

FACILITATION

FMD, University of Waikato

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On the 1st June my wife Bonita and I joined a "rugby trip" with the FURC - Fairfield United Rugby Club. Called Yellowbellies, the team is the last remaining "Masters" rugby team in Hamilton and exists to allow older players to continue to enjoy playing the game. One of their mandates is to travel annually to holiday and play rugby in countries where rugby is not a main sport – predominately against ex-pat kiwis, Aussies, Brits and South Africans teams bolstered with local players. This year the team travelled to Thailand (Bangkok & Pukete), Vietnam (Old Hanoi, Sapa, Halong Bay) and Cambodia (Siam Reap - meaning Thailand defeated), playing in Phukete and Hanoi. Fortunately both games were played a 4pm when the temperatures had dropped to about 34C and as always both games ended in 22 all draws, even though each of the opposition teams scored 5 tries to our 2 – Golden Oldies maths always adds up to 22 all draws.



Above: Angkor Wat Cambodia

Highlights of the trip -

Playing the rugby; Halong Bay overnight on a Junk; touring villages and countryside in Sapa (borders China) on hired motorbikes; getting to grips with Hanoi's congested streets; Asian food; waiting at a congested railway station in 41C temperatures for our overnight train; the sense of safeness in Vietnam and Cambodia (less so Bangkok); the tangled power and phone lines; 10s of thousands of Vietnamese citizens protesting outside China's embassy (Hanoi); Angkor Wat temple; bartering; Facebook firewalled in Vietnam; construction methods... the list goes on.

I have registered interest in doing next year's tour to Bali and Darwin - should be fun.
--- Hemi Dean ---



Left: Motorbikes in Sapa & Above: Sapa Paddy Fields

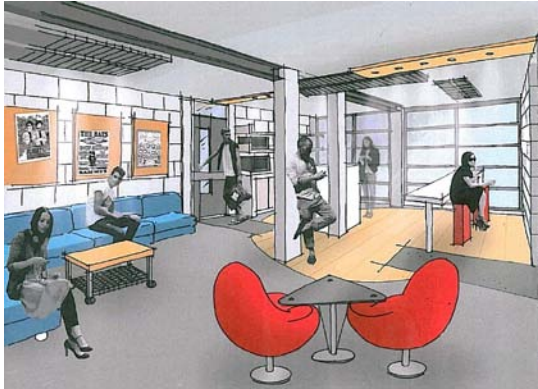
"Before" and "after" photos of the newly-refurbished ITS tea-room. These improvements appear to have been warmly welcomed by all the users and is the latest in the line of official tea rooms we have recently improved (following on those in G, F and A blocks).



FMD Social Club

There is a sausage sizzle lunch in the FMD courtyard at midday on Wednesday 13th July.
Hope to see you all there!

Renovation of Student Accommodation



A consultant team is now well under way with the detailed design of College Hall Block D internal renovation following acceptance of the concept design for all CH blocks. This signals the start of an extensive programme of renovation by the University of its student accommodation, likely to extend over the next 5 or 6 years and potentially costing over \$20M. College Hall is the first area to be progressed, with Bryant Hall, Student Village and Orchard Park following. The extended programme of work is based on the University never losing more than around 100 student beds at any given time. The intention is, for example, to move on to CHC as soon as CHD is re-occupied – both to be completed, hopefully, in 2012.

Trevor Harris

The May issue of Facilitation showed some Possum Busters trying to catch this Possum – below is Nan Sinclair with the possum!



Nepal is a land locked country which is bordered by India to the south and separated from China (Tibet) to the north by the Himalayan mountain range. It is a place that is currently doing it hard with the locals having to deal with daily rolling power blackouts of up to 14 hours a day as electricity capacity is shared around the provinces. Youth unemployment is high and supply shortages of petrol, diesel, and gas occur periodically. Frustration vents itself regularly through mass striking at short notice by strategically blocking roads. With the main highway between the Katmandu Valley and Pokhara more or less being the sole route from one end of the country to the other, this type of action becomes very effective in paralysing the life lines of the cities and towns that depend on it.

Scenically Nepal is quite stunning. The topography varies from the fertile low lands of the Terai region to the alpine peaks and rivers of the Himalaya. It is world renowned for its trekking, white water rafting, and has some of the best wildlife in Asia. Highlights of our trip included an early morning flight around Mt Everest, a four day trek in the Annapurna foothills between the villages of Nayapul and Dhampus, and viewing rhinos in the Royal Chitwan National Park.

--- Paul Blair ----



Above - Sacred Cows (Hindu) and Below - Asian Rhinos Royal Chitwan National Park



Super 18 Rugby Competition

Most of you will have seen the results of our in-house rugby competition but just in case you didn't here goes. FM staff for some reason didn't get in the money at all this time round – maybe we don't have the same amount of time to study as others do!!! The winners were:

- 1st: Tony Nicholls from FSD with 174 points
- 2nd: Alan Neilson with 172 points
- 3rd =: Andrew McKinnon from FSD & Dougal Mair from ITS with 171 points.