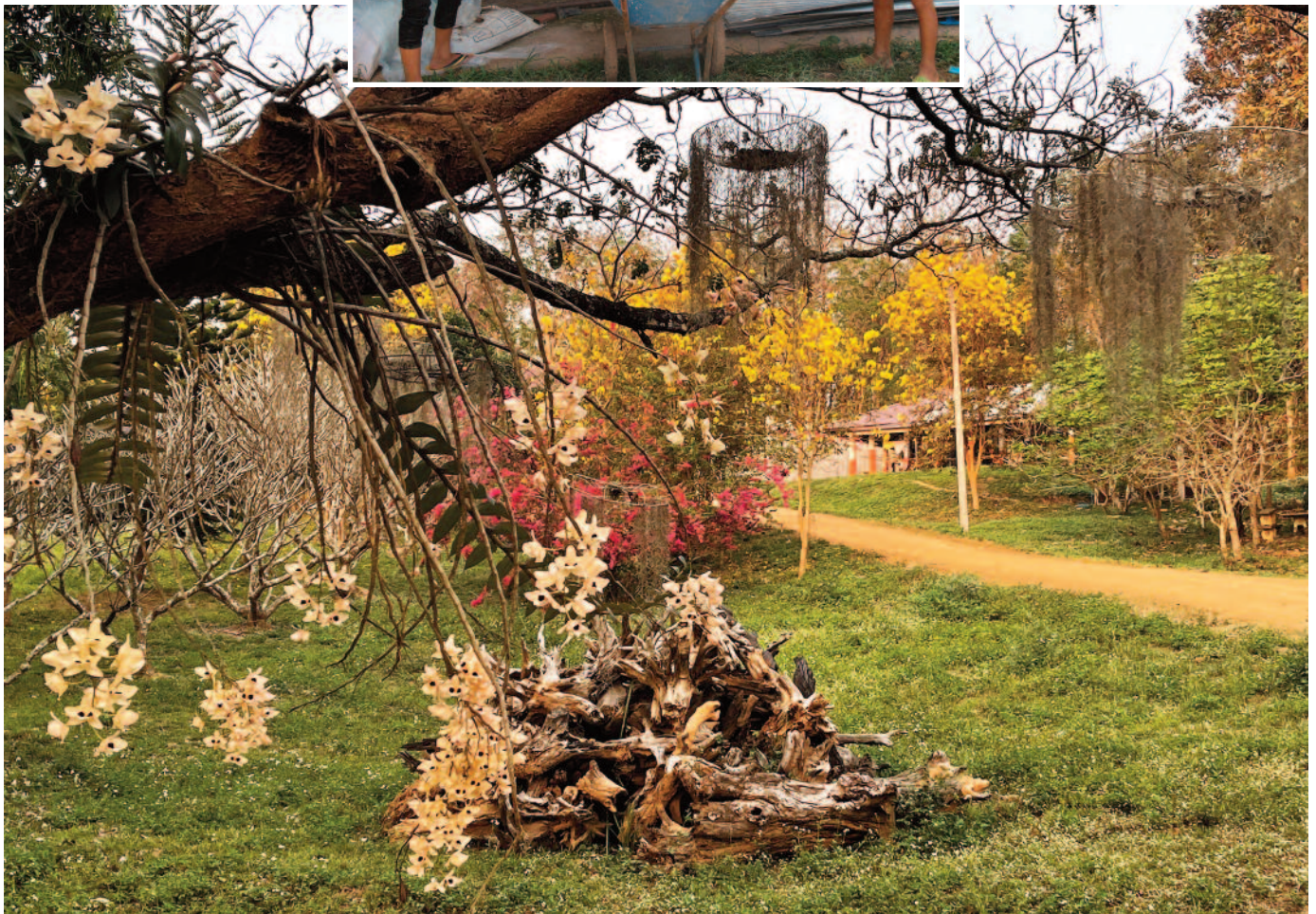


School of life

By "Ecole de Vie" we mean school education with an extra-curricular programme of activities, sport and leisure.

Our boarders at the home come from various mountain tribes with an often inglorious past. Victims of physical or psychological violence, abandoned or sold. What's more, extreme poverty often leads families into drug trafficking. The little child who comes to us may seem happy and cheerful, but his distressing past is sure to resurface when he reaches adolescence. Either they find the strength to overcome evil and are even able to forgive, or they fall into depression or even hatred. In both cases, the teaching methods used require a great deal of patience, calm and benevolence on the part of those in charge.

Working with children and young people aged between 6 and 20 - generations that are coming and going ever more quickly - requires careful and scrupulous planning. A positive attitude is essential, despite the harshness of the situations. Everyone needs to be listened to and heard. Nonetheless, as we develop and update our education, we insist on basic rules that must not be broken - such as disobedience, conspiracy, abuse of authority, lying, stealing and defamation. We try to make people understand that we are walking together with a responsibility to carry out together - cultivating solidarity. From there, we understand better and if we understand better, we react better.



In memory of Father Rangsan



Thanks to Father Rangsan, brother of Prapapone, co-founder of Le Sourire, we were introduced to the mountain villages, to the village chiefs, to the schools and to the local people. A missionary among a forgotten population in the north of Thailand, he directed his work in Chiang Khong, the border town with Laos. With many strings to his bow, he opened a space for AIDS sufferers, provided schooling for children, and looked after the sick, often relieving them with HIS medicinal herbs. Tireless, he scouted the Akha and Hmong villages hidden in the hills and, knowing their language perfectly, he was admired by young and old alike. Crossing the Mekong, he also worked in Laos, and not without danger.

His vast experience was also of great benefit to Le Sourire. He passed away in early February at the age of 60, far too young, and we are deeply grateful to have been able to share a part of his life.

Prapapone and Barbara



The Youth Committee



Our young people work through a committee whose members are elected annually at the beginning of each school year. Before the final election, they are given time to submit their candidatures for the positions to be filled: chairmanship, vice-chairmanship, secretariat and a number of collaborators. Then, the candidates try to convince each other to obtain the highest number

of votes. ALL children have the right to vote, from the youngest to the oldest. The election is by ballot paper with the first name of the chosen candidate. The various activities, sports and leisure activities are managed, monitored and corrected by the Youth Committee. It goes without saying that if there is a serious problem, we will intervene. The trust between the leaders and the young people is bearing fruit.

The blue gold ((Digging of 2 ponds)

As a result of global warming, many areas in the north and north-east of Thailand, like other parts of the country, are facing serious drought. The government has therefore created a water management action plan. A number of ponds are being dug for farmers. For the Chiang Kian region (ours), 14 ponds have been authorised, including two for Le Sourire. The costs are covered by the government. So we saw the big diggers coming and the drilling of the wells was in full swing. The exact measurements set by the government are





strictly adhered to and monitored by the management team. The rainwater collected in this way is used to water our gardens and grounds. A great gift!

Pollution in Thailand



Among the country's concerns, pollution is an increasingly serious problem. February, March and April are the toughest months to live in. And while the capital Bangkok suffocates under a cloud of impurity, the northern region of Thailand also lives in an opaque fog with levels of fine particles well above the prevention threshold. Wearing a mask is strongly recommended, but despite all the precautions taken, tens of thousands of people are hospitalised every year.

Weekend activities for young people



Apart from sport, our young people are often surprisingly creative. Their vast sense of DIY never ceases to amaze us. Fabrics, paper, cardboard, string and anything else found in nature are used to create astonishing works of art, not to mention drawing/painting competitions, sometimes with enigmatic details. Cooking is



also a big hit, and desserts are a particular favourite. And let's not forget traditional song and dance, an innate gift for most of them. Interestingly, the "troublemakers" often show more patience and perseverance.







Renovation work



The first buildings are over twenty years old. Weather, heat, humidity and even earthquakes have a major impact on our buildings. Decay, mould and cracks, water infiltration and other problems need to be actively addressed. Thanks to our renovation programme,

we have recently been able to refurbish several of our buildings.



Tasty nectar

Following the discovery of a number of beehives on our buildings, we decided to install a few wooden hives close to the forest. It worked - we harvested 16 kg of honey! The bees seem to like their new location, and have been sparing our roofs and walls ever since.



AMAT,
from the Latin verb aimer, stands for
Association de Massages Assis pour Tous.

La créatrice de la méthode Chantani, Anita Fumeaux, ainsi que les enseignantes du massages assis, se sont réunies pour poser les bases de l'association.



The creator of the Chantani method, Anita Fumeaux, and the teachers of seated massage got together to lay the foundations of the association.

With enthusiasm, she wanted to make this massage technique known to a wide audience so that everyone could benefit from the benefits of this method and learn the seated massage technique.

The Association de Massage Assis pour Tous was created in 2008 with these objectives in mind.

AMAT is a training school. The association aims to guarantee and protect the Chantani seated massage technique, which has its roots in Thai massage.

Since Anita Fumeaux had already been supporting the children of Le Sourire since 2003, the AMAT committee naturally continued her sponsorship.

The active participation of AMAT members at therapy fairs and various cultural events in French-speaking Switzerland, as well as numerous volunteers and sitting massage trainees, is an essential part of their loyal commitment to Le Sourire.

A genuine friendship

Pii Kae and his wife Pii Pouie run their heavy machinery business not far from our home. It's Pii Kae who rebuilds our land after heavy rains to prevent flooding. However, Pii Kae is an artist at heart and knows how to create amazing works of art using natural materials such as roots, wood, large stones, plants and flowers. But as he lives in a small, modest house with no land, he comes to work with us! As you cross our property, you can see his signature all

over the place. Always in a good mood, the children follow him, watch him and try to create something of their own. His wife often comes to visit us, never empty-handed, and gives us a taste of her culinary specialties. It's a blessing that we really appreciate.



The wild buffalo

A wild buffalo had been haunting our region for several weeks. The animal was roaming all over the surrounding villages without anyone being able to catch it. Its increasingly disconcerting reactions were becoming bothersome and even dangerous. The day he seemed to be attracted by the herd of OUR buffalo, a great danger also approached our youngsters. In order to join "his buddies", the wild animal not only destroyed our enclosures, but also scared our buffalo away from their range - total disorder.

The village chief's decision to slaughter the animal brought relief to the whole population, and our youngsters were able to resume their cowboy activities without any problems.

Half of the meat went to the village, the other half to Le Sourire. Our butcher's shop was in full swing - selecting the cuts, cutting them up, vacuum-packing them and putting them in the freezers. The poor people in our region eat mainly fish, pork and chicken. So it took this adventure to give them their first taste of red meat.

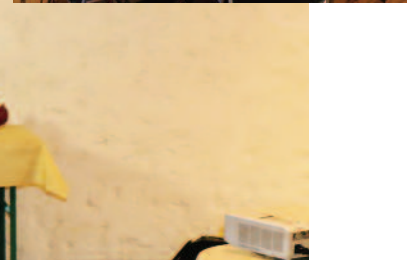
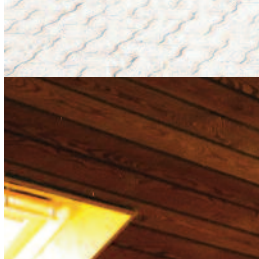




25 years of *Le Sourire* in Switzerland

To mark the quarter-century of our Association in Switzerland, Barbara and Prapapone wanted to invite all the volunteer members from the beginning of the adventure to the present day for a festive meal in Geneva last September. It was a wonderful meeting between the "old and the new"

-SOUVENIR, SOUVENIR et MERCI - KOP KHUN KHA



LE SOURIRE DE  CHIANG KHONG

Warm thanks to the printing house Gessler SA, Sion and to the graphic artist Jeanclaude Warmbrodt