

The Philippines schools project

Started about five years ago. Jo and I decided, on a whim to visit Jo's old school, she hadn't seen it for 30 years. Jo said it hadn't changed and, sad to say, I quite believed her. The facilities were appalling, yet the standard of teaching was excellent, and the enthusiasm from the children, absolutely fabulous. You just knew straight away, that something had to be done.



First, we found a disused room.

First of all we bought some books. When we got home, we collected more, and freighted them out. The project just got bigger, and our dreams for the schools with them. In January this year (2006) we decided to organise and fund a proper research/study facility for the kids.



We knocked through a wall, built an extension and added a toilet and washroom





Put in a couple of benches and some chairs, a computer with a printer, a book case and some books.





and added some kids!

The effect was instantaneous, riotous and captivating.

*We decided
to build two
more
similar
rooms, one
each in the
Elementary
and high
schools*





so when we came back in March (2006), we started to ask our friends in the motor racing world if they could help us. We were bowled over by the response.

Some gave huge donations, others cash from the glove box in the car, or unused euros. Donations of all sorts, cash and kind. Auctions just happened, donations out of the blue. Teams that you always thought could afford some sort of donation, others that you knew were racing on a shoe-string. All had something they wanted to give.



We made up a package of four PC's and a laser printer folk had given us, together with a whole load of software I bought fairly cheaply at PC World.

A whole load of schools supplies came from another source and all of that went in to three parcels.



Despatched

16th August 2006

We pay for the freight as always to ensure that all of the donations go directly toward helping the kids.



Another PC with a scanner

*4 Apple
Macs
with two
printers,
linked
up and
ready to
go.*





A friend gave 4 brand new ink jet printers and a whole box full of ink jet cartridges!



Another friend called. Would you like 5 boxes of brand new books?



21st November 2006, another four parcels despatched.

Journey time, about 6 weeks. 7,000 miles, door to door (the school is about 6 hours drive from the port of Manila where the ship docks).

No weight limit, as much as you can physically get into the boxes.

Imagine how much these weigh, with the books and everything inside.

Cost? £240. beat that, Parcel Force!



*26th November 2006,
another three parcels
of gifts collected.*

These will go into the same shipping container as the last four, all expected to arrive second week of January 2007. These are the last boxes for the present, although I've no doubt our luggage for the trip will be on the limit!

Biggest problem we have when we get out there is what to do with the mountains of bubble wrap (no council refuse tip out there!) -we get through rolls of the stuff. When we arrive we will sort through all of the parcels to decide what is relevant for each school, then get it delivered (all the parcels will be waiting at our house, we hope!)