



# NEWS

## In this issue...

Improving food security & nutrition in Haku (Bougainville)

Steve & Warren visit Haku

Second round of chicken vaccinations in Congo

Thankyou Dante Alighieri

New project possibility in Bangladesh and

Hilly Region celebrates school re-opening.

**Join PiCCA before 18 May to help decide our next project!**



**Since 2014, PiCCA members and donors have made an amazing difference to communities in 6 countries, contributing \$145,000 and other in-kind support to benefit thousands of families.**

## Friendship Grant at Work in Bougainville



PiCCA was awarded an Australian Aid Friendship Grant to work with the Hako Women’s Collective (HWC) to deliver an Agricultural Hub and Training Activity in the north of Buka Island in the Autonomous Region of Bougainville.

Training in modern agricultural methods is well underway. Women, people with a disability and younger people are participating – 83 families in all. The students above are photographed in their classroom before doing hands-on activities. The session was run on 14 March 2019 by the Department of Primary Industry and supported by HWC. Participants learn composting, fertilising, inter-planting, organic pest control, rice production and other skills.

Pictured below are DPI Trainers Yvonne, Leah and Ignatius with Chief John Harohi (third from left), a local leader and enthusiastic supporter.



Ms Jaylene Kalana (right) was in the third group of trainees. She showed PiCCA the bush nursery which was built from local materials and where seedlings are nurtured before planting. She said "I have learned so much that I didn't know before. This will help me and my family to have a better life."



Mr Gimots Hanets (left), who lives in Hanpan village, was trained as part of the project and he has planted a garden near his home using the techniques he learned. This is Gimots with cabbage seedlings in a plot of mulched soil.

Gimots lives near the Hanpan market (below). He has a large family and he hopes to sell his surplus crops through the market to make a better life for his family.

The project as a whole is helping to develop a cash economy in Haku - a poor community largely reliant on subsistence farming. Food security is an ongoing challenge with a rapidly growing population and older, less productive methods of farming in common use.

The Agricultural Hub and Training Activity is locally driven and managed. With support from Australian Aid and PiCCA, people are learning skills which will have lasting benefits for their community.



### Steve and Warren visit Haku

In general, we aim to visit all PiCCA projects at least once during their implementation. Haku Women's Collective (President Dorcas Gano, left) graciously hosted PiCCA Directors Warren and Steve's visit in mid-March, so they could see first hand how the project is going.

Such visits give us a deeper understanding of the issues, and also of the benefits of our support. It also enhances our relationship with partners, and governance of the project. All project visits are 100% self-funded, so no PiCCA funds are expended on travel.

### Second Round of Chicken Vaccinations in Congo

Following the first round of chicken vaccinations AusCongo has been monitoring progress and doing further work to settle on a fair price for the second round of vaccinations. This second round was done in December 2018 involving 215 households in 14 villages. Women are predominantly responsible for the chickens - 132 females and 83 males are participating. A total of 6,225 chickens were vaccinated. There is now a high level of interest in vaccination with many people in outlying villages wanting to know how to become involved. Kyeema Foundation in Brisbane is assisting PiCCA to monitor this project and trouble-shoot issues as they arise.

## Thank you Dante Alighieri Brisbane!

During the months of March and April the [Società Dante Alighieri Brisbane](#) kindly hosted a solidarity Easter stall to raise funds for PiCCA's projects overseas. The stall displayed handicraft from Bougainville and "pochettes" handcrafted from recycled materials donated by Aurelia Fouques (*below*), a French woman living in Brisbane with a passion for sewing and sustainable products and with a generous heart.



At a Dante function on Friday 5<sup>th</sup> April, PiCCA Directors Tiziana and Warren were delighted to be able to express PiCCA's appreciation for all those who worked for and supported this initiative. The Consul of Italy Dr Salvatore Napolitano attended the function and was invited to draw a raffle from among the names of those who purchased from the solidarity stall or made a donation. Lesley Chase, a longstanding Dante student, won the prize of a traditional Italian Easter cake (known as "Colomba").



Bernadine Leon (Dante), Tiziana, Monica Zauli (Vice-President, Carlo Zauli Museum), Rosalia Miglioli (Dante), Dr Salvatore Napolitano (Italian Consul) & Warren.

Huge thanks to Dante Alighieri Brisbane for its ongoing support.

## Would you like to be more involved in PiCCA?

Join or renew your membership so you can

- propose a project
- have a say on how PiCCA funding is used
- attend members-only events, and
- receive more detailed information on what we're doing.

Donate

- 100% of your donation goes to projects
- Donations over \$2 are tax deductible
- Your contributions have a catalytic impact for communities

'Like' us on [Facebook](#).

Or [contact](#) us: we'd love to hear from you!



## The PiCCA philosophy

Supporting locally-driven and locally-managed projects in less-developed countries overseas, projects that are addressing issues at the heart of a problem, projects that are designed to be self-sustaining over time and build the skills & expertise of local people.

We learn as much as we give. We offer our overseas partners a bridge to financial and non-financial resources (e.g. advice, useful contacts through our networks). And we absolutely love what we do!

## Bangladesh Offers Potential Project Opportunity

PiCCA Directors, Stephanie and Steve visited Bangladesh in February, to ascertain a future project partnership with a local organisation, Symbiosis. The organisation was established in 1995 to empower people and transform communities.

They received a very warm reception, e.g from this women's savings group (right).

PiCCA is currently assessing a proposal from Symbiosis: PiCCA members will decide how the pool of donated funds are allocated on Sunday 19 May.

New members are welcome to join and participate!



## Hilly Region Celebrates School Re-opening



Around 1,000 locals celebrated the re-opening of the Shree Pasang Chowk Mahadev school in remote Nepal in February. PiCCA Directors Steve and Stephanie were among 23 foreign guests participating in the full day of festivities, which included joyous dancing and singing. The school in Tawal was rebuilt by the community after the 2015 earthquakes, with the help of overseas donors, including Brisbane-based NAFA, and PiCCA. President of NAFA, Rod Setterlund, spoke for all donors, and made an emotional tribute to the community,



acknowledging their loss and grief, and their commitment and dedication to rebuilding. The school educates around 400 students from pre-school to Year 10. Stephanie spoke to several teachers and students who were thrilled that their school offered more room and facilities, such as separate girls and boys toilets and drinking taps. PiCCA's contribution was funds for a multi-purpose classroom (above) - a library and computer lab (NAFA donated the computers). It was fantastic to see the school up and running after 3+ years of intense effort to rebuild. Well done Hilly Region!