

Hoikor Village School in Laos

Since 2012 when previous staff member Mandy Hibbs, Paula Yost and I visited Laos with Dr Rachel Sheffield from Global Hand (formerly Helping Hand), our school has supported Hoikor Village School in Laos.

In 2013, thanks to generous donations from our parents and staff, we sent hygiene packs, sports equipment and stationery for the students and began work on installing ceilings, electricity and fans in the three classrooms.

The school is located at the top of the village, which meant that, in the monsoon season, the students had to negotiate a muddy track to get to class. In 2014 our funds helped the village to install a set of concrete stairs to improve access for students and their parents. We also installed playground equipment for the children.

In 2015, we supplied building materials to improve access to water at the toilets by installing pipes and a water pump. This improved water supply also enabled the school vegetable garden to thrive. As well, we paid for the teachers at the school to attend Professional Development in nearby Luang Prabang.

Last year, the Global Hand Charity Leavers program sent a small group of Year 12's to Laos to work on projects, including ours at Hoikor Village School. The students helped the school teachers to clean the existing classrooms and furniture, and paint blackboards, while local villagers built a new classroom with funds largely provided by the North Beach Primary School community through Mini-money Mondays and our Lucky Lunch fun day. The students also transported our donated hygiene packs and sports equipment in their luggage. Our new classroom is now complete with beautiful murals painted by a local artist.

Thanks to the generosity of our school community over the last four years, Hoikor Village School is now a more appealing learning environment and relatively well resourced. The addition of a new kindergarten classroom at the school is evidence of the growth in numbers and the improved level of education that has been made possible for the children of Hoikor as a direct result of our involvement.

In 2017 our key advisor for the project, Dr Rachel Sheffield, with the support of Belmont Rotary Club, has started a new collaboration with the Luang Prabang TukTuk library. <http://www.lao-kids.org/lp-library.php> The library manager, Chantha Souliyasak, has been our local coordinator for the Hoikor Village Project from the beginning. It is her connection with the local people that makes the project a success.

Rachel will still keep us in touch with Hoikor Village. However, given that Hoikor is now on a stable footing, we have asked Rachel to look for another village school that is need of basic facilities for which we could provide support in 2017. We will always maintain our connection to Hoikor, and continue our annual drive for donations of hygiene or school supplies. However, we know the need in Laos is great, and feel that it's time to provide support beyond Hoikor Village.

Visit Hoikor Village Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/search/top/?q=hoikor%20school> for more pictures.

Thank you again for your continued generous support of this project. It is a great example of one of the ways that at North Beach we enact our school motto, 'We Care'.

Kind regards,

Shelley Curry

Wellbeing Coordinator



Students receiving care packs.



Teachers and volunteers cleaning furniture.



Locals building the new classroom.



Using the new sports equipment during a break.



The beautiful mural completes the new kindergarten classroom.



Teachers receiving a plaque acknowledging the support of NBPS since 2013.