooden rice-husker, which is a traditional Akha tool - no longer used today - that the women used with their feet to pound rice. Getting up at the crack of dawn, they would husk the rice to be used for that day's meals. All the girls had a go, and some found it too heavy to lift. Nowadays, of course, Akha villagers can simply take the rice to the mill to be husked.





# THANK YOU

A big thank you goes to our new Webmaster, Dave Hester,  
for putting together our new website.

Thank you to Monika Mueller, who already sponsors May, for holding a fundraiser on her 50<sup>th</sup> birthday and raising enough to sponsor to the last 2 students needing sponsorship this year, Patcha and Somchai.



Vegetable garden



Patcha and Somchai



Preparing dinner



With Thai tutor Kru Sudsawaht



Releasing fish



Art class with the Director

**If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE, VOLUNTEER or DONATE  
please email us at [Ayui.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:Ayui.foundation@gmail.com)  
[www.ayuifoundation.org](http://www.ayuifoundation.org)**

**Australian bank account:  
Bendigo Bank  
Acc no:133516195 BSB:633-000  
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Ayui Foundation**

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For donations via Paypal, our account is [ayui.foundation@gmail.com](mailto:ayui.foundation@gmail.com).**