

GROWING CAMBODIA – ACTIVITIES REPORT 2021

This is the eighth Annual 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.

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 with the fourth located at Koy Meng in the province of Banteay Meanchey.

Unfortunately the effects of Covid 19 have affected our operations throughout the year. English classes were held at the schools when lockdowns were not in force. Small classes were also held in the villages themselves when the schools were closed and the laws allowed. We continued to pay the teachers throughout the year although their pay was lower when lockdowns occurred. We did this to not only assist our teachers but also in the knowledge that their wages would help support other family members and the villages. It was obviously more difficult this year to deliver classes with the ongoing interruptions and we are so grateful to the local managers and teachers for their fantastic efforts :

Mr Sopheak Phay
Ms Vattey Ouch
Mr Sovann Kay
Ms Narim Sun
Ms Phally Soy
Mr Nith
Ms Ratha
Ms Rathana
Ms Sem Reaksa
Ms Samphoas
Mr Chanthorn
Ms Rany Chhoeurng
Mr Oudorm.

Our Trivia Night was cancelled due to Covid 19 restrictions - once again our major source of fundraising disappeared. Due to incredible ongoing support from supporters we were able to raise over \$ 25000 in donations - including amounts raised by Glenda Salter and Nola Brooks through garage sales and other projects. Thank you Glenda and Nola for your tireless work and ongoing support. Thank you also to our ongoing sponsors who donate year after year – we are so grateful.

It was with great sadness that we learnt one of Growing Cambodia's longest and most generous supporters - Joan Schaefer from Cowes - passed away in July. After hearing of the Growing Cambodia story in 2013 Joan proceeded to send us a cheque for \$1000 every six months

together with a lovely note that always included "for the children of Cambodia". Joan was an amazing woman who lead a remarkable life and her generosity extended far beyond Growing Cambodia. Joan will be sadly missed by her family and many on the Island who had the privilege of knowing her. RIP Joan and thank you from the children of Cambodia.

The "Fill the Bag" campaign, launched to enable poorer students attend or stay at government schools, continued this year with 60 students being provided with scholarships.

The schools purchased televisions to assist with the teaching of English. You Tube and other programs are played through these televisions – we have heard this method of learning has proved very popular with the students !

Again no administration costs were paid meaning every dollar raised was spent on our activities in Cambodia.

This year was the first year we did not have volunteers visit the schools – particularly disappointing was the fact that a school group from Kawana Waters Secondary College had to cancel their trip. We are hoping the school will visit again in 2022.

Finally thank you to the Committee for your efforts and advice throughout the year – particularly Secretary Sharon Elliott and Treasurer Lois Green. Sharon effortlessly stepped into her new role and has provided great support to the organisation. Lois continues to look after our finances and together with Vatvey in Cambodia ensures all monies are properly accounted for.

We all look forward to catching up with our friends in Cambodia very soon.