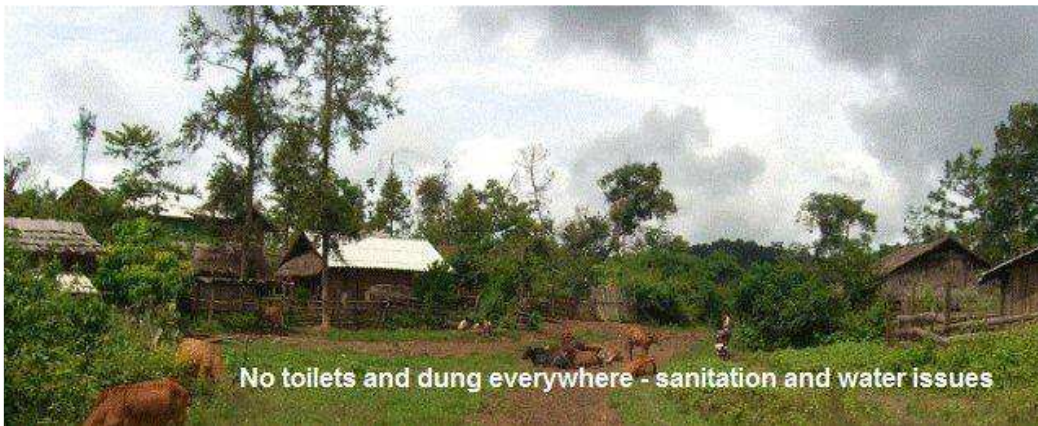


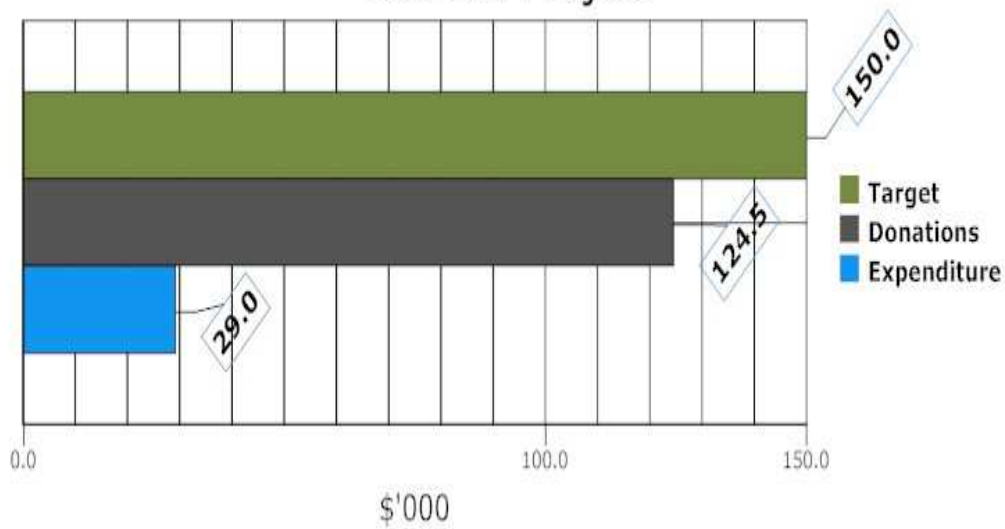


# The Latest News On The Ban Xai Project

23 Jan 2012



### Ban Xai Project





## ***Have a Great 2012***

***Picture - Two Hmong Ladies (and child) in traditional dress for their New Year Celebrations.***

If you are new to this particular News Bullitin then you could look at some history in previous editions. You will find them under NEWS at the [MiVAC website](#). Furthermore you will see much more detail of the Ban Xai project at this link [View the detail of the project](#).

## ***You Are Making A Difference***

***Picture - Two Hmong Beauties ready for NY Festivities***

The graph above hasn't changed discernably this month although funds have come in - read on.

At the time of going to press Gary Bridgland from Victoria was still counting the funds raised from a Blues Night held at the Delmenico's Guildford Family Hotel and Music hall at Castlemaine.

Gary was one of the members who stepped up to the challenge of raising funds for Ban Xai and we are truly grateful for his efforts. During his promotion an individual donor, who wishes to remain anonymous, came forward with a \$10,000 donation specifically for mine and UXO clearance. Gary also arranged a radio interview and some press coverage in the Bendigo region.



## ***Start Date - Around Australia!***

***Picture: Here is David Murray busy raising awareness and funds at Bayview Golf Club***

David Murray is pressing ahead with his bike ride plans around Australia. He has won some air time on regional radio. The ride will now leave from Sydney on 15th April to coincide with school holidays in various states and to make the best of prevailing weather conditions. Meanwhile David continues to train feverishly riding the back streets of Sydney in the wee hours when little vehicular traffic is on the roads. Should you see a phantom of the night

flash past at 4 in the morning, that will be David.

Sandy is meeting with Angry Anderson on 24 January and hopes that one outcome (amongst others) will be that Angry will be at the start to send David on his way.

## ***News From The Field***

### ***Picture: The Facilities Building still in progress***

This picture was taken by DP from Phoenix Clearance Ltd on his last trip to Ban Xai. On completion of the project, the building will be handed over to the village for multiple uses including a training facility, medical clinic and village meeting centre.

We were going to employ Onkeo (who worked with Steve at Kohai) to start with MiVAC as our Project Manager - unfortunately that is now not possible.

Thankfully Steve and Dorene will be there for a few months from mid March 2012.

Sandy MacGregor, the MiVAC Patron will be arriving at Ban Xai on 2 March (you can come with him if you like - he is going to Vietnam first - just reply to this email if you want to come) and will be viewing the water alternatives plus having a look at the other two MineFields near Ban Xai.



## ***This Week's Special!***

**Picture** - The Jars (a big cup) on the Plaine Des Jarres in Xiengkhouang Province.

**\*\*\*\*\*THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL\*\*\*\*\***

**Buy your \$50 voucher for freshly brewed Bolaven Plateau coffee.**

**Redeem your voucher in six easy steps:**

1. Fly to Bangkok (approx. cost - \$1000)
2. Fly from Bangkok to Vientiane (approx. cost \$350)
3. Fly Vientiane to Xieng Khouang (approx. cost \$180)
4. Hire a car and travel 30 kms west to Ban Xai village
5. Turn south and travel along the Hinmu Pueng super highway for 8 kms
6. Arrive at the Caves Restaurant and redeem your voucher for a freshly brewed cup of coffee - it's a big cup.

## ***MiVAC Needs:***

### **Treasurer**

The Treasurer maintains MiVAC's financial accounts, produces monthly reports for the Trustees and advises on financial policy.

### **Newsletter editor**

Editor to produce short (four-page) quarterly newsletters to inform both members and donors of the current progress of MiVAC and status of projects that MiVAC is undertaking.

### **PR adviser**

Someone who can write press releases and coordinate relations with local, regional and national media.

### **Membership committee**

People to coordinate the membership list and communicate with existing and members regarding their contributions to MiVAC.

### **Volunteers coordinator**

A member to implement our volunteer policy and to ensure volunteers meet all volunteer requirements.

### **Google Docs administrator**

A member who can oversee the uploading and sharing of documents and calendars on Google Documents / Calendars and can assist members to learn how to use these resources.

**All positions are of course voluntary and reflect MiVAC's current growth and future projects**

needs.

**However, if you have special skills or want to help MiVAC in its purpose please contact any of the Trustees (or reply to this email) and discuss what you would like to do with them.**

So John, know that this is the sixth of the updates about the Ban Xai project in Xiengkhouang Province in Lao PDR (formerly Laos). Please forward this News Bulletin to others and encourage them to join and donate to MiVAC at [www.mivactrust.org](http://www.mivactrust.org).

**Take action - you can assist!**

From the Ban Xai Team