

## Grameen Gazette #20

**Grameen Gazette**, the Newsletter from **Grameen Australia** – the organisation empowering people to change their lives through the implementation of innovative Microfinance and Social Business Projects.

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### **Our Expert Volunteers are Invaluable and Incredible**

Our expert volunteers are incredible - they are leaders in their fields with many competing demands on their time - and yet they join us on the ground to share their invaluable knowledge. With their support Grameen Australia is able to deliver real change in the lives of families in Asia.



*Expert Volunteers Ian and Kelly with the Chicken Farm Team, CEO Duncan Power and Board Member Paul Murnane*

Ian and Kelly visited the Livestock Training Centre in the midst of the fiery hot monsoon season with humidity near 100% and temperatures pushing well into the 30s. But nothing held back this inspiring duo, who spent long days on their feet in the sweltering heat reviewing and providing invaluable insights into every activity and process at the Centre.

Stuart bravely jumped on the back of a motorcycle as it forced its way into the madness that is Manila traffic to reach our far flung communities to ensure he had a real understanding of both our borrowers situation and the lengths our team go to to support them.

With the support of these generous volunteers Grameen Australia will be able to achieve its significant social impact goals:

- Social Business Hub, Philippines - by 2017 5,000 borrowers will have developed secure income generating businesses that support both their own families and other members of their communities through employment opportunities.
- Livestock Training Centre, Cambodia - within 3 years over 2,000 people will have received livestock rearing training thereby securing their income, and improving food security and increasing access to protein in the region.



*Expert Volunteer Stuart with Social Business Hub Staff*

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Ian Curtis and Kelly Drake together have more than 50 years experience in the poultry industry.



*Ian and Kelly running a training session for the beneficiary farmers*

Ian has worked both in Australia and the Pacific over the past 25 years, including managing the largest breeder operation in the Southern Hemisphere and and overseeing the development of village based cooperative egg laying businesses in the Pacific to provide income security for local communities.



*Ilan running a training session on egg quality*

Kelly has 15 years experience in animal research focused on poultry, ruminants and pest species, including development of farm-based learning. She has overseen the facilitation of livestock production training programs for overseas delegations from Africa and Iraq, including training farmers, extension officers and middle management staff



*Kelly and Ian in discussions with Training Centre Manager Sophal*

Ilan and Kelly visited our Livestock Training Centre in Siem Reap recently to review operations and provide expert advice to improve the social and economic impact of the program. Ian and Kelly's visit provided inspiration for the team, as their experience and expert advice will help to ensure the Training Centre can achieve its vision of becoming a leader in the delivery of social impact through robust business development.

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Stuart O'Dea has 30 years experience in the banking sector with core expertise in risk management and relationship management at all levels of the market, from sole traders to public companies. Stuart has a strong interest in supporting the small and medium sized business sector in developing economies as key drivers for growth.

Stuart recently travelled to our Manila Social Business Hub to provide insights into ways to effectively manage our major expansion strategy to ensure business growth progresses alongside expanded social impact.



*Stuart with Country Head Cris Delgado, Co CEO Duncan Power and Rotary Leaders of Makati/San Antonio*

*"I was fortunate enough to visit the Manila office of GAP in August for what was an extremely illuminating two week visit. My time began with the Grameen Australia Philippines (GAP) Board meeting, following which Country Manager Cris Delgado and his team could not have been more welcoming or helpful in showing me over GAP's busy and growing operations. This included several hours as a passenger on the back of a motorcycle to experience Centre meetings and the challenges faced daily by GAP Account Officers. The expanding team operates well under Cris' leadership, with very strong growth forecast for 2016 and beyond as a result of the continuing hard work put in to assist the urban poor of Manila." Stuart O'Dea*