

PiCCA's Annual Report and AGM

On 25 August 2015, PiCCA members held an AGM. The inaugural Annual Report was endorsed and is available from <http://picca.org.au/about-us/>.

Conference anyone?

Engineers Without Borders, Brisbane, 25-26 Sept, "Working with Developing Communities". See <http://www.ewb.org.au/events/92/12072>.

Australian Council For International Development (ACFID), Sydney, 15-16 Oct, includes a session on small not-for-profits. See www.acfid.org.au.

Word is spreading about PiCCA

You are one of about 50 people you have signed up to receive a PiCCA newsletter. There's also about 90 people who are keeping in touch with PiCCA through Facebook.

Please help spread the word about PiCCA by forwarding this to a friend via email.

 www.picca.org.au

 [piccaaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/piccaaustralia)

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Meet our Sri Lankan partners

PiCCA is supporting a group of war widows in Mannar District, which was one of the areas worst affected by the civil war. PiCCA is partnering with Bridging Lanka (Guarantee) Ltd in Sri Lanka to help these women establish a catering business that will offer them ongoing employment, and will service a growing tourist market.

The women involved have formed a private co-op and have completed a business plan (photo above). The next stage is to secure land to build the kitchen premises. Negotiations are already underway for this.



Robin Suseelen (BL's Livelihood Coordinator), Rushil Palavajhala (architect), Mr Sriskanthakumar (Divisional Secretary)



Progress in Swazi project

The latest news from our partner in Swaziland, Rudolph Maziya, National Director of AMICAALL (above) is that a technical advisor has visited the farm site.

PiCCA is helping to establish the farm, so the food grown on it can provide reliable, nutritious meals for HIV/AIDS orphans.

PiCCA had agreed to fund fencing materials, irrigation and a borehole. The cost of the borehole might be less than anticipated as Rudolph is hopeful that the local water authority will do the work, instead of a commercial operator.

Another piece of good news is that another project partner, NERCHA, is considering contributing more funds so that a bigger area of land can be farmed than originally planned.

The rainy season is approaching and AMICAALL are hopeful that the fencing can be erected and work on the bore started soon.



The Co-op members are enthusiastic about the project

Ampika's goal is to earn enough work from the catering business to rebuild her semi-permanent home.



Madhurani is currently working two jobs to provide for her three daughters who are aged 6, 14 and 16

Sebastiammah with her son and neighbour's children. She is living in an unsecured and incomplete house and hopes to be able to improve her living circumstances.



Considerable work has gone into planning for a new commercial kitchen. It will be much improved compared to a local canteen (below), which was forcibly closed down.



Thank you Good Shepherd Noosa!



A big thank you to Year 10 Business Studies students from Good Shepherd Lutheran College at Noosa, who donated \$150 to PiCCA's 2016 project development fund earlier this week.

The donation was the 'company tax' portion of their mock mini-enterprises, set up and run during their studies. What a great introduction to corporate social responsibility!

PiCCA Directors Steve and Stephanie spent some time with the students, discussing PiCCA's current projects and the experience so far establishing and facilitating a not-for-profit company.

New global goals

Given the Millenium Development Goals expire this year, the UN has been working with members on what should be in their place. Leaders meet in New York later this month to adopt the new agenda, which, according to undp.org will "leave no one behind".

UNDP asked people of the world for their views (see a summary in "A Million Voices" report). Some thought has also been given to critical success factors in implementing the new goals (see "Developing the Post-2015 Development Agenda"). These include: localising responses, effective institutions and partnerships, including with the private sector.



If you know of any community or school groups who might like to know about PiCCA, or general not-for-profit or international development issues, please let us know...

Application for tax deductibility

PiCCA Directors have spent some time preparing an application to the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) for Deductible Gift Recipient status. If approved, this will allow donors to claim a tax deduction for their donations to PiCCA.

PiCCA is required to apply to DFAT for this (rather than the charities regulator, the ACNC) as more than 50% of PiCCA's beneficiaries are outside of Australia. To respond adequately to the eight criteria, the application comprises about 40 pages, with 35 or so attachments.

It may take 6-12 months for the Department to review PiCCA's application and make a decision.