



Growing Cambodia Newsletter

June 2022

Hello Growing Cambodia Supporters

Our First Volunteer since COVID

Glenda Salter, a regular volunteer for Growing Cambodia and a long-time committee member, is the first to return to Cambodia after COVID-19. The smiles of Glenda and Vattey say it all!



HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Donations to Growing Cambodia

All donations to Growing Cambodia are tax deductible. We ask that you consider either making a one-off donation, a donation for a specific cause and/or a regular monthly donation.

Our bank details are:
Growing Cambodia Inc
BSB: 633000
Account: 150148583

Please then email us at enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you a receipt.

Please see other ways to help on the last page of the newsletter.

Trivia Night – It's back!

This May was the third year that we have not been able to hold our major fundraising event – Trivia Night!

However, the great news is that Trivia Night will be back bigger and better than ever on 1 October – please get your pencils out and mark the date in your diary to make sure you don't miss out on one of the highlights of the Island's social calendar. Where else can you have so much fun while also contributing to our fundraising efforts!

More information will be sent out soon, but make sure you start studying all those possible Trivia questions as you sit at home on these cold winter nights!



Ten Year Anniversary

The 12th of December this year marks the 10-year anniversary of the doors first being opened at Oroluos school (see photo opposite). To celebrate this occasion, some of us are intending to travel to Cambodia.

We would like to invite you to join us in Siem Reap together with anyone else you would like to bring along!

The idea is to relax, have some fun, see the attractions, including Angkor Watt and visit the schools to thank the managers and teachers and students for all their hard work over the journey.

This will be a wonderful opportunity for those who would like to see for the first time not only our schools, but rural Cambodia and the local communities. For others it will be a chance to go back and catch up with old friends.

During the Koy Meng school visit there will also be an official opening of a new building which is to be used by Growing Cambodia to expand the teaching of free English lessons from primary school students to also secondary students and the wider community.

Our local accountant, Vattey Ouch, comes from Koy Meng. Vattey is one of nine siblings and was the first person in her family to attend University where she obtained a commerce degree. Vattey now works for a Thai Bank in Siem Reap.

Before students can start University, it is a requirement that they be able to speak English. Many students cannot afford to pay for these lessons. It is hoped that by providing free English lessons to the students and community in Koy Meng that more students can follow Vattey's path and break the poverty cycle by ultimately obtaining better paying jobs. Koy Meng is one of the poorer communities in Cambodia, but it is also a wonderful supportive community with dedicated teachers and principals at the government schools.



We have reserved some flights leaving on Saturday 10 December and touching back down in Melbourne on the 18 December. Please let us know if you can join us – all our students and teachers and Committee of Growing Cambodia would love to see you in Cambodia in December!

Operational Update

All four schools are back to normal with all classes up and running again. Our teachers have also returned!

We had one unfortunate incident recently when Ms Ratha – one of our longest serving teachers, was involved in a motorbike accident travelling home from Oroluos school. A dog ran out in front of her with the fall from the motorbike resulting in a broken collarbone and other cuts and bruises for Ms Ratha. Ms Ratha is recovering and returned to school for the first time this week. We wish her a speedy recovery. Growing Cambodia is helping with Ms Ratha's medical costs.

Every month the top students in each class are awarded certificates for their outstanding efforts. Pictured below are some of our hardworking students from May:



Operational Update (cont.)

Kok Beng School

We have received promising news recently that Growing Cambodia may soon be able to recommence classes at the temple site. Discussions have taken place with the village elder to secure a long-term permanent home that will allow more classes to be held at Kok Beng.

Currently we only have access to the Primary School after hours. Many volunteers have taught at the temple, and it would be fantastic if we could return to our “spiritual” home. Pictured below is the proposed site and the meeting with the Kok Beng village elder.



Growing Cambodia Web Project

This exciting project recently commenced and is a collaboration between Didasko, Latrobe University and Growing Cambodia.

Students completing the Didasko-Latrobe 13-week Business and Marketing unit of their IT Degree can work with NFP/NGO organisations to contribute, learn and demonstrate whilst being assessed.

Our first group of amazingly talented students (two IT and one Business) have established:

- Methodology
- Relationship with Growing Cambodia
- Templates
- Research and blind research
- Handover capability for the second group

Growing Cambodia's role is to provide data, answers, guidance and mentor the students regularly as well as participate in Zoom meetings.

The achievements to date in this long-term project are:

- Blind research and research
- Challenged Growing Cambodia's message
- Provided a roadmap
- Addressing our donor platform and Web platform

All those involved in the project are delighted with the progress and awareness of what is possible when you know how!

If you have an interest in being involved in this project or know someone skilled in Web management, please contact Nola Brooks on 0417 112486. Thank you too Nola for all the time and effort you are putting in to this project!

Ways you can Help

University Scholarships

At present, we have eight students attending University. The percentage of secondary students going on to obtain University degrees is extremely low. You can help a student attend a University in Siem Reap and give them an opportunity to obtain qualifications that will help them earn a higher income. The cost to support a student at university is between \$700-\$1,000 per annum.

“Fill the Bag” Sponsorships

You might also like to contribute to a sponsorship that allows poorer students to attend a government school. Without this support, these children would not receive any education whatsoever!

The cost to “Fill the Bag” of a student and send them off to school for one year is \$70.00 – this includes the cost of a uniform, a school bag, an exercise book, and other stationery.

Sponsor a School

If you would like to assist on a larger scale, you may consider sponsoring one of our four schools. Please contact us for further details.

All donations to Growing Cambodia Inc. are tax deductible.

Our bank details are:

Growing Cambodia Inc

BSB: 633000

Account 150148583

Please then email us at enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you a receipt.



"Encouraging a better more sustainable quality of life"

www.growingcambodia.org.au | enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au |

