Bospo Diary

Meetings, Greetings, Reunions and the Task at Hand.

There's always an energy of anticipation at the thought of embarking on a PVI Project.  It's not only the getting there but other considerations such as what does this job actually entail?, will my bed be no more comfortable than a slab of wood?,  how noisey will the aircon be and will it work at all?,  is the hand basin actually connected to the plumbing or will I end up with very wet feet?, and what about the "troupe" of fellow PVIians?  Its all part of the excitement that brings us all to gather at, in this case, Battembang, Cambodia.

We're only one day in and already the vibe says that we have struck a cohesive group of men and women on a mission to "give back" by building houses, assisting English teaching and generally involving ourselves in the lives of the villagers of Bospo, by contributing in a hands on way to the welfare and progress of their way of life.

Some of us have enjoyed meeting up again with chums from previous PVI projects in Vietnam and Cambodia and delighted at the opportunity to make new friends on this project.

Day 1.  Monday, 10th February, 2020

Well breakfasted at De Lux Villa, we climbed, stumbled and squashed into 3 tuk tuks that ventured down the early morning streets of Battembang already busy with the hubbub of daily life and quickly found ourselves on slim, very dusty, jungly roads which took us to the school that KNGO funds and which PVI is here to help.  Judy Malzard and Peter McDonald, have worked tirelessly with Saveth, a young man from Bospo, who from early childhood, was driven to learn English and work his way to a better life.  He found ways and opportunities to extend his studies and decided on his dream to open a "free school" for children otherwise deprived of any education.  Peter and Judy have helped Saveth achieve his dream and now with PVI aid, financially and practically, we begin tomorrow to assist in the building of several homes for families from Saveth's village.

There's something captivating about the meeting of contrasting cultures that 'pops' when we aussies connect with these beautiful people.  The children with their joyful curiosity and their shy parents display warmth and gratitude to us as we review the sites on which their new homes will emerge.  I think we all get a charge out of participating in a venture that will benefit many.

Dinner, Margaritas, Tales and Fibs

The Kitchen was an ideal venue for our first meal together as a group.  Great organisation by Judy and Julie saw all our pre ordered meals arrive without a hitch.  Awesome!  (The margaritas were pretty good too!). We all had a chance to get acquainted in a relaxed atmosphere to set us up for tomorrow when the work really starts.  It was also enjoyable for many of us who have worked on previous jobs in Vietnam and Cambodia, to reminisce and remind ourselves of just how much we learn on projects like this about ourselves and our fellow man.  Life's good!

Saveth tells us his story.

Good listeners!

PVI visits the locals

Trailing through the forest

Watching the local builders at work

A typical Khmer home in the forest

The family who will own the new house under construction

Another forest home

Judy meets an old friend

Looking around

This man proudly shows his slingshot and shot for rats which he kills and then barbeques!