

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 2025
Chiang Rai, Thailand

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I want to acknowledge that there was no July newsletter, due to the passing of my father during that month. A former diplomat, he was known to a few of our friends from Rotary Clubs in Tasmania, where he was from, and was also a recipient of the Order of Australia Medal for his long service. Then in August, I also experienced the loss of my friend and our former webmaster, Dave Hester. Over the years, Dave was always ready to provide technical support for the foundation, whether it was helping with maintenance questions or lending his expertise in designing and installing the original water pump and containment system at the Boys Home.

I dedicate this edition to Dave Hester and John Milne OAM.

Here in Chiang Rai, we are nearing the end of the rainy season and it is the end of the first semester of school. After a few days of heavy rain, our grounds turned muddy so we had to get truckful's of stones and soil to fill in puddles and even out the grounds of the Girls Home to prevent the risk of mosquito-borne malaria. Unfortunately, there is a warning of another typhoon heading our way this month, bringing heavy rain. In September, the children went to the annual Akha Swing Festival, and enjoyed the Akha cultural performances.



NEW STUDENTS



Kwanporn



Surapa

Late in the term, we accepted 2 more girls, Kwanporn and Surapa. They are from the same village and are both 17 and in their final year of high school, with plans to go on to university. They have both fit in well at Ayui and appreciate being accepted at this time, as their families could no longer afford to pay for their living costs in town but they wanted to finish the school year. Both girls are sponsored by Serena Wee in Australia.

WORKSHOPS

This term, the Prom Rak Foundation (also known as Ezekial Rain, in English), continued their workshops on self-confidence and online safety for our older girls, which is an important issue for this generation of young women. Next term, the workshops will continue.



A former Ayui Board member, Wararuk Sunonetong, is a certified laughter yoga teacher who is in the process of establishing the Laughter Yoga Foundation for Compassion and Peace. For her pilot project, called **The Laughing Angels Project**, she chose the Ayui Foundation. Over 4 weekends, Wararuk came in and taught the children how to practice laughter yoga, as a method of stress relief for their mental health. The children had fun, and some said they had not seen their friends laugh so much before, and it left them feeling more positive about themselves. They also enjoyed the art components of the project.



WORKSHOPS



THANK YOU

The Chiang Mai Expat Club for their B20,000 donation, which we used for maintenance of the grounds at the Girls Home and the rest will be used to rebuild the bamboo hut at the Boys Home.

Steve Keiley for his donation of over \$3,000, and Yvonne Piloni for her annual donation.

The Rotary Club of Glenorchy for their general donation

Ms Wararuk Sunonetong for bringing more laughter to Ayui and for teaching the children how to release their stress from family problems and school work in a healthy way.



*If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE OR DONATE
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Or visit www.ayuifoundation.org*



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