

Some of the RAWCS Team at Chiang Rai



Quiz: What does RAWCS stand for?

Roster:

	This week	Next Week
Program	Chris Redmond Woden Community Services.	TBA
Introduction	David Fox	Tom Davies
Appreciation	Ian Excell	Ros Osbourne
Sergeant	David Fox	David Fox
Fellowship	Des Henderson Kelly John Gray	Phil Ibbotson Rex Hunt
Raven Recorder	Ros Osbourne	Keith Avent
Birthdays	Frank Macklin 17th Feb	nil
Anniversaries	Jacki and John Cauchi 16th Feb	nil
Trash & Treasure	19th Gary Scott-Eric Taylor 5th Mar Piers Booth-Ros Osbourne	26th Feb Bruce Wyatt-Val Bland 12th Mar Ray Newcombe-John Gray

The Raven

The Weekly Bulletin of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden Inc.

No 33 Vol 38 Wednesday 15th February 2006

Tonight:

Welcome back to our intrepid travellers and workers, who have been toiling at the Children of the Golden Triangle Training Centre near Chiang Rai, Thailand, for the past fortnight. We admire you for your willingness to help these young folk, and we look forward to hearing of your many experiences.

Chris Redmond
on

Woden Community Services

Chris is the Director of the Woden Community Service. From 1998 to 2004 he was Business Manager, Centrelink, whose primary responsibilities included social work services, youth programs, homelessness and community engagement. Attaining his Bachelor of Social Work at the Univ of NSW in 1987, he has also held positions at Dept of Social Security in Launceston and with CRS Australia.

Last Week:

PP Peter Evans acted as President with PP David Fox as Sergeant.

Des Pain reported that he had received a lengthy diary of activities from Piers Booth in Thailand of the group of volunteers working at the "Children of the Golden Triangle" Project. Des will reproduce it in the next Raven or post it on our web site.

Ros Osbourne reported that Jacki and John Cauchi are back from part of their travels and plan to sell up and move to Main Beach where



SERVICE Above Self

they have real estate.

John Gray reported several items from the last Board Meeting:

a) The Chair of the Rotary Foundation, Frank Devlin will be speaking in Canberra on Monday 3 April. He is an excellent speaker and members are urged to attend. Our regular meeting will be held on Wed. 5 April but we will not have a guest speaker.

b) Club Changeover will be on Wed. 21 June.

c) The Greenhills project was discussed but no decision has been made regarding support from our club as yet.

Ray Newcombe noted that the positions of President Elect and Raven Editor were still NOT filled for next Rotary year and asked members seriously to consider filling them. He then introduced our:

Guest speaker, Cecilia Valla, arrived in Canberra in January to work as a senior project officer with CARE Australia. Cecilia hails from Kenya and previously worked with World Vision for three years in their emergency response team and for CARE Somalia for 18 months.



Cecilia explained that drought is severe in Somalia and Kenya as rains failed in both of the last two rainy seasons. Some 1.5M people in Somalia and 3.5 M in Kenya are in dire need of emergency food aid. In Somalia, the food aid program is implemented through a general food distribution program and food for work activities such as road construction, pit latrines, canal rehabilitation and water catchment improvements. The major food distributed is sorghum, lentils, corn-soya blend and vegetable oil.

In Kenya, the key intervention involves provision of food and water to affected communities. CARE Kenya recently rehabilitated 14 boreholes in drought affected areas and has helped to train local communities to repair and maintain generators for pumping water. As drought in Africa is cyclical in nature, long-term solutions are being sought including irrigated agriculture along waterways, diversification of farming and livestock marketing. Cecilia responded to many questions from members and Rex Hunt thanked her for speaking to the club. *Thanks to Raven Recorder Robin Cromer.*

RADFORD Ian William	L5917509	
32 Constantine Circuit, Goulburn, NSW 2580	P	
RENFREE, Georgia Elizabeth	Friend	
RENFREE Neil	L8566783	Architect
13 Marrakai St, Hawker, ACT 2614	P	
ROBERTSON Ian Malcolm	L7219882	Builder
5 Glendare Cresc, Goulburn, NSW 2580	P	
SAUNDERS, Lorraine Elizabeth	Friend	Painting & gardening
SCHMIDT, Patricia Rosemary	Friend	
SCOTT, Gary Herbert	RC of Canberra-Woden	
Enviromentalist		
SPENCER, Pamela Mary	Friend	Office managemt, Needle work
SPENCER, Terence Leslie	RC of Jerrabomberra	Building experience
19 Jacaranda Dr. Jerrabombera, NSW 2619		
WIDDUP, John David Alistair	RC of Canberra-Woden	Civil engineer
WIDDUP, Julia Margaret	Friend	Teacher
WILLIAMS, Gillian Ruth	Friend	Business management
WYATT, Bruce Willia m	RC of Canberra-Woden	I T, Data base

Pixie Gray writes: “A big thankyou to both Peter Evans and Eric Taylor and all the members of Canberra-Woden Rotary for their kind messages of congratulations for my recent award. A special thankyou to Des Pain for the printing of the amazing article in the recent Raven. What a lovely surprise. - Pixie Gray”

John Lawrence in Brisbane. The article, last week, about building a school in Sri Lanka, prompted John Lawrence to send me another article about his District’s involvement in a project at the request of the Govt of Solomon Islands. This article will appear next week.

Attendance matters: Club Guest: Cecelia Valla; Other Guests: Maureen Booth, Bernadette Capello; Make-ups: Jim Grainger, Piers Booth, Gary Scott, Ken Goard, Val Bland, Bruce wyatt, John Widdup. Members present: 20 Percentage: 82.14%

Board members 2005-06

President	John Widdup
Secretary:	John Gray
Immed. Past President:	Peter Evans
President Elect :	Ray Newcombe
Treasurer:	Noel Hart
Club service:	Ray Newcombe
Community Service:	Bruce Hall
International Service:	Piers Booth
Vocational Service:	Shukry Sahhar
Youth Service:	Gary Scott

Office holders

Bulletin Editor	Des Pain
Sergeant(s):	D Fox, N Emanuel, V Bland
Program Manager	Phil Ibbotson
Historian/ Archivist	Keith Avent
Webmaster:	Robin Cromer

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 Secretary John Gray. email:graypj@tpg.com.au
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Apologies to: Ros Osbourne 62863097 <rososbourne@ozemail.com.au>

The tiles with all their coats of paint and those undercoated, but with out their final coats have been moved and stacked at the building site. Painting of tiles has continued. The welds have been coated with paint. The last of the lintels have been erected. All the door frames and all but two of the window frames have been welded in place.

In the evening, about 10 members took the opportunity to go up one of the local hills to watch the sunset, a little disappointing due to the amount of cloud, although after the sun had just set they were all touched with pink. There were great views of the surrounding hills and of the reservoir. Afterwards we continued further up the road to reach Asa and Ampon's village, where their parents still live. The village is quite a contrast with the village we visited earlier, being quite wealthy from the sale of tomatoes into the local markets. We were taken into the home of Asa's parents, a small but substantial building constructed out of dressed timber and with fibro tiles on the roof.

More news later.....

TEAM MEMBERS

BLAND, Valerie Eva	RC of Canberra-Woden	Accountant
BOOTH, Piers Norleigh	RC of Canberra-Woden	Rtd Medical Pract.
CHAMP, Jemma Yvette	Friend	
CHAMP, Karen Debra	Friend	Registered nurse
CHAMP, Lydia May	Friend	
BAILEY, David Terence	RC of Jerrabomberra	Electrician & Business management
DAVIS, Anne Margaret Rose	RC of Jerrabomberra	Business management
DAVIS, Matthew Joel	Friend	Musician
DURRANT, Ross	M	
138 Kinghorne St, Goulburn, NSW 2580 P		
EASTON, Adam Stephen	Friend	Building experience
EASTON, Julie Eda	Friend	Building experience
EASTON, Irene Eda	Friend	
EASTON, Sylvia Jean	Friend	
FULTON Laura Helen	L7081330	Accountant
PO Box 508, Bungendore, NSW 9710 P		
GORDON Ian Ross		L7217114
30 Ballanya Ave, Goulburn, 2580 P		
JAMES * Carol Priscilla		M3118295
1 Hurst St, Goulburn, NSW 2580 P		
KINSELLA * Gail Marilyn	L3811471	Accountant
23 MacDonald St, Yarralumla, ACT 1600 P		
LAWSON, Christine Margaret	Friend	Building experience
KEARSLEY, Alexandra Rachel	Friend	
KEARSLEY, Lauren Elise	Friend	
PEPLER, Christos Brett	RC of Jerrabomberra	
PETTIGREW, Janette Winifred	RC of Jerrabomberra	Registered Nurse
POIDEVIN Michael Gerard	L6504727	Surveyor
9 Oakwood Ave, Goulburn, NSW 2580 P		

DIARY OF THE 36 MEMBER RAWCS TEAM TO THE CHILDREN OF THE GOLDEN TRIANGLE TRAINING CENTRE, FROM 28.1.06 TO 12.2.06

Rotary Clubs Represented:

- Bugendore**
- Canberra**
- Canberra City**
- Canberra Woden**
- Goulburn**
- Jerrabomberra**

Saturday 28 Jan 06

All the team met for the first time, when we assembled at International Terminal of Sydney Airport, at 7.15pm. That is to say all the members except for Val Bland and Bruce Wyatt, whose bus had blown a tyre on the trip from Canberra. This caused great consternation at the group booking desk, as Val's name headed list of the group, and all the luggage was to be listed under her name. The problem was further exacerbated by the computer terminal going down. However perhaps because of the latter problem, and a misunderstanding about the amount of excess baggage, that each of the group was allowed, Thai Air had allowed 50kg for the whole group. I obtained the impression the clerks thought it was 50kg per person. Whatever the truth, all our baggage was accepted without question. By the time all the other members had been processed at the desk, our latecomers had arrived and the team was complete. Throughout our journey, the team was divided and operated as three groups, with a leader to check their members were present and direct them in the right direction. This process was greatly assisted by most of the members wearing the special t-shirts, which had been produced, with the logo designed by Bill Pearson of the Rotary Club of Hall. With all the problems over booking onto the flight, there was not much time remaining before the team had to assemble at the departure lounge, ready to board, for our departure at 10.20pm on Thai Air.

Sunday 29 Jan 06

The flight to Bangkok was not one to be recommended, not only was it a start late in the day, but we came down in Melbourne and Phuket before eventually arriving at our destination. The result of the stop in Melbourne meant a meal well past midnight, and we were roused for breakfast at an early hour, 5am local time, prior to our arrival in Phuket. As our baggage was booked through to Chiang Rai, the change of flights in Bangkok was relatively painless, and after some of us buying Thai Baht, all the party walked from the International to the Domestic terminal, a 10 to 15 minute walk under cover. However we did run into one difficulty in the Domestic terminal, as the boarding passes for the next flight had to all be changed. The clerk at the desk almost disappeared through the floor when I told her there were 36 in the party. On our arrival we were met by Dang and two of the boys from the centre. The paper work for the

three 12 seater minibuses was completed and the luggage retrieved and cleared through customs. The minibuses had little room for baggage, but the excess was successfully loaded into the centre's ute, with one of the boys riding on top of the bags. We traveled in convoy back to the centre, for food and the organizing of our sleeping arrangements. We had a meeting of the group, in an attempt to sort out problems, followed by a tour of the site. Unfortunately, although there were sufficient bunk beds and mattresses, we proved to be very short of pillows and full size mosquito nets, many being too small for a full size bed, as further supplies seemed to be unavailable locally. This problem will need to be resolved tomorrow. The day finished with a visit by many of the party to Oi's noodle bar for a drink, our evening meal at the centre and enjoyment of the children singing, as they do every evening, before bed.

Monday 30 Jan 06

Most people woke early, to hear the singing of the children, who get up at 5am, to be followed by the noise of the children at their morning chores. As one of these chores was moving gravel from just outside our dormitory, in preparation for the mixing of concrete, further sleep was difficult. Breakfast was sometime away for the early risers, at 8am, followed by a meeting with David Stevenson. He started by talking about the rights of children and the Millennium Project, which is not being properly supported by most of the nations who signed the treaty. After a while the team became restless, and the topic changed to the jobs to be done, starting on an accommodation block, with plumbing for the drainage, starting to pour the slab, elsewhere some electrical work and a look at the computer bookkeeping program only to find the problem could not be resolved. Unfortunately I have also discovered that I can not access the internet with this machine at the centre, and a visit to the internet café suggests that it will not be possible there as well. As the day progressed a start was also made on painting roof tiles. The finish of the day's work, about 4pm, was controlled by the completion of 2 of the slabs for the new building, to embark on the third would have resulted in a late finish, and a lot of tired people after their first day of manual work. After showers, the whole party adjourned to Oi's noodle bar. When all were present, the team was introduced to the WIFFLE stick. Although not everybody spoke, I believe it helped to resolve people's difficulties, and continue to break down barriers. This said, as the day progressed, everybody seems to have found a niche to fill. It was also agreed that the work day would start a little earlier, working for an hour before breakfast from 7 to 8am, and perhaps finish a little earlier. This would allow us to get more work done in the cool of the morning. There were also expressions of interest in going to Chiang Mai during the middle weekend. (David Stevenson, on hearing of the proposal to go to Chiang Mai suggested that there were equally good tourist attractions in the immediate locality, which allowed people to stay at the centre, and not have the long journey there and back.) After a bit of badgering to convince Asa and Ampon of the need, Ampon has managed to buy additional mosquito nets, 11 of the 36 originally provided had been too small. Cushions have also been procured for those without pillows. Despite

Elsewhere, the end of undercoating all the roof tiles is in sight, and many of the tiles have also had the topcoat applied, two on the topside, one on the underside. The area in front of our dormitory has also been prepared, for the laying of a footpath, and the concrete is due to be poured tomorrow.

Unfortunately the visit to a second Akha village has had to be cancelled, due to the recent rain, which will probably make the road impassable. This village is one where David is hoping to see a school/health centre built. The aim is to both improve the hygiene and health of the residents, and provide primary education for the children, thereby relieving the pressure on the centre, which will reach its capacity of 500 children. The local school has also reached capacity, hence the need to build and start a school at the centre.

Late in the afternoon a briefing was held for those to go to the villages tomorrow. The group will include engineers, an architect, a surveyor and if not all ready represented, a member from each of the clubs in the RAWCS team. They will travel in David's 4 wheel drive ute.

Player of the Day, Irene Easton.

Wednesday 8th Feb 06

We now have our first admission to the hospital, previously several members have sought medical help there. Gilli Williams had been quite sick yesterday evening with a bad wheeze, and was taken to the hospital to be admitted this morning, with bronchitis. She is expected to stay there until we leave to return to Australia. A group led by David and Asa also departed this morning for the day, to look at two villages where it is hoped to build a combined health centre school. These would also service neighboring villages, both providing education up to year 4, for the children, and raise the level of hygiene. The group included a member of each club and included engineers, a surveyor and an architect.

Meanwhile the depleted team continued with the work on site. All the roofing tiles have now been undercoated, and a large proportion has had all their coats. The aim is to finish painting all the tiles before we leave, ready to go on the roof at a later date. Work on welding the purloins continues, and an end is in sight. However this work has restricted the use of the welder for other tasks, such as fixing the window frames in position. Block work continues, assisted by some of the boys, who will have to render the walls after only after their completion, at some time in the future.

The day finished with many of the team eating out at the Yipsey Hut in Mai Sui. It was a happy if late evening, enjoyed by those who attended.

Thursday 9th Feb 06

Our hospitalized member is on the mend, and there is talk of her discharge tomorrow. It has been an unfortunate fortnight, health wise, with both many members of the team and children at the centre going down with a flu like illness of high temperatures and respiratory symptoms. Most of our members have a cough. With all parts of the project, this team will not be able to finish all the jobs. In addition work will be delayed, as tomorrow part of the new, but unfinished dining room needs to have the tiles put on the roof, prior to the erection of a solar-panel, to provide hot water for the kitchen.

Saturday 4 Feb 06

A day of rest, with all but one of the party, taking part in the planned cultural activity. A long day starting at 8am and for those returning to the centre arriving back at 10pm. Many people stayed in a hotel in Chiang Mai. Places visited were the monkey caves, the gem markets at Mai Saen, a drive along the Thai Burma border and a visit a royal garden.

Back at the centre, Dang started on the welding of the purloins, and some of the boys laid blocks.

Awarded Player of the Day

Sunday 5 Feb 06

Today provided a further day of rest for the team, and also those at the centre. The team, minus one, left at 9am, for the excursion, to the White temple, waterfalls, a ride on elephants, and a boat ride back to Chiang Rai. The party included 18 children. All were back for the evening meal at the centre.

Today, a couple, Hugh and Mary, arrived from the Kanloops West Rotary Club. Both were part of the Canadian team who were here last year. They are an advance party of another team from Kanloops, largely consisting of those who also came last year. They were a great group of people to work alongside when I, PNB, was here last year.

Awarded Player of the Day Asa and David Stevenson for their guiding.

Monday 6 Feb 06

The weather is being very unseasonable, instead of sunshine and blue skies after the morning mist is burnt off, the sky during the last two days has often been overcast, and rainstorms have occurred, yesterday evening proceeded by thunder. All a little embarrassing after telling one of the team not to bring wet weather gear.

Welding in place of the purloins has continued, and almost half are now in place. Many of the window lintels have been put in place and where the walls have been built up to 4 courses the window frames have been welded into position. Great efforts are being made to get all the tiles painted, one team concentrating on covering the tiles with undercoat, the other with the two sorts of topcoat, uv resistant paint being used on the top surface.

In the evening a special dinner was put on, with several different dishes, to suit all tastes. After the meal was finished we were entertained by a choir, followed by dancing by some of the girls dressed in traditional Akha costumes.

Awarded Player of the Day Jan for successfully removing Terry's sutures

Tuesday 7 Feb 06

Over the past few days, quite a number of people have been and continue to be on the sick list. The infection is also going around the children at the centre. The infection, probable viral, causes the suffers to run a high temperature, and is associated with a respiratory infection and cough, sometimes leading onto a bacterial bronchitis. At least two members have had their asthma exacerbated. Those well, have continued with the building work, attaching the purloins is almost finished, and should see completion today, many of the window frames are in place. Block work has continued, helped by a number of the boys from the centre.

the somewhat limited space in our sleeping quarters, my impression is that everybody is happy with the general set up, the food, and the pleasure of being able to help the children. Our youngest member, a 9 year old has developed a happy relationship with one of the girls, and has also been helping with the painting of the tiles.

Awarded Player of the Day: Matthew Davis

Tuesday 31 Jan 06

Rather than working for an hour before breakfast, the meal has been changed to 7am, with work starting at 8am. Work then continues through to 12noon for lunch, and work resumes until around 3.30 to 4pm or when the current job is finished. I am slowly beginning to realize the breadth of skills within the group. Today a new group of 4 plus David has been started to work on a strategic plan for the centre, for presentation to AusAid. Meanwhile work continues on the building, and a further two slabs have been poured, as well as the painting of roofing tiles and electrical work around the whole complex. Quite a number of electrical faults have been identified, and are slowly being corrected. Two people are taking photographs of all the children to be sent out to the children's sponsors.

Each day a new minor crisis seems to occur. Today there have been two. The first was an accident, when Terry Spencer suffered a deep cut above his right eye. The incident occurred when a small tree was demolished. After some first aid, he was quickly taken to the local hospital for the wound to be stitched, he now sports a splendid black eye. The other has been the problem of finding enough connectors for the plumbing in the new building, this proved to be a frustrating task, and although some were found locally, by visits to 3 hardware stores, others had to be obtained in Chiang Rai. The problem was further complicated by differences in practice between Thailand and Australia, with no provision for s bends on the waste water outlets of the basins and the floor drain. The problem has been resolved by separating the waste water from the showers and hand basin from that from the toilet, as occurs in the rest of the centre. Whilst the water from the toilets will go to the new bio-digester, the shower and hand basin water will go into a soak away outside the building. With the earlier start, by lunch time two further slabs were poured, and the remaining must wait until plumbing for the waste water has been completed, including the digging of ditches and the joining of the pipes. There are still pieces to be found, which means a visit to Chiang Rai.

During the morning break the strategic planning group, mainly Ann Davis and David Stevenson developed proposals for Cultural Activities and Excursions during our stay. These proposals were presented at lunch and accepted. Accordingly after lunch, the various projects were quickly completed, and the equipment cleaned. Shortly before 3pm the party took off for Chiang Rai, following David and Asa Stevenson in a ute. The first stop was close to the day markets, visited by most of the party, whilst 3 members toured, with David and Asa, several hardware shops in search of the parts needed to complete the drainage system. Thence the group went to a restaurant, where most of the party enjoyed a very nice Thai banquet, price per person

for the food was Bht120, including a tip. The few remaining members ate Western food. Everybody full of food then went off to the Night Markets before a return, to reach the centre about 10.45pm and bed.

Awarded Player of the Day: Terry Spencer

Wednesday 1 Feb 06

On the building site, progress was delayed whilst the drainage was finally organised, with the digging of ditches and the joining of the various sections of the pipe, so as to be ready for the pouring of the final two slabs. Because of the change of plans of the drainage system into two systems, this also involved a trip into the local hardware stores, in the search for additional pieces. Such trips occur each day, not always with success, and often one store may not have sufficient of the item, and more have to be bought elsewhere. In the meantime the joists, now constructed and welded by Dang, were brought outside for cleaning and painting with red antirust paint and then white paint. The steel work for the window frames was also being cut and welded for painting, in the same way. The day also saw the completion of the painting of all the roof tiles with undercoat, ready for the final coat to be started tomorrow. The electrical maintenance work around the centre continues, and will probably do so until we leave. The members of the strategic planning group have continued with their work, but felt they had had enough, and tomorrow will lay down their pens for spades and brushes.

The WIFFLE session at Oi's went off better today, with everybody present being given the chance to speak. Many members of the team chose to eat at Oi's, whilst those who returned to the centre dined on chicken, mashed potatoes and vegetables, followed by yogurt and fruit.

Awarded Player of the Day: Georgia Renfree & Julia Widdup.

Thursday 2 Feb 06

Work has continued at a pace today. The drainage pipes have been finally put in place, being adapted for western toilets instead of squats, as this building is for volunteers, except for the end nearest the kitchens, which will be a little house for Dang and his family. With the drainage pipes down, the final two slabs have been laid, and the formwork for a path outside the area for Dang prepared. Meanwhile the final coats of paint have been put on the joists, in preparation for their erection tomorrow with a crane. Work has also continued on the cutting and welding of the window frames, and painting started. Painting of the roof tiles has also continued, giving the underside their final coat. The topside of the tiles are to be painted with UV resistant paint, which Asa is to buy today in Chiang Rai. Meanwhile work on the electrical system continues, with extra lights and power points in the workshop. In addition, some pulley wheels have been bought and put up in the roof of the area used by the men, for their showers, thus making the hanging of the solar heated shower bags so much easier. The women are fortunate in being able to use the health centre, which has hot showers installed. After finishing work and cleaning up, and for some a quick visit to Oi's noodle bar,

everybody set off to visit a nearby Akha village. This village in recent years has had a lot of their land appropriated by Thai people, and the Forestry Dept, including land they used for growing rice. The last part of the ride was along a very rough road, and near the village several steep hills, so that one wondered if the minibuses would get to the top of them. The village was built on a steep hillside, with one of the most substantial buildings being a church built by the Korean Presbyterian church. The house we went into, owned by the family of one of the girls at the centre, was very poor. One irregular shaped room, with an open fire at one end, and no chimney. It was my impression that the quality of housing was far worse than anything I have seen in Nepal. We were entertained by the father, as the mother had gone with the girls elder sister to be admitted to the hospital in Chiang Rai. They had traveled up with Asa, who had gone to buy various items for the building project. As we left, a hat was passed round and over a 1000baht was raised for the family. Travel home was slow, as each vehicle threw up dust, obscuring the windscreen of the vehicle behind, resulting in numerous stops of the lead vehicle, driven by David Stevenson.

Awarded Player of the Day for their driving skills: Gary Scott, Terry Spencer & Bruce Wyatt.

Friday 3 Feb 06

This has been a day of consolidation and before the weekend. Progress over the week has been amazing, and today saw a coming together of the various activities. A crane was booked, for 10.30am, to lift the joists in place on the building, after they had been constructed in the workshop, by Dang, and then cleaned and painted by the team under the supervision of John Widdup. In the end the crane did not arrive until well into the afternoon, and the last joist was not welded in its place until the early evening. Meanwhile the window frames and lintels have been completed and painted, and painting of roof tiles has continued, if more slowly, as the topcoat does not dry so quickly. This problem in part has been overcome by setting up a second area for tile painting. The first of the blocks have been laid.

During the day, David Bailey, has connected this computer to the internet, facilitating the sending out of e-mails. Prior to this I have been going to the internet café, but have had to use their machines, as both they and I did not have a suitable cable. Also today I received an e-mail from the Australian Embassy in Bangkok. They had become aware of the RAWCS team's presence here, as a result of John Robertson contacting them. They suggest that we should apply for an Australian Embassy Discretionary Grant, available for NGO's and Community Groups in Thailand. The emphasis is on short term projects to alleviate basic humanitarian hardship, including children, education, rural development and poverty alleviation. The fund limit is Baht 300,000. Although the closing date was the end of January, the embassy advises that a submission should still be made, to be considered if insufficient other applicants. After the weekend, a proposal will be worked up and submitted, requesting help in providing equipment for the new school on the CGT site.

Awarded Player of the Day