Construction Work
Since the land purchase in December and construction of the basketball court and football pitch, there has been further construction work undertaken at SHCC. Reach Out Volunteers and SHCC staff have built 4 houses on the new block of land next to the school. This is the first stage in creating a replica micro community which can be used as a model for the Kro Bei Riel community, showing how to run self-sufficient households and farms. There will be 12 houses and small farms constructed, one representing each of the villages within Kro Bei Riel.

Football
The Siem Reap Junior Football Championship finished up at the beginning of April. Once again our teams were outstanding! They played consistently well throughout the season and demonstrated fantastic sportsmanship when on the wrong end of unfair umpiring decisions. SHCC Under 18’s finished 3rd overall and SHCC Under 14’s won their Championship.

Oaktree Foundation ‘Roadtrip to End Poverty Campaign’
SHCC Director Sambat Choan was asked to join Oaktree Foundations Roadtrip campaign to end Global Poverty as a International Ambassador. It took place in March in Australia. Sambat spent 10 days travelling through Australian cities campaigning to raise awareness on the topic and gain support from the public to stop the Australian Government from cutting international aid to developing nations. Speaking to various organisations, youth and politicians. It was a great opportunity.
After the roadtrip he then spent two weeks in Melbourne and Adelaide visiting schools, organizations, sponsors, supporters and the Cambodian community. There was a fundraiser held in Adelaide by two previous SHCC volunteers—Jess Barrett and Christabel Lewis which Sambat was able to attend. It was a great evening and very successful, thank you to everyone who attended.
Special mention must go to Tony Munro, Nick Wallwork, Rudi and Annette Moraw and Jessica Barrett. For their generosity in financing this trip and making it possible. Also to all the volunteers, supporters and friends that met up with Sambat and made him feel so welcome.
SHCC News
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Khmer New Year
SHCC held a 3 day celebration for Khmer New Year recently. There was music, games, dancing, performances and of course food! We also organized an inter village football tournament which ran over the three days. The winning team was Tra Peng Veng village. We wish everyone a happy and prosperous 2013 New Year!

In other news.........

- Sadly Isabel, our much loved school pig passed away in March due to birthing complications. She is now buried at the back of the school under a mango tree.
- We have filled in the fishpond behind the art & crafts building and turned this area into a small football pitch for the younger children.
- We have constructed a new short cut road into the back of the school.

And finally, we would like to tell everyone that SHCC is under going some changes currently. For several reasons we have decided a restructure is needed. The school closed down for a two week period for Khmer New Year to give all the staff a good break and to allow for planning to be done. We re-opened as of April 22nd. However, things have had to be downsized and some classes or programmes either cancelled or scaled back. SHCC 2 has closed down (hopefully temporarily), computing classes have been cancelled, the Social work programme has been down scaled as have the community development projects we undertake.

This is for several reasons, a couple being that the rapid growth of the school in recent years has meant a loss of focus on some of SHCC’s core missions which has resulted in some of our programmes suffering. Also with the rapid growth and inflation has come a steep increase in operating costs. So this has meant some big changes. For now the focus has shifted back onto education and our core programmes. Which unfortunately means our staffing structure has had to be cut from 48 to just 27. Although at present we are operating with a skeleton staff of just 12 while we recruit new staff.

As difficult as it has been, we see this as a positive step, one that has needed to happen for a while as we have lost control of aspects of the schools operation. The remaining staff and volunteers are completely committed to the school and we are working together to make SHCC a great community project that we can all be involved in and proud of. We are very excited about the future!

We would like to thank all our donors, supporters and volunteers who have contributed their time, energy and funds to make SHCC a success. We look forward to your continued support and seeing you all again!

Sambat