
FEBRUARY 2024 NEWSLETTER

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR GRAHAM GUMLEY APPOINTED MEMBER OF THE ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

(by Mimi Pablo and Mark Timlin)

We are proud to announce that our very own Graham Gumley was appointed as member of the Order of Australia during the recent Australia Day celebrations for his significant service to medicine in the field of orthopaedics (hand surgery). The Order of Australia is the highest national award given to a select few members of the community in recognition of outstanding service.

This news does not come as a surprise to those of us who know Graham. His impressive list of professional accomplishments may be known to many, but what people probably don't know about is Graham's individual impact.



We, in the HOPE *worldwide* Australia family, are privileged to be able to witness not only Graham's public persona, but also how he is in personal relationships. We (Mimi and Mark) would like to share some of our experiences with Graham.

My husband Jun and I (Mimi) had the privilege of working alongside Graham from 2001 to 2003 in Cambodia. He was the director of The Sihanouk Hospital in Phnom Penh, a charity hospital staffed and managed by HOPE *worldwide*. Jun was the Emergency Department director, while I worked in the Public Relations Department with Graham's wife, Suzanne.

Despite Graham being technically our "boss", we never felt this in practice. His humility was (and still is) second to none. On some weekends, he would volunteer to look after our young children and take them swimming. Speaking of swimming, Suzanne shared with me, that when Graham was younger, he was such an excellent swimmer that he considered trying out for the Olympics. But I guess it was a choice between the Olympics and Medicine, and Medicine won out over Olympic glory.

Graham with Suzanne and their children in Cambodia



job too small for Graham. Having been the Chairman of the Board for HOPE *worldwide* Australia from 2010 to 2020, Graham mentored Jun, who took over the position from 2021 to the present. Jun frequently seeks Graham's counsel, knowing the advice comes from a place of integrity and wisdom.

For myself (Mark), I feel that despite *the huge numbers of people Graham has positively impacted, it is my personal dealings with him that have been the most inspiring. One of my early experiences with Graham was in September 2001, post the US terrorist attacks. My wife Vicki and I were evacuated from Afghanistan where we were running a HOPE program. We were warmly welcomed by Graham and his family to their home in Cambodia- the nearest sanctuary as war erupted in Afghanistan. More recently, I remember Graham raising his hand to volunteer to refurbish an emergency supply building outside Noumea, New Caledonia in September 2022, when there was an insufficient number of volunteers signed up for the team. This was at a time where he was diagnosed with a chronic health condition, and many thought he should not go (another consideration- being over 70). I also remember a Board meeting in March 2023 where he actively participated in planning program's activities in Australia and the Pacific region. This was despite him just receiving the diagnosis of life-threatening acute leukaemia and needing hospital admission to start the long process of treatment the following morning! The continuous 'other centred' love, rather than focus on self is Christlike and incredibly convicting.*

Years later, some of us who worked together with Graham in Cambodia- the Timlins, Dela Costas, and the Pablos- found ourselves living in Australia and re-connecting with Graham through the work of HOPE *worldwide* Australia as well as 'SPA' church conferences, which felt like a family reunion. It was easy to find Graham- sitting at the sound desk volunteering his sound technician skills for the conference main sessions. No

Some of the Sihanouk Hospital Staff with their family



Congratulations Graham! Well deserved. We're so proud of you!!

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