

## Chairperson's Report 2018/19 Financial Year

Friends of Nepal- Adelaide Inc (FONAI) is volunteer-run registered Australian charity with the goal of supporting marginalised and vulnerable Nepalese undertake education and/or vocational training to improve their socio/economic position.

We work closely with the local and International Rotary movement and other service organisations well as our International supporters, the Children's Future Fund in Germany, Canopy Nepal & The Children's Development Society, Nepal, to achieve this goal.

We support two key programs, an education scholarship program for underprivileged youth, Friends of Nepal Education Scholarship Program (FESSHIP) & disburse funding for a Social Empowerment through Education Program (SEEP) with the Child Development Society. (CDS)

## FESSHIP Program Overview

Our 2018/19 FESSHIP program was managed in partnership with NGO Canopy Nepal. The young team quickly appointed a project manager, Deekshak Bhatte, & new agreements with all scholars were signed in July 2018.

We welcomed new scholar, Shrinkhala, to begin Year 11 at Noble College & farewelled old scholar & hospitality studies graduate Bhanu, assisting him with room set up as he began his hospitality career. Deekshak has proven to be a diligent & responsible manager, submitting comprehensive monthly financial & narrative reports & responding quickly to our many requests.

In May 2019, internship student, Anjali, joined the team to assist Deekshak with his work.

The student monthly meetings have been well attended & our team has worked hard to build a FESSHIP family for our scholars. The team quickly identified the need for a holistic approach to it's

management of the program & formalised a workshop program to develop vocational, wellness & mentoring skills. This program has been very well received by the students & will be expanded in 2019/20. Birthday celebrations, sports days & other fun times have also been added to the monthly meeting schedule, along with a variety of programs including IT, first aid & cyber safety.

During committee member Lynne Rawson's visit in March 2019 the students enjoyed ten pin bowling & a pizza dinner.

There have been the usual highs & lows associated with any work in an underdeveloped country, but with the support of the great Canopy team we have worked through most of them successfully.

## FESSHIP Student Report.

We are slowly addressing the gender balance within the program whilst making sure that existing students are not negatively impacted by our focus on supporting girls.

The ratio is 3 girls to 6 boys so we have a way to go. We only offered one new scholarship to a young girl Shrinkhala, to complete Year 11 at Noble College.

**Shrinkhala** is fortunate to be able to live with her family, so her scholarship was for course fees only. Shrinkhala completed Year 11 successfully & has now started Year 12 on a FESSHIP scholarship.

**Manju** successfully completed Year 2 of her law studies at Kathmandu School of Law & is currently completing her third year. She represented her university at two Moot court events, sponsored by our German partners & a Spanish donor. Manju's FESSHIP scholarship was for living costs only & in June 2019, her Spanish donor decided to fund her living costs as well, & Manju left the scholarship program at the end of the financial year. We maintain regular contact with Manju & will monitor her progress as she completes her studies in 2021. We are proud that we were able to give this clever young woman support for the past three years & will continue to celebrate her achievements.



**Anjana** began her Bachelor in Fashion Design in January 2019 & continues to do well. She has been awarded upcoming designer & has featured in many competitions during her first year of studies. She will finish her first year in October 2019.



### The boys.

Two of our oldest scholars began their final year of studies as FESSHIP students.

**Sanjeev** completed his Bachelor of Information Technology & is awaiting his results.

**Bishal** also completed his second year of accounting studies & is also waiting his results. Both young men have worked part time as teachers, in call centres & as sports instructors, to support their own living costs. Like Manju & Anjana, their scholarships have been supported by the Children's Future Fund in Germany, who pay all course fees. We are waiting to hear of their future plans.

Three of our students completed their final high school studies in May 2019. **Hem, Prachandra & Bijay** are all waiting for their results & all started vocational scholarships in June 2019 to prepare them for future study & financial independence. Hem is studying a 3 month medical preparatory course as he wants work in the medical field, Prachandra is studying a university preparation course, & Bijay, who did not want to pursue a Bachelor's degree, has begun hospitality studies.



**Sushant** has begun his Year 10, an important year in Nepali education, as it determines his future path. If successful he will achieve Senior Education Certificate & be eligible to study years 11 & 12.

Annual written reports were received from students as per scholarship agreements.

### Vocational scholarships

In April 2019 we began exploring vocational scholarship opportunities. We believed that skill based training would better equip our students to find work to contribute to their education costs. In Nepal, Deekshak developed a list of approved providers for courses graduating students can undertake while they wait for results. He interviewed eligible students to identify interests. In Australia, we searched for donors, this fulfilling one of our annual goals, to secure corporate sponsorship!

As a result of this combined effort, we were able to offer 3 vocational training scholarships in May/June 2019 for the 3 boys waiting for Year 12 results - a 3 month wait!

We were proud to welcome 2 new donors as a result of this effort.

The Rotary Club of Lindisfarne - a cooking & a foundation skills training scholarship &, Seaside Dental – medical preparation scholarship. The Rotary Club of Lindisfarne also decided to fund a FESSHIP scholar in our 2019/20 program.





# Friends of Nepal - Adelaide Inc.

Proud Supporters of Socio-Economic Empowerment through Education

## **FESSHIP Management Report.**

FESSHIP management team submitted all required monthly, quarterly & annual reporting requirements as per partnership agreement.

8/ 9 students successfully completed the requirements of their courses.

## **Partnership Agreement - Child Development Society-Nepal**

### **Facilitating funding for Self Employment through Education (SEEP) program**

Our partnership with the Child Development Society in Nepal was extended in 2018/19 & two more SEEP groups began in Kavre district in October 2018. Up to 30 individual marginalised women are currently receiving education & employment training to enable them to financially support their families & send their children to school instead of work in the brick kilns.

Lynne Rawson visited this program and many others managed by CDS in & was again impressed with the implementation & management of it & the benefits it has in the poorest communities.

We were also very proud to be signatures to the recent RAWCS project # established by tireless humanitarian Malcolm Lindquist to support the SEEP program. Another proud moment for us.



## **SEEP program report.**

Two groups were successfully established in October 2018 in Kavre District, Nepal.

Approximately 30 women illiterate and vulnerable women were enrolled in the program. Phases 1 & 2( literacy, numeracy and business studies) have been implemented and the program will be completed November 2019.

CDS SEEP management team submitted reporting requirements for SEEP program.

## **Partnership Agreement - Children's Future Fund (CFF) Germany**

The existing partnership with the Children's Future Fund, a small social justice NGO in Germany, was renewed. CFF continued to fund course costs for 3 of our scholarship students.

## **Key Stakeholders**

### **Rotary movement**

FONAI maintains strong ties with the Rotary movement in Australia and abroad. We enjoy continued support from the Rotary Clubs of Brownhill Creek, Blackwood, Mobilong & Lindisfarne.

## **Collaborations**

Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek in the successful establishment of RAWCS Project for Child Development Society SEEP program.

Rotary Club of Lindisfarne – scholarship support.

Rotary Club of Lindisfarne also supports SEEP program through RAWCS project.



## 2018/19 Strategic Plan

### Priorities

- *Aim for closer gender equality in FES program – affirmative action for girls*
- *Identify & implement succession plans for management committee*
- *Pursue funding grants*
- *Pursue new & retain existing partnerships*
- *Work with partner NGO to identify new students for scholarship support*
- *Refine Scholarship program*
- *Secure funding to maintain existing program*

### Outcomes

#### ***Aim for closer gender equality in FES program – affirmative action for girls***

- We only offered 1 new scholarship & it was to a girl!
- Challenges in patriarchal society where boy's education is prioritised. ***Identify & implement succession plans for management committee***
- A work in progress. We have been successful in enlisting outside help for events & issued invitations to prospective members to attend meetings.

#### ***Pursue funding grants***

- Round 1 application Friendship Grant 2018/19 unsuccessful
- Application for Perpetual Grant June 2019 Unsuccessful
- Lynne & Denise attended 2 training sessions & Denise a funding workshop to improve our skills
- We enlisted outside voluntary help

#### ***Pursue new & retain existing partnerships***

- Existing partnerships with Ronwynne Foundation & Children's Future Fund were retained.
- New partnership with Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek for RAWCS SEEP project
- Vocational scholarship partnerships with Seaside Dental & Rotary Club of Lindisfarne
- Partnership with Cherilyn Fleming who raises funds for us selling books at Rotary Club of Encounter Bay twice monthly markets in her region.

#### ***Work with partner NGO to identify new students for scholarship support***

### Ongoing

- Extensive screening interviews with both students & families were undertaken. Management team has strong focus on family support to discourage 'hand out' mentality & perpetuation of orphanage business model in Nepal.

#### ***Refine Scholarship program***

- We held 2 SKYPE meetings during year to discuss FESSHIP & make informed decisions
- Collaborated on new code of conduct
- Simplified agreement documents
- Added information pack for students
- Funded student workshops
- All students have phones & email accounts for regular contact

#### ***Secure funding to maintain existing program***

- We held 6 major fundraising events, two movie nights, our annual gala dinner & stalls at Rotary Club of Blackwood Christmas fair & Montessori Children's Centre, McLaren Vale Twilight picnic. We also attended 5 markets at Urrbrae farmer's market.





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## Monitoring the program.



One self funded visit to Nepal was made in March 2019 by Lynne Rawson who held 2 planning meetings with Canopy Nepal Board members & FESSHIP team, as well as holding discussions with Debendra Pokharel of Cocina Mitho Chha about future partnerships for vocational training. Much is learned in consultation with our partners about the effectiveness of the program & best ways to secure future positive outcomes for all involved.

**Sponsorship Program** We had 28 individual sponsors in 2017/18.

## Fund Raising and Donations



We held 5 major fundraising events. These included our Gala Dinner/Auction, 2 movie fundraisers and stalls at the Rotary Club of Blackwood Fair and Montessori Children's Centre, McLaren Vale Twilight Fair. In addition we attended 5 local markets at Urrbrae Farmer's market.

Generous donors continued to support us with jam, craft goods & other assorted bric a brac donations to sell, which adds considerably to our funds. Sponsor Helen Henbest donated sales of her paintings

at Rotary Club of Blackwood annual Art show to us. Cherilyn Fleming contributes monthly to our coffers through the book sales.

Our most successful fundraiser was the Annual Gala Dinner & where we raised over \$7,000.

FONAI enjoys widespread community support and received many incidental and generous donations over this financial year.



## Moving forward

Thankyou to FESSHIP management team. We appreciate your hard work and commitment to the successful management of the Education Scholarship program in 2018/19 & look forward to the successful implementation of the 2019/20 FESSHIP program.

## Thankyou to the hardworking committee.

The committee members have worked very hard over the past 12 months, donating many hours to improve governance and ensure viability and sustainability. We are all very proud of the success of this program and excited to continue to work with Canopy Nepal and explore new opportunities for service.

**Thankyou to our auditor Philip Paterson** for his diligence & advice in auditing our financial records. It is much appreciated.

## Canopy Nepal

Thankyou to our partners 'Canopy Nepal.' We are excited to work with this young and dynamic team. Deekshak, Roshan & Hem.



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