

Newsletter December 2020

Namaste! Merry Christmas & Happy Holidays!

It's been a challenging year all over the world & we feel grateful to be living as in Australia & as freely as we are during the pandemic. We wish to thank you for your continued support of our many projects over this time. We could not achieve anything without it.

Nepal update

The situation in Nepal is serious with Kathmandu identified as a COVID19 hotspot. Costs for COVID testing is high (\$30 Aust) & out of the reach of most people. There is little government support & agencies like Canopy Nepal, Rotary clubs and other service organisations are stepping in to help.

Tourism and hospitality, the main sources of income for many in Nepal, have been devastated by this pandemic.

Nepalis are used to wearing masks to manage the pollution in Kathmandu & this practice has continued. Shops are open & schools and colleges are gradually reopening with some infection control measures in place. Most are only offering on-line options & students who cannot access digital learning are missing out on education. Nepal is reporting an uprise in child marriages & domestic violence, which is very disturbing news.



Canopy Nepal Digital Learning Hub

Our Nepal Partner NGO, who also manage other educational scholarship programs in partnership with Canadian & American NGO's, have launched a Digital Learning Fundraising drive to provide learning devices for 50 children currently unable to access on-line learning. They need \$20,000 for this project & have asked their partner NGO's for help. The team is planning bulk buying of devices to minimise costs & researching software platforms for inclusion of learning resources for access when the internet is unavailable, quite often in Nepal!

Our FESSHIP management team has identified 7 of our 9 students who qualify to be part of this program.

FONAI recently transferred \$6,000 to enable the team to prioritise funding upgrades for our 7 students & others they have identified as high need. This funding is in addition to the funds we have already committed to our scholarship program. We considered our options & decided that this support was vital if our students were to be able to complete their studies successfully during these challenging times.



We hope to be able to provide further support for this worthwhile program if & when fundraising activities can resume in 2021.

If you want to help now please contact us for bank details & we will arrange transfer of funds.





FESSHIP - Scholarship Program Update

We are pleased to be able to report positively on the progress of FESSHIP students.

- Shrinkhala completed her final Year 12 exams this week after a 4 month delay.
- Sabina & Pooja start their Year 11 exams this week after a 4 month wait!
- Sajina & Sobhan, our nursing students, have continued their studies on line & hope to sit the final exams for their first year of studies in the next few weeks.
- Kopila is continuing her Bachelor of Business Science on line after some delays as well.
- Prachandra is currently completing his first year of a Bachelor in Computer Application & will sit first year final exams in January 2021.
- Saugat has begun on-line third year classes in a Bachelor of Developmental Finance.



Three of our 2019/20 graduates remain in their villages & are not able to begin new courses or resume employment due to the COVID 19 risks of returning to & living in Kathmandu. Our team is in regular contact supporting these students & assisting them to make sustainable future choices.

A big thankyou to all who have supported the program this year. You are greatly appreciated!

Lockdown activities.

Over the past few months we have been involved as facilitators, and/or donors, in several projects to help fund important social projects in Nepal. We really appreciate the support we received from family, friends and local Rotary clubs who responded so generously to our requests. Thankyou from us and from our friends in Nepal as well.



Projects

- Rotary Club of Dilibazaar Thermo gun project
- Cocina Mitho Chaa thermo gun.
- Rotary Club of Adelaide and South Pacific School Aid ROAR project for Romany Gypsies in Serbia (knitted goods and clothing)



Self Employment through Education Program Update.

The completion date for the SEEP program we have been facilitating with the Child Development Society has been deferred until May 2021 due to COVID 19 restrictions.

Fundraising.

A big thankyou to Hilary Flynn, her friend Bronwyn, Jan & Bob Arnold & Kaye & Ross Nayda, who have been busy sewing, making jam & drying oranges for us to sell at the market & from our homes.

Our 'front porch sales' have raised over \$1700 & the markets around \$1200.

Another thankyou to Cherilyn Fleming who has continued to sell books for us at Goolwa Markets each month. Her efforts have raised over \$1300 this year.

We wish you all a safe, happy & healthy holiday season.