

Spring Newsletter September 2018



Namaste!

It's been a busy few months for our intrepid committee and we thank you all for your continued support.

For those of you who missed our Gala Dinner Fundraiser or our recent AGM, you can keep up with our programs by checking out the presentations on our Web site

<https://friendsofnepaladelaide.org/about-fonai/>

Thanks to Alice at PT Media for keeping information current!

AGM report.

Our second AGM was held 27 August at 'Taste of Nepal' restaurant in Beulah Park. The food was delicious. Thank you to all concerned. We were pleased to welcome special guest Dipak Dharmala, S.A. Honorary Consul for Nepal, & several other supporters. The committee was re-elected & Bernie Jarvis accepted the added responsibility of Child Protection Officer.

A special thanks to Philip Paterson who audited our accounts for the second year.

A highlight was a presentation of \$300 from long time supporter Helen Henbest. Helen donated the proceeds of the sale of her paintings at the recent Rotary Club of Blackwood Art Show. Thank you Helen.

Dipak is also CEO of 'Himalayan Experience' and has kindly offered special rates for FONAI supporters. If you are interested in travel to Nepal, you can contact him on 0430488222.

All AGM reports are available on our website.



Canopy Nepal- FES Program manager

We are excited to present our new Education Scholarship Program manager Deekshak Bhattarai. Deekshak has been kept busy meeting with institutions and hostel managers and working on new partnership agreements with the students. Deekshak is currently developing a new website for the education scholarship project. We wish him well in his new role.

Scholarship Program Update

Students have all settled into new school years or are completing study. Our beautiful Fashion Design student & Rotaract secretary, Anjana was recently awarded 'Future Stylist' at her IEC College. Anjana made her dress for this event!



Banking Changes.

We have recently received information that the Blackwood branch of ANZ bank where we bank is closing. The committee is exploring its options & will inform you of any changes to banking details ASAP.

Thank you to our generous donors.

Southern Districts VIEW Club for their recent donation of \$200.

Jan and Bob Arnold – marmalade jam – a new grapefruit flavour has been added to their line, but you better be quick if you want any! Contact Denise or Sue if you want to purchase

ABN 25 785 726 975

Email: friendsofnepal@ozemail.com.au

Web: www.friendsofnepaladelaide.org





Self Employment through Education Program Update.

FONAI is currently facilitating funding in partnership with Child Development Society for 3 SEEP groups in Kavre district in Nepal.

We have decided to expand our support and seek further funding for this program. We recently submitted an application for a Friendship Grant from the Australian Government which, if successful, we will apply to the establishment of up to 5 more groups.

Why SEEP? The program, which is implemented over 12 months, empowers marginalised, impoverished & illiterate women aged 14-45 years socially & economically. It provides them with literacy, numeracy & business training, a combination of seed money & self savings, links to support agencies & assists them to establish & sustain businesses that give them a regular income.

Why Kavre District? The Kavre district is about 90 mins north of Kathmandu & is impoverished. It is also home to the brick kiln industry. Work is itinerant, seasonal & unreliable. Families are forced to leave the district & work in brick kilns for 6 months. Instead of attending school, children are also forced to work long & punishing hours alongside their parents.

The skills the women gain through the SEEP program enable them to develop & sustain businesses & generate incomes to support their families & send their children, especially girls, to school. Once these formerly illiterate women are educated, they see the value of educating their own children & hence the cycle of illiteracy, child labour & discrimination can be broken.

Each SEEP group costs around \$7,000 to fund.



If you would like to view the inspiring 2015 CDS documentary about SEEP please follow this link.

<https://youtu.be/XBa6Wa4U9S0>

Exploring funding opportunities for the SEEP program & the CDS 'Day Care - Day Meals' program, which provides care for pre-schoolers of day labourers, so older siblings can attend school & young children are not taken on dangerous work sites, is a big focus for our committee. Funding per year per child to attend the program is about \$125.



or



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This?

Spread the News

FONAI will provide speakers about our Education Scholarship Program, (FESHIP) SEEP or any other CDS programs, to anyone interested in helping us raise these much needed funds.

If you have any fundraising ideas please contact us!

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