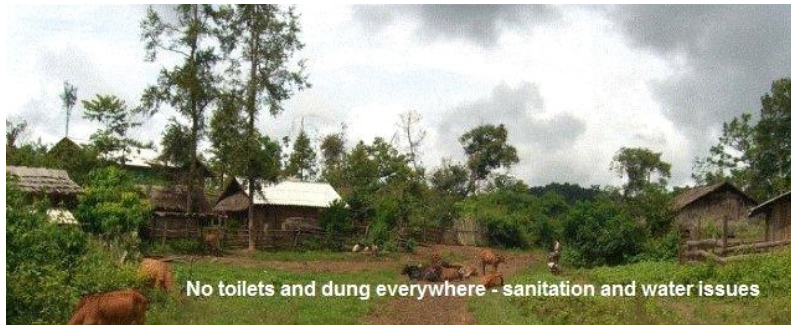




The Latest News On The Ban Xai Project

24 Dec 2011



— NEWS & EVENTS —



Happy Christmas, Seasons Greetings and Have a Great 2012

Picture - Pedestrian Bridge in Wet Season

How coincidental that on 25th December when we are celebrating Christmas in Australia the Hmong will be celebrating their New year in Vientiane in Laos? 2011 has turned into a great year for MiVAC and we have our members who have given so freely of their time and our donors who have contributed so generously to thank. We are looking forward to 2012 as a year of achievement. Thank you and Merry Christmas and Happy Hmong New Year to all.

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 - Chidren at the small village of Hinmou Pueng - part of Ban Xai - they are not used to strangers.

Have a look at the graph above! You have contributed magnificently - several thousand in individual donations and our negotiations with The Charitable Foundation paid off in that they funded the project with \$83,664.

In addition we have had meetings with DAK (Dave and Kerry Rickards who have funded MiVAC (\$16,000) to buy a Land Cruiser.

You may have noticed the increase in funds required for the project - the main reason for this is the funding for the water delivery to households now has to be paid for by MiVAC Trust.





Riding Around Australia!

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

One of the heartening aspects of a project of this nature is the openness with which members open their wallets to help people.

For those involved in organising the project, witnessing members' generosity is both uplifting and humbling. Yet to sit with the villagers in Ban Xai and to feel their gratitude for strangers across the other

side of the world who offer assistance, is the most humbling experience of all.

Meanwhile David Murray is scheduling his bike ride to commence around 1st April. That this date is also April Fool's Day is pure coincidence! We are hoping Angry Anderson will be at the start to send David on his way.

News From The Field

Picture: A Great Start - the Facilities Building in progress

Steve Carroll started off the building and he has recruited DP from Phoenix Clearance Ltd (with Mick Hayes consent) to overview the building.

Onkeo (who worked with Steve at Kohai) is to start with MiVAC at Ban Xai on the 1 Jan 2012 as our Project Manager.

Paul Jeffress, a MiVAC Trustee, has been in Ban Xai and is now back in Sydney - he took the photo on the right - you are looking at the kitchen end. During Paul's visit a voluntary community service team was clearing the site (next to the main school) of undergrowth. 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. A biodigester will be built at the site to provide gas for cooking in the communal kitchen and will become a demonstrator for other villages.



This Week's Special!

Picture - This girl is Hmong aged 11 carrying 20 Kgm of water - a great project, which is not budgeted for as yet - would be a method of carting the water! Who wants to do it?

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

BAN XAI REVERSE CHOOK RAFFLE

You buy the ticket and we keep the prize!

Tickets only \$2 each.

Buy 2 for \$6 and we will throw in one ticket for free!

This a great family opportunity for the family - your family, next door's family, the whole street - to help lift a poor family out of poverty.

Buy just twenty tickets and you will give a Lao family a chance to establish a poultry farm.

Action and Needs

So John, know that this is the fifth of the updates about the Ban Xai project in Xiengkhouang Province in Lao PDR (formerly Laos).

Steve and his wife Dorene plan to live and work there for 3 months starting in April 2012 - there have been some takers to join Steve for some of the time. Are you interested in joining them?

Please forward this News Bulletin to others and encourage them to join MiVAC at www.mivacrust.org. Does anyone out there know someone who might like to be the MiVAC PR representative?

For direct donations please go to www.mivacrust.org or send your donation to The Secretary, MiVAC Trust, PO Box 967, Sandy Bay TAS 7006.

Please remember to [add something in the BLOG](#).

Take action - you can assist!

From the Ban Xai Team

