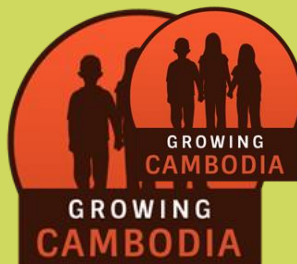


# Growing Cambodia Newsletter



December 2021

## Welcome

*Dear Growing Cambodia Supporters*

The festive season is upon us and for many this will involve catching up with loved ones for the first time in a long while. For others you may be struggling with Christmas present ideas – we have a great suggestion to help you decide what to give in this Newsletter !

We have just held our eighth Growing Cambodia Annual General Meeting. For those who were unable to attend we have included the 2021 Financial Statements and other reports presented at the meeting.

We also welcomed Melanie Evans on to our Committee at the AGM – Melanie's family (the Ware family) are long-time supporters having held many fundraisers for our organisation at Katandra over the years. Thank you Mel – it is great to have you onboard (no pun intended).

Schools are back (again) in Cambodia and Sopheak Phay – our Cambodian manager - has provided us with an update as to what is happening on the ground. Sopheak's report can also be found in this Newsletter.

Finally, we want to thank Kawana Waters Secondary College and other donors for their recent donations. The Kawana Waters school story has been included for your reading.

Enjoy the newsletter and have a safe and relaxing Christmas and New Year.



## 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.

As we did not hold a Trivia Night this year, you may like to donate what you would have spent!

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

Please then email us at [enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au) and we will send you a receipt.

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



## Christmas Gift Certificates

- Do you buy a gift for your child's favourite teacher?
- Do you participate in Kris Kringle at work?
- Are you looking for a thoughtful, caring gift for family and friends?



Forget the bottle of wine, pair of socks or box of chocolates. Consider donating to Growing Cambodia where you know the money will be used to improve the lives of young children by contributing to their education.

You will receive a tax deductible receipt **plus** a gift certificate that you can forward to the lucky recipient of your generous donation.

A gift certificate from Growing Cambodia. At the top, it says "Congratulations!" in a cursive font. Below that is a photo of a Christmas tree with red and white ornaments. The text on the certificate reads: "You have received the gift of a donation to the aid organisation: Growing Cambodia. The money will be used to educate and enhance the health and wellbeing of children in rural areas of Cambodia. The children are taught English which will improve their employment opportunities as adults and so help to reduce the ongoing poverty cycle. For further information on how your gift will be used please visit our website - [www.growingcambodia.org.au](http://www.growingcambodia.org.au)". At the bottom of the certificate is a photo of a large group of children in a classroom setting.

**Congratulations!**

You have received the gift of a donation to the aid organisation:

**Growing Cambodia**

The money will be used to educate and enhance the health and wellbeing of children in rural areas of Cambodia.

The children are taught English which will improve their employment opportunities as adults and so help to reduce the ongoing poverty cycle.

For further information on how your gift will be used please visit our website – [www.growingcambodia.org.au](http://www.growingcambodia.org.au)

# Operational Update

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Dear all my beloved brothers, sisters and friends in Australia, How are you? Hope everyone there is doing well. I am a bit late in sending you all a report regarding the process of the re-opening of the schools. Actually, schools have been opened since the 15th November. All teachers and students spent 3 days cleaning up the classrooms, library and toilets then started learning again.

I would like to inform you that many lights at both schools, Oroluos and Beng, in the classrooms, on the main road to the school and at the bicycle parking area are broken. I have been using my own money to buy all lights and other electrical equipment. I will forward the receipts to Vattey for approval. I have sent pictures of the electrician connecting lights at the schools.

I was invited to join the NGO meeting with the Provincial Governor in order to talk about the process of how to formally get the schools reopened. The steps that I have had to follow are:

- Write a proposal and submit to the Ministry of Education and commune leaders in order to get permission to reopen the schools. If they approve our proposal then we must follow the regulations of the Ministry of Health.

The regulations from the Ministry of Health are:

- All students have to wear a mask or face-shield
- Students must wash their hands with soap and alcohol and have their temperatures checked.
- Students must wear a vaccination card to class at all times.

Our students follow all these regulations.

The students were so keen to come back to the schools as they miss the school and teachers. Anyway we miss them too.

Oroluos School

TVs are fine. I have reconnected the WiFi yesterday. Today our teachers will be teaching students the lessons by using TV. All teachers are working as normal. Nothing else broken besides the lights.

Beng School

There is a problem with the toilet. The toilet is not so safe for the students to use it now as the door and roof are broken. Anyway, the inside of the toilet is very low and the students can easily hit their head. The outside of the toilet is so muddy. I think it is the first project that we need to consider and do it as soon as possible. (pictures will be shown).

I will send you other reports regarding the teachers' teaching schedule and numbers of students.

Please forward this report to all our beloved brothers, sisters and friends and especially our donors as a news update from Cambodia.

Thank you so much for taking your time to read my report. On behalf of the teachers and students of GC, we would like to wish everyone in Australia all the best.

Kind regards,  
Sopheak

*Fixing lights*



*Toilet where work is required*



*NGO Meeting*



*Students back at Oroluos School*

## Kawana Waters State College

Fiona Francis from our Committee attended a school assembly at Kawana Waters State College in early November and was presented with a \$2400 donation to Growing Cambodia, fundraised by the student leaders.



*Fiona pictured receiving the cheque from the students. Lyn Duffy is on the left of the photo.*

Fiona stated, “it was an amazing effort by the students and the local community and shows the commitment the school has in continuing to support us.”

Fiona also finalised and signed a new partnership agreement with the College, which not only is a formal requirement of the Queensland Education Department, but also shows their ongoing commitment and support. “The Year 11 students were very disappointed that they could not travel to Cambodia last year but look forward to going as soon as safe to do so” Fiona said. The first group of students from the college travelled to Cambodia and worked at our schools in 2018. The College has continued to support fundraising efforts – “and a very special thanks to Lyn Duffy from Kawana Waters State College is required for her enthusiasm and dedication to the Growing Cambodia cause” Fiona concluded.

And thank you Fiona !

# Growing Cambodia - Activities Report 2021

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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 led 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 Vattey in Cambodia ensures all monies are properly accounted for.

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



# Volunteers Report

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- Regrettably, we had no individuals or groups travel to Cambodia this year, undoubtedly due to the COVID-19 virus. We have ongoing commitment and support from Kawana Waters State College from Queensland. The school visited in 2018 but cancelled in 2020 due to the virus. They have continued to fundraise for Growing Cambodia and are keen to send students and staff to help at the schools as soon as it is safe to do so.
- I have updated the spreadsheet for requests for volunteer visits in 2020, recording such things as names, dates, addresses and emergency contact details. See attached. I have highlighted these in blue as although they did not occur, I thought it was still a good idea to have a record of these.
- I will continue to send feedback/reflection forms to those relevant people who travel in the future.
- The Tips and Hints document has been updated in 2020.
- Have continued to keep a folder on the home POC with all email communication to date.
- Once again I am still unable to access the website enquiry links ([enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au) and [volunteers@growingcambodia.org.au](mailto:volunteers@growingcambodia.org.au)) and so this has unfortunately been left to Steve to monitor///more work for Steve!
- Emergency contacts needs to be added to the Application form on our website. I am not sure if this has been done (as per 2018, 2019 and 2020 comments).
- For the last three years I have had the support of Fiona Francis, as we make up a small subcommittee of two. We rarely meet but I have included her in any email correspondence with volunteers. Fiona is the main contact for Kawana Waters State College in Queensland. I thank Fiona for her support.

Thank you for your support and assistance during this very difficult 2021. I still find it a privilege and pleasure to be part of the Growing Cambodia committee.

**Deborah Kerry**

# Growing Cambodia Inc - Balance Sheet 2021

## Balance Sheet

GROWING CAMBODIA INC  
As at 30 June 2021

30 JUN 2021

### Assets

<b>Bank</b>	
Bendigo Holding Account	8,684.72
Bendigo Statement Account	11,384.72
Bendigo Term Deposit	25,629.90
<b>Total Bank</b>	<b>45,699.34</b>
<b>Current Assets</b>	
Funds - Cambodia	3,574.56
Incorporation Costs	32.10
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>3,606.66</b>
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>49,306.00</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>49,306.00</b>
<b>Equity</b>	
Current Year Earnings	(3,235.33)
Retained Earnings	52,541.33
<b>Total Equity</b>	<b>49,306.00</b>

# Growing Cambodia Inc - Profit and Loss

## Profit and Loss

GROWING CAMBODIA INC

For the year ended 30 June 2021

	2021
<b>Trading Income</b>	
Donations - Other	21,855.10
Donations - Regular	3,890.00
<b>Total Trading Income</b>	<b>25,745.10</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>25,745.10</b>
<b>Other Income</b>	
Interest Income	336.36
Other	1.19
<b>Total Other Income</b>	<b>337.55</b>
<b>Operating Expenses</b>	
Bendigo Bank and Paypal Fees	233.17
Electricity - Schools	150.32
Printing & Stationery - Schools	222.86
Repairs - School Equipment etc	378.57
Salaries - Cambodian Teachers/Managers	21,987.29
Small items - Schools	290.50
Student Sponsorships	1,669.65
Televisions	2,097.03
University Scholarships	2,288.59
<b>Total Operating Expenses</b>	<b>29,317.98</b>
<b>Net Profit</b>	<b>(3,235.33)</b>

# Ways you can Help

## One-off Donations

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We ask that you consider either making a one-off donation for a specific cause and/or a regular monthly donation. As we are not holding a Trivia Night this year, you may like to donate what you would have spent!

## Cups of Coffee Regular Donations

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Why not consider donating the cost of one, two, three or even four coffees on a regular monthly basis. Set-up a monthly donation to Growing Cambodia's bank account and email us so that we can also send you a receipt.

## University Scholarships

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At present, we have four 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

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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 one 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 Teacher or a School

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If you would like to assist on a larger scale you may consider sponsoring the wages of one of our teachers or even 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](mailto:enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au) and we will send you a receipt.



*"Encouraging a better more sustainable quality of life"*

[www.growingcambodia.org.au](http://www.growingcambodia.org.au) | [enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au](mailto:enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au) |  | 