



Annual Report 2019 – 2020





Friends of Nepal - Adelaide Inc.

Proud Supporters of Education for the Youth of Nepal

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Section 1. About FONAI

Our Mission

Our mission is to provide access to senior and post secondary education to marginalised, socially and economically disadvantaged Nepali youth who otherwise would not have the financial means to fulfil their educational goals.

FONAI views higher education as a catalyst, an agent of change for individuals, families and communities.

To succeed in our mission we:

- Promote and provide financial support for senior and post secondary education via an education scholarship program (FESSHIP)
- Assure that students have all the information and support necessary to make sound educational and financial decisions about their futures
- Lead a collaborative network of educational partners aligned to support student selection, preparation, transition and persistence to course completion.

Statement of Ethical Principles

Friends of Nepal-Adelaide Inc is committed to:

- Removing financial barriers for severely disadvantaged Nepalese to access education.
- Prioritising funding allocation so it goes where it is most needed.
- Being aware of the issues affecting students and advocating for their interests, particularly girls.
- Supporting efforts to encourage all students, to aspire to and plan for education beyond high school.
- Respecting the dignity and protecting the privacy of students, and ensuring the confidentiality of student records and personal circumstances.
- The highest level of ethical behaviour and professionalism.
- Respectful collaboration with our key stakeholders.
- Conducting annual reviews of all programs to ensure the best outcomes for students

Our History

'Friends of Nepal- Adelaide Inc. (FONAI) is a registered Australian charity. We began our scholarship program in 2013, following a visit to Nepal and seeing first hand how disadvantage of birth is perpetuated by lack of educational opportunities.

In Nepal, the official primary school age is 5 to 9 years and the official secondary school age 10 to 16 years. Less than half of all Nepali children continue their education at the secondary level and there are large gender disparities in school attendance, with girls much less likely than boys to receive a formal education. Formal school education officially spans a period of 12 years, at the successful completion of which a student graduates with a certificate of Higher Secondary Education. (HSE)

Official government policy is for free education to year 12, but the reality is that Year 10 remains the highest level of education for most Nepalese people.

Students who wish to continue higher education, years 11 and 12, mostly must attend expensive private schools in Kathmandu. Students who have completed Year 12 can attend government universities. Private universities are preferred as the quality is believed to be higher.

FONAI Time line of our work

2014-2017

Deprived Women and Children's Upliftment Centre Scholarship and School

- In 2014 FONAI launched an educational scholarship program for children living at or near the Deprived Women and Children's Upliftment Centre in Golfutar, Kathmandu. The funding supported their education at the newly built on site Rusk Rajan Memorial school funded by a RAWCS project initiated by the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek and supported by several FONAI events. This program supported students aged 5-16 years.
- In 2017 we became aware of significant hardship faced by young people who had been living at DMUK but on reaching 16 years of age were forced to leave the Home. These students wanted to continue their education but due to the socio/economic backgrounds were unable to do so. Many faced homelessness as contacts with families in home villages had been sporadic during their time at DMUK.
- After considerable discussion we decided to end the program at DMUK and establish what has become the FESSHIP program to support DMUK graduates.
- This decision required considerable long term commitment from our board and our supporters. Due to the increased length of scholarships (2- 5 years) and in order to be sustainable, we imposed a limit on scholarship numbers. FESSHIP graduates often require transition to work scholarships. Without our support, these young people would not have been able to continue their studies and faced uncertain futures. A FESSHIP education scholarship was a life changing opportunity.

2017-2018

- FESSHIP is launched.
- Partnership with Mission to Modern Social Development in Nepal (MMSDN) to manage a FESSHIP scholarship program to fund 9 ex DMUK students to enable them to pursue higher education.
- In 2018 several board members visited Nepal. During this time they were inspired by a visit to the Social Empowerment through Education Program for marginalized women managed by Children's Development Society
- 2017-2020 FONAI entered into a 3 year formal partnership (2018-2020) to support this program through disbursement of funds from Ronwynne Foundation.



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2018- current

- The MMSDN partnership was dissolved by mutual agreement in 2018 and we engaged Canopy Nepal a young and dynamic NGO in Nepal to continue our work.
- Under their guidance the program was expanded to include other marginalized students in addition to DMUK graduates.
- It was also decided to prioritise girls for funding support.
- Our current partnership with this team has been extended to 2022.
- In 2019/20 we funded 15 scholarships, six of whom were DMUK graduates.

Collaborations

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 our mission.



Our programs

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)

Key Stakeholders and Supporters 2019/20

SAMSON Tall	Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek	Rotary Club of Lindisfarne
Helen Henbest	Seaside Dental	Flourish Gift & Home
Ronwynne Foundation	Montessori Children's Centre McLaren Vale	Woolmore Fine foods
Splodge	Rawsons Electrical	Kristy & Ben Maurice Jones
WOMADelaide	Individual sponsors	Hilary Flynn
Cherilyn Fleming	Jan & Bob Arnold	Wily Wags Fashion & Home wares
Hedley family	Bourchier family	South Seas Books



Section 2. Structure and Management

- FONAI is registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC).
- Friends of Nepal-Adelaide In (FONAI) has a governance committee consisting of seven members.
- The Management Committee meets bi- monthly.
- All members are volunteers. FONAI does not employ any paid staff members in Australia. Sub committees of volunteers are convened to support major events.
- FONAI funds salary of a Friends of Nepal-Adelaide Inc (FESSHIP) program coordinator to manage it's programs in Nepal.
- FONAI has formal partnership agreements for all programs in Nepal.
- FONAI has a strong commitment to good governance.
- The principle of 'Do no harm' is applied to all aspects of our work.
- The management committee has developed policies and procedures to govern it's operations and ensure all activities are transparent and accountable. These are available on our website.

Management Committee

Name	Position	Dates acted
Denise Roscrow	Chairperson	July 2019-June 30 2020
Sue Wymond	Treasurer	July 2019-June 30 2020
Ainsley Roscrow	Secretary	July 2019-June 30 2020
Lynne Rawson	Fundraising chairperson	July 2019-June 30 2020
Bernadette Jarvis	Child Protection Officer	July 2019-June 30 2020
Jo Bouchier	Committee member	July 2019-June 30 2020
Malcolm Lindquist	Committee member	July 2019-June 30 2020



FONAI Partnerships

FESSHIP managing partner Canopy Nepal

Canopy Nepal is an NGO founded by young and passionate educators and social workers in Nepal. They share the same values as FONAI. Canopy Nepal appoints a manager for the FESSHIP program. The manager's salary is funded by FONAI.



VISION - "A society free of illiteracy, where every person enjoys the right to education and a life of dignity, irrespective of culture, race or religion."

MISSION - To provide equitable accessibility of education to underprivileged children of Nepal and promote interactive learning with hard and soft skills that can be used to make informed life decisions and to promote intercultural understanding among people by means of various programs.

Child Development Society (CDS)

FONAI has a 3 year (2017-20) partnership with Nepal NGO The Child Development Society, CDS works to eliminate child labour and/or trafficking in Nepal. FONAI facilitates the transfer of funding for CDS from Australian benefactors under conditions of this agreement.

Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek

FONAI is a founding member of RAWCS SEEP project #101 2018-19 RAOAF which is managed in partnership with the Rotary Club of Dilibazaar to implement SEEP programs managed by The Child Development Society.

Children's Future Fund Germany

FONAI has partnership agreement from 2018-2020 with German NGO the Children's Future Fund who also supported DMUK children. During this time CFF group jointly funded scholarships for 4 students all of whom have now exited the program. In March 2020 this partnership was completed.



Monitoring the program.

One self funded visit to Nepal was made in February 2020 by Malcolm Lindquist who held one planning meeting with Canopy Nepal Board members and FESSHIP team. ,

Much is learned in consultation with our partners about the effectiveness of the program and the best ways to secure future positive outcomes for all involved.

Malcolm also visited the RAWCS SEEP program and was inspired by their work.



Chairperson's Report - 2019-2020 Financial Year

FONAI provides funding support for two key programs:

1. FONAI funded education scholarship program for underprivileged youth, Friends of Nepal Education Scholarship Program (FESSHIP)
2. Grant disbursement for Social Empowerment through Education Program (SEEP)

FESSHIP Program Overview



Our 2019/20 FESSHIP program was managed in partnership with NGO Canopy Nepal. Project manager, Deekshak Bhattarai continued in his role and the program began with 15 students, 8 returning and 7 new.

Deekshak has once again proven to be a diligent and responsible manager, submitting comprehensive monthly financial and narrative reports and navigating the many challenges of working with teenagers! Canopy internship student, Anjali continued to assist the team.

It has been a challenging year with the usual highs and lows expected when working in a developing country and during a pandemic.

Due to the impact of the pandemic, we increased the number of face to face meetings with our team in Nepal. This was essential as the team was unable to access the office or bank for almost 3 months during lockdown.

We now conduct monthly on-line meetings with the team to clarify decisions our committee makes and get their feedback and updates about lockdown situation in Nepal. This process enables us to address issues which have arisen due to language difficulties quickly and respectfully. In 2019 we identified several goals for FESSHIP program and implemented measuring tools to track our progress.



2019/20 Goals

Goal	2018/19	2019/20	Comment
Increase total # of scholarship students	10	15	50% increase
Develop programs to support scholar wellbeing in collaboration with Canopy Nepal	3	11	Focus on mental health & practical skills
Expand private public sponsorship program including skill based vocational scholarships	1	3	1 Rotary Club
Apply for grants to develop other programs	2	1	Results deferred
Aim for gender balance in FESSHIP program	3 girls 7 boys	8 girls 7 boys	Achieved
Self Employment through Education Program for illiterate women support.	2 groups completed	Final group underway	Complete December 2020

Funding sources goals v/s actual

Item	2018/19	2019/20	%	Comment
Sponsor	28 \$14,050	26 \$11,950	15% down	
Fundraising events	6 major 5 markets	5 major 4 markets	17% down	COVID 19
Fundraising income	19,491.22	17,927.00	8% down	
Donations	4735.10	7655.25	62% up	Book sales consistent funding

5 year goals. 2017-2021

Goal	2017/18	2018/19	2019/20
Aim for closer gender equality in FESSHIP program – affirmative action for girls	33% girls	33%	54% Continue to prioritise +2 scholarships for girls
Identify & implement succession plans for management committee	N/A	Appointed new treasurer & child protection officer	Implemented 3 mo transition mentor period
Pursue funding grants	Perpetual Grant	Friendship Grant DFAT Round 1	Friendship Grant DFAT Round 2
Pursue new & retain existing partnerships	2	3 33% growth	4 25% growth
identify new students for support	9	10 12% growth	15 50% growth
Secure program funding	100%	100%	100%
Develop Girls Education Matters - program & secure funding for it	N/A	Challenges facing cultural practices around girl's safety & traditional roles Under review.	Cancelled
Increase vocational scholarships – especially for girls	1 male student	2 males 0 girls 100% growth	2 male 0 girls 0% growth
Expand & fund well being & resilience workshops	0	3	11 375% growth

Program 1 FESSHIP Friends of Nepal Educational Scholarship Program.

The 2019/20 FESSHIP program began with 15 students. The gender gap was closed with 8 female and 7 male students on scholarship! Over the course of the year several students exited the program, some graduated and some for family/other reasons.

Item	2018/19	2019/20
Graduation	0% (all mid course)	87% 8 confirmed 1 results pending
Completion	88% 2 did not complete	77% 1 returned to village 2 exited
Transited to further study mid year	67% 3 eligible 2 transited	100% 5 eligible
Work placements	100% 1 eligible	100% 1 eligible
Qualifications and skills gained	0% 1 eligible 1 pending	86% 7 successful 1 pending
Employment opportunities	100% 2 eligible	100% 1 eligible
Retention rates	89% 1 exited	77% 1 returned to village 2 exited
Transition to work	67% 3 eligible 2 successful	100% 2 eligible
Financial Independence	0% None eligible	100% 2 eligible
Govt/other scholarship	N/A	50% 4 applied 2 successful
Monthly meetings	N/A	COVID 19 pandemic distorted figure

FESSHIP Student Narrative Report

All final university and year 12 exams have been postponed until end August. The resumption of face to face classes and/or opening of educational institutions is still unknown.

All students are now safely with families in Kathmandu or in their villages.

Bachelor Students.

- Sanjeev was awarded his Bachelor of Information Technology in August 2019.
- Bishal, who was studying third year accounting at Tribhuvan University, left the scholarship program in October 2019 to return to his village. As he did not maintain contact with the team his scholarship was terminated.
- Anjana completed her Diploma in Fashion Design in February and is awaiting final results to be published. Unfortunately she struggled with Bachelor requirements and her scholarship was withdrawn. She returned to her village in March 2020. During the course of her scholarship Anjana was supplied with a sewing machine by a generous donor and is now able to support herself in her village. She plans to study business management at the government college when it reopens.
- Saugat, our extremely talented visually impaired student, successfully completed his first year of a Bachelor of Developmental Finance at National College and is now studying second year.
- Kopila, a talented and determined young woman, is continuing her first year Bachelor of Business Studies at Baneshwor Multiple campus.
- Prachandra is completing his first year of a Bachelor in Computer Science studies at Advance College of Engineering and Management.
- Sobhan is completing her first year of General Nurse studies at Nepal Institute of Health Sciences .
- Sajina, another talented and gifted student, is completing first year of General Nurse studies at Pulchoki Nursing campus

Senior High School Students

- Hem and Prachandra and Bijay successfully completed Year 12 at NIC College.
- Shrinkhala has completed all Year 12 requirements but is awaiting final exam date, delayed due to COVID 19 lockdowns. She has been recommended for scholarship renewal for graduate studies.
- Sushant successfully completed his Senior Secondary Education Certificate, Year 10, at SAB school. He is also still in his village during lockdown but will hopefully return to study Years 11 & 12 when schools resume.
- Pooja successfully completed her year 11 studies at Caspian College and will continue with year 12 when schools resume.
- Sabina successfully completed her year 11 studies at Bajrabarahi Colleges and will continue with year 12 when schools resume.

- Singriti, who was studying Year 11 at Advance College, returned to her village for family reasons. The team keeps in contact with her and we hope Singriti can resume her scholarship. It is very challenging to keep young girls in higher education due to cultural expectations and family obligations.

Vocational and/or post year 12 studies.

- Bijay successfully completed a Diploma in Cooking and Barista training at Cocina Mitho Chaa in December 2019. He was working as a pastry chef at Uncle's Bakery in Kathmandu prior to COVID 19 lockdown restrictions being imposed. He hopes to return to Kathmandu when lockdowns are lifted.
- Hem was successful in receiving a Mitrabhava scholarship at Cocina Mitho Chaa and completed a Barista training course in July 2019.
- Hem completed a medical preparation scholarship in October 2019. (sponsored by Seaside Dental.)
- Hem deferred his FESSHIP scholarship to return to his village to support his family when his grandfather died and his home was destroyed by fire. He hopes to begin medical studies in 2021 COVID 19 permitting.
- Prachandra completed a university preparation course in September 2019 and is now enrolled in a Bachelor of Computer Science.

FESSHIP Management Team Report.

FESSHIP management team submitted all required monthly, quarterly and annual reporting requirements as per partnership agreement. The annual report is available on our website.





Program 2. SEEP Partnership Agreement - Child Development Society-Nepal

- Partnership agreement 3 years - 2018-2020.
- Facilitating funding for Self Employment through Education (SEEP) program
- Two groups of 30 marginalised women completed the program in Kavre district in October 2019.
 - Funding was transferred for third and final group in October 2019 but completion of programs has been delayed by 2 months due to COVID 19 lockdown and travel restrictions. All reporting requirements for this program were received.
 - Malcolm Lindquist visited this program in February 2020 and found it inspiring.
 - The final SEEP group of 30 individual marginalised women are currently receiving education and employment training to enable them to financially support their families and send their children to school instead of work in the brick kilns.
 - This group will graduate in December 2020.
 - Reports are available on request.

We are also very proud to be signatures to the recent RAWCS SEEP project # 101-2018/19 RAOAF established by tireless humanitarian Malcolm Lindquist in collaboration with Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek in Adelaide and Rotary Club of Dilibazaar in Kathmandu. Generous support has also been provided by the Rotary Club of Deloraine.

Three groups of 30 marginalised women are currently undertaking the RAWCS funded program.



Moving forward

Thankyou to FESSHIP management team. We appreciate your hard work and commitment to the successful management of the Education Scholarship program in 2019/20 & look forward to the successful implementation and navigation through the COVID 19 pandemic of the 2020/21 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 Brian Nancarrow for his diligence and advice in auditing our financial records at short notice. It is much appreciated. Thanks also to Philip Patterson who as auditor has provided invaluable financial guidance over the past three years.

Canopy Nepal

Thankyou to our partners 'Canopy Nepal.' It is a privilege to work with this young and dynamic team, Deekshak, Roshan & Mohit.





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Report Prepared by:

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August 9th 2020

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