



# NEWS

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## Haku's new Community Centre 'Luman Hipakoko'

Last year, PiCCA supported the Haku Women's Collective on Buka Island, Bougainville (PNG) to build a brand new community centre. Construction has finished and the centre is now well and truly open for business!

Three PiCCA members attended the grand opening celebrations on 4 November 2017: Mary Denver, whose cousin Marilyn Havini is a mentor to the Collective, Steve Maguire (Secretary) and Stephanie Boldeman (Chair). Hundreds of locals came from near and far, on foot and via public transport (trucks) or 4WD to take part in the cultural ceremonies, dancing, singing and a traditional feast. Members of the Collective worked so hard to make the day a wonderful success. ....Continued over



The new centre is being used to run health, education, disability and other programs. It also supports catering, room hire and shop social enterprises, which provide employment, income and revenue for the Haku Women’s Collective.

PiCCA provided around \$43,000 in funding - from PiCCA members, as well as many donors to the September crowdfunding campaign. PiCCA also obtained the involvement of Amber Garde, a Bangalore-based architect.

The Collective also received funding and in-kind support (builders’ pro-bono services) from C3 church in Sydney.

### *Haku Community Centre (continued)*

Dignitaries attending included the three local Chiefs, local Members of Parliament, clergy, the local representative of the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and representatives of the New Zealand Police who have played a mentoring role in Bougainville since the crisis.

Even before the opening, the Haku Women’s Collective received its first booking of the centre to run a training program. Since the opening the centre has become fully operational, including the social enterprise supplying basic food items and office supplies to locals which will go towards the costs of running the centre.

More information is available at [www.hakowomen.org](http://www.hakowomen.org)





## Young people benefit

Both the Haku Women's Collective and PiCCA were determined that the work on Luman Hipakoko would benefit the local Bougainville community. To that end, six young people aged 18 to 30 were recruited from across the different villages in Hako as trainees to learn building skills. The trainees were paid an allowance and received close supervision from local tradesmen.

Three Aussie builders also spent several weeks in Bougainville - they came via C3 Church in Sydney and donated their time, skills and tools to the project.

Local Bougainville businesses also benefited from the project with building materials sourced locally wherever possible. The local sparky did all the electrical work and he also employed a trainee who was due to qualify as an electrician in 2018.

## Sri Lanka project not proceeding

Since 2014, PiCCA has been working with Bridging Lanka to help build a commercial kitchen for war widows in Sri Lanka to run their catering social enterprise. There have been a number of delays in obtaining suitable land and various planning permissions for the catering premises.

Last year PiCCA was approached by a donor who was prepared to provide a significant contribution. The donation would have enabled the completion of the project at that time.

As time has passed the plans for the catering premises have grown.



For example, a local partner required that disability-accessible western toilets be included; and the land owners required the inclusion of a community bank.

As a result, the original budget of \$15,000 increased to at least \$70,000. Late last year Bridging Lanka advised that it was not proceeding with the project. The PiCCA grant of \$9,000 (\$1,000 having already been spent on training) was now inadequate for the task in the face of this increasing cost.

This outcome is a disappointment for PiCCA and Bridging Lanka and especially for the women involved. PiCCA takes some heart from the fact that the women are operating the catering business, albeit from a temporary facility.



**PiCCA’s project for this year is....**

PiCCA members have put forward two ideas for PiCCA to consider for 2018. Both projects, one in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one in Vietnam, are about improving livelihoods through chicken farming.

The PiCCA board has begun its process of assessment. In general, we look for sound, reputable, well-supported local organisations with sustainable ideas for developing the health, wellbeing and economic base of communities overseas.

If the projects stack up against our requirements PiCCA members will meet around April to discuss the proposals and decide on how PiCCA’s funds will be allocated.



**Upcoming visit to Swaziland**



Two PiCCA representatives will visit PiCCA’s project in Swaziland in June to assess the outcomes achieved so far\*. Since 2014, PiCCA has helped to establish a farm to feed vulnerable children attending the country’s Social Centres, which provide basic preschool education and health services.

PiCCA will meet with Mrs Thinie Mutyaba, Head of Programs at AMICAALL (PiCCA’s partner), who recently let us know that the second year of crops have been planted. The rains are good and the weather forecasts are very promising so far. (Last year’s crop did not fare so well due to a severe drought which affected much of southern Africa.)

It was originally intended that PiCCA’s funding would also support an irrigation system at the farm. However, this proposal was premised on the local water authority undertaking much of the work. When it became clear that the irrigation system needed to be procured from a private company the cost was prohibitive. PiCCA’s Board approved the use of the funds set aside for irrigation to purchase seed, fertiliser and other inputs to allow the planting of the second crop. AMICAALL has assured PiCCA that the “surplus from the vegetables will be sold to ensure sustenance of the project in the future”.

With all PiCCA funds now properly expended and the farm now operating in the capable hands of our local partner, this project has now concluded.

*\*PiCCA representatives personally pay for all of their expenses on site visits.*

**Why conclude projects and move on?**

While PiCCA could potentially fund the same organisation more than once, we try hard to select projects that will have a transformative impact on a community and, at the same time, can be sustained by the community without the need for ongoing funding.

At the end of a project, we remain a trusted advisor to our local partners and stay in contact to hear about the longer term impacts of our projects.



### Meet PiCCA member, Terry Parker

"I've been part of PiCCA since it started in early 2015. I think PiCCA's approach to sustainable community development provides a genuine opportunity for meaningful projects that address real needs.

All of my career has been focussed on local government."

"I've worked in Australia, southern Africa and the Pacific in roles that are about facilitating and managing community development at the local, 'urban' level. The places I've lived have been quite varied - from Moama in NSW, to Windhoek in Namibia, Elcho Island in NT, Pretoria and Suva. I also spent six years in Swaziland (including as a Council Chief Executive) and from that experience, led the establishment of AMICAALL (PiCCA's partner) in response to the HIV/AIDS crisis there. I'm currently a senior regional advisor for the Commonwealth Local Government Forum and have supported many colleagues on development programmes and projects. It's been a fascinating career so far - some challenges, some highlights - including meeting Nelson Mandela!"



### End of post-earthquake rebuild in sight for Nepali communities

PiCCA members Rod & Deborah Setterlund made their annual trip to Nepal in November, and we're very grateful for their report on the classroom at the remote Tawal school that was rebuilt with PiCCA funds.

The classroom is almost finished... once the current monsoon season is over, the valuable sand, cement and timber for trusses that is being stored inside the classroom can be taken out. The classroom walls and floor can then be rendered and painted and the external walls then "pointed" with cement. The rebuild is sure to be finished in time for the school's re-opening ceremony this November.

Above are the 40+ Grade 10 students (from 5 local villages) who will benefit once they can move into the classroom! The rest of the school is being rebuilt with funds from [nafa.org.au](http://nafa.org.au) (Rod is NAFA's President). It's been a very long journey for these communities following the April 2015 earthquakes.

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