

PROJECT VIETNAM INC



President's Annual Report 2021

Brendan McKenna, PVI President, 2021

2021 was in many ways a defining year for many global charities with the difficulties of working within the boundaries of the dreaded Covid. However, I am pleased to say that generally Project Vietnam was able to step up to the challenges and ensure our projects were completed and sufficient funds were fairly distributed to provide life opportunities to our communities in Vietnam and Cambodia.

Despite the pandemic, both 2021 membership and our ability to raise needed funds, have remained stable with much support from our members and associated organisations. The Eumundi carparking and the Sports events have been the mainstay of our fundraising and for this we thank Jan and John Miller and Sandra Robinson for organising our involvement.

Sandra Robinson has been a great asset to our team this year as we were able to draw on her experience and contacts to engage with NGO's in the very poor Mekong Delta region and provide us with information where our charitable funds could be best distributed. We invested our resources with local partners in this region who have a community focused approach, excellent reporting practices and a thorough understanding of how to implement effective projects in their local areas. By working with these carefully chosen partners, we have been able to work more efficiently and multiply the impact of our contribution.

Our level of collaboration with key NGOs, in both Cambodia and Vietnam, increased as we locked in support to:

- Distribute emergency food packages
- Housing funding
- Water filtration systems
- Microfinancing facilities
- Female welfare needs through distribution of personal hygiene products
- Education via school support and sponsorship
- Family Health Insurance

Project Vietnam has diversified into Laos this year with financial support for The Permaculture Learning Centre in Laos under the guidance of Neale Whited. We thank Neale for all the work he has undertaken in this area. It is an opportunity for PVI to improve the lives of marginalised minorities in Laos by reversing unsustainable agricultural and environmental practises.

I want to conclude by thanking some of the remarkable people who make PVI possible. That is, its members and supporters. Our committee and volunteers, Tom Smith for his financial contributions to the Sapa community and the June Canavan Foundation for their continuous financial support. Thank you all for standing strong with us in 2021.

I feel privileged to work with PVI. It has been both productive and enjoyable, with a real sense of colleagues sharing challenges and working together to achieve required outcomes. We still have a lot more work to do, and 2022 will be an interesting year dealing with the many issues of a global pandemic that will be with us for some time.