

School Building in Phuket, Thailand

A report by designer and project coordinator Des La Rance



This last year has been a huge and rewarding year. It has taken some two years for the School Project to reach its final completion stage.

The actual construction of the school took only seven days and at the same time a Play Gym with a roof over it was also constructed.

A team of 16 Rotarian's completed the job, aided by further 12 Thailand Royal Navy men in clear sunny and indeed very hot days.

The part that created the most delay was finding a suitable and acceptable site for the school to assist the 41 orphans affected by the Tsunami. Eventually a new building was created to house the orphans and became the Dormitory. This site is located within the Royal Thailand Navy Compound at Khao Lak Beach, at the centre of Thailand's Tsunami devastation where 5,000 people met their death. The School Building and Play Gym are located in a fenced off area beside the Dormitory.

Unlike the Vanuatu Housing Project where we had to pay import duty to Vanuatu's Customs, this project was This meant the two containers cleared customs without any cost or delay. Thanks to Adele Perry and her Rotary Club of Charoen Nakorn, Thailand, of which we are now a Sister Club.

It has to be said that the hospitality of the Thai People on our trip was truly overwhelming. Every day we were given a free lunch and almost every night we were taken out for a sumptuous dinner.

The Rotary team was made up of members from Ashmore, Southport, Boonah, Stanthorpe and Grafton Clubs and three Volunteers from our Wheelchair Project.

And I have to say every single person pulled their weight and got on well together. As a result, the buildings went up without a hitch.

With all that behind us I can now say the Building Program is officially closed down. Our volunteers at the Wheelchair Factory meanwhile will continue to build wheelchairs. But we also want to turn our talents and equipment to building children's wooden toys to be given away at Christmas to needy children.

Yours in Rotary
Des La Rance
Past Building Project Director.