

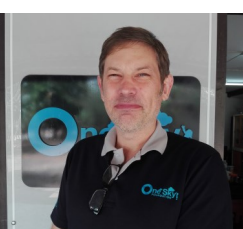


"The man who raped my youngest daughter laughed at me and told me I am just a migrant labourer and there is nothing I can do about it. Then someone told us about One Sky. That man is in jail now and we are rebuilding our lives in a new area"

"Keeping families together"



In our 5th year of operation we have made real progress towards our goal of achieving an effective child protection partnership with the police and local hospital. This year we have supported 9 children who were raped and 1 who suffered an attempted rape. These children range in age from 4 to 16 years old. By supporting the victims and their families we have seen 4 men sent to jail and have 2 further cases pending. Sadly the most experienced and skilled abusers are those who rape the youngest children and in those cases the men have escaped each time. There is still a long way to go, but we are pleased to have reached this point considering that there was previously no system of support or investigation and no willingness to create one. Hopefully we have put doubt into the minds of those thinking of abusing children in this area; things have changed and they might just get caught and go to jail.



I hope you will find this year's report interesting and rewarding. We owe thanks to many people whose ongoing support makes our work possible.
Andy Lillicrap co-founder One Sky Foundation



146 referrals for Family Support and
Child Protection in 2017

425 children and 278 adults
received support

Support Needs	Cases
Poverty	90
Education	67
Health – physical and mental	60
Learning disability	7
Abuse – all types	38
Behaviour problems	27
Poor nutrition (children underweight)	52
Orphans (double orphans – living alone, with neighbours or relatives)	15
Other	4

Support Given	Cases
One Sky visits the provincial hospital at least once a month:	
Children supported this year	18
Adults supported this year	5
Income generation	
Families able to make brooms because of One Sky's help	7
Number of children in these families	20
Food Welfare Support	
Families supported in 2017	55
Average each month	30
Children	156
Adults	106

Child Protection and Family Support

Support	Number of cases	What we did
Child protection	81	Work to protect children and to reduce risk
Food Support	55	Monthly delivery of rice and essential food items, milk when we have it.
Accommodation	6	Rent support 3, Support to build house 3
Income generation	9	Broom making and small loans to start microbusiness
Register in School	23	Advocacy and support for parents, especially non-Thai speaking parents
Scholarships	18	Referred to One Sky Scholarship Scheme. See below for full details of this year's education scholarships
Medical costs, Health Insurance and advocacy	41	Both minor and major treatment costs, insurance to access free care and advocacy
Youth outside education	7	Youth group activities for children outside education
Family Strengthening activities	24	Family-based activities to bring families together away from the daily stresses of their lives
Basic Counselling	180	Basic counselling, advice and encouragement
Family reconnection	6	Reconnecting children from children's homes with their families
School Uniform provided	88	As children progress into middle and high school, uniform costs can become out of reach for the poorest families
Other	5	

Child Protection and Family Support

In our 5th year of operation we have seen our family support work rise to the next level with 425 children benefiting from our help. Our senior field workers have grown in confidence and skill in their work with chaotic families. Their ability to build trust with children and parents and to understand and work through complex issues has been impressive this year. Poverty and instability breed chaos and feed the mentality of living for today and not investing in the future. Working to reduce the risk levels for children in complex family situations takes dedication, endless patience and a strong sense of purpose. In 2017 our team enhanced their reputation for this work

successfully working with families to bring stability and security to more children. Our social work and psychology volunteers Marie, Ashley and Silke have been a big part of this process.





Education Scholarship Scheme

Sangkhlaburi is an area where most people suffer from poorer status, struggling to survive day by day. For this reason, education for this child is very far away. But for me. I believe that education can develop people, develop minds, and change the world. Working in education is a challenge for me. It is necessary to cultivate children. I am aware of the importance of education, and I believe that education is about giving life and the future of children. To grow up to be a quality person on this planet.

Kitti



Education Scholarship Scheme

We learnt a lot in the first year of our scholarship scheme and in 2017, our second year, we were able to support more children to stay in education. In total 89 children received scholarships during 2017, however 71 children are still receiving support as we enter 2018. A number of parents just need support for a short time until they can find more or better paid work. In other cases though, children are still dropping out from school and going to work.

Although this is confirmation that our support is reaching the children at risk of dropping out, we are concerned that these children are not asking us for help before dropping out. In 2018 we plan a range of holiday activities for children to build their confidence and commitment to education and also to strengthen their connection to our team so that they will be more likely to share their problems and seek help before dropping out from school. It is important to remember that many of these children were born in Thailand but have no official identification. This can leave them feeling lost and with no sense of future as they are not able to travel or work freely in Thailand. Working with these children to build a positive vision of their future is an important part of our education support work; only by helping them to navigate their way to more stable and better paid work than their parents can we hope to break the cycle of poverty.

We also learnt that we need to start the assessment process much earlier for children who will transition from primary to middle school or middle to high school. Knowing in advance that

they will have support for the following year, these children will be more motivated to work for their exams. In 2017 we were too late to inform some students that they would receive support and they had already moved to the city to work once the school holidays started.

In 2018 we aim to have informed all the students about their scholarship before the end-of-year exams in March. During the long holiday we hope to see the children for activities and preparation for the next stage in their education. When school starts on 16th May we aim that none of these children have decided to drop out.

Thanks to generous support from HEAL Kids in the UK we will be expanding the scholarship to the whole district, an area of around 70km from north to south with over 18,000 school children, although with only 2 high schools. In the last months of 2017 we were busy visiting all the new schools to introduce One Sky and the Scholarship Scheme. It is a very exciting year ahead as we start to see significant impact from our scholarship scheme.



Community Development Project – Thikrong Preschool

With generous support from friends in Thailand, USA, Switzerland, France and the UK we have been able to build a preschool in Thikrong village this year. Our initial goal to open in May was ambitious, but we were pleased when 32 children attended the first day of school in December.

It is a great achievement to have come this far and to be now providing vital preschooling for these isolated children who would otherwise fall behind their peers by the time they reach primary school. We aim to hand the school over to the government after 2 years. With proven attendance for that period, it should be possible for the local government to apply for a budget to run the school and to absorb it into the existing local school system.



Community Development Project –
Thikrong Preschool



Medical Support



One Sky provides essential support to many migrant families needing to communicate in Thai language with hospital staff and needing to make informed decisions about their health situation. Life and death emergencies are rapidly referred to the city by ambulance, a 3-hour journey. However, for serious chronic conditions that are not immediately life-threatening many parents need help to understand the situation for their children. These families also need support to prepare travel papers and to communicate at the big hospital in the city, an incredibly busy and stressful environment for the unprepared. We travel to the city hospital at least once a month supporting 18 children and 5 adults in 2017 with ongoing serious health issues. This is labour-intensive work requiring 3 staff to collect the patients, drive the truck and to attend the simultaneous appointments in different departments of the hospital.

Throughout 2017 we have covered the cost of a full-time carer for a single mum suffering with motor neuron disease. We have known the family for several years, a chaotic family with 4 children who were often missing from school. The family's situation became desperate when mum was suddenly unable to walk any more. After negotiation, a local children's home agreed to accept the whole family if we

paid for a carer for the mother. The situation for the family is still far from ideal, however they are together as a family and the mother's basic needs are being met. It is hard to imagine what could happen to a family like this if no support was available.

In November, a German plastic surgery team came to Sangkhlaburi and our team was very active in bringing patients to take advantage of the free treatment available. We supported travel costs, food and follow-up care (dressing changes and transport). These life-changing opportunities are rare and we work hard to bring children from some of the most isolated areas for consultation and treatment. Without electricity many families rely on candles at night. Mosquito nets burn easily if left too close to a candle and once burning they fall onto the children sleeping under them. To see the German team release a child's chin that has been fused to their chest or release an arm fused at the elbow joint is a rewarding experience and worth all the effort that goes into getting these children from remote villages to the hospital.





In all societies some families find themselves in chaos. In developed countries there are extensive social services to support these families, but elsewhere there is no support available. Our family strengthening work is with families still living together who are struggling to provide good levels of care for their children and also for families whose children have already been placed into local children's homes because parents cannot cope. Many of these parents love their children but can't find the support they need to take care of them.

Getting away from the daily stress and challenges and spending a simple day out together as a family can lay down important landmarks in the memory of children's upbringing. It's the simplest of things that so many of us take for granted that mean so much to these children.



Auntida - One Sky senior field staff explains.

According to our work with children and families helps us see that though the family cannot take suitable/appropriate care of their children but the children are still need the family. So we thought this activity is important to bring them to spend time and have good time together.

With increasing numbers of tourists from Bangkok coming to Sangkhlaburi the famous wooden bridge and surrounding area have become a magnet for working children. Some have been diving from the bridge, risking their lives to entertain the groups of tourists for small amounts of money. Others pose for photographs in traditional clothing and then ask for a small tip and some sell trinkets or face prints using Burmese thanaka paste. One Sky hosted a meeting for the police, army, local authority, families and children to come together to discuss this growing problem and the

risks the children were taking. All agreed that the children should be in school during school hours and that the risky bridge diving should stop. Signs were put up asking tourists to consider carefully whether they were really helping these children or putting them at risk and keeping them out of school. A Bangkok media group came to make a short documentary about the issue. The problem persists, but an interesting debate has started and we will continue to provide support for these families whose children are losing their chance for an education in pursuit of short-term gains.



The World Starts with Me

In 2017 we have been able to continue the program of self-awareness and safety with local kindergarten children. The 12-week course helps children to know their bodies, to confidently name their private body parts and to understand when they don't feel safe and who they should talk to when they have these feelings.

Our presence at the schools also prompts the teachers and we have received several referrals from teachers following the program at their school.



Sex Education

We continued our partnership with the nurses at the local hospital this year delivering sex education classes to teenagers at 3 local schools. Thailand has the second highest teenage pregnancy rate in SE Asia and our province has the highest rate in Thailand.

Abortion is illegal in Thailand and some young girls cross the border into Myanmar where they pay for an abortion, often done by someone with

no formal training. It is not unusual for teenage girls to arrive at the local Thai hospital with serious complications following such an abortion. One Sky staff and the nursing team at the hospital are very motivated on sex education as a preventative approach to the problem.

Open discussion of sex is taboo in Thailand and many teenagers don't realise the risks they are taking until it is too late.



It has been a busy year in the development of the official Sangkhlaburi Child Protection Committee.

This committee is a requirement under the 2003 Child Protection Act in Thailand. However Sangkhlaburi, like so many places in Thailand, has been unable to form such a committee due to lack of resources and training. This year we set about changing this, bringing in leading child rights lawyers and child development specialists for 4 training sessions totalling 6 days. Almost 50 NGO and government staff attended the training. We have seen growth in understanding about children's rights and the process of child protection. It is no surprise that this year we have dealt with 10 child rape cases as awareness increases among local teachers and government

staff. We fully expect this number to increase further in 2018 as we slowly create an environment of safe disclosure where victims feel that they will be supported and where perpetrators are punished.

The top local government official has accepted our request to form an official child protection working group as the active arm of the committee. Working through this committee we aim to establish the Sangkhlaburi Family Support Centre in 2018. This centre will be a victim support centre where children can be brought for safety, counselling and support. In 5 years we have travelled a long way along the road to effective child protection services. 2018 will be an exciting year as we work to cement our partnership with the local government and to achieve the highest possible level of care for child victims of abuse.

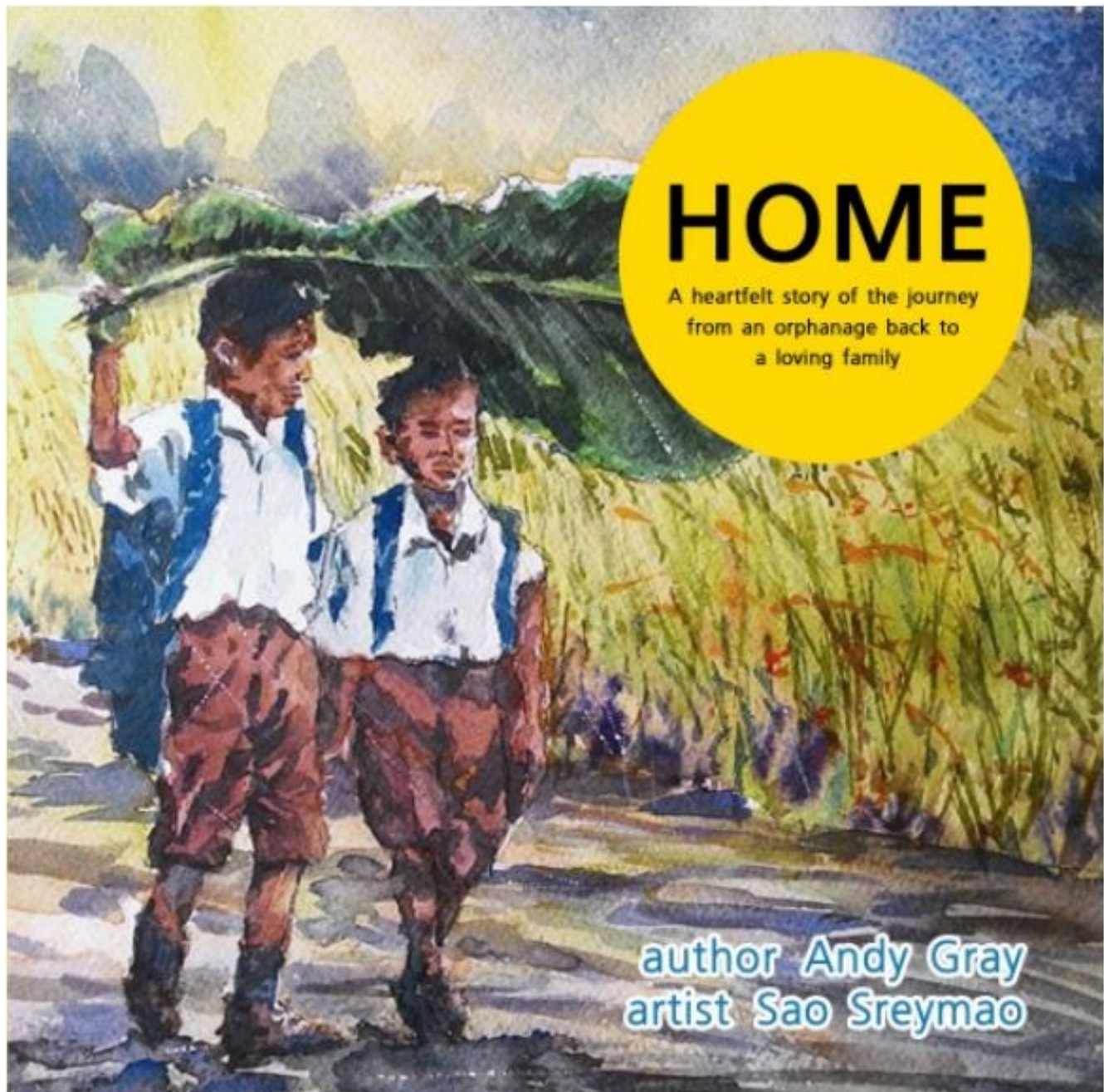
Online Survey and website



Thanks to the painstaking efforts of our volunteer, Janeen, we were able to recruit 15 online volunteers again in 2017 to repeat the online survey searching for illegal children's homes in Thailand. These are privately run institutions taking in children despite not registering with the government and therefore operating without any oversight or protection for the children.

Over many months Janeen painstakingly cleansed all the data from the survey, checking each website, confirming names and locations and removing duplicates. What we now have is clear and undeniable evidence of more than 240 illegal children's homes in Thailand. Although these are only the homes we could find through their online presence meaning that the true number will be much higher, this is still vital evidence to generate discussion with the government who until now have been reluctant to recognise the scale of this issue affecting many thousands of children in Thailand.

'Home': A heartfelt story of the journey from an orphanage back to a loving family



The 'Home' story is a powerful account of the impact of poverty on the movement of children away from their families into orphanages in Cambodia. In the story, the orphanage takes the brave step to help the children to go home and offers support to the families instead. We have reproduced the story into a pocketbook format in both English and Thai language enabling us to print copies for as little as 1 \$US each. The English version incorporates the Better Care/Better Volunteering Network's campaign to educate gap year students about the perils of orphanage volunteering. We were very proud to work with such a highly regarded international child rights organisation and thrilled that they paid for the first print run of 2,000 copies.

http://docs.wixstatic.com/ugd/dea76f_270f6be71ee849f6b97784fbb26ca480.pdf

Convention on the Rights of the Child Coalition Thailand (CRCCT) Alternative Care working group

One Sky is a member of the CRCCT Alternative Care working group. Through this coalition of likeminded NGO's we are able to engage with the Thai government on issues of children's rights. In 2017 One Sky was asked to join the subcommittee of the Ministry of Social Development and Human Security as an advisor on the alternative care of children. This is an exciting opportunity to work with central government on policy change that could bring Thailand in line with the UN guidelines on the Alternative Care of Children. Alternative care refers to the care of children when they are unable to live with their biological parents. The cornerstones of the guidelines are the necessity and suitability principles. Children should only be separated from their parents and/or extended family when absolutely necessary and any care centre they are moved to must be suitable for their specific needs. Clearly

with so many unregistered private children's homes in Thailand and a complete lack of regulation, there is still a long way to go before we see implementation of the UN guidelines. However, being asked to advise on this issue at the heart of government policy making for children is a huge opportunity for us to promote the UN Alternative Care Guidelines as an essential element of the development of children's rights in Thailand.

Our membership of the CRC Coalition also creates opportunities for the children and youth in Sangkhlaburi to attend national conferences on children's rights. Two such events have taken place in 2017. One of the Sangkhlaburi children is still in the running to be the representative for Thailand at the United Nations CRC international conference in Geneva or New York.



Reaching Families Far and Wide

At the end of 2017 we saw a major expansion to the geographic area covered by One Sky with our child protection and education scholarship projects now including the entire district, an area more than 70km from north to south. As a result our team have been putting in the miles with our only truck covering over 4600km in December alone and our four motorbikes covering over 4000km between them in the same period. We will be fundraising in 2018 for a second truck, ideally with 4x4 as we keep getting stuck in the mud during our welfare runs during the rainy season.



4 New Motorbikes for One Sky in 2017

At the end of 2016 we asked our good friend Dr Ashley Kies to carry out confidential consultations with One Sky staff about their experiences of working at One Sky.

In her report Ashley shared a very clear message from the team, that they didn't feel safe using the ageing fleet of One Sky motorbikes. Our motorbikes are the main means of transport to reach the families we support. Often with two staff on each bike the team head out every day in all weathers and on all road surfaces. It can be tough during the many months of the rainy season getting soaked and covered in mud every day. With poor brakes and constantly breaking lights our old bikes didn't make our staff feel safe, despite the fact that most of them have been riding bikes since they were young teenagers.

Thanks to the generosity of our supporters throughout 2017 we have slowly sold and replaced each of the old bikes and we now have 4 new bikes, pictured here with Oh, our finance and admin coordinator, who is responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the bikes.



Introducing Marie – our social work technical adviser



I have been working as a social worker in Sweden for many years. When I came to Sangkhlaburi four months ago, one of my first discoveries was that the social problems in Sweden and Thailand seem remarkably similar but Sweden has the resources to tackle them.

Sangkhlaburi has runaway teenagers, substance abuse and people with serious physical and mental health problems and people in Sweden with these problems would get government assistance. In Sangkhlaburi it often falls on family members to take care of their family in these situations.

From Sangkhlaburi to the nearest social services organization is a four-hour car journey and to get any help from social services you have to be a Thai citizen.

Ash



Dr Ashley Kies is based in Bangkok and has been supporting One Sky for 2 years now dedicating much of her holiday time to training and supporting One Sky staff. She is also involved with Janeen and Andy in writing a major report presenting an overview of the alternative care situation in Thailand. We hope to publish the report in March 2018, watch this space!

Andrea



Andrea came to us through Accountants for International Development (AfID) in 2016 and continued to support us in early 2017 to complete the overhaul of our finance system. We are now proud users of the NEAT system to record all our receipts and also keen users of QuickBooks to produce our monthly financial reports. We wouldn't have known where to start without Andrea's help!

Silke

Silke is an experienced psychologist from Holland who has made several trips to One Sky sharing her expertise with the team through workshops and co-working. This year the team found Silke's demonstration of how to build rapport and trust with very withdrawn children a powerful experience. Some skills transcend language. It was great to see Silke again this year after a break in 2016.



Salema



Salema is a French artist training youth in Sangkhlaburi in welding skills so they can create decorative artwork to sell. Salema dedicated many days of hard work to paint our new school in Thikrong village, painting alongside and coordinating the efforts of parents and volunteers from the village. She also worked with the teachers to teach painting skills so that they could decorate the walls of their new classroom. It was great to see and gave the children a real sense of ownership and pride in their new school.

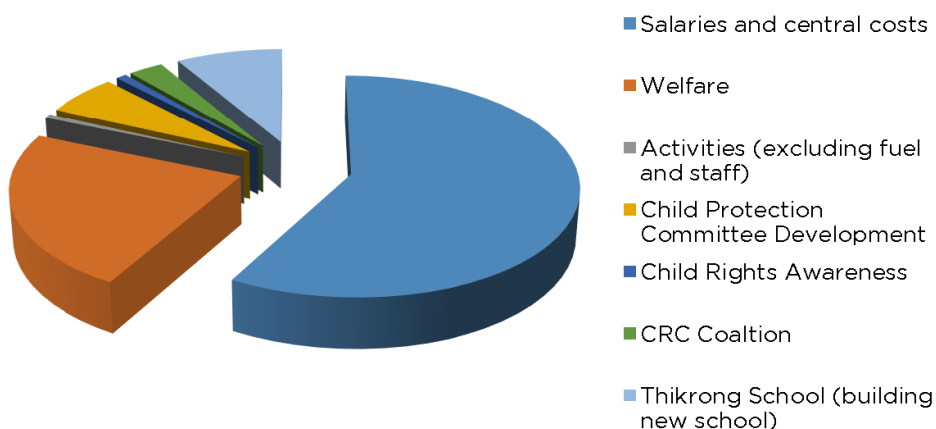
AREED partnership



This year we partnered with AREED, a French charity aiming to bring safe drinking water to poor communities. Our team learned how to make budget charcoal water filters using plastic barrels and we have begun installing these in the houses of families who want to try them. Many families drink rainwater and stream water and this is a chance to dramatically reduce the risks from drinking this water. We are grateful to AREED for sharing this knowledge with our team and we will wait to assess the feedback from the families trying out the new filters.

One Sky 2017 Financial Summary

This year we spent a total of 4,250,954 baht (approx. £96,000 or \$135,000). Consistent with a social service organisation, salaries are our biggest expense followed by welfare support costs for food, education support, medical costs and house repairs.



We are now expanding our child protection and education support services from the sub-district to the whole district. We are also planning to open a Family Support Centre where children can come to be supported confidentially and professionally when they have experienced abuse. In 2017 we supported 10 child rape victims using our busy office as the only space we have to talk and support these children and their families. As awareness and training increases we expect this number to grow again in 2018. We are very keen to rent a new facility where we can provide the best support possible for these children. A trained psychologist will join the team in February. We are grateful for the support that makes our work possible and hope that with your continued support we can make our vision a reality.

If you would like to know more about One Sky and our work or if you are interested in supporting us please visit our website or email us:

www.oneskyfoundation.org
oneskythailand@gmail.com



With sincere thanks to Richard Green who with great patience, edited and designed this annual report and as always gave us his time and energy for free.