



Annual Activities Report – 2023

To:	AGM
Meeting Date:	11 October 2023
Covering Period:	1 July 2022- 30 June 2023
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This is the tenth Annual Activities Report for Growing Cambodia Inc.

The purpose of our registered Australian charity is for the relief of poverty and assisting those who are disadvantaged in rural Cambodian communities by encouraging a better and more sustainable quality of life through education and the enhancement of their health and well-being.

1. Activities for the 2023 Financial Year

The principal activities of Growing Cambodia did not change during the last year. We continued to support the provision of English lessons in four rural villages. Three of these villages are located near Siem Reap Beng, Oroluos and Kok Beng. The fourth village is located at Koy Meng in the province of Banteay Meanchey. We also supported 10 University students at various universities in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh as well as 60 disadvantaged primary and secondary school students allowing them to attend government schools.

Acknowledgement of local Cambodian staff

We would like to thank once again our ongoing local managers and teachers for driving the English and other programs:

- Mr Sopheak Phay
- Ms Vattey Ouch
- Mr Sovann Kay
- Ms Narim Sum
- Mr Hav Nin
- Ms Ratha Som
- Ms Rathana Luon
- Mr Vinh Sreynith
- Ms Sem Reaksa
- Ms Samphoas Lous
- Mr Chanthorn
- Ms Rany Chhoeurng
- Mr Len Oudorm.

As our English programs extended to the Secondary School at Koy Meng and additional classes were introduced at both Kok Beng and Oroluos we welcomed 3 new teachers to help with the lessons for over 750 students:

- Ms Hong Chantry
- Mr Sao Samnang
- Mr Uonn Orn

Ten Year Anniversary Dinner

In December 2022 a 10 Year Anniversary Dinner was held in Siem Reap to celebrate and thank the local managers and teachers and university students for their efforts over the past 10 years.

Twenty people from Australia also attended the dinner – for some it was their first visit to Cambodia. During the evening Certificates of Appreciation for 10 years of service were presented to Sopheak Phay, Vatthey Ouch, Sovann Kay and Ratha Som. Certificates of Appreciation were also presented to Mr Chanthorn, Ms Rany Chhoeurng, Ms Narim Sun, Ms Samphoas Lous and Mr Vinh Sreynith for 5 years of service.

Financial Results

The financial year saw a net profit of \$6329 made. No administration costs were again paid meaning every dollar raised is spent on our activities in Cambodia. Our Annual Trivia Night was held in October 2022 – our first in 3 years ! The Phillip Island Adventure Resort proved a great venue and \$16610 was raised thanks to the generosity of our many supporters.

Kawana Partnership

In addition to our visitors in December, 31 students and 5 teachers from Kawana Waters State College (“Kawana”) volunteered at our schools in June. We were thrilled that Kawana could finally visit again having first visited in 2018 but being thwarted by Covid-19 restrictions until this year. The partnership we have with Kawana is a very exciting one as it not only allows students to travel to Cambodia to meet and help teach Cambodian students but gives our organisation exposure to another community on the Sunshine Coast. Even more exciting is the fact that Kawana is planning to return to our rural schools in 2024.

Acknowledgement of Committee and Supporters

Thank you to the Committee for all your support, input and advice throughout the year – we have reviewed many of our processes and procedures with a view to continually improve the way our organisation operates. It was very pleasing to see Nyree Davis, Ash Reed, Sigrid Tucker, Vicki Wilkinson, Jen Carroll, Owen Bentley and Pam McAlister join the committee for the first time and contribute in so many different ways. We were sad to see Sharon Elliott, Glenda Salter and Nikki Loughran leave during the year and we thank them all for their efforts – we wish you all the very best.

Finally a special thank you to our supporters who contribute on either a weekly, monthly or yearly basis. Your ongoing support is so important for our organisation as it allows us to plan for future years knowing we will receive a certain amount of donations before we plan other fundraising activities.