



GROWING CAMBODIA NEWSLETTER

July 2025

Hello Growing Cambodia Supporters

We have two exciting events to announce for our Victorian and Queensland based supporters.

Save the Date

Phillip Island Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser

Don't miss our Annual Trivia Night Fundraiser, with lots of trivia questions and music to suit everyone! A great night of fun with friends.

Saturday 11 October 2025

Berninneit 91-97 Thompson Avenue
Road, Cowes

Tables of 10
BYO Food
Drinks at Bar Prices

Save the Date

Sunshine Coast Cocktail Party Fundraiser

We are holding the social event of the year - a terrific Cocktail Party. Join us for a wonderful evening, including live entertainment.

Friday 5 September 2025

Kawana Waters State College
Sportsmans Parade, Bokarina

Entry includes a lucky door prize,
canapes, cocktails, beer and non-
alcoholic drinks.

Bookings available now for both events – just email us at
enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au

We also have lots of other news to share, including our usual report from our local manager and some great pictures from the recent volunteer visit by teachers and students from Kawana Waters State College to our supported schools in Cambodia.

Report from our local manager

The total number of students at our four schools for the month of June 2025 was 939 – 557 girls and 382 boys. We asked our manager Sopheak why the difference in numbers as between girls and boys and his response was simple – girls like to study more!

Here is Sopheak's update for May 2025 in his own words:

I hope this message finds you all well. I would like to share the latest updates from the four schools supported by Growing Cambodia during the month of May.

Oroluos School

Student Attendance & Teaching

The number of students at Oroluos remains stable compared to the past two months. Most of our students travel from distant villages and attend English classes from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM. Our dedicated teachers are committed to using English as the primary language of instruction, encouraging students to communicate confidently. They employ flexible and diverse teaching methods to support learners at different levels.



Model Teacher Highlight

Ms. Yany continues to set an excellent example. She actively shares her experiences with colleagues at both Oroluos and Beng schools during monthly meetings. Her valuable feedback on lesson plans consistently contributes to professional development across the teaching team.



School Garden Activities

With the rainy season underway, both students and teachers have worked together to plant water greens and onions in the vegetable garden. They plan to harvest and share the produce next month. learning continues smoothly.





Beng School

Student Growth & Transportation

Beng School continues to thrive and gain recognition. The number of students, particularly from secondary and high school levels, is steadily increasing. They attend evening classes from 5:00 PM to 7:00 PM. A mini-van transports student from three different villages daily. However, recent road construction and heavy rains have made the road muddy and slippery, making travel difficult. The driver now needs to wash the vehicle five times a month, instead of four.



Village Support & Road Improvement

As part of the road improvement project, every household is required to install concrete drains in front of their homes. The elders of Beng village sold rice from the rice bank to purchase three drains for the walkway to the school.

Kok Beng School

There are no major updates this month. Students continue to attend their classes regularly, and Mr. Somnang has welcomed several new students. We have not yet received any requests from the school principal regarding repairs or additional support.

Koy Meng School

All is going well at Koy Meng School. The teachers are working hard, and their teaching skills are steadily improving. This is evident through the quality of the lesson plans submitted each month.

Thank you all for your continued support and dedication. Your contributions are truly making a difference in the lives of our students and communities. We look forward to keeping you updated and welcoming the Kawana group later this month.



And speaking of Kawana ...

In late June, a group of 41 staff and secondary students, volunteered in our schools. This is the fifth visit from the College on the Sunshine Coast in Queensland. Students from Kawana Waters State College assisted the Growing Cambodia staff to deliver English lessons, painted buildings, repaired furniture, added to the libraries in Beng and Orolous schools and enriched the English exposure of students in our schools.

In addition, they brought with them 820kg of donations from the school community. Donations included pencil cases donated from primary students at the College, reading glasses, early readers, sporting equipment, teaching resources and clothing. The College fundraised nearly A\$6,800 for resources for the schools.

A picture tells a thousand words ...

**Providing
health
supplies to
a local
clinic**



**Painting the
school
building at
Oroluos**





**In the
classrooms**



**Laying
drains at
Beng**



**Gravel
work at
Oroluos**





**Playing
games**



**Handing
out
pencil
cases**



**Getting
supplies
and
handing
out
clothes**





Reading and chatting



All together



We cannot begin to express our gratitude and appreciation for everything Kawana does for our schools. Sopheak tells us the trip ended with tears of joy at the friendships made and the experiences shared.



Thank you to our Committee member, Lyn Duffy, who works tirelessly to make these trips so successful. We are so lucky to have you involved with Growing Cambodia.

Tertiary Patrons for the Class of 2026 – we need your support

We believe education is crucial in empowering rural Cambodians to improve their standard of living. The ability to speak English is a prerequisite for university education and also creates employment opportunities in Cambodian cities. Since 2012, we have sponsored students to attend university from our modest budget and 13 students have completed their university studies. However, interest in pursuing tertiary education has continued to grow.

In 2023, we launched our Tertiary Patrons program so that we can continue to support alumni and staff from our schools with their tertiary studies. Thanks to this program, we are currently sponsoring 23 university students.

We need patrons for the Class of 2026, being those applicants who are looking to start their courses in January 2026. We call for sponsorship applications in October and last year we received 14, so we expect a similar number this year.

Being a Tertiary Patron for the Class of 2026 involves donating A\$1,000 over 4 years to support the successful applicants with their fees during their four year tertiary course. Donations are tax deductible.

If you are able to support us in this life changing initiative, please email pam@growingcambodia.org.au or sigrid@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you more information.

How you can help

All donations to Growing Cambodia are tax deductible and we have no administration costs in Australia. All work here in Australia is done by volunteers. If you would like to make a one-off donation, a donation for a specific purpose and/or a regular monthly donation, our bank details are:

Growing Cambodia Inc
BSB 633 000
Acct 150148583

Please then email us at enquiry@growingcambodia.org.au and we will send you a receipt.

"Facilitating a self-sufficient and sustainable quality of life for rural Cambodians"