

Mines Victims and Clearance Trust

Annual Report 2011-12

This year saw the commencement proper, of the Ban Xai Project, the winding up of our Cambodia commitment and the completion of the Kohai school project.

CAMBODIA.

After much consideration the Trustees decided to close off the Cambodia account and curtail any further activity for the foreseeable future, preferring to concentrate all the Trust's resources on the Lao project until it was well established.

As a gesture of respect for the great work done in Cambodia by the late Mike Roberts, a donation of US\$1214 was sent to the Jesuit Refugee Service to purchase 10 wheelchairs and contribute toward purchase of a specially built motor cycle for double amputee Tun Channareth. These gifts were dedicated to Mike.

KOHAI LAOS.

Last year after the dormitory project at Kohai was completed we were asked to supply thatch for the walls of the primary school. As a result of this request Steve and Dorene Carroll along with Sue and Ches Walsh made another visit in November 2011.

They were armed with a \$1000 donation from Henry and Carmel Taylor. On arrival and after the usual greetings by old friends, the Nai Ban and education director told them that they had been raising money from the students' families. They wanted to combine that money with the MiVAC donation to build permanent brick walls instead of thatch. This was agreed. Sue and Ches Walsh also donated sporting and educational goods and Judy Clarke, an old friend, donated a white board.

An inspection of the dormitories showed them to be neatly kept and fully occupied. The school population has increased from 400 to 720 in 12 months and now boasts its own noodle bar for the students and teachers.

BAN XAI PONG HOR AND HINMU PHEUNG

What a great start we had on this forward-looking project.

In just six months Ban Xai went from a patch of overgrown savannah scrubland to a recognizable farm. It now has a 22 x 6 meter wooden accommodation, office and stores building, a large cow shed, twin septic toilets, kitchen, water tank and shower. In addition to these; on the farming side, there are a thousand cassava plants, thirty bananas, peanuts, pineapples and a vegetable garden. All of this enclosed by a four strand barbed wire fence.

The icing on the cake is the electricity which was reticulated and connected in April giving them light and refrigeration.

Initially when Steve and Dorene Carroll occupied the building they had very little in the way of creature comforts. They built their own bed from timber, had a pit dug for a long drop and used candles for light. They also washed in cold water standing in a dish bringing memories of childhood past.

It was then that the first of the MiVAC volunteers arrived. They arrived in twos over the next three months and at one time there were six at one time. Their contribution was invaluable and they were father and son teams Dave and Shaun Turner and Col and Max Druce, ex sappers Jim Weston and Bob Loxton, Ex 7 Bn infanters Merv Haines and Bob Heebe and Naval Reserve Officer John Phillipson. In addition to the Aussies, there was Richard Ries from USA and his friend Vanh Peng from Thailand.

The work that these volunteers did was invaluable. Most of it hard back breaking labour in stifling heat. MiVAC owes them a personal debt that we cannot repay. It is suffice it to say that the villagers will never forget them.

Some plans were changed. Instead of moving the old school at Hinmu Pheung MiVAC was able to build a brand new one of double the size for the same cost due mostly to the help of our volunteers. Now twenty children who previously had to camp out at Ban Xai can return home to attend school.

The recruiting and employment of an in-country manager/interpreter and driver/assistant was probably our biggest step forward. Yang and Moua have proven to be invaluable. Both are young men and give the lie to our previous belief that young men could not earn the respect of village elders and officialdom. On the contrary they are both diplomats for the cause of MiVAC and looked up to by all who deal with them.

Next Steps

What is planned for next year? A continuum of volunteer on site supervisors has been organized by John Prichard (MiVAC Volunteer Co-coordinator) and Sandy MacGregor (MiVAC patron and project co-coordinator). Their efforts have been outstanding.

2012-13 will be a busy year with the Ban Xai project and several other projects are under consideration.

Grateful Thanks

None of MiVAC's work would be possible without the continued and generous support of our members and donors. You all have our heartfelt thanks. Your help has made a difference to so many people's lives. May a little of the sunlight that you have caused to shine on others, shine on you.

Rob Woolley
Trustee

Steve Carroll
Project Manager

Mines Victims and Clearance Trust

Income Statement for the year ended 30 June 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Income		
Fundraising	10,171	4,545
Donations	73,562	77,652
The Charitable Foundation	57,882	-
Membership fees	1,190	1,450
Other	44	5,073
Total income	142,849	88,720
Expenses		
Project expenditure	111,759	91,161
Bank and project fees	5,702	1,444
Administration	2,308	3,884
Total Expenses	119,769	96,489
Surplus for the year	23,081	(7,769)

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Statement of Financial Position 30 June 2012

	<u>2012</u>	<u>2011</u>
Total Equity	28,640	5,559
Represented by:		
Assets		
Cash at bank	17,132	4,149
Cash with Global Dev Group	11,387	1,323
Petty cash	<u>121</u>	<u>87</u>
Total assets	28,640	5,559
Liabilities	1	-
Net Assets	<u>28,640</u>	<u>5,559</u>

Note

- 1 A contingent liability of \$1,000 exists to fund travel to Lao-PDR provided for by Victorian fund raising.