



**The Latest News  
on the  
BanXai Project  
Newsletter #11  
4 July 2012**



**NEWS AND EVENTS  
J715 VILLAGE DEVELOPMENT. BAN XAI/HINMOU PUENG, LAO**

REPORT FOR MONTH OF MAY 2012 BY R.J. (STEVE) CARROLL

1. MARKET GARDEN :(SMALL) BUILT AND PLANTED.
2. ELECTRICITY: 500 MTRS CABLE LAID AND CONNECTED TO MAINS AT NEIGHBORS HOUSE.
3. FARM WATER: NO PROGRESS \*
4. CROPS: ONE THIRD OF PROPERTY PLOUGHED AND PLANTING BEGAN. ONE THOUSAND CASAVA PLANTED, CORN AND PINEAPPLE IN PROGRESS. THIRTY BANANAS WELL ON WAY.
5. VILLAGE TOILETS: 20 KITS DELIVERED AND WORK HAS BEGUN.
6. HMP SCHOOL: NOW COMPLETED. PHOTOS ON WAY. OLD SCHOOL TO BE REPAIRED AND BECOME VILLAGE MEETING HOUSE.
7. PONG HOR SCHOOL: MATERIALS FOR FLOOR BEING DELIVERED TODAY.
8. CONTINGENCY: POLICEMAN LIVING IN AT \$150 PM (MANDATORY)
9. EXTRAS DONATED IN MIVAC TCF NAME: 170 SCHOOL UNIFORMS TO BAN XAI, PONG HOR AND HMP.

10. SPORTS AND EDUCATION EQUIPMENT TO THE THREE SCHOOLS.

11. 3 VOLLY BALL SETS TO PHOU KOUD DISTRICT POLICE.

12. CLOTHING, RICE, NOODLES AND COOKWARE TO DESTITUTE MAN.

PROBLEMS: UNABLE TO FIND SUITABLE PUMP FOR FARM WATER

FUTURE MANAGEMENT: YANG XANG WILL MANAGE ON SITE OVERSEEN BY SANDY MACGREGOR VIA PHONE AND SKYPE AND SUPERVISED IN COUNTRY BY JOHN PHILLIPSON FROM LUANG PRABANG.

FUTURE PROGRESS: OVER THE WET THE PIG PEN & COW SHED WILL BE BUILT, CROPS AND GARDEN WEEDED AND NURTURED, CHICKEN COOP CONSTRUCTED AND VILLAGE TOILETS SUPERVISED. I WILL BE LOOKING FOR A SUITABLE WATER PUMP FOR FARM WATER IN VIENTIANNE.

MAJOR PROGRESS; 1000 CASAVA PLANTS SEWN AND SHOOTING 30 BANANA PLANTS UP AND RUNNING, HMP SCHOOL COMPLETED.



New to MiVAC - Go to <http://www.mivactrust.org> and you can learn the history.



#### Septic Tank and Toilet Block

The progress showing the kids helping to dig the hole. The builders start laying blocks to form the two part tank. Making the lids to cover the tank. Block work going up for the toilet/shower block. The almost finished job.



The septic tank and toilet block were built entirely with local labour. Project manager Steve Carroll contracted the builder and with the help of Yang, gave him the specifications for the work. The project is now complete with only a few minor problems being sorted out during construction.

## Lao New Year

The New Year in Lao is a time for much celebration. Banks and Government offices all close for six days so business comes to a halt for the duration. Steve Carroll was very pleased to see the banks open so he could proceed with the project out at Banxai.

A big part of the celebration is to wet one another with water pistols, hoses, buckets and any other method available. It is symbolic of washing away all the bad that happened during the last year and starting the New Year clean.

We were not exempt but at least if they could see we had cameras, they would let you go past then get you in the back.



## Hinmou Pueng School



From this to this in about five weeks, top shot shows the sand and gravel delivered to the site at Hinmou Pueng school site on the 11th April. The shot below is the finished school taken mid-May, a fantastic job carried out by the local villagers. It now allows the children at Hinmou Pueng to go to school in their own village saving the journey to BanXai each day.



### **Mine Clearance Dozer.**

This dozer is a joint venture between the Lao and Japanese Governments. It was in a compound on the way out to BanXai, we stopped one day to get photos but could not get too close. From what we understand the dozer can detect bombs and mines and can detonate small UXO's and back off if a large UXO is detected. A very impressive piece of equipment.



### **UXO's on display in Phonsovanh.**

Some of the hundreds of UXO's on display at various locations around Phonsovanh. The photo on the left is Jim Weston standing near a display ranging from 750 lb to 3,000 lb diffused bombs outside a local restaurant appropriately called "Craters". The photo on the right is a display in a hotel just up the road from Craters, showing bombies, butterfly bombs, a claymore and many more varieties.



### **Beer Lao.**

The volunteers sure enjoyed a beer at the end of most days. At left we see Merv Hains and Bob Heeb relaxing back at The Nice Guesthouse in Phonsovanh with a cold Beer Lao. The other shot shows Bob Loxton, Jim Weston, Bob and Merv enjoying a couple of coldies after a hard day at BanXai.

Beer Lao is brewed in Vientiane and the head brewer is a lady who learnt her trade in Europe and has designed Beer Lao on a Czech pilsener. I'm sure all the boys agree it is a pretty nice drop especially at about \$1.20 per bottle. The marketing technique must be good as they have 99% of the market in Lao. During our travels in Lao the distinctive yellow plastic crates of Beer Lao were everywhere.



### A New Loo for Dorene.

Dorene and the other members of the Banxai project finally have a *proper* loo after about six weeks of the old toilet on the left. While it was a bit rough, both building wise and on certain parts of the anatomy, it served us well until the new amenities were completed.



So, this is the eleventh update about BanXai and Hinmou Pueng. Please forward the Newsletter to others and encourage them to join MiVAC at <http://www.mivactrust.org>.

Take action- you can assist and make a difference.

From the Ban Xai Team.