



GROWING CAMBODIA NEWSLETTER

March 2026

Hello Growing Cambodia Supporters

Welcome to 2026 and another year of activity at our Cambodian schools. We look forward to sharing news of our progress throughout the coming year.

Sad news

2026 started very sadly for our Growing Cambodia community with the passing of Lisa Howard. Lis has been a stalwart supporter of both GC and her husband, Steve, throughout the years. She has visited our schools, served on our Committee and helped raise much needed funds.

In her honour, our GC schools held their own tributes for her, which demonstrates not only their love of Steve and Lisa but the bonds we all share.





Lis will be sorely missed and I am sure you join with us in extending our deep condolences to Steve at this very difficult time.

Report from our local manager

As always, we include Sopheak's report about recent activities at our schools. With his report he included a list of classes by teacher at each of our four schools, together with the number of students (1057), duration and content for each class.

Hourly classes are run daily, usually from 2pm – 7pm. We have 4 teachers at Oroluos, 5 teachers at Beng (plus the bus driver), 2 teachers at Kok Beng and 4 teachers at Koy Meng.

I would like to share the general report for all GC schools for the month of January.

Beng school

Mr Vannthorn Seng has resigned from his teaching position at Beng school. His role has been filled by a new teacher, Ms Sam Orn. Ms Sam Orn teaches at a government school in the morning and at the GC school in the afternoon.

Koy Meng school

All teachers at Koy Meng school have received the books they requested. The books were paid for using donation funds from the Norway student group.

Kok Beng school

Students at Kok Beng school have completed their final examinations. A higher number of students passed and received certificates. We have arranged for the certificates to be printed and sent to the teachers.

Thank you very much for your continued support and cooperation.



In other news, 60 scholarship students at Koy Meng school were provided with uniforms and stationery, which they need to attend government school.



Norway school visit

As flagged in our last newsletter, a small group of 15 staff and post-secondary students (18-19 year olds) from Valdes Folkehogskole Norway volunteered in our schools on 17 & 18 November 2025. They taught in the classrooms, played games with the students and presented them with their certificates. In addition, a total of US\$1,650 was donated towards stationery during the trip.





Feedback was so positive that they are hoping to make it an annual visit.



High Tea 2026

Thirty seven ladies attended our final High Tea fundraising event in February, with our founder Steve as a special guest. This year we kept it simple, but, as always, a fun afternoon was had by all, with everyone enjoying the camaraderie and treats.



Thank you to everyone involved for supporting our Cambodian schools, including some 'junior citizens' who helped with the fundraising and clean-up efforts. We raised **\$4,193** in total, with Steve noting that, over the years, the High Tea events have raised more than \$29,000 for Growing Cambodia, a wonderful effort. Thanks also to Nola Brooks for offering her home and to both Nola and her offsider, Vicki Wilkinson, for their amazing organisational efforts.



University sponsorships

Thanks to the generosity of our Tertiary Patrons for the Class of 2026, we are able to provide university sponsorships to 9 graduates from our schools to pursue university degrees for four years starting in January 2026.

There was a 10th applicant whom we were unable to approve, because he wants to pursue a dentistry degree, which involves 7 years of study at a much higher annual tuition cost (US\$3,295 pa). This applicant is an outstanding candidate and sent us a very impressive video application, but unfortunately we do not currently have enough funds to support him. He is so committed that he managed to fund his first year of study (in 2025) himself.

If you know any dentists (or a dental practice) that would be prepared to consider supporting him (either fully or in part), please let us know and we will forward his details for them to consider. Please reach out to Sigrid sigrid@growingcambodia.org.au or Pam pam@growingcambodia.org.au

A reminder about your recycling refunds

If you have bottles and cans for recycling, you can help us. As mentioned last edition, through the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme (CDS) (or Containers for Change in Queensland), you can donate the proceeds from recycling your 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. For Victoria, the code to enter for Growing Cambodia is C2000072666.

How you can help

All donations to Growing Cambodia are tax deductible and we have no administration costs in Australia. We ask that you consider 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 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"