



NEWS

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Greetings from PiCCA

Readers of this newsletter will know that we always include graphic representations of the Sustainable Development Goals. Launched by the United Nations in 2015, the same year that PiCCA rolled out its first projects, these goals were and remain bold declarations of intent to do nothing less than transform the world into a better, fairer, more peaceful and more sustainable place in which we can all live and prosper together.

Just the first of the 17 goals shows the magnitude of aspiration: *End all poverty in all forms everywhere*. There are those who might consider this a daunting impossibility. Others see it as an inspirational rallying cry to action. PiCCA is in the latter camp.

We have always had an optimistic belief that we can contribute something to making lives better. This belief motivates us to continue to find those small, practical projects that make a real difference, that pack a punch beyond their weight, that are life changing for the communities where they are delivered.

With our annual members meeting coming up in May, we are about to decide on further projects for 2021, and we are always scanning the horizon for projects where we can do our bit, in partnership and solidarity with local communities, to contribute to the vision outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Read more about the goals [here](#). For more PiCCA news, read below.

Vietnam sanitation project completed

PiCCA's major project in 2020, improving sanitation and hygiene in Vietnam, has been completed.

Although only 75 kms from Hue, Quang Nham is a remote village of 4,525 people in a mountainous area of the A Luoi district. The community lacked sanitary latrine and wash facilities, and there was consequently a high percentage of preventable diseases due to poor sanitation.



PiCCA's project, delivered in partnership with Hearts for Hue, facilitated the construction of 15 hygienic toilets and washrooms. Beneficiaries were trained in construction techniques and assisted in the building work.



The project also delivered training programs in water supply, sanitation and hygiene. Mrs Tran Thi Minh Tam, a WASH expert from Thua Thien Hue's Water Company delivered the Train-the-Trainer program with community leaders. The photos above show Dr Dao Nguyen Dieu (a doctor and lecturer at Hue Medical University) facilitating the training with the school children of Quang Nham.

Child care centre fit-out in Nepal

PiCCA has launched a new project contributing to the fit-out of a childcare facility and community centre run by the [Butterfly Foundation](#) in Pokhara, Nepal. The project is being delivered together with our partners, the [Nepal Australia Friendship Association](#), with whom we worked in the rebuilding of the school in Tawal, destroyed in the 2015 earthquake. An additional component of the new project involves developing a practical child protection framework designed to be used for staff awareness and training, and as a potential model for other childcare facilities in the region.



On the surface, this is a small-scale community infrastructure project, but it will also enable a significant service to be delivered and contribute to empowering a marginalised section of the community, in this case highly disadvantaged families on the fringes of Pokhara life. The Butterfly Foundation provides more than a childcare service. It works with the families to develop knowledge and employment skills and follows the children through each level of education to assist them make the leap between each stage. Butterfly Foundation has a holistic approach to breaking the cycle of poverty and disadvantage.

PiCCA's next major project?

Indeed, this is a question PiCCA regularly asks around this time of year. Two new project proposals have been through a rigorous assessment process, and both have merit. One supports small-scale pig farming for high-need families, the other supports better sanitation and hygiene in a school. Both projects are proposed by Hearts For Hue in Vietnam. (COVID-19 travel restrictions have limited PiCCA's project options to existing partners, as PiCCA would normally meet with and check the bona fides of any new partner as part of the assessment of any new proposal.)

It will be up to PiCCA's members to decide, through a vote. This will happen in conjunction with PiCCA's Annual General Meeting on 23 May. PiCCA welcomes new members... as well as donations of course!

Sewing project in Bangladesh



Some of PiCCA's funds supporting the establishment of a community hub in a disadvantaged part of Dhaka have been channelled into starting a sewing program. Since late last year, several groups of women have received training which will help their job prospects.

PiCCA's partner, Symbiosis, reports that the COVID-19 vaccination program is rolling out, and Symbiosis's deep and extensive connections to the community are invaluable in helping to educate and encourage families to follow good hygiene practices and access the vaccine. Unfortunately COVID is widespread.

'PiCCA: The Movie' launched

On 21 February 2021, 30 PiCCA Members and invited guests attended the launch of short film which chronicles the work PiCCA has done since 2014 with its overseas partners in Africa, Asia and the Pacific.

The work has included training in agricultural skills, chicken raising in Africa and Vietnam, building a community centre in Bougainville, a multi-purpose classroom in Nepal and hygienic toilets and washrooms in a remote part of Vietnam. We also helped to establish dental and optical clinics in one of the poorest parts of Bangladesh.

The video was made possible through the creativity and generosity of film maker Elissa Henderson who is based in Melbourne but whose family lives in the Tweed. Former ABC journalist Colin Tyrus provided the voice over. Thank you very much to Elissa and Colin for donating their time and expertise.

The 8 minute video can be viewed [here](#).

Would you like to make a tax-deductible donation to PiCCA?
Details [HERE](#)

Interested in potentially joining PiCCA?
Details [HERE](#)

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