



Annual Report 2015



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Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd (PiCCA)
is an Australian nonprofit company limited by guarantee,
ABN 41 603 012 906
registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission,
Australian Securities and Investment Commission,
and the Queensland Government's Office of Fair Trading.
Registered office: 7 Glencoe Avenue, Tarragindi QLD 4121.
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About PiCCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd (PiCCA) is an Australian nonprofit organisation which partners with communities in other parts of the world to help break the cycle of poverty and dependence.

PiCCA is a giving circle - only the second giving circle established in Queensland, and one of the very few giving circles worldwide that is devoted to international (not local) community development.

PiCCA pools members' donations, experience and expertise, to propose, choose and monitor development projects overseas. Members choose the level of their involvement. PiCCA also welcomes public donations - i.e. people do not have to join PiCCA as a member to donate to the project development fund.

We are a 'giving circle', an innovative form of philanthropy, a group of like-minded individuals who donate money, time, expertise to a pooled fund. We decide together how funds are allocated, and, along the way, learn from our project partners and each other, about issues and good development practices.



About this Annual Report

Under its Constitution, PiCCA is bound to have an Annual General Meeting at least once per calendar year. PiCCA's first AGM is on 25 August 2015, and this report was prepared to chronicle PiCCA's progress to date - for members, supporters and for the wider community.

From the Chair

From little things.... PiCCA does indeed have a big vision - to further equity, opportunity, justice and peace in communities overseas. Not working alone, but in partnership with local leaders and other organisations. Not imposing an outsider's view about a community's need, but supporting locally-generated priorities. Not giving hand-outs, but supporting the kinds of interventions that are 'game-changers', and likely to be sustained after PiCCA funding ceases.

It's been a fabulous early start for PiCCA. So far, twenty people have joined the organisation. Members and donors have contributed to a project fund, and together, supported AIDS orphans in Swaziland and widows in Sri Lanka. Both of PiCCA's first projects are already making progress.

The organisation's Directors have deliberately started with modest plans for the first year or two, so we can focus on a limited number of relatively small scale projects, build experience and a positive reputation in supporting effective overseas aid, bed down the organisation's policies and practices, and start the process of applying for Deductible Gift Recipient status (to offer tax deductions).

PiCCA's Directors recognise that effective overseas aid is difficult. While potentially a range of areas of need could be supported across a number of countries, PiCCA has established clear criteria to ensure there is maximum benefit for communities from members' and donors' contributions.

PiCCA's is a member-based organisation. PiCCA's members hail from a wide range of backgrounds, but are united in their support for PiCCA's core values and their desire to join with like-minded others to see what they can achieve together.

The most poignant moment of PiCCA's year came during the members' voting event, when members were so passionately discussing the pro's and con's of each proposed projects. Some members had relevant experience to contribute, others were keen to learn and no less able to critique and to explore.

I hope that PiCCA is a concept that will continue to resonate with supporters, and, with members' continued active engagement, PiCCA can improve lives, in very practical ways, for more communities overseas.

Will you join us in 2016?

Stephanie Boldeman AAICD



www.picca.org.au



picca@picca.org.au

www.facebook.com/piccaaustralia

Our goals for 2015

PiCCA's goals in its first year were to:

1. fund one or two niche development projects overseas
2. establish a sound legal and policy framework as the base for current and future overseas aid work, and
3. establish and engage a membership and supporter base.



i. Funding overseas projects

PiCCA aimed to start with a small number of niche development projects that have a high likelihood of success. Projects must be non-recurrent and deliver practical and observable benefits to the community.

In the first year two such projects were funded, at an estimated total cost of AUD \$20,000, as described further below.

PiCCA's policy is that members have the opportunity to put forward ideas for projects. However, in the first year, PiCCA's Directors identified potential partner organisations from their international networks and connections. The organisations were approached directly to provide detailed information about a possible project. A sub-committee comprising two Directors a member and an independent person, all with expertise in assessing nonprofit applications, analysed the projects against PiCCA's criteria. This process meant PiCCA can vouch for the bona fides of the organisations concerned and their record of achievement. Projects deemed worthy of potential support were put to members for discussion and a vote.



**Manna women's catering company
social enterprise**

Sri Lanka

Bridging Lanka
\$10,000

This project aims to assist war widows in the north-east of Sri Lanka, very many of whom are destitute and ostracised.

The project builds on the success of a small pilot to establish a social enterprise in Mannar Town, Northern Sri Lanka, operated by war widows. The catering business will target the large number of pilgrims who travel to this part of Sri Lanka, and a growing tourist clientele as well as government and community agencies.

With the support of PiCCA and other partners, the women will undertake business planning, identify and establish suitable premises, and work to establish all aspects of the business.

The primary aim is to provide a practical and viable means of livelihood for a group of women otherwise marginalised and at risk of further isolation. It is expected that this process will lead to skill development and empowerment for the women involved and serve as a model for replication and expansion to other business opportunities, thereby benefiting other widows and their families.

Bridging Lanka (Guarantee) Limited is a nonprofit organisation with bases in Mannar and Colombo.

Bridging Lanka seeks to:

- respond to social, economic and environmental issues in the lagging regions of Sri Lanka
- pursue the relief of poverty, suffering, sickness, disability, helplessness and distress by accessing resources through international donors, non-government organisations, philanthropic entities, fundraising events, income generation projects, corporate social responsibility initiatives or by any other ethical means
- act as a credible business and investment link between Sri Lankans abroad and nation-building opportunities in Sri Lanka
- work towards improved relations between Sri Lankans abroad and the government and polity of Sri Lanka through constructive engagement.

At the time of publication of this report, Bridging Lanka had commenced business planning with the women involved, and was investigating how to source suitable premises for the business.



Jeremy Liyanage (at the whiteboard), CEO of Bridging Lanka, facilitating a business planning workshop with women in Mannar, Sri Lanka, July 2015.



**Sustaining food and
volunteers to support
HIV/AIDS orphans**

Swaziland

AMICAALL, Swaziland

approx \$10,000

This project helps to develop a plot of agricultural land, to provide a sustainable source of nutritious food for HIV/AIDS orphans attending Swaziland's social centres.

Swaziland has the highest prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the world. Consequently, there are thousands of orphans, most of whom are cared for by extended family. There is considerable strain on these families to support another child. AMICAALL, Swaziland's response to AIDS at the local government level, hosts 49 Social Centres which provide at least one meal a day to approximately 4,000 orphaned and vulnerable children. The centres also provide early childhood care and development, psychosocial support, birth registration, child health and recreation services.

Currently, the social centres lack a reliable source of nutritious food to provide children their daily meal. Children stop attending the centres when food is not available. In addition, the centres rely on volunteers to prepare meals and provide services. Volunteers are generally poor and there are unacceptable levels of attrition.

This project will develop a farm to grow, year-round, maize and beans (staple crops in Swaziland) as well as assorted vegetables, and, in the longer term, support animal husbandry. This will improve the consistency of food availability for the children in the social centres, enhance the variety of food for children's meals (and hence nutritional value) and provide compensation for approximately 60 volunteers for their services (via food parcels).

AMICAALL, based in Manzini, is an alliance of local governments and civil society participants. The organisation develops and coordinates the political and technical

capacity of local government in Swaziland to effectively lead the multi-sectoral response to HIV/AIDS at the local level. It assists individual municipalities, in collaboration with locally-based stakeholders, to develop their own plans. It also oversees municipal AIDS responses, and monitors and evaluates program activities.

In July 2015 there was a meeting of in-country project partners on-site on the land to be used for farming. This meeting confirmed the various roles of project partners and discussed project implementation.

AMICAALL has advised that work is expected to progress quickly and it is anticipated that ploughing of the land will commence before the end of 2015.

*PiCCA Directors,
Stephanie and Steve
visiting a social centre in
Swaziland, August 2014.*

*RIGHT: with 2 teachers
and Rudolph Maziya,
National Director of
AMICAALL Swaziland*

BELOW: with children



2. Establishing the organisation

- Registration

The formalities of establishing a nonprofit organisation were completed in December 2014. On 3 December 2014, PiCCA was registered by its Directors as follows:

- Australian Securities and Investments Commission as a company limited by guarantee
- Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a charity
- Australian Tax Office for charity tax concessions (GST and income tax)

On 10 March 2015, PiCCA was registered by the Queensland Government Office of Fair Trading to conduct appeals for support to the public.

- Policies

PiCCA's Board established a comprehensive array of policies to ensure good governance and to guide the Board on its deliberations and PiCCA's operations. Policies are guided by PiCCA's Constitution, relevant law, such as the *Corporations Act 2001* and the *Collections Act 1966 (Qld)*, and regulatory requirements (e.g. from the ACNC).

Through its policies, PiCCA also seeks to emulate best practice international aid and development, articulated in the Australian Council For International Development's Code of Conduct. While PiCCA does not have the financial resources to be a member of ACFID or an official signatory to the Code, we nevertheless use it to guide what we do.

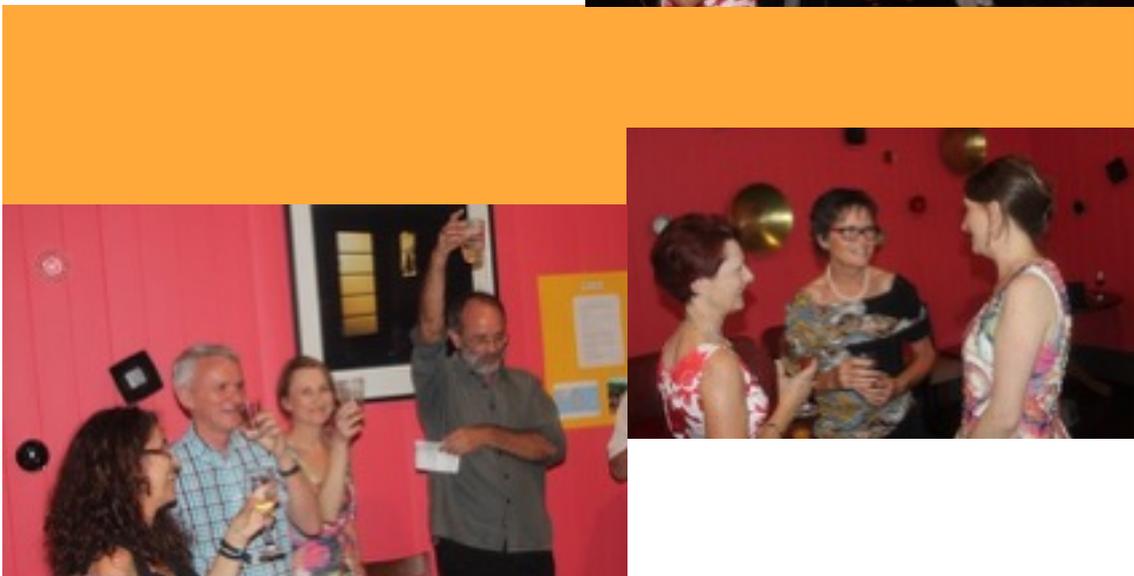
The policies PiCCA has in place are:

- Criteria for supported projects
- Process for choosing supported projects
- Monitoring PiCCA supported projects
- Role of Members
- Volunteering with PiCCA projects abroad
- Reimbursement of expenses to Directors
- Rights to privacy and fair treatment in publicity materials
- Countering human trafficking
- Child protection
- Countering terrorism
- Countering bribery and corruption
- Records management
- Risk management



- Launch

With the legal and policy framework in place, PiCCA was officially launched on 28 March 2015. Approximately 50 people attended to hear about the vision for the organisation and its model for development. PiCCA was grateful to 3 Bowls Cafe in Highgate Hill (Brisbane) for their generous support in hosting the launch.



- PiCCA's Directors



Stephanie Boldeman AAICD, *Chair*

Stephanie has a professional background in organisational development, research, and community services policy and program management. She has worked in government, private sector and community-based organisations, and has recently completed the Australian Institute of Company Directors' course on Directorship. Stephanie's other professional interests include palliative care and philanthropy.

Warren McMillan, *Treasurer*

Warren's early interest in languages, travel and cross-cultural experience formed the background to his career in multicultural policy and program development. He held senior positions in the Queensland Government's Bureau of Ethnic Affairs and Multicultural Affairs Queensland from 1991 to 2006. He was vice chair of the Ethnic Communities Council of Queensland in 2007 and served as a board member, treasurer, vice chair and subsequently Chair of the Multicultural Development Association from 2006 to 2013. In recognition of his long dedication to the promotion of multiculturalism he was appointed a People of Australia Ambassador in 2012.



Steve Maguire, *Company Secretary*

Steve has spent the bulk of his career in the fields of social justice, human rights, social inclusion and social welfare. This includes working for the Australian Human Rights Commission, NSW Anti-Discrimination Board, Multicultural Affairs Queensland and the Queensland Department of Communities. Steve has recently worked with Multicultural Development Association and currently does project work for Life Without Barriers.

Tiziana Miceli, *Director*

Tiziana was born in Agrigento, Italy and completed her university studies at the University of Florence. For many years she worked as a school teacher in the Veneto region of Italy, working in primary, secondary and after hours schools for workers and migrants. Before migrating to Australia she lived and worked in the field of adult education in Scotland and Mexico. She is currently a lecturer in Italian Studies at Griffith University where her research interests include computer assisted learning and language teaching and learning methodologies. Her 30 year career as an educator drives her belief in and commitment to the liberating and empowering potential of education.



- Other governance matters

Board meetings

PiCCA's Board of Directors meet regularly to plan, monitor and review the organisation's strategy, operations and finances. From PiCCA's formal registration to 14 August 2015, the Board met 17 times - on average, about twice per month.



Directors' contributions

Under PiCCA's Constitution, Directors are appointed for a two year term, and are accountable to ASIC and the ACNC for the operations of the organisation. Directors do not receive any remuneration or benefit from undertaking any duties related to PiCCA.

As a nonprofit without any paid staff, Directors undertake the majority of work required. The exceptions are website design and maintenance (outsourced to a fee-for-service contractor, Phoenix Design) and an auditor to review PiCCA's financial statements (provided on a *pro bono* basis).

To ensure that 100% of donations go to projects, PiCCA Directors have agreed to underwrite administrative expenses in excess of the amount collected in membership fees. In 2015, PiCCA Directors contributed a total of \$5,150 for this purpose. A significant proportion of these costs related to the initial set up of PiCCA.

Directors' conflicts of interest

PiCCA requires that any Director who has a conflict of interest must disclose this to the Board and, where the Board so determines, must exempt themselves from consideration and decision making in respect to the matter at hand.

In the reporting period there were no Conflicts of Interest raised by Directors.

3. Establishing a member and supporter base

Members

PiCCA's success in its first year can, in the main, be attributed to establishing, from an early stage, a sound membership base from which to grow in future years. Twenty members joined following the launch in March 2015, paying a membership fee (\$50) and donating to PiCCA's project development fund.

The benefits of PiCCA membership are:

- 100% of money donated to the project development fund goes to projects
- members help decide what is funded
- members contribute to effective projects that achieve positive outcomes for people in local communities in developing countries, and
- members are kept informed of the outcomes achieved through their contribution.

During the year, PiCCA's members were engaged in a number of ways, as outlined below:

Members were informed	PiCCA members are sent exclusive updates via email, particularly about progress on projects. They also have access to PiCCA's Constitution, policies, Board meeting minutes and monthly financial statements.
Members together decided on projects	All members had the opportunity to vote on the allocation of money from the project development fund, and indeed, all members either came to a special voting event, or had their say beforehand. The voting event was held on 24 May 2015. Members were given summary information about each project and had the chance to talk through pro's and con's of the respective proposals. It was a lively and invigorating discussion, which concluded with members voting to support both proposed projects.
Members learned from each other	For those who chose to be more involved, PiCCA membership has meant sharing expertise, or conversely, learning from that expertise. PiCCA's members contributed to an evaluation framework for each of the projects, and, from their own experience, have started to contribute ideas for potential projects in 2016.



Members meeting in May 2015 to discuss and vote on proposed allocations from its project development fund.

Supporters

In its first year, PiCCA has attracted a supporter base of almost 100 people, who have either signed up for PiCCA newsletters or who have 'liked' PiCCA's Facebook page (or both).

PiCCA's marketing approach is, for now, through word-of-mouth. PiCCA has attracted interest from the U.S. and Europe.

The organisation has established a comprehensive website, and posts regularly on its Facebook page.

PiCCA has published one newsletter and has sent more general updates to supporters as milestones are achieved.

Looking ahead: 2016 and beyond

PiCCA will continue its tripartite strategy: funding effective projects, expanding the member and supporter base, and providing good governance.

Effective projects

PiCCA will remain focussed on working with overseas partners to ensure that funded projects overseas are well designed, well governed, developed in response to community need, owned and participated in by local communities and effective in achieving outcomes that help build independence and resilience in the communities in which they are implemented.

2015 projects are due to be completed around July 2016. PiCCA will commence the process of assessing potential projects for 2016 in the first half of next year.

Expanding member and supporter base

PiCCA will continue to engage its members and supporters, and, based on the expected success of 2015 projects, will seek to expand membership and support during 2016. This will mean PiCCA's project development fund may expand and also the organisation's access to members' range of expertise.

As the organisation builds its reputation and record for effective international aid and development, PiCCA's marketing will expand beyond the current word-of-mouth approach, encompassing more assertive social media and pro-active engagement in traditional media.

Providing good governance

PiCCA will maintain strict oversight of its operations and financial position. It will also monitor and review its approach to overseas aid and development, and, as is prudent in any organisation, modify policies and practices as necessary.

PiCCA will shortly submit an application to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade for Deductible Gift Recipient status, under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme. If approved, this will enable PiCCA to issue tax-deductible receipts to people (including members) who contribute to its project development fund.





Treasurer's report

It is to be expected that the first year in the life of a nonprofit company will reflect some disconnect between ambitious vision and scarce resources. In the case of PiCCA, this disconnect has been challenging, but not daunting. In PiCCA's first year of operation, we have already begun to bridge that divide.

Generating an income from membership fees, donations and Directors' contributions, PiCCA has been able to:

- raise sufficient funds to establish and launch itself
- create a web presence
- develop a series of foundation plans and policies
- undertake first steps in marketing
- host events, and most importantly,
- identify, assess and fund two very worthwhile projects overseas.

It is remarkable what relatively small amounts of money can achieve. The money allocated to support both PiCCA's projects in Swaziland and Sri Lanka is less than the cost of a cup of coffee per day for a year for each of PiCCA's 20 members. And yet, with this amount, PiCCA will support, in its very first year, the establishment of a sustainable food supply for AIDS orphans in Swaziland and the establishment of a catering business generating employment, income and independence for war widows in Sri Lanka.

Costs incurred in Australia are, of course, not quite so economical with major expense items such as insurance, web design and catering quickly consuming the small administrative budget. PiCCA is, however, professionally run on goodwill and a shoe-string budget, to ensure its goal of guaranteeing that 100% of funds donated to it for projects overseas are actually allocated this way. Administrative costs are supported by a \$50 membership fee, by *pro bono* contributions, and by financial contributions from Directors (totalling \$5,150 in the reporting period).

I am pleased to present this inaugural financial report, which covers the period 4 December 2014 - 14 August 2015.

Warren McMillan

Financial report

4 December 2014 - 14 August 2015¹

Income statement

Income	
Admin component of membership (\$50)	\$1,000.00
Directors' contribution to start-up	\$5,150.00
Donations to project fund	\$20,665.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$26,815.00
Expenses	
Project payments	
First payment to Bridging Lanka ²	\$1,000.00
Administration expenses	
Web and graphic design	\$1,435.50
Fees and charges	\$497.00
Printing	\$340.42
Post	\$13.40
Advertising	\$272.16
Stationery and office	\$25.32
Catering	\$698.31
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$4,282.11

Balance sheet³

Current assets	
Cash	\$22,532.89
TOTAL ASSETS	\$22,532.89
Current liabilities	
Committed from project fund: distributions to Bridging Lanka and AMICAALL Swaziland, subject to milestones ⁴	\$19,000.00
Insurance	\$1,500.00
Website	\$500.00
Bank fees on transfer of funds overseas	\$160.00
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$21,160.00

Financial position

Liquidity (total assets less total liabilities)	\$1,372.89
Cash in bank (total income less total expenses)	\$22,523.89
Uncommitted project funds rolled over to 2016 projects (donations to project fund less project funding paid or committed)	\$665.00
Uncommitted admin funds (non-project fund income less expenses to date & non-project related liabilities)	\$707.89

Notes

1. A separate cash flow statement is not provided, as all of PiCCA's transactions (presented in the Income Statement) were in cash. Cash balance at the start of the year was \$0.00, and at 14/8/15, \$22,532.89.
2. Funding that is committed but not paid to 2015 projects (Bridging Lanka and AMICAALL Swaziland), under respective Partnership Agreements, is shown under current liabilities.
3. PiCCA has nil non-current assets and nil non-current liabilities.
4. The partnership agreements with Bridging Lanka and AMICAALL specify total grant amounts in Australian dollars and Swazi Lilangeni respectively. Therefore, the payment to AMICAALL is unlikely to be exactly \$10,000, and will depend on AU:SZL exchange rates at the time of transfer.