

11 December 2006



## ANZ CORPORATE CHARITY CHALLENGE –

### WE MADE IT.....

In March this year 32 ANZ staff were challenged to "See the world. Change it". What we did not expect was the extent to which the ANZ Corporate Charity Challenge would change every one of us.

We have just spent the last 10 days in Vietnam visiting the project we have raised funds for and cycling through some very tough conditions.



On 25th November, we left Australia for Hanoi, and enjoyed a celebratory dinner at KOTO, Know One Teach One, a restaurant owned and run by Jimmy Pham, which creates opportunities for street kids and disadvantaged children. The dinner was the perfect occasion to present Mrs. Hoa, Vice President of the Vietnam Women's Union a certificate and to announce the fundraising had been successful and we would contribute \$110,000 to the VWU and IWDA for their micro-enterprise project. Guests at the dinner included Australian Ambassador to Vietnam Mr. Bill Tweddell, ANZ Country Head of Vietnam, Ms. Thuy Dam, and ANZ staff from ANZ Hanoi.

With funds raised by our group in excess of the target, a donation of \$5000 was given to Jimmy Pham for KOTO.



The next day, at 5am, we travelled by bus a lengthy 7 hours to Chiem Hoa, in the heart of the rural Tuyen Quang Province, where the micro enterprise project is located. Joined by ANZ Hanoi staff, we were split into 6 groups to visit local families and their businesses. An extraordinary day, we were exposed to the basic way of Vietnamese rural life. Besides electricity, families had none of the appliances, transport or modern

conveniences we experience and take for granted in Australia.

We saw first hand how the funds were being used, from noodle making, to mat weaving and duck farming. One family spoke how the finances had been used to grow a successful pig farm with 40 pigs over 4 years, assisting her to feed her family and the community.



We were privileged to share the delights of an authentic Vietnamese lunch, prepared by the family's in their homes – a great insight into each families way of life.



The next 4.5 days were the hardest physical and mental challenge for our group, as we cycled nearly 400km through some tough sweltering conditions. The cycle was much tougher than expected...10 km climbs with inclines of 8 – 12% were part of every day's challenge. The heat was intense particularly after lunch where frequent water and rest breaks were necessary.

Although the ascents were tough, the rewards were extraordinary. Around every corner, there was another picturesque scene – wooden huts perched above the river, local children giving us warm smiles and high 5's through every village with the boys on our team playing soccer and hackey sack with the kids during lunch breaks!



The local tribes were so friendly and generous, and amazingly colourful in their traditional dress.

The last day was one of the most challenging with a significant climb up Son La Pass, yet it was the most extraordinary team effort. We were all determined to complete the climb, no matter how much pain or heat we were experiencing. We rode in smaller teams to support each other, with a grim hard determination to succeed. Nearly two thirds to the top the impossible seemed achievable.



We all made it to the top! Long embraces and back slapping marked the moment.



As a group we have experienced an amazing journey. We have been able to help people improve their lives and have challenged ourselves both mentally and physically along the way. Even more importantly, we have developed lifelong friendships with our fellow riders and learnt so much about ourselves and what we can achieve as at team!

Without support from our friends, colleagues and family – we could not have made such a difference. Thank you to ANZ, Mission Accomplish and to all of you for your amazing support over the last 10 months.

The Challenge really has been a once in a lifetime experience for us.

The 2006 ANZ Corporate Charity Challenge team.

