



Annual Report 2020 – 2021



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 Year12 can attend government universities. Private universities are preferred as the quality is believed to be higher.

Vocational training opportunities are slowly becoming available, and more popular, as alternatives to university studies.

FONAI Time line of our work

2014-2021

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.

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 prioritize girls for funding support.
- Our current partnership with this team has been extended to 2022.
- In 2020/21 we funded 10 scholarships, six girls and four boys.
- The completion of the SEEP project, for which we facilitated funding from 2018-2020, has been delayed by the pandemic and we are waiting for the final report.
- Where possible FONAI continues to assist in securing or allocating funding for COVID relief support programs.

Collaborations

We work closely with the local and International Rotary movement and other service organizations well as our International supporters, Canopy Nepal and The Child Development Society, (CDS) Nepal and Cocina Mithho Chha (CMC) 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) and disburse funding for a Social Empowerment through Education Program (SEEP) with the Child Development Society. (CDS) The last twelve months have seen extra support to Rotary Club of Dillibazar and Cocina Mitho Chha for COVID relief programs.

Key Stakeholders, Donors and Supporters 2020/21

SAMSON Tall	Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek	Rotary Club of Lindisfarne
Helen Henbest	Rotary Club of Blackwood	Lynne Albrow
Ronwynne Foundation	Montessori Children's Centre McLaren Vale	Woolmore Fine Foods
Emmelines	Rawsons Electrical	Hilary Flynn
Cherilyn Fleming	Individual sponsors	South Seas Books
Jan and Bob Arnold	Rotary Club of Seaford	

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 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.

Management Committee

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.

Name	Position	Dates acted
Lynne Rawson	Chairperson	July 2020-June 30 2021
Sue Wymond	Treasurer	July 2020-June 30 2021
Denise Roscrow	Secretary	July 2020-June 30 2021
Lynne Rawson /Ainsley Roscrow	Fundraising	July 2020-June 30 2021
Bernadette Jarvis	Child Protection Officer	July 2020-June 30 2021
Jo Bourchier	Committee member	July 2020-June 30 2021
Malcolm Lindquist	Committee member	July 2020-June 30 2021

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 (2017-21) 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. CDS support has been put on hold due to COVID-19 until further notice.

Canopy Nepal FESSHIP Reports and update on students and scholarship program available on website.

Chairperson's Report - 2020-2021 Financial Year

2020/2021 Goals

Due to COVID-19 and the ongoing difficulties in both Nepal and Australia, FONAI decided against expanding the program in 2020/21 and to continue to support existing students continue their education through the pandemic. Most of the families in the program lost their jobs so ensuring families and students had financial and living support during the lockdown was prioritized. FONAI supported a couple of 'one off' fundraisers for specific COVID-19 Relief projects in Nepal and one in collaboration with Canopy, the Digital Hub project. We committed to closely monitoring our financial situation so as not to over extend ourselves until we were sure that we could fully commit to a growth in our finances.



2020/2021 Goals v/s Actual

Goal	2018/19	2019/20	2020/2021	Comment
Increase total # of scholarship students to ten (10)	10	15	9	Decided to limit to existing students (9) due to pandemic
Develop programs to support scholar wellbeing in collaboration with Canopy Nepal	3	11	22	Students provided with digital devices as part of Digital Hub program to access workshops. Canopy developed online workshops in response to move to digital learning
Expand private public sponsorship program including skill based vocational scholarships	1	3	N/A	Focus on family & student support through pandemic
Apply for grants to develop other programs	2	1	N/A	N/A
Aim for gender balance in FESSHIP program	3 girls 7 boys	8 girls 7 boys	Achieved	Surpassed
Self Employment through Education Program for illiterate women support.	2 groups completed	Final group underway	Suspended due to pandemic	Finalisation expected July 2021

Program Descriptions

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)

In 2020/21 we also allocated funding for a special Canopy Project, the Digital Hub, and funded the purchase of laptops to help eliminate barriers for FESSHIP and other students for accessing online learning. We also allocated funding to support three COVID relief programs in Nepal.

FESSHIP Program Overview

Our 2020/21 FESSHIP program was managed in partnership with NGO Canopy Nepal. Project manager, Deekshak Bhattarai continued in his role and the program began with 9 students.

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

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 COVID challenges and cultural difficulties quickly and respectfully.



Outcomes FESSHIP

There were 9 active students in the 2020/21 program. All have returned to their villages in lockdown except one who lives in Kathmandu. During the pandemic financial and living support as well as food assistance for students and their families was the top priority for the management team. Long lockdowns and delays in switching to online learning, coupled with poor internet access and lack of digital devices, have significantly impacted all students in successfully continuing their education. The FESSHIP team has been outstanding in its efforts to both support and motivate students to continue their studies with regular contact, Zoom meetings, workshops and motivational speakers. We have retained 100% of our students but as all exams are delayed cannot yet report on success rates.

2020/2021 Achievements

Completed first year of 2 year partnership. Flexibility very beneficial in pandemic.

Sustained program through COVID 19 crisis.

Liaised with Canopy Nepal re assistance with COVID 19 recovery programs for FESSHIP students &/or Canopy approved programs.

Funded laptops for all students.

Facilitated funding for thermometer gun project with RC of Dilibazaar.

Facilitated funding for Medical Kits project with CMC & COVID Infection Clinic with RC of Dilibazaar.

Extended partnership agreement with Nepal NGO Child Development Society to facilitate funding for Self Employment through Education Program for illiterate women.

Student Report

Senior High School Students

Sushant completed year 10 and began Year 11 studies prior to returning to his village. He is attempting to continue his studies online but the remoteness and conditions in his village make it difficult. Sushant is in his 6th year of FESSHIP scholarship.

Shrinkhala completed year 12 with high achievement. Worked as a volunteer at Canopy and is now studying Bachelor in Business management online. This is her third year as a FESSHIP scholar.

Pooja and **Sabina** are currently completing Year 12 online. They are in the second year of FESSHIP scholarships

Vocational or Bachelor Studies

Prachandra is completing second year of a Bachelor in Computer Science on line. This is his 4th year on scholarship

Shoban is in her second year of nursing studies and the second year of a FESSHIP scholarship.

Saugat is in his third year of a Bachelor of Developmental Science and his third year as a FESSHIP scholar.

Sajina is second year of nursing studies and the second year of a FESSHIP scholarship.

Kopila is in her second year of a Bachelor in Business studies and this is her second year as a FESSHIP scholar.

For a detailed report please access the FESSHIP ANNUAL REPORT from Canopy Nepal on website or available on request.

SEEP Project.

All funds have been dispersed for this 3-year project. The revised date for completion is July 2021 and we are awaiting final reports. Lockdowns made it impossible for facilitators or participants to travel to classes to complete the training and finalise the project.

COVID Relief Projects

October 2020 Thermometer Guns COVID project for Kathmandu schools to safely re-open after lockdown – RC Dilibazaar \$3,000

November 2020 Digital Hub project November 2020- March 2021 \$7,000

FONAI committed to fund up to 50 laptops for FESSHIP and other students who were facing many barriers to continuing their education during the lockdown.

Many students did not have access to digital devices which meant they could not participate in online learning. All FESSHIP students now have laptops, have been trained how to use them and have received ongoing support in accessing network services and costs.

June 2021

With the growing number of COVID-19 cases rising in Nepal, FONAI was approached by Rotary Club Dillibazar and Cochina Mitho Chaa (CMC) for some extra support.

Medical Kits Project \$3,000 (CMC) We funded kits for families and medical professionals to assist in treatment of Covid during lockdown

COVID Infection Clinic \$8,000 (R club of Dillibazar) with a further disbursement of \$7,000 in July. In addition to the \$7,000 we used from existing FONAI funds we raised \$9,000 from service clubs and private donors. The funds are being applied to payment of nurses salaries at the clinic.

Fundraising

Once again COVID-19 has made fundraising difficult.

We attended 8 markets at the Urrbrae Barn Market, mainly selling jams, craft items, Nepali items and donations of goods (bric a brac)

2 online raffles were held – tickets were sold through the Try Booking online platform.

1 film night held at the Wallis Cinema, Mitcham.

The selling of 'off the porch items', jams, a stall at Ainsley's Montessori Centre and Cheryl Fleming's amazing effort selling books at the Goolwa markets all made a substantial contribution to our finances this past year. The many craft items donated by Hilary Flynn also helped build our finances.

Funding sources goals v/s actual (See Audited report for detailed information)

Item	2018/19	2019/20	2020/21	Comment
Sponsor	28 \$14,050	26 \$11,950	24 \$10,600	12% decrease
Fundraising events	6 major 5 markets	5 major 4 markets	8 markets 2 online raffles 1 film night	COVID restrictions
Fundraising income	\$19,491.22	\$17,927.00	15,600	15% decrease
Donations	\$4,735.10	\$7,655.25	\$6,496	Book, jam & craft sales provided consistent funding
COVID appeals			\$9,490	Pandemic support
Total income	\$39,276	\$37,531	\$42,186	11% increase

FONAI's Goals in next 5 years are:

- Ensure sustainability and maximise social impact of FESSHIP scholarship programs within Canopy
- Identify and implement succession plans for management committee
- Pursue funding grants and pursue new and retain existing partnerships
- Work to identify alternative partnership opportunities within Canopy Nepal
- Secure funding to maintain existing program
- Expand and fund well being and resilience workshops for all scholars
- Formalise monitoring program of all graduates for better program evaluation
- Capacity building in both NGO's
- Survive COVID19!
- Support scholars to successful completion of their studies.

Thankyou

Friends of Nepal Adelaide Inc would not be in the position it is today without the huge support from so many friends, groups, sponsors and our community.

We would like to especially thank and acknowledge Brown Hill Creek Rotary Club for the many years of support and sponsorship. This club is sadly winding up at the end of this year – they will be greatly missed- particular thanks go to Malcolm Lindquist (FONAI Member) who has always been a wonderful ' liaison officer' between the two groups.

Our Sponsors are very important to our FESSHIP Scholarship Program – Thank you for continuing to support our students as they work towards their life goals and ambitions.

Special thanks to Hilary Flynn for her ongoing sewing and craft projects that are always a delight and brighten up every event.

To the wonderful Jan Arnold who continues to supply most of Adelaide with her famous marmalade – we are forever grateful.

Cherilyn Fleming has continued to support FONAI by holding numerous book stalls (rain , wind and shine) thank you so much your support means a lot to not only the students but to our whole team.

Another big thank you goes to Helen Henbest, Helen your donations of beautiful art and sales of beanies are always appreciated and admired by many.

Thank you to Brian Nankivell for auditing the 2020/21 books – we very much appreciate the time and effort this takes. Thankyou for committing your services again this coming year! ☺

To the many businesses, friends and acquaintances we say thank you. To the families of our team members we say a HUGE thankyou. Each time we ask for help (money) to join us in a film night, a market or a raffle you all come up roses- there are just too many people to individually thank at this time, we hope you know who you are because we certainly do.

Thank you to Canopy Nepal – we are so lucky to be working with such an inspiring team- beautifully lead by Mohit Rauniyar, Roshan Bhatta, our manager Deekshak Bhattari.

Having the FESSHIP program managed by this team in Nepal, lets us sleep at night!

Particular mention and thanks to Deekshak who has gone above and beyond in his support of our students as they have faced many difficulties this past year. Setting up online studies and supporting students and their families in health and long distance learning has certainly been a challenge. Thank you to all the Canopy team for the many, many hours you contribute to our program.

Friends of Nepal Adelaide Inc looks forward to working with Canopy Nepal over the next year.

Last but not least I would like to thank the FONAI team. And what a team we are – we may be small in number but as they say ‘when the going gets tough the tough get going’ and with this COVID-19 pandemic still hanging around, it probably doesn’t get much tougher!

Denise you always go above and beyond – you are our ‘corner stone’ you are the glue that keeps us together – you may say you are the secretary but we all know who you really are! 😊 The history of this committee and the relationships that have been nurtured both here and in Nepal are so strong because you have made them that way. Your integrity, honesty and transparency are the strength of this committee. Thank you.

Sue, thank you for all the hard work and many, many hours you contribute to this team – understanding the ins and outs of two different countries’ finances takes a special person and that’s you. You are always there with a quick response to the many questions we throw at you. Again a huge THANK YOU.

To the rest of the team – Malcolm, Bernie, Ainsley and Jo – you are ALL cherished .

Report Prepared by:



Lynne Rawson Chairperson Friends of Nepal- Adelaide Inc
August 9th 2021

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