

# Fred in line for Senior Australian of the Year after taking out Queensland prize

Co-operation in Development founder Fred Hyde has taken out the Queensland division of the Senior Australian of the Year competition. Introduced as “very probably the oldest charity worker in Australia” by National Australia Day Council CEO Jeremy Lasek, Fred beat a strong field including one of Australia’s richest men, Clive Berghofer, and source of the biggest single philanthropic donation by an Australian at the time.

The Senior Australian of the Year will be announced at January’s Australia Day event in Canberra, where finalists from all states and territories will compete for the national title, however Fred is already guaranteed of



Fred Hyde after the awards announcement with 2015 Queensland Young Australian of the Year, 23-year old Sudanese multi-cultural spokesperson Yassmin Abdel-Magied

national media attention: at the Brisbane event he was the star of the evening, gaining more media attention than the Queensland Australian of the Year, child rights campaigner Hetty Johnson and other celebrities, including wildlife campaigner Terri Irwin.

Fred arrived at the event with a group of supporters from his home town of Warwick, including committee deputy chair Len Willett and treasurer Geraldine O’Neill—and after a post awards (light) beer, returned to Warwick straight afterwards. Armed with a work permit, he plans to head back to Bhola Island Bangladesh in mid-November—breaking his own record as quite possibly the oldest overseas charity worker in the world.

## Before and after: the lost school of Five Doors

Some of the tallest ‘mountains’ on Bhola Island—barely three metres above sea level—are the artificial ‘hills’ built by locals to life CO-ID schools above the height of monsoon flooding, however even these special measures don’t always prove enough. One of the oldest schools in the CO-ID group, known as “Five Doors”, has succumbed to the flood waters of the mighty Meghna River. The river chips away at the embankments that protect the very low lying delta island of Bhola from the river system that drains through Bangladesh, but the dikes are not holding.



Five Doors school, which is funded by St Leonard’s College in Melbourne, has not been able to open for ‘business’ for many months a year due to flooding, but now the school is being used for ‘spare parts’, to erect what Fred calls a “ramshackle shed up on the bund” (or dike) by locals. “We had to keep the school going, to get the kids through to the exam,” says Fred. “The government only allows them to



go the exam as Five Doors students,” so we had no choice. Fred says he has been approached by locals who want CO-ID to build a ‘New Five Doors’ behind the markets, but he is worried about the risks. “It only takes one good surge, and the whole market’s gone. It’s only a mud hill they’ve built there.” He says he will be working with the locals to come up with a solution this Australian summer.

On the last day of Fred Hyde’s last ‘tour of duty’ on Bhola, the mud embankments protecting the Five Doors school gave way. In previous monsoons the

# Youngest fundraiser



“No birthday presents please, I want donations for Bangladesh”. It isn’t what you expect a 5-year old to say.

At the age of 5 Sienna Vulin became the top fundraiser at her kinder, Little Beacons (part of Beaconhills College, a school that has been a long-time CO-ID supporter). The following year Sienna and her mother, Emma, made and painted 238 pots which were sold in the local community to raise \$2,000 for CO-ID. Inspired by the success, the Vulin family then went on to organise a fundraising dinner, this time raising the \$7,000 cost of building a new pre-school. The Vulin Family Pre-school is scheduled for construction in the New Year. Well done Sienna and Emma for a fantastic effort!

# Remembering CO-ID in your will

Preparing your will is never a particular ‘fun’ life event, but at least when you think about the things your legacy could do, it makes the job a little more bearable. If you would like to include CO-ID in your will, you can be reassured that your legacy will have real impact...and the following wording is the correct way to ensure that happens:

*I give to Co-operation In Development (Australia)*

*Association Incorporated of P.O. Box 1061, Warwick, Queensland, a charitable organisation incorporated in Queensland under the Association Incorporation Act 1981, the amount of AUD\$..... for its general, educational and charitable purposes in caring and educating children and I declare that the receipt of the treasurer or other proper officer of the Association will be a good and sufficient discharge to my executors.*

## Record interstate visitors to AGM

The growing national strength of the CO-ID committee was reflected in the turnout for the 2014 AGM in late August, with visitors from Melbourne, Canberra, Darwin and Brisbane joining Warwick locals for what proved the largest AGM gathering in years. A half-day planning meeting preceded the AGM, which saw the election of a committee that reflected the national focus. Dr Olav Muurlink (Brisbane) was re-elected as chair of the management committee, with Tony Kent (Melbourne) and Len Willett (Warwick) elected as deputy chairs. Kathy Mullis (Warwick) and Geraldine O’Neill (Warwick) were elected as secretary and treasurer respectively, with a committee that included Borhan Shafi (Canberra) Iqbal Faruque (Darwin), Rod Mullis, Pat O’Leary, Shirley Owens (all from Warwick) and Sue Walpole, John Waterhouse Anne Blunt, Cath Beaumont (from Melbourne).



*From left: Borhan Shafi, Sue Walpole, Tony Kent, Kathy Mullis, Iqbal Faruque, Patrick O’Neill, Rod Mullis, Fred Hyde, Olav Muurlink, Bushra Khanum, John Waterhouse, Geraldine O’Neill, Louise Kerr, Shirley Owen, Ross Breadmore, Shamsuddin Shafi.*

## Did you know we had credit card facilities?

Name on card:.....

Your address:.....

Mastercard  Visa Expiry date:.....Amount:.....

Card Number: .....

Cardholders signature:.....

### Monthly auto-payment option

If it is easier on your budget to make a small donation every month, use this option: YES, I authorise CO-ID to charge the above amount to this account on the 15th of every month. Remember, even small donations make a BIG difference to us.

## CONTACT DETAILS

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