



Media Release – 9 January 2015

Hands Across the Water Celebrates in Bangkok

Australian charity, Hands Across the Water (Hands) announced its Night of Celebration at the Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit in Bangkok on 6th March, 2015. The event will commence at 7pm with musical entertainment, followed by a live fundraising auction. There will also be a Thai themed Village Fair as part of the event. Australian Ambassador to the Kingdom of Thailand, Paul Robilliard will attend, along with Founder of Hands, Peter Baines OAM acting as keynote speaker.

The inaugural event is an important opportunity to raise funds to assist with the launch of Hands' new home, PAMA House located in Chanthaburi. PAMA House will be officially opened the following day on 7th March 2015 will provide shelter for up to 20 at-risk girls. Living in this environment will give the girls an opportunity to gain an education and enjoy a brighter future.

"We're excited to host the inaugural Bangkok Night of Celebration, not only to raise funds for the PAMA House, but also to raise awareness of Hands amongst the Thai community. I also look forward to officially opening the PAMA House. This will be another milestone for Hands, and I believe it will be the beginning of a great, new chapter for the young girls" says Baines.

When Baines first arrived in Thailand after the Boxing Day tsunami in 2004 as part of the forensic identification team from Australia, the devastation was overwhelming. He soon realised the impact of what had happened and felt inspired to establish an organisation that could make a real difference and Hands Across the Water was born. Hands initially supported 32 children who had lost their parents and were living in a tent in Phang-Nga, on Thailand's northern Andaman coast.

Hands, along with a number of committed supporters, built the first orphanage at Phang-Nga, opening Baan Tharn Namchai in 2006. Since inception, the organisation has grown and now supports around 300 at-risk children across homes in Thailand including children affected by HIV at Yasothon and Surin. The organisation has also established a range of community initiatives, community centres and sustainability projects to improve the quality of life of hundreds of children across Thailand.

Over the past nine years, Hands Across the Water has raised 270m Thai baht, predominately through fundraising bike rides across Thailand. This year, Hands launches the "Young Hands" ride in December where Thai and Australian high school students can participate in a five day ride of approximately 500kms from Hua Hin to Khao Lak. Putting a fun and challenging twist on the fundraising, international schools can help support one of their school students to ride in the "Young Hands" ride. Two young students from St Andrews International School in Rayong have already secured their spots and will also be ambassadors at the upcoming Gala Dinner.

**The Night of Celebration will be held at 7pm at the
Sheraton Grande Sukhumvit in Bangkok on 6th March, 2015.**

**This will be followed by the official opening of
PAMA House, Chanthaburi on 7th March, 2015.**

For more information on Hands Across the Water

www.handsacrossthewater.org.au

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About Hands Across the Water

Hands Across the Water was set up as a direct result of Peter Baines OAM witnessing the devastating effects of the Boxing Day Tsunami in Thailand. While working as part of the response team, Peter was deeply touched by the number of children left orphaned by the disaster and was inspired to set up an organisation that could make a significant difference in their lives. Hands was founded in 2005 and since then has raised millions of dollars and established a range of initiatives to improve the quality of life of hundreds of children across Thailand.

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