



NEWS

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Dear Supporters

This edition of the newsletter brings good news on several projects which are underway or have recently been implemented.

The themes linking these projects other than community development, include positive action for the environment - see the new energy system delivered in Bougainville which supplants the use of diesel fuel, as well as the positive results from the use of clean cooking stoves. A second theme is sustainability, an oft overused and sometimes misleading word, but in this case used for a goat raising project designed to self-sustain into the future and a capacity development project that will bolster the Hako Women's Collective's ability to meet the demands placed on a fast growing community based organisation.

I hope you enjoy this edition.

Regards, Steve Maguire (Chair)

Goat Raising Project Underway in Vietnam

PiCCA has funded Hearts for Hue (H4H) to deliver a Goat Raising Project for families who have a family member with a disability. 60 households will benefit from the project. Families are being trained in goat raising, goat shelter construction, veterinary issues and participating in a Goat Raising Club. A Local Management Board will also be trained on marketing goat products.



Prof Ba inside the shelter discussing care of goats with a project participant.



The project works so that the offspring of the goats are shared between the first group of families and the second group. Male goats will be sold for meat to local markets and female goats will be raised for reproduction. The project is self-sustaining.

The aim is to help lift families out of poverty while providing real and valued work for people with a disability, thereby improving individual's life satisfaction and challenging negative community stereotyping.

Prof Nguyen Xuan Ba from Hue Agricultural University and a senior advisor to H4H, ran a training program in August 2023 on establishing a Goat Raising Club for all participants as well as for the local management board and the members of the Quang Nham communities.

30 goats have been distributed to 30 families and 8 kids have been born. The project has been successful so far and H4H and PiCCA are looking forward to more baby goats being born so that more families can participate.



Solar Energy in Bougainville

The Hako Women's Collective (HWC) was funded to obtain and install a Solar Power System which will provide low cost, reliable and renewable energy to the five buildings which HWC uses to provide services – the Library/Office; Luman Hipakoko (Community Centre); the Agricultural Hub; the Women's Safe House and the new Men's Hub.

This project is being jointly funded with the Indigo Foundation.

PiCCA coordinated the purchase, handling and export of the solar equipment. This was a complex and time-consuming process. The equipment arrived in Bougainville via Lae on 11 September 2023 and was delivered to the village and installed in the following days. On 15 September HWC reported that the system was fully operational and that the women and the whole community were very excited about the project.

The solar system which includes two lithium batteries will enable HWC to expand its programs and services, especially in the evening. Women and children's safety will improve as reliable power is being supplied to the Women's Safe House 24/7. The environment will benefit from reduced use of diesel fuel and HWC will save from a big reduction in the funds needed to buy diesel.



Clean Cooking Stoves – Feedback

As part of an evaluation of an earlier PiCCA trial project which involved importing and selling Rocket Stoves, PiCCA funded HWC to conduct surveys of the people who purchased the Rocket Stoves. This was made possible through the generosity of a PiCCA Member who provided an ear-marked donation for this purpose.

The latest survey has the following comments from users of the stoves:

- The labour of harvesting fire wood is reduced
- Now my wood lasts much longer and I save money
- I can carry the stove to a cool shady spot
- It's healthy for my eyes and I inhale less smoke
- I can control the flames and heat so cooking time is much faster
- I use it to fry doughnuts and scones for sale and my profit has increased
- Labouring time to clean the pots is reduced
- I use the stove for frying tuna for sale to my local customers.

It seems that the stoves are highly appreciated. Three more surveys will be done. HWC is considering doing a business plan to assess the viability of importing more stoves.



Capacity Building with Hako Women's Collective

During 2022 PiCCA funded a series of training sessions aimed at improving the confidence and capability of HWC to manage its finances and everyday operations. This training, which was delivered via Zoom from Australia, was highly valued by participants.

HWC has identified a local professional who can build on the training already delivered as well as offer computer training on accounting software.

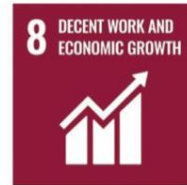
PiCCA is currently negotiating with HWC to support this additional training.

Art in Dunedin

Shared Aspirations is an exhibition which documents the turbulence of the 1960s and 70s Bougainville pro-secessionist movements, participation in ceasefire talks held at Burnham Military Camp (NZ) in 1997, transitions towards a constitution and the wider peace process.

The exhibition is the work of Taloi Havini and her mother Marilyn Havini (Liaison Officer of HWC). The opening was attended by more than 400 people. This is not a PiCCA project but Stephanie and Steve from PiCCA's Board were very happy to attend the event in a personal capacity. More information at <https://dunedin.art.museum/exhibitions/present/taloi-havini/>





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