



Friends of Nepal

Email: friendsofnepal@ozemail.com.au

Web: www.friendsofnepal.com.au

NEWSLETTER # 8 MAY 2016

News from Nepal!

Ainsley Roscrow, together with her son Karlu & her cousin Harry, recently returned from a very busy 2 week trip to Nepal. They were fortunate to spend several days at DMUK, (the Orphanage) visiting, talking & playing with the children. Highlights included a Mothers Day Celebration, sharing & cooking special meals together & accompanying the children on local walks. Ainsley also conducted teacher training in the Montessori classes.



After consultation with Ishwor Ghimire, who is now involved in the management of the school, it was decided to allocate sponsorship money to buy school shoes & socks for the children & to purchase perishable & non-perishable food, some of which they cooked & ate together. The children enjoyed the fruit & meat she bought, as these are rare treats for them.

Sponsorship funds for older children, some of whom have left the Orphanage, were applied to their education & living costs, as part of our exciting newly developed scholarship program, which has just become operational. (More later in this newsletter!)

The new school year has just begun & the DRRMIS (David Rusk, Rajan Memorial International School) now has enrolments of 150 children, currently providing education up to year 8. It has quickly become a valued & important part of the local community, with all the teachers doing an excellent job of educating both local & DMUK children.



Ainsley also met with DMUK management to discuss future options for the children as they graduate from DRRMIS & have to complete their final years of schooling at local Colleges. The proposed changes in Nepali education will impact Years 8-12 significantly & we will have to consider these in all our future planning. We predict that there will be about 12 children needing scholarship/sponsorship support over the next 2-3 years. Eight older children have recently left DMUK, either to live in hostels closer to their secondary

Colleges for years 10-12, or to attend higher education. Some older graduates remain, all girls, one working in the school & the other two assisting with cooking & completing beautician courses under our scholarship program. No new children have been admitted since just after the earthquake, but all the younger & local children sponsored are still living there & attending DRRMIS. They enjoyed their letters from their sponsors & some of you will be receiving letters shortly, given to Ainsley by the children. If your sponsored child is no longer living at DMUK Denise will contact you shortly!

There are exciting developments in Blue Sky School as it has become part of the SAB schools. Prem's wife Urmila, has recently opened 'Blue Sky Girl's Hostel' at the old school site, & we are hoping to work closely with her if DMUK children need to relocate to a hostel to complete their studies. Urmila & Prem Oli are trusted friends & members of the local Rotary community.



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Future Plans for Friends of Nepal.

The extremely successful RAWCS Project #25 2012/13 for the building of the DRRMIS is nearing completion. The school building has been repaired & is now fully operational.



Congratulations to Malcolm Lindquist, the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek, the Rotary Club of Dillibazar & the management of DMUK. David Rusk would have been very proud to see his dream come true.

We have been fortunate to have been able to use the RAWCS account for our sponsorship funds & will continue to do so in the short term. Funds we are now collecting will be managed through this fund & taken to Nepal in July, when committee member Lynne Rawson visits. Once again they will be allocated in collaboration with DMUK & DRRMIS management, to ensure the best outcomes for the children.

In order to maintain the tax deductibility status now provided through RAWCS, we are in the process of applying for independent registered charity status. This is quite a long process & a steep learning curve for the committee, but we expect to have it in place before the RAWCS project is finalised. We cannot thank Malcolm Lindquist & all of our Rotary friends here & in Nepal, enough for their help in getting our education support programs established. We plan to continue our close association with local & International Rotarians, as we believe strongly in the integrity of the programs & people involved with them.

Exciting New Education Scholarship Program!

The committee has been working very closely with Mark Bouchier from Pulteney Grammar School Malcolm Lindquist from RAWCS, the Children's Development Fund in Germany & Bhim Kumar in Nepal, to develop & establish educational scholarships for older children from DMUK who have completed their secondary schooling &/or Years 11 & 12.

These young people, aged between 16 & 20+ years, require fee &/or living support, to enable them to undertake further education &/or vocational training opportunities. Nepal's economy is poor & jobs are hard to find, & if these young people are to live fulfilling & safe lives, & eventually give back to their country, they need our support. Some have families, but none are in a position to support these young people, who have few options without further skills & training & our support.



How does it work?

The young people are encouraged to identify & research areas of study of interest to them, &/or suitable living accommodation. They then complete applications for scholarships for consideration by us & our representatives in Nepal.

Ainsley & Bhim, building on the work begun by Lynne during her visit to Nepal in December, visited many boys & girl's hostels & education institutions, identified by some of the young people requesting scholarships. She opened a bank account which we can use for transfer of funds if & when direct payment to Institutions cannot be made. Lynne will meet with Urmila to discuss options for the older girls, when she visits in July, as her 'Blue Sky Girl's Hostel' was not yet open when Ainsley was there.

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Ainsley assisted the young people to complete applications & sign agreements which outline their responsibilities in accepting the scholarships, & provided them with a scholarship handbook for reference if any problems arise.

We are also working closely with Rotarians & others, to identify mentors, volunteering & work placement opportunities for these young people. We would love them to join Rotaract !

Current situation.

At present we have awarded 8 education scholarships, 6 ' Full Scholarship A', 2 ' Academic Merit Scholarship C' & have two more applications under consideration. We expect first semester exam results for two of our IT scholarship recipients in the next month!

When Lynne visits Nepal in July, she will host an Awards Dinner on behalf of Friends of Nepal, where scholarship certificates will be awarded. How exciting for everyone involved!

We had not expected so many requests, but are doing our best to provide the funds & opportunities to young people who have no one else to turn to for this type of help or advice.

Sponsorship opportunities

We are seeking multi & corporate sponsorships to fund this program, & are holding several fundraisers to ensure we can meet our substantial commitments.

The money we raised from our recent movie screening, "Sherpa- trouble on Everest, " has already been applied to these scholarships.

Our web site, which is currently under construction, will have all details of these scholarships, but if you would like more information, please contact Denise.

If you know anyone or any business who may like to help us please let us know & we will contact them!



Please help us by supporting & advertising our next fundraising event. We need sellers, buyers & people to assist on the day.



Trash & Treasure Market, Sunday June 19 -Pulteney Grammar School.

We are currently collecting items for our 'White Elephant' & bric-a brac tables! If you have any 'treasures' you can donate please contact Lynne or Denise for collection or drop off. We would love to have homemade preserves table if anyone likes making jam, sauces etc.

A cake stall would be a great attraction so if there are any bakers out there we would love to hear from you.

Children's toys & books are all welcome. A big thankyou to Chris Dodsworth who has donated many fiction books for our book sale.

Finally, we need help on the day!

If you can volunteer a couple of hours between 7.00 am & 3.00 pm please contact Lynne & she will add your name to our roster. Contact details are on attached flyer!



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JOIN US FOR OUR FIRST EVER



**Sunday June 19th, “The Quad”
Pulteney Grammar School,
South Tce. Adelaide
8.00 am - 3.00pm
Seller set up from 7 am**



SELLERS! BOOK YOUR TRESTLES NOW!

<https://www.trybooking.com/LLTT> OR <https://www.trybooking.com/201285>

\$25 PER TRESTLE

For more information contact Lynne 0412115129 lrawson@adam.com.au

Enjoy Sausage Sizzle, Coffee, Plants, Books, Bric- a- Brac, Henna & Face Painting!

Funds raised support our educational programs for severely disadvantaged children in Nepal.



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