



GROWING CAMBODIA NEWSLETTER

November 2025

Hello Growing Cambodia Supporters

At a glance

In this final newsletter for 2025, we have reports from our two recent fundraising events to share, as well as a recent report from our local manager in Cambodia.

This month we have had a successful volunteer visit to our schools at Oroluos and Beng by a small group of around 15 students and staff from a school in Norway that is interested in supporting us going forward. More photos in our next edition ...

We would also like to acknowledge the contributions of three retiring Committee members.

Finally, you are able to donate your recycling refunds to Growing Cambodia's 'Stationery for Schools' fundraising campaign. Details are in this newsletter.

Report from our local manager

Here are the highlights from Sopheak's update for November 2025 in his own words:

I hope this report finds you all in good health and high spirits. It is with great pleasure that I present this general report outlining the latest updates from all Growing Cambodia (GC) schools, including student progress, scholarship activities and community engagement.

This month marks an important period of transition as many students advanced to higher levels of study and our scholarship students continue their academic journeys at universities in Siem Reap and Phnom Penh.

Student Progress and Academic Activities

Across our schools, many students have successfully graduated from primary school and transitioned to secondary school, while others have moved from secondary to high school. To support this change, our teachers are currently rearranging class schedules, interviewing students, and assigning them to appropriate learning levels based on their ability and performance.

Before students advanced to the next grade, final examinations were conducted. Those who passed will receive certificates recognizing their achievements. The certificates will be presented next week by a visiting delegation of students and teachers from Norway.



This report summarizes the recent developments and achievements across all GC schools. Our teachers continue to work hard to provide quality education and meaningful opportunities to our students.

On behalf of all teachers, students, village leaders and the local community, I would like to express our heartfelt gratitude for your continued support, dedication and generosity. Your efforts have made a lasting impact on education in Cambodia and continue to inspire hope for a better future.

We wish everyone good health, happiness and continued success.

Our strongest fundraising effort ever ...

On Saturday 11 October 2025, GC supporters came together for our annual Trivia Night at Berninnet community centre to raise money for our Cambodian programs. Not only was there a record attendance of 260 people, but we raised an all-time high of over \$40,000 - \$28,000 on the night and a further \$12,000 from the major raffle that was run in the weeks before the night. It is fair to say that the night was a successful combination of trivia, karaoke and games, thanks to the expert compering of Ash Reed and Warren Davie - with Krystal Davie making a huge contribution behind the scenes. We were also fortunate to hear from local resident Pam Cameron, who had visited our schools recently and reported on the work of our teachers and the enthusiastic students she met.

The trivia competition was narrowly won by team 'Professor Penguin and the Bandicoot Boffins' with 110 points, while the major raffle prize was won by local, Mark Merryfull.



Thank you

We are grateful to our Committee member, Vicki Wilkinson, for coordinating the night.



We also appreciate the generosity of everyone involved in making the night such a success – not only those who attended, but people who donated silent auction items, contributed to costs of the night and helped with the set up before and the clean up afterwards. The efforts of you all to help us provide a better life for rural Cambodian children is truly inspirational. As we like to say – from little things big things grow ...

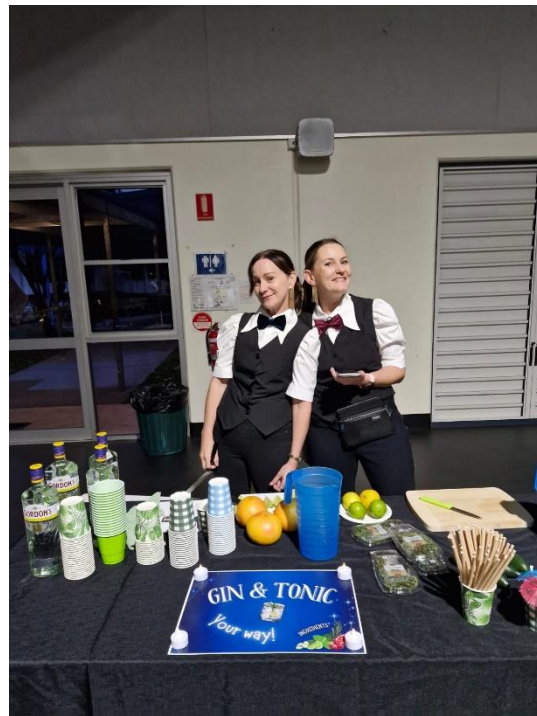
Some photos from the night





And a great effort for our inaugural fundraiser on the Sunshine Coast

On Friday 5 September 2025, we held our first fundraiser on the Sunshine Coast – a Cocktail Party at Kawana Waters State College.



A great time was had by around 50 participants and guests were treated to a special performance by chanteuse, Olivia Ruth.



We are grateful to our Committee member, Lyn Duffy, for coordinating the night.

Thank you to our retiring Committee members

Three of our hard working Committee members retired during 2025 and we would like to acknowledge and thank them for all that they have contributed to Growing Cambodia over the years.

- **Fiona Francis** served on the Committee for 12 years. She was there from the start and has been a great believer in Growing Cambodia and what we do. Without her, particularly in the early years, we would not be here today. Fiona's wisdom and advice has always been very astute.
- **Nola Brooks** served on the Committee for 10 years, including as Secretary and Vice Chair. She has worked tirelessly to spread the word about the good work we do, including organising volunteer and visitor trips to our schools and speaking as an ambassador for us whenever the opportunity arises. She also supports our fundraising initiatives, in particular by running our annual High Tea event.
- **Jeff Floyd** served on the Committee since 2019 and has generously contributed his business acumen and fundraising support, including through donating the proceeds of his local travel guide. His contribution to our Governance and Risk Sub-Committee was very valuable.

We are only able to function through the efforts of our Committee members and other volunteers and appreciate everything these three have done to advance our vision of sustainable improvement to the lives of rural Cambodians through education and enhanced well-being. We look forward to them continuing to contribute to Growing Cambodia in different ways for many more years.



Donate your recycling refunds

Through the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) (or Containers for Change in Queensland), our supporters can now donate the proceeds from their container returns to Growing Cambodia. We are registered throughout Victoria - CDS Vic East, CDS Vic North and CDS Vic West - and also in Buderim, Queensland.

At the recycling point, you can choose to donate your refund to us. The proceeds are then deposited directly to our bank account.

It's a great way to help the environment and help us!

Tertiary Patrons for the Class of 2026 – we still need your support

The ability to speak English is a prerequisite for university education and also creates employment opportunities in Cambodian cities. Since 2012, we have sponsored students to attend university from our modest budget and 13 students have completed their university studies. Thanks to our Tertiary Patrons program, we are currently sponsoring 23 university students.

Interest in pursuing tertiary education continues to grow and, as reported by Sopheak, we currently have 10 applicants from graduating students hoping to start courses in January 2026. We need patrons for this 'Class of 2026'.

Being a Tertiary Patron involves donating A\$1,000 over 4 years to support the successful applicants with their fees during their four year tertiary course. Donations are tax deductible.

If you are able to support us in this life changing initiative, please email pam@growing.cambodia.org.au or sigrid@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you more information.

How you can help

All donations to Growing Cambodia are tax deductible and we have no administration costs in Australia. All work here in Australia is done by volunteers. If you would like to make a one-off donation, a donation for a specific purpose and/or a regular monthly donation, our bank details are:

Growing Cambodia Inc
BSB 633 000
Acct 150148583

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

"Facilitating a self-sufficient and sustainable quality of life for rural Cambodians"