



# news

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[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)



Australian  
Red Cross

## WHEN DISASTER STRIKES!

**PLUS!**

**Your  
Say**

Share your  
ideas and win  
a prize.

**also in this issue:**

- Around Australia
- What to do if  
Disaster Strikes!

# At My Desk



Hi everyone! Welcome to another action-packed year for Junior Red Cross.

As many of us were enjoying the holidays it was a very different story for our Asian neighbours. The tsunami in Asia is one of the worst natural disasters ever to happen. Millions of people have been affected by this disaster.

We have included an extra 4 page special on the tsunami in Asia. You can find out what happened and what the Red Cross is doing to help. There are also ideas for action for your group.

Thank you everyone for donating to the Asia Tsunami Appeal. This amazing support has raised almost 100 million dollars. This means Red Cross can give help in the affected areas for a long time.

Read on to find out more about disasters. There are many types of disasters. They can strike at any time and anywhere. Find out where and how the Red Cross helps when a disaster happens. Red Cross also helps other countries to be better prepared in case a disaster might happen.

In other news congratulations to our Glimpse into the Future Winners. Check out the winning entries in 'Your Say'. Prizes include an ARC First Aid kit and Makit 2005 Calendar for each winner. Don't forget you too can win some great prizes. Check out 'Your Say' on page 7 to see how you can enter.

Don't forget to turn to the Activities pages filled with heaps of fun things to do. Do them on your own, with a friend or work together with your group. Try out the Leaking Lava Volcano. Play the Riskland board game to test out your disaster skills. Organise a fundraising event to support the Red Cross Youth International Project. Whatever your interest there is plenty to do so take a sneak look now.

Finally on behalf of Australian Red Cross I would like to thank the countless number of volunteers and others who have helped to support those affected by the tsunami both in Australia and overseas.

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Happy Reading  
Doss

# WHAT

## Disaster!

**Disaster** can mean lots of things to different people. Forgetting to bring your homework can seem like a disaster especially if it means being kept in at lunch time!

### Red Cross ACTION

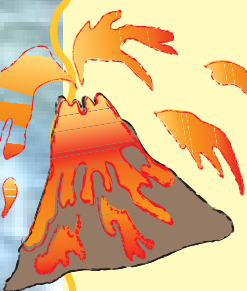
- One of the main tasks for Red Cross is to help people affected by disaster.
- This means when a disaster happens almost anywhere in the world Red Cross responds with medical help, shelter, food and water.
- It is just as important to be prepared for a disaster so that the amount of damage to the community is reduced.
- Red Cross also helps communities to be prepared and to think about their actions.

# A DISASTER!

*For Red Cross it means that something large has happened where people have either been killed, left homeless, without food or injured in some way.*

## SO WHAT DOES DISASTER MEAN?

A disaster is an event that is too big for the community to deal with. It means the event has caused great damage, destruction and human suffering and help is needed from others.



## TYPES OF DISASTERS

There are two types of disasters: natural and man-made.

### 1. Natural Disasters

are caused by nature such as earthquakes, volcanoes or cyclones.

### 2. Man-made Disasters

are caused by people's activities such as wars, chemical spills or accidents such as train crashes.



## NATURAL DISASTERS NATURE OR PEOPLE?

Natural disasters are happening more often. One of the main reasons is because of the way the environment is being treated by people. For example when people cut down a lot of trees, land can flood more easily. This can result in landslides and mudslides because the trees are not holding the soil together. The things people do can affect the balance of nature and cause more disasters. That is why it is important to take care of the world we live in.



## What Red Cross Does

Check out the list below to find out some of the things Red Cross does to try to reduce the effects of a disaster.

- Organise clean water and sanitation supplies.
- Plant trees and mangroves.
- Disaster education campaigns.
- Careful evacuation planning and regular exercises/drills and identified evacuation centres, used as school clinics and clinics when not needed.
- Warning systems – for flash floods, volcano eruptions, and storm surge.

## So what can you do?

The Asian tsunami is a reminder of how important it is to be prepared in case of a disaster.

One way JRC groups can help the Red Cross to help other communities become better prepared in case of a disaster is to join the 2005 Red Cross Youth International Project.

Get your group into action to help raise \$14,000 to stock Disaster Storage Containers in the Solomon Islands.

These containers are filled with essential equipment such as lamps, bedding, food and water containers needed to survive immediately after a disaster has struck.

These containers are essential for the survival of people who live in areas where disasters are most likely to happen.

To find out more ask your leader for the information pack sent to all groups. The booklet is full of heaps of fundraising ideas and disaster activities.

## IMAGINE

Imagine! You are standing in what you think was your bedroom surrounded by rubble—your toys, clothes, bedding and your favourite things are all gone.

There is no food, water or electricity. Houses in your street have also been destroyed.

You haven't seen your parents or your little sister since you left for school this morning. You are scared! What will you do? Where will you go?

Lucky for you this is imaginary but this is the situation for thousands of people around the world. In most places where there is a disaster Red Cross will be there to help and provide assistance.

These disasters may have been caused because of conflicts, earthquakes, cyclones or droughts. On the map of the world read about some of the most recent man-made and natural disasters.

See if you can spot where more disasters tend to happen.

### KEY TO SYMBOLS:



*Man Made Disaster*



*Natural Disaster*

## FASCINATING FACTS

- In 2003, 254 million people were affected by disasters and 76,806 people were reported killed.
- Bangladesh is one of the most disaster-prone nations in the world.

### Conflict – Iraq ongoing

Conflict is continuing in Iraq and the International Red Cross is attempting to assist the most vulnerable. A main priority is to make sure the rules of war are understood and upheld.

### Torrential Rains

#### Columbia 2004

The rainy season starts in October and ends in December. In 2004 strong storms and rains affected a lot of communities. This caused flooding and mudslides. Crops have been ruined and thousands of people have been left homeless.

### Earthquake – Morocco 2004

A violent earthquake measuring 6.3 on the Richter scale hit the northeastern coast of Morocco in February 2004. Moroccan Red Crescent relief workers were on the scene helping distribute blankets, tents, mattresses and tarpaulins.

### Earthquake & Tsunami Asia 2004

The worst earthquake in 40 years set off a series of monster waves (tsunamis). The tsunami affected 12 countries around the Bay of Bengal in South East Asia and the southern tip of Sri Lanka. It reached as far across as the East African coast. It is the largest disaster the Red Cross has ever seen.

### Civil War – Sudan ongoing

### Cyclone Zoe

#### Solomon Islands 2002-3

Cyclone Zoe hit the islands of Tikopia and Anuta, which are part of the Solomon Islands. 1,700 people live on these islands. They are very remote and after the cyclone did not even have radio contact with the outside world. The islanders were well prepared as they knew the storm was brewing. They buried their food and headed to the hills to wait out the cyclone in caves. This meant no-one was killed, but the vegetation on the islands was destroyed.





## Typhoons – Philippines 2004

A series of typhoons and tropical storms have hit the Philippines during November and December 2004. At least 1,000 people were killed and hundreds of thousands left homeless.

The typhoons and storms have caused flooding and landslides creating havoc across the country.

## FASCINATING FACTS

- About \$13.3 billion a year is spent on humanitarian assistance for disasters.
- Heat waves in Europe in 2003 caused about 35,000 deaths.

(Fascinating Facts Source: World Disasters Report 2004, International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies)

## ASK PHIL!

In the last issue of JRC News we asked you to send in your questions about the Youth International Project to 'Ask Phil'.

Phil Walker works at Australian Red Cross and is involved in the **Youth International Project– Disaster Storage Containers for the Solomon Islands**.

Jacob from Victoria has sent this question:

**How will people get the things they need from the containers if there is a disaster?**

The containers are looked after by local Red Cross volunteers. If a disaster occurs the volunteers open up the container and give out supplies to those in need.

The volunteers keep records of who received supplies from the containers.

**If you have a question for Phil send it in to:**

### ASK PHIL?

Australian Red Cross  
Youth and Education  
Services  
155 Pelham Street  
Carlton, Vic, 3053

Or email to:

[dduscher@redcross.org.au](mailto:dduscher@redcross.org.au)



## Earthquake – Iran 2003



## Cyclone Ami – Fiji 2003

Cyclone Ami hit Fiji's second largest island, Vanua Levu. It caused heavy rain and high seas flooded coastal areas. Australian Red Cross donated \$10,000 to assist the Fijian Red Cross provide family kits.

These contain cooking sets, blankets, mosquito coils and first aid kits.

## Bombing – Bali 2002

## Hostage siege

## Beslan – Russia 2004



## Cyclone Heta – Nuie 2004

Nuie is a tiny island which was devastated by cyclone Heta. Houses and crops were badly damaged. This meant that food supplies would be short for the coming year.

Australian Red Cross sent two health professionals to continue the health service on the island.

## VICTORIA

### Marvellous Music

JRC members at Brunswick South West Primary School took part in the Music in Detention project at Maribynong Detention Centre. They collected 35 CDs and 5 tapes from families and friends in their school community. They also collected over \$100 and bought some new Indian pop music CDs. The group were happy to be part of this activity as they said,

*"listening to music helps to keep your mind off things."*

The group also raised money by running a lolly jar guessing competition and a school disco. JRC members said, "It's a good feeling to know that out of our fun, we were able to make a difference in someone else's life.

We hope the people in detention enjoy the music!"

*Sarina Bellissimo*

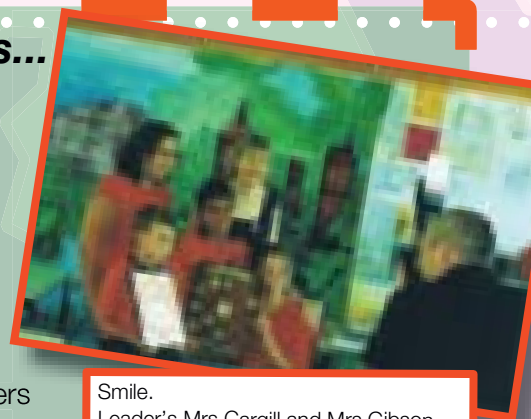
## NEW SOUTH WALES

### And the winner is...

In NSW, JRC members compete for the Ruby E Storey Memorial Shield.

It is an award to celebrate the work of JRC members.

Well done to this years' winners Camden Public School and Fingal Head Public School.



Smile.  
Leader's Mrs Cargill and Mrs Gibson with 3 JRC members and the Ruby E Storey Memorial being photographed for the local newspaper.

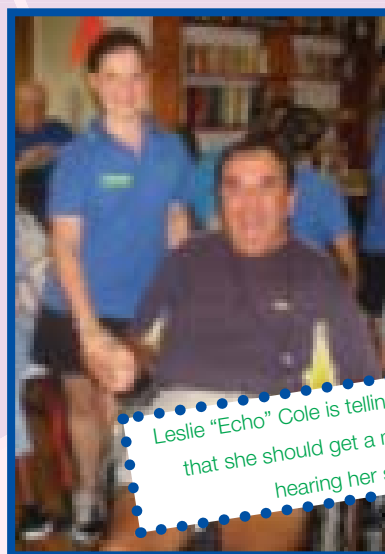
Over the year groups in NSW have been very busy. Organising fundraising events such as Red and White Mufti Days, Crazy Hair Days, Fashion Parades as well as Red Cross Calling, making art and craft items for street and mother's day stalls, collecting stamps, writing to pen pals, poster competitions, fashion parades, visits to nursing homes and making friendship albums are just some of the activities JRC groups have joined in with.

**Wow these groups certainly have been busy!**

Did you know there are now almost 400 JRC members from 8 schools in 'The Tweed'? Not bad since JRC only restarted in the area 12 months ago!!!



Findal Head JRC members receive Ruby E Storey Memorial Shield at special assembly.



Leslie "Echo" Cole is telling Kyra Mulvena that she should get a manager after hearing her sing.

## Northern Territory

### JRC idols perform at Tiwi Gardens

Leanyer Primary school JRC group visited Tiwi Gardens Aged Care in November. They performed a concert and got to know the residents. The group would like to keep in contact with the new friends they made from this visit to the Tiwi Gardens.

# ROUND AUSTRALIA



## TASMANIA

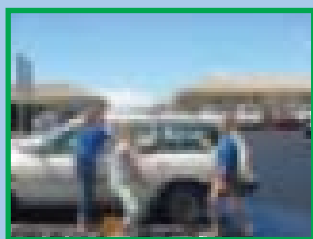
### Does your family car need a wash?

If so, Rosetta JRC could have helped you out!

They had a car wash fundraising day. Charging \$4 a car and washing 16 cars, they collected \$64. All the cars were dirty and needed a wash. Teams of 3 were formed to make the cars sparkle. They all had lots of fun and would like to do it again.....

*Doss' comment:*

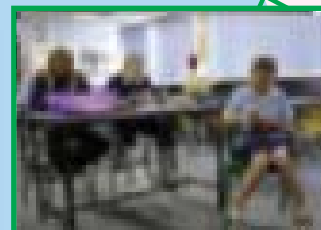
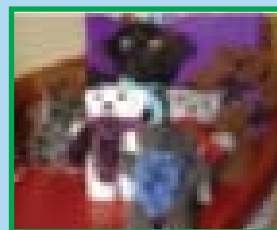
*I wonder how many JRC members got washed as well??*



## REDDY TEDDIES

Campania District High School JRC have been making "Reddy Teddies" and selling them to raise money for Red Cross. Students work hard knitting scarves, filling the teddies and sewing them together. The groups are helped by adult "knitters" who have kindly donated knitted shapes for the students to make into teddies.

The group make teddies to order and receive many requests for bears. The project has been a great success and the group plan to continue making the teddies during 2005.



## YourSay

Congratulations to Catie, Yareshia, Lucinda and Kristin from Fingal Heads Primary School (NSW)

for their winning entries in the "A Glimpse into the Future" competition. Enjoy your prizes! Well done to everyone else for your fabulous drawings and ideas.



## Don't Forget! We want to hear from you!

We have said a lot about disasters in JRC News and now it is your turn! Have you been involved in a disaster? If so write, draw or send pictures about the time you were caught in a disaster. Was it scary? Did you lose anything precious? How long ago was it? We will print them in our next issue of JRC News. Totally cool prizes are available for all entries. **Send your comments to:**

Australian Red Cross, Youth & Education Services, 155 Pelham Street, Carlton, Vic, 3053

Email: [ddusher@redcross.org.au](mailto:ddusher@redcross.org.au)

# Health and Safety

## What to do if Disaster Strikes!



**Disasters** can create confusion and panic.

People can get separated and sometimes get scared about what might happen.

However, there are things you can do to help keep your cool.

### BE PREPARED

- Look around to see what hazards are near your home. Could it be safer? If you live in a bushfire area, does the area need to be cleared of rubbish?
- Make a floor plan of your house. Mark the quickest and safest way out. You may have two plans, one for if you are asleep in bed and one for the family play area. Practice your plan with your family.
- Arrange with your family the safest meeting place outside your home.
- Make a list of emergency numbers, 000 for police, fire and ambulance or some local numbers such as doctors or the hospital. Put them near the phone.
- Learn the number of a trusted friend or neighbour who can help.

### JRC News

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**Red Cross** groups.

#### Australian Red Cross contacts:

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Garran ACT 2605  
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NSW: 159 Clarence Street  
Sydney NSW 2000  
Phone: 02 9229 4111

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Office: 155 Pelham Street  
Carlton VIC 3053  
Phone: 03 9345 1800

NT: PO Box 81  
Darwin NT 0801  
Phone: 08 8924 3900

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[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)



## Warm hearts, kind actions...

It seems the young, the old and everyone in between have opened their hearts to the millions of people affected by this tragic disaster and donated so generously. Some have held events such as concerts, walk-a-thons and gold coin BBQs.

Australian Red Cross has raised almost 100 million dollars through the Asia Quake and Tsunamis Appeal. The appeal has provided immediate relief and will give long term support to those affected by the disaster.

Like so many people around the world you were probably shocked as you watched the pictures of the tsunami disaster on TV. There have been so many scenes of suffering and damage. It is almost unbelievable. They have brought tears to our eyes and a deep sadness to our hearts. Watching this disaster unfold over and over again and seeing such terrible images has had an effect on all of us.

Some people have lost family members or friends. Others

may know someone who has been injured or affected by the disaster. Seeing the sadness and how much damage this disaster has caused especially for the children is very upsetting.

It is important during any emergency or disaster especially one this big that we need to look after ourselves and share our feelings.

**Check out the tips below to help yourself, a friend or someone close to you if they are feeling upset by this disaster.**

- Talk to someone close to you about your feelings.
- Keep a diary.
- Draw or write about your feelings.
- Turn off the TV.
- Take some action. People in need are closer than you think. Smile at a neighbour or do a good deed for someone. Simple actions are often the best.
- Send a Herogram to thank Red Cross aid workers for their efforts.

## From Fundraising to Recovery

**People have donated so generously to the appeal that the Red Cross now has enough money to give support and assistance to those affected by this tragic disaster for the next 10 years or more.**

The money could go toward projects such as:

- Rebuilding hospitals and clinics
- Rebuilding and restocking blood banks
- Building schools
- Disaster preparedness education
- Restoring family links and reuniting families
- Constructing shelters and homes

Australian Red Cross thanks everyone who has opened their hearts to give so generously to this appeal.

### Ideas for Action

Fundraising is just one of the ways you can be a part of Red Cross. Check out some other ways you can support Red Cross in the Ideas for Action listed below.

- Send your thoughts about the tsunami to the Red Cross Wishing Tree
- Send a Herogram with a message of thanks to Red Cross aid workers in the tsunami affected regions.
- Make a Remembrance Tree for your classroom or school to remember the tsunami victims and others affected by the disaster.
- Draw or paint a picture, write a poem, rap song, short story or any other creative ideas about the tsunami disaster. Send into the Red Cross Heart 2 Heart project competition.
- Check out the Website for more details!

### Still want to fundraise?

Why not support the **Red Cross Youth International Project in the Solomon Islands**. See Activities section for more info. Check out **www.redcross.org.au** to find out more. There is also loads of info about the tsunami and how Red Cross is helping.

Visit us soon to find out things like:

- Specific help given to each country in need
- The answers to some questions on everyone's lips like can we doorknock to raise funds? And could a tsunami hit Oz?
- What your donations can buy for those in need

See you there!

**+ Australian Red Cross**

# The Worst Tsunami in Living Memory

**SPECIAL 4 PAGE LIFTOUT**

**On Boxing Day 2004 the world was shocked by the power and damage left behind by the strongest earthquake in 40 years.**

Many of us were still enjoying the holidays when an earthquake measuring 9 on the Richter scale set off a series of monster waves (tsunamis). The waves caused incredible damage to coastal villages and towns around the Bay of Bengal in South East Asia. They swept past the southern tip of Sri Lanka and reached as far across to the East African coast.

Without warning waves raced across the ocean at about 500 kilometres an hour. At sea, the waves were only a few centimetres high. As they came closer to the shore they slowed to about 45 kilometres an hour. They grew to an amazing height of 10 meters.

The tsunami sucked the water from the beach before the big waves

started to come in. This left the sea bed bare. It was the only clue that a tsunami was coming. The waves crashed ashore. They struck the coasts closest to the epicentre of the earthquake first. The Aceh region on the northern tip of Sumatra in Indonesia was the first to feel the effect of the massive wave just 30 minutes after the earthquake. Many towns were smashed to rubble and swamped by the enormous wave.

In Asia the tsunami caused chaos in many countries including Thailand, Myanmar, Malaysia and the Maldives. It left behind a trail of damage, death and destruction. It took an hour and a half for the speeding waves to reach India and

Sri Lanka 1,000km away from the earthquake's epicentre. The force of the water was so great it even derailed a train carrying over 1,000 passengers. Many villages disappeared. Almost 300,000 people died. Half a million have been injured. Millions have been left displaced and homeless. People were left without food, safe water and medical help.

The first response from the Red Cross was to give medical assistance, supply tents, blankets, clean water, food and family utensils and mosquito nets. Another important job was to help family members and relatives to find one another. Families all over the world had lost contact with their loved ones because of

the disaster.

It will take many years to rebuild and recover from this tragic disaster. It will cost billions of dollars. For some they will never recover. The pain and suffering of losing so much will remain with them always.

There has been amazing support from people and countries all over the world. People are united to help those affected by this disaster in any way they can. Volunteering at the call centre, organising fundraising events and donating money to assist the work of the Red Cross are just some of the ways people have offered their help.

Read on to find out more about the Red Cross response to assist the victims of the Asia tsunami.

**+ Australian Red Cross**

The Tsunami Information Sheet is printed by ARC for schools/communities in response to the Asian Tsunami 2004. [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)

Image:  
C. Wood

## Useful websites:

### STUDENTS:

[www.fema.gov/kids/dizarea.htm](http://www.fema.gov/kids/dizarea.htm)  
[www.eird.org/ing/ninos/kids.htm](http://www.eird.org/ing/ninos/kids.htm)

### TEACHERS AND LEADERS:

[www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au)  
[www.icrc.org](http://www.icrc.org)  
[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)  
[www.globaleducation.edna.deu.au/globaled/go](http://www.globaleducation.edna.deu.au/globaled/go)  
[www.ema.gov.au](http://www.ema.gov.au)





# What's in a word?

**Tsunami** - (said as soo-nah-mee) is a series of giant waves that are often caused by an underwater earthquake or volcanic eruption. The word tsunami is a Japanese word that means 'harbour wave'

**Tidal waves** - tides are affected by the moon, sun and gravity. A tidal wave is when the effect of the moon, sun and gravity causes the seas to rise much higher than normal. This usually occurs by waves.

**Earthquake** - The shaking, rolling or sudden shock of the earth's surface due to movements from deep within the earth's surface.

**Epicentre** - the point on the Earth's surface directly above the centre of an earthquake

**Richter Scale** - the strength of an earth quake can be measured. One measurement is called the Richter scale.

**Displaced Persons** - people who are temporarily unable to return to their homes or community usually as a result of a large disaster or conflict.

## Red Cross Rallies Together!

**When the Red Cross first heard that a tsunami had hit the coast of Sumatra they set the wheels in motion to help the victims of this natural disaster.**

**They were soon to find out the huge task ahead.**

Australian Red Cross (ARC) sent aid workers to the affected areas. They are working with over 300 Red Cross staff from all over the world. There were also thousands of local volunteers helping out. This is the largest disaster Red Cross has ever seen.

ARC also started an emergency appeal.

The appeal has raised almost 100 million dollars. It means Red Cross will be able to help rebuild the shattered lives of these people for many years to come.

The Global Red Cross and Red Crescent response to the Asia Tsunami disaster reached 500,000 affected people in the first 30 days of the disaster.

**The response included:**

- Moving survivors and helping the injured;
- Collecting and carrying dead bodies;
- Providing first aid and emergency relief items such as tents, blankets, clean water and food;
- Sending medical supplies such as medicine, disinfectant and bandages to hospitals and setting up field hospitals;
- Giving out essential household kits. Each kit includes a bucket, 3 bed sheets, 2 plastic mats, a cooking set and soap. Families have also received lanterns and clothing;

- Providing safe water supplies and sanitation (toilet) facilities in camps, building water storages to prevent the outbreak of disease;
- Setting up mobile tracing units to help separated relatives find each other;
- Providing support to help people deal with the shock, fear, pain and suffering from this trauma.

Red Cross workers and volunteers have worked in very difficult conditions. Wrecked roads, flooding, monsoon rains and the mess made by the tsunami have made it hard to give help. This has been even harder for people living in out-of-the-way places. The threat of disease is also a big problem.

Almost 1000 volunteers have manned the phones at the ARC National Call Centre taking donations for the Asian Quake Tsunami Appeal.

Visit the Red Cross website [www.redcross.org.au](http://www.redcross.org.au) to read about the Red Cross response in each of the affected countries. Find out just what a huge task this has been.

## From the Field

**Imagine being in Australia or anywhere in the world and you cannot contact your loved ones. All you know is that the last time you heard from them they were in Thailand, or on the east coast of Sri Lanka, or in Sumatra. You are sick with worry and desperate for news.**

**The Red Cross sent staff straight away to the affected areas. Their job was to help anyone looking for information about their family members and to help separated relatives find each other.**

**Hang Vo is an Australian Red Cross Tracing Delegate. Hang has a lot of experience in reuniting people separated by conflict or disaster. It was no surprise that she was sent to join her Sri Lankan Red Cross work mates in Trincomalee.**

**Here is her story....**

'My team of Red Cross volunteers are mostly young university students. When I met them most of them had already been working around the clock giving aid to the injured, the displaced, and the dying. Most of the

volunteers had also lost family members. Some had no idea where their loved ones were. Even though they were worn out and worried they knew just how important their job was.

'We packed our crates of equipment into our car and drove out to the camps. We had satellite and mobile phones. We had all the paperwork we needed to register people.

'Our mobile tracing unit visited six camps on the first day. There were up to 3000 people in some of the displaced persons camps. 'Our team is one of six working in the affected areas of Sri Lanka. Together we reached thousands of displaced people. We helped to reduce the worry that so many people were feeling because they did not know where their loved ones were.

'Once we registered people we sent their details back to Colombo. These are put on to the Red Cross Restoring Family Links website.

[www.familylinks.icrc.org](http://www.familylinks.icrc.org)

'The website gives people all over the world the chance to know their loved ones are alive. In six days we reached 34 camps and assisted 425 families. If we can give hope to 425 families then it is all worth it.'

The work will continue for some time to come in Sri Lanka. But Hang went to Malaysia. There were many Acinese families living in Malaysia who were worried because they also had not heard from their loved ones in Aceh.



### True or False

Tsunamis are extremely large tidal waves?

Answer: False



REUTERS/Dadang Tri, image courtesy [www.alertnet.org](http://www.alertnet.org).



Image: C. Wood



Image: C. Wood

## Did you know?

- Before the giant waves slammed into Sri Lanka and India animals seemed to know what was about to happen and fled to safety.
- Elephants screamed and ran for higher ground.

- Dogs refused to go outdoors
- Zoo animals rushed into their shelters and would not come out.

**Why is this so??** Animals have highly developed hearing and smell (a sixth sense). It has long been believed that they can sense that a disaster is approaching well before it happens.