

BBQ meet-up

We'd like to extend an invitation to PiCCA supporters to meet up for a social event.

Please join us for an informal BBQ: **11am - 2pm Sunday 18th September** at Orleigh Park, West End, Brisbane.

BYO provisions, no need to RSVP. Come and enjoy some friendly, like-minded company!

PNG visit

A Member has suggested that PiCCA consider a project in Bougainville, to support a Women's Centre on Buka Island. PiCCA Directors Warren and Steve will visit the Centre in November to find out more about their work and how PiCCA might be able to help.

Cultivate health

What does acupuncture and massage have to do with overseas development? See page 3...



Gabion wall in Tawal, Nepal

PiCCA's project in rural Nepal - part of a larger project to rebuild a school after last year's devastating earthquakes - is a step closer to achieving its goal. Working in the monsoon rains, trained locals have started to build a gabion wall which will help protect the school from rock falls.

The wall, designed by engineers, is 5 metres high and 50 metres long. Work on the school is due to begin in November.

The school is located in the 'hilly region' of Ri VDC and supports over 400 students. PiCCA's funding will rebuild one multipurpose classroom (science lab, library and meeting room). The project is a partnership among the local development organisation (HRDC), PiCCA and NAFA Qld.



Our Responsibility to Protect

In 2005, world leaders agreed on a set of principles to prevent and respond to atrocities such as genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity.

The University of Queensland's Asia-Pacific Centre for the Responsibility to Protect conducts research and policy dialogue to promote these principles. The Centre has strong regional links through local partnerships and coalitions.

Recently, the Centre hosted a public seminar featuring Yazidi activist and genocide survivor, Nadia Murad.

Ms Murad recently met with PM Malcolm Turnbull and Foreign Minister Julie Bishop, calling for more action against Islamic State, including for the UN Security Council to refer IS massacres and enslavement of Yazidis to the International Criminal Court.

Nadia Murad has been nominated for a Nobel Peace Prize. You can see excerpts from Nadia's speech at the UN, or a longer interview with the BBC. Be prepared, though, it's heart-wrenching.

Adding value to Sri Lanka project

PiCCA is continuing to contribute in-kind resources to its project in Mannar, Sri Lanka, which is helping a widows' cooperative to establish a catering business.

Attending a Rotary conference, Steve and Stephanie struck up a conversation with an Australian from Sri Lanka who was able to introduce them via email to a Rotary club in Colombo. After hearing about Bridging Lanka/ PiCCA's project in Mannar, the Colombo club was keen to offer some help, particularly in training the women who are involved in the business and fitting out the kitchen to commercial standards.

Bridging Lanka and the Colombo Rotary club have now established links, and the plans for the kitchen are being improved following advice from one of the Rotary members with expertise in hospitality and tourism.

The co-op continues to operate from its temporary base, and Bridging Lanka continues to support a range of community development initiatives in northern Sri Lanka. Recently a community day was held in Mannar (photo below).





Cultivating your health & helping people overseas

Maurizio at Ashgrove Acupuncture and Massage is generously donating 50% of the value of all gift vouchers to PiCCA's projects overseas. So if you or anyone you know has joint pain, tension, stiffness, stress-related issues like sleep disorders, etc, then go and see Maurizio... and of course, buy a voucher [here!](#)

What would you do with 20 minutes atop Mt Everest?

Alyssa Azar, the youngest Australian to reach the highest point on the planet (8848 metres) talked about her amazing feat at a recent fundraiser for PiCCA's partner in Nepal, NAFA.

The 19 year old, who had trained for several years to reach this goal, said she had about 20 minutes at the summit. After taking the obligatory photos, she looked around and felt surreal as she acknowledged to herself the enormity of what she had done and had achieved.

Alyssa feels a strong connection with Nepal and is planning to climb the world's other highest peaks. Best of luck to her!



(left to right) Rod Setterlund, President NAFA Qld, the inspiring Alyssa Azar and Stephanie Boldeman, Chair PiCCA, at "Nepal in the Park", 21 August 2016.

Got ideas or something to say?

Please contact us if there's a development-related topic you'd like to see included in PiCCA's next newsletter. Or you might want to write something yourself to contribute.

We're open to suggestions and feedback.

Email picca@picca.org.au, or
Call Warren on 0417 324 597
or Stephanie on 0407 691 009

Disappointing news

PiCCA has just received news that the bean crop planted in Swaziland has all dried up as a result of the extended drought in southern Africa.

However, the outlook for the next planting season around October/November looks better, as rain is predicted. Our Swazi partner remains optimistic about the long term viability of the farm.

