Ayui FOUNDATION NEWSLETTER

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

Sumalee Milne, OAM
Director

CHIANG RAI, JULY 2026

FROM THE DIRECTOR

Welcome to the start of another school year in Thailand, as well as the start of the monsoon season. We have accepted 6 new girls and 5 new boys this year, including 10-year-old triplets. All our new students are sponsored except for three 13-year old boys and one 16-year-old boy in vocational college. If anyone is interested to sponsor one of our new boys, please email me for details.

As our Australian sponsors know, tax-free donations and sponsorship within Australia can be sent via the Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) account, earmarked for Ayui. This very helpful service was set up for us by the Rotary Club of North Hobart and, after many years of their support, we agreed that it would be fitting to acknowledge this with a sign at our entrance.

ACTIVITIES

I asked the students if there were any activities that they would really like to do, as a memorable way to start the school year and as a group bonding experience for the new children. The girls wanted to visit Baan Likai, an Akha village that is starting to be popular with local tourists as a beautiful hiking destination well-known for its scenic nature.

The boys, however, were not interested in going hiking. Last year, they asked a few times about buying soccer or futsal goals but they are not cheap. So, I found a video on YouTube on how to build soccer goals using PVC pipes and they spent the day working together to construct two soccer goals. They also started their vegetable garden by planting cucumbers, long beans, eggplants and cabbages.

STUDENT DEVELOPMENT

The Prom Rak Foundation have started their weekly Self-Esteem and Online Safety workshops with the 6 eldest students, and will take them on a camping activity later this month.

We have hired an English language tutor who is starting her Master's at university here. She put the students into 3 groups, according to their English skills, and teaches one group each time, Monday to Friday.

We have also hired a Thai tutor who is a Thai language teacher at the International School. She tutors the 6 students who need extra support with Thai, every Saturday.

Thank You

**To our new child sponsor, Michael Grimes from Canada,
and to Mr Tan for covering the cost of English classes.**

To the Rotary Club of North Hobart for covering the cost of their sign, and for managing our RAWCS account.

To Teacher Rose and her mother for donating a bag of rice.

To my former kindergarten student, Primrose, who came to donate lunch, towels and school materials to the Ayui students, as a way to make merit for her 6th birthday.

If you would like to VISIT, FUNDRAISE OR DONATE, please email us at ayui.foundation@gmail.com or visit www.ayuifoundation.org.

For donations in Thailand

SCB ไทยพาณิชย์

Account No: **5072669424**
Account Name: **Ayui Foundation**

Visit www.ayuifoundation.org for online tax-deductible donations in Australia.