



LEFT: The village children have embraced the new education centre. RIGHT: Village boys ... poor but happy.

PHOTOS: DEBORAH GROVES

Organising self-help

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The bridge was also built with local labour under the direction of an experienced bridge builder.

Deborah knew it was a success when, instead of the predicted 200 people turning up an hour late for the opening, 1000 people arrived an hour early for the ceremony.

But more gratifying than the applause was the day some of the older village boys took it upon themselves to improve the narrow track from the bridge through the rice paddies.

"The biggest success that we've had with the bridge is that it's motivated them to do something for themselves," she said.

"It was heart-warming to see them and to see them doing something for their village for free

Deborah, who supports herself through part-time

photography in Cambodia, has taken on a right-hand man, a villager, Chianti, to help with the work in the village.

The plan for 2007 is to consolidate on the work to date and use the school for adult education in areas such as rainwater collection and better farming practices.

Deborah also expects to provide support to villagers who want to start their own businesses.

There is still a lot left to do but Deborah's approach is to do what she can.

"Sometimes you have to walk away and say you can't do everything. Hopefully, someone else will look after that. I've learned that I can't do everything. I've had to toughen up," she said.

Working out what to do next was not difficult, she said. "It's not hard to know what to do to help when you

look at how little they've got. Everything helps."

As for her own future...

"People ask me what my future plans are. I don't have a five-year plan or a 10-year plan. I don't say that in five years we're going to be doing this because I don't know what's around the corner," she said.

"I'm just trying things as they come. I never intended to build a bridge. I never intended to build a school. You never know what's next."

■ If you would like to contribute to Deborah Groves' work, send a cheque c/- Kay Groves, PO Box 3870, Caloundra DC, 4551 or make a deposit online at www.paypal.com. You can also deposit money direct into a special account in the name of Deborah Groves. See her website: www.grovesphotography.com



NEW FUTURE: Prasat Char has no shortage of customers for the new school.

Sudoku tragics have got new numbers craze all figured out

By SARAH MORGAN

YOU see them in the doctor's waiting rooms. You see them on public transport hidden behind their newspapers.

You see them scattered throughout coffee shops sitting by themselves while ignoring their steaming cups of coffee.

They are Sudoku addicts — an epidemic that has taken the world by storm.

It's a craze which has split the nation...you are either addicted to the latest puzzle craze or can't understand the fuss created about filling in boxes with numbers.

If you are part of the first group or just curious about the latest puzzle ... then read on.

1. First, a general explanation on how to play the game. Sudoku, (pronounced sue doe koo with no emphasis on any syllable), is played over a 9x9 grid, in each row there are nine slots, some of them are empty and need to be filled

Each row, column and "area" (3x3) should contain the numbers 1 to 9. However:

▶ A number can appear only once on each row;

10 THINGS YOU DIDN'T KNOW

About Sudoku

▶ A number can appear only once on each column;

▶ A number can appear only once on each area (3 x 3 slots)

The bottom line: the number should appear only once on a row, column or area.

2. If you are just starting out use a pencil as you will be making plenty of mistakes.

3. Many Sudoku games are given ratings. One star is very easy, two stars a child can do, three stars it starts to challenge, four stars is difficult and five stars is for the Sudoku experts — but still worth a try...you may surprise yourself.

4. Sudoku is good for you. Yes, you heard right. A recent study in the New England Journal of Medicine suggests that solving puzzles like Sudoku is actually good for your brain as it may even prevent dementia.

5. Swiss mathematician Leonhard Euler produced the first

Sudoku puzzle in 1783, calling it Latin Squares. Fast forward to the 1980s when an American publication introduced the puzzle as Number Place.

Japanese puzzle publishers Nikoli picked up the idea and gave Sudoku its name.

Incidentally, the word is Japanese for single number, but could also translate to one singularity or soul. Then New Zealander Wayne Gould found the puzzle in a Japanese bookstore and spent the next few years refining it before introducing it to British newspapers.

6. While Sudoku has only recently become a huge craze, the game was actually invented in the 18th century.

7. It's a fun puzzle dealing with numbers, but it's not maths. The only thing you need to solve a Sudoku number place puzzle is logic. In the easier puzzles you may be able to see straight away

where a particular number goes. Focusing on one particular blank square at a time, scan its row, column and block. It's just a matter of calmly working through the squares by looking for clues.

One of these clues is to look at the first three squares and seeing which number is in two of them and then work across the columns and rows to see if it's obvious where the third should go so that

the 1-9 requirement is filled each way.

8. It can be played anywhere and any time and can be a great "time killer".

9. The qualifications needed to play Sudoku puzzle are none that is why any one can play it, however — patience, time and concentration can be in hand for addicts.

10. Perfection will come with practice.



NUMBERS GAME: Sudoku problem-solving is all the rage.

PHOTO: 162470