



PiCCA Australia

# Annual Report 2017





# Welcome

PiCCA is proud of its accomplishments in 2017 - a successful project in Bougainville, completion of our Swaziland project for vulnerable children and great progress in Nepal helping to rebuild a remote school.

It was absolutely delightful this year to support the inspiring Hako Women's Collective and their community in the successful construction of a new community centre. Attending the opening of the new centre, we witnessed first-hand the level of community involvement in the building and locals' commitment to using the new facility for the benefit of all.

Our strategy is to keep doing what is clearly working: choosing great projects, working collaboratively with our overseas project partners, involving members in decision-making and project monitoring, and being transparent about how we operate.

PiCCA would not be able to do what we do without our wonderful members and project partners. Thank you, from the bottom of our hearts! Special thanks this year must also go to all the generous donors to our crowdfunding campaign for the Hako project, as well as Amber Garde (architect), Angie Spencer (Communications specialist) and Grant Thornton for generously providing pro-bono services to PiCCA.

**Stephanie Boldeman**

PiCCA Chair



# 2017 Overview

22

Members, pooling their resources to fund the PiCCA projects they choose.

4

Projects during the year; two were completed (Swaziland & Bougainville).

\$

PiCCA members pooled \$20,000 of their donations to start the Bougainville project. PiCCA raised a further \$23,000 for this project through crowd-funding.



Beneficiaries of PiCCA's completed projects include up to 4,000 vulnerable Swazi children, up to 50,000 children, young people, women and families in Bougainville.





# ‘Luman Hipakoko’

## PiCCA’s 2017 project

In 2017, PiCCA members voted to partner with the Hako Women’s Collective on Buka Island, Bougainville (PNG) to build a brand new community centre, named Luman Hipakoko, which translates as ‘a place to care for all’. Due to the Collective’s good management and the community’s dedicated efforts, construction was completed in time for a grand opening celebration on 4 November 2017.

Hako Women's Collective was formed in June 2006 by the Indigenous village women of the Hako area in Buka Island, and provides a range of services, including an emergency safe house and referral service for women and children experiencing domestic violence, disability services, positive parenting programs, and education and training for life skills, leadership and community advocacy. Until the Centre’s construction, the Collective was operating out of a small adjacent building, housing a small library, office space and small meeting space on a verandah.

PiCCA provided around \$43,000 in funding for this project, from PiCCA members as well as many donors to a crowdfunding campaign in September 2017. PiCCA also obtained the involvement of



Amber Garde, a Bangalow-based architect, to work with the Collective on the building’s design. PiCCA is grateful to the Brisbane Bougainville Community Group, particularly their dynamic President Veronica Kirin Henderson, for supporting the crowdfunding campaign.

The large meeting space in the centre is now being used as a venue for training and development (e.g. for youth training), and is also being hired out, sometimes with catering services provided (for a fee) by the Collective. A small shop in the centre is selling basic food items and office supplies to passing traffic. These social enterprises offer

employment opportunities and generate revenue contributing to the costs of running the centre.

Significantly, the Hako Women’s Collective is now able to offer better care and support to women escaping domestic violence, as the centre includes a toilet and a shower. (These facilities were not previously available.) As a result, the local village courts are now referring women to the centre who have been affected by domestic violence. The local Chiefs are lending their support and the Community Auxiliary Police are issuing preventive orders and are supportive of the Collective’s counsellors helping the women.





Both the Hako 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 Australian builders also spent several weeks in Bougainville - they came from 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.

Three PiCCA members attended the opening celebrations of Luman Hipakoko: Stephanie Boldeman (Chair), Steve Maguire (Secretary) and Mary Denver, whose cousin Marilyn Havini is a mentor to the Collective. 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 great success. 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.

While PiCCA's partnership with the Collective has concluded, we continue to monitor the benefits of the centre and to offer help as a trusted advisor where needed. More information about the Collective's work is available at [www.hakowomen.org](http://www.hakowomen.org)





# Progress on Nepal project

During 2017, PiCCA's project in Nepal made good progress. Members voted to support the project in 2016. In partnership with the local Hilly Region Development Club and a Brisbane-based organisation, Nepal Australia Friendship Association, PiCCA contributed \$10,000 towards the significant cost of rebuilding the Shree Pasang Chowk Mahadev Higher Secondary School in Tawal, Ri VDC, Dhading district, Nepal. The school, as well as many homes and much community infrastructure was destroyed in the April 2015 earthquakes.

PiCCA's contribution equated approximately to the cost of rebuilding a multi-purpose classroom, which will be used by up to 40 Year 10 students from Tawal and five surrounding villages. The school educates 430 students from nursery to Grade 10. After the earthquake, students were trying to learn in temporary classrooms comprising bamboo matting walls with dirt floors or tents. Students from this school regularly score above-average results compared to other remote Nepali schools. Villagers are highly committed to students' education and the community's development beyond subsistence farming.

Foundations were laid in 2016. In 2017, workers were trained in earthquake-resistant building techniques and a local engineer was employed to oversee construction. The work to build a two-storey block and a single-storey block was painstaking, particularly without access to machinery: stonemasons hand-made stone blocks and many women were involved in chiselling stone to make aggregate for concrete. Unfortunately work was interrupted by the monsoon, but will be completed in time for the school's reopening in November 2018.







# Swaziland project completed

In 2015, PiCCA partnered with AMICAALL (the Alliance of Mayors' Initiative for Community Action on AIDS at a Local Level) in Swaziland to support the development of a parcel of agricultural land into a sustainable farm. This project aimed to provide nutritious food for approximately 4,000 vulnerable children attending 49 Social Centres around the country for early childhood education and care.

The farm was established in 2016, with fencing constructed, a caretaker in place and seeds sowed. A severe drought affecting much of southern Africa meant that the first crop did not fare well. However, the second crop of maize that was planted grew very well and was harvested, dried and shelled in 2017, yielding a total of 150 bags. AMICAALL prioritised the distribution of the maize to the most needy of the 40 Social Centres, i.e. those that would otherwise close their feeding centres because of lack of food.

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 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 are expected to visit the project in 2018 (at their own expense) to assess the impact of this project for the children attending the social centres.





# Sri Lanka project

In 2015, PiCCA partnered with Bridging Lanka to help build a commercial kitchen for a cooperative of women-headed households in Mannar, Sri Lanka to run their catering social enterprise. PiCCA committed funding of \$10,000. Our first tranche of funding (\$1,000) helped the women undertake business planning for their new venture and some training in food preparation and new recipes.

Since then, there have been a number of delays in obtaining suitable land and various planning permissions for the catering premises. Also, 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. Bridging Lanka also wished to include accommodation for volunteers. 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 remaining PiCCA funding of \$9,000 was inadequate for the task in the face of this increasing cost. This outcome was 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, and are benefitting in practical ways from the income they earn. The \$9,000 unspent funds will be available for new PiCCA projects.

## Future projects

In 2017, PiCCA members put forward two potential project ideas for future consideration. Both projects, one in the Democratic Republic of Congo and one in Vietnam, were about improving livelihoods through chicken farming. PiCCA commenced its detailed information-gathering and assessment process for these projects this year, in preparation for their presentation to PiCCA members for consideration for funding.







# Treasurer's report

PiCCA's financial position remains modest. At the end of 2017 we held assets of \$12,172 which comprised of \$10,698 in cash plus the component of insurance coverage we had prepaid until November 2018. \$9,187 of the cash was earmarked for allocation to project work overseas. This meant we had equity of \$2,985 as at 31 December 2017.

Revenue attributed to this last Financial Year was \$57,164. That came from membership fees, donations, and bank interest.

Membership fees in 2017 totalled \$1,050 and went to allay a portion of the administrative expenses of the Company. The major administration expenditure is always the insurance which costs us around \$1,760 a year. The second significant item of expenditure in 2017 was \$832.65 which went towards web maintenance and upgrade. The third and final cost was \$214.11 which was the cost of various fees and charges.

PiCCA's ability to deliver projects overseas comes from members' donations. In 2017 we added to this model of fundraising with an experiment in crowd funding which enabled us to raise an extra \$23,000 for a total of \$51,271 in donations incoming in Calendar Year 2017.

Of PiCCA's four initiated projects, funds for two, the farm in Swaziland and the Community Centre in Bougainville were 100% expended in 2017. Funds for the classroom construction in Nepal were 100% expended in 2016.

The only amount of committed project funds not 100% expended by the end of 2017 was the funding commitment to the Mannar Kitchen Project in Sri Lanka made in our first year of operation. \$9,000 of the \$10,000 funds originally allocated to the Project were still held in our account at the end of 2017. This amount has been rolled into our project funding pool for 2018.

Our auditor Simon Hancox from Grant Thornton has forensically trawled through our records and submits his report which is attached to this Annual Report. In short, it is, as you have every right to expect, a clean bill of health. PiCCA expresses its gratitude to Simon and Grant Thornton for their generous pro bono support of our Company.



# About PiCCA

Partners in International Collaborative Community Aid Ltd ('PiCCA') is a not-for-profit whose members are passionate about improving education, health, livelihood and food security for people in developing countries.

We find local organisations with wide support and a clear purpose, then support them with funding and in-kind resources for a specific project. Mostly our projects are one-off, but are housed within a broader community plan.

We learn as much as we give. And we absolutely love what we do!

PiCCA is a registered charity with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission, and is registered to fund-raise through the Queensland Office of Fair Trading.

The PiCCA Overseas Aid Fund is a Deductible Gift Recipient, meaning all donations over \$2 are tax-deductible. 100% of the funds donated go to projects.

We seek always to operate with fairness, transparency and accountability in all the work we do.

Donations, new members and general enquiries are very welcome!

[www.picca.org.au](http://www.picca.org.au)  
[picca@picca.org.au](mailto:picca@picca.org.au)  
[www.facebook.com/piccaaustralia](https://www.facebook.com/piccaaustralia)

ABN 41 603 012 906



*Stephanie Boldeman*  
Chair



*Warren McMillan*  
Treasurer



*Steve Maguire*  
Secretary



*Tiziana Miceli*  
Director





Thank you  
PiCGA  
Australia