

# JHAG CHILDREN'S VILLAGE

## prem pathshala

March was a very busy month with many visitors coming to see The Jhag CVhildren's Village in operation.

A group of people from Singapore's Street Child Project visited the Jhag Children's Village as well as I-India's other projects in Jaipur. For Anita Williams' full account of their trip with photographs please see the Singapore page of our website.

MBA candidates from the Fuqua School of Business, Duke University visited as part of their educational program. They will present official recommendations to I-India as a result of their investigations.

Ms Rashanta and friends also visited.

Annual Oral and Verbal examinations were held.

Maintenance work was performed in the school and around the campus generally. Construction of a paved area in front of the shelter home to keep the interior clean from dirt was achieved during the month. 33 small boys are now living happily together and attending Prem Pathshala 6 days a week, receiving quality education that was unimaginable before they came under the care of I-India.



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### fundraising - chinese new year banquet

On the 2nd March, guests enjoyed a 10 course banquet at Mr Chow's Peking Restaurant to celebrate Chinese New Year and to raise funds for I-India Project Australia

It was a great night, with delicious food provided by the attentive staff. Auction items were donated to give the guests a chance to pick up something unique. The auction items were • Parliament of New South Wales wine set donated by Angela D'Amore, MP • 4 hour Decluttering Session donated by Lisa Oshlack from 'Moving On" • \$1000 Voucher for Lovable Lingerie donated by Lovable Lingerie • 2004 Penfolds Grange Shiraz donated by Trevor Callaway • Exclusive 5 Hour Moonlight Lady Cruise around Sydney Harbour for eight people donated by Joan Pearson. Steve Lane generously donated bottles of wine as lucky door prizes which were happily and gratefully received.

We wish to express our warm and sincere thanks to the individuals and organisations that donated their goods and services to ensure that the event was a success. International artist Larry Stellar sang his memorable classics well into the night to the delight of our guests. Larry, who was born in Bombay to Austrian and Portuguese parents, generously donated his time and talents to help street children of India. Guests from Manjit and Kawal Gujral and Dr Usha Khurana's table won the \$1000 Big Draw lucky ticket prize. To the surprise and delight of the I-India Project Australia team, they immediately donated the funds back. The Gujral family are long-time supporters of I-India Project Australia, contributing in many ways from our inception. The event raised over \$8500, including the \$1000 donation from the Gujral table. Our warm thanks to Ron and Cheryl Yeo and Yennie Lee for organising the event.



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## fundraising - alice in wonderland

On the 10th March, 355 people supported I-India Project Australia by attending a special screening of Alice in Wonderland at Greater Union's Event cinema in George Street Sydney.

The 3D screening was highly anticipated and it did not disappoint. Prior to the screening, tickets to a Big Draw were sold by Tess Kelly and Gabriella Charlton who were dressed as charming characters from the film - Alice and the March Hare.

After a short welcome and thank you from Celia Barnett, Tess and Gabriella drew the winning number. Ben Friis-O'Toole and Taryn Parrott were the holders of the lucky ticket and Ben accepted his prize of \$250 prize money on stage.

After the film, Ben and Taryn quietly donated all the prize money back to I-India Project Australia, which boosted the amount raised on the night to \$4554.50! This was an extraordinary and meaningful gesture. Sincere thanks to Ben and Taryn and to everyone who attended! And thank you too to Gemma Collocott and Anna from Event Cinemas!



Tess Kelly and Gabriella Charlton

Celia Barnett

Ben Friis-O'Toole

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### street child project visits jhag

Anita Williams from Street Child Project in Singapore recently visited I-India with a group of committee members and supporters including Jon Moore, Executive Producer & Director at The Deck Media Group. This is an excerpt from Anita's letter regarding how the school facilities are utilised after hours.

*Prem Pathshala is utilised again in the evening when local children are collected and transported to the Jhag Children's Village. It was amazing to be on the bus to see the homes in which they live. Mud homes mainly. They got on the bus excited but tired after a full day working in the fields. Their parents allow them to go to the school only in the evenings. Some children looked out quietly whilst others sat on their knees peering out the front of the bus in anticipation. The lessons were held on the large back verandah. This project has been operating for 3 months and already they know their alphabet and are writing simple sentences. The children were very interactive and proud to show me their work. After class they played on the playground equipment, laughing and running around happily. They receive a hot meal before they are bundled up and returned home. The hope is their the parents will enrol the children into Jhag school full time.*

For Anita's full moving account, please see the Singapore page.



Photos courtesy of Jon Moore, Director, The Deck - [www.thedeck.tv](http://www.thedeck.tv)