

Chairperson's Report 2021-2022

2021/2022 has been a year with many personal ups and downs for our members, thank you for always managing the FONAI work (reports and newsletters written and payments made on time— particularly when family has been a priority) you are amazing people.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every member for their continued support including the many hours given to run this successful program.

Sue and Denise have spent many, many hours at their desks making sure that our T's are crossed and our I's are dotted!! Thank you.

For the first time in our short history we saw a small change in the FONAI Committee members. We farewelled Ainsley and welcomed Helen to our small but active group!

A huge thankyou MUST go to our dear Ainsley – a member of FONAI for some 8 years. Ainsley has contributed to FONAI in so many ways, she has grounded our committee, travelled to Nepal many times (often with family members joining her.) Ainsley has cemented many wonderful friendships within the Nepali community – her insight into education in developing countries has moved FONAI away from financial support to active Educational support – Ainsley has run many teacher workshops – sharing her knowledge and skills always with fun and thoughtfulness.

Ainsley your dedication and commitment to FONAI and all things Nepalese has lifted FONAI to the next level, your ability to Fundraise at the drop of a hat , connect with like minded people both in Australia and Nepal has made you a very important and highly valued team member.

Thank you for the many years you have dedicated to FONAI.

FESSHIP Scholarship Program

Our principal activity over the year remained ensuring the funds for the FESSHIP program were sustained over the pandemic to support students to stay in their studies. The only changes have been to direct scholarship funds to support students and their families well-being during the extended lockdowns in Nepal, when schools and institutions were closed. As our management team puts it.

'FESSHIP is a scholarship program that not only emphasizes materialistic need-based fulfillment but also focuses on ensuring the overall growth and well-being of the students. This is primarily done to emphasize improvising the educational status among those children belonging from less privileged family backgrounds but having strong determination in achieving quality education. At FESSHIP, major prominence is given to the development of skills and knowledge through different sets of workshops, sessions and consultation programs.

Economic hardship makes educational equity more difficult despite gender-specific and other targeted policy interventions and provisions.

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About 86.8 percent of children who start primary school reach Grade 5 and only three quarters (74.6 percent) survive up to Grade 8 which shows a significant number of dropouts in Nepal.

FESSHIP has always been persistent in creating opportunities for our scholars through skill-based workshops and consultation apart from the materialistic needs and psychological well-being.'

**Extract from Canopy Nepal Scholarship Program Annual Report 2021/2022 (available on FONAI website)*

FESSHIP Summary

The 2021/2022 FESSHIP program prioritized COVID19 and student wellbeing support with a key goal being keeping all students in their courses. We began with 9 students, 6 girls and 3 boys. Over the year 2 girls graduated+2 and 2 female +2 students from outside Kathmandu Valley were added courtesy of a special donation of \$5,000 bringing the total 11 students . (3 male 8 female)

There was a 100% gain in well being/resilience workshops offered by our management team and a 50% increase in vocational scholarships awarded over the course of the year. We had 4 students completing Bachelor studies, 2 completing vocational studies and 5 senior completing secondary studies. We are pleased to report that all have passed their exams and we have just received reports that 3 of the girls have done exceptionally well! Digital support for the students was expanded and remains a priority for any new students who enter the program and have to move to online learning.

Outreach programs

In 2021 FONAI facilitated funding to assist our Nepalese partners Rotary Club of Dillibazaar and the Rotaract Club of Dillibazaar to address COVID19 challenges.

Projects included :

- Thermo – Gun purchase and distribution to enable the re-opening of schools inside Kathmandu Valley.
- Covid Isolation Clinic - Funding of 12 nurses to work at COVID Isolation Clinic in Kathmandu during COVID peak

We also partnered with NGO chairperson of Cocina Mittho Chai, Debendra Pokharel, for a fundraising drive to fund medical kits for both family and professional use during the peak of the pandemic.

The 3 year SEEP project (2017-2020) we were facilitating with the Child Development Society which had been delayed by the pandemic was completed in Dec 2021.

We are pleased to report that we received all required progress and final project reports for these outreach programs from our partners which we shared with donors.

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Friends of Nepal - Adelaide Inc.

Proud Supporters of Education for the Youth of Nepal

In February 2022 we were proud to be invited to be signatory to a Memorandum of Understanding with the Rotary Clubs of Brownhill Creek and Dillibazar and the Child Development Society Nepal for the establishment of a Rotary Australia World Community Service project (RAWCS) to support Self - Employment Education Program (SEEP) for marginalized and vulnerable women in Nepal. To date two groups have been established and are underway.

We are very grateful for the continued support of the Rotary movement and other service organisations across the world for our FESSHIP and outreach programs.

FONAI Outcomes.

Despite the pandemic our small group worked tirelessly to ensure the program was completely funded and while the number of fundraising events we held remained steady, both face to face and online events, there was a 34% decline in fundraising revenue over this year.

We also saw a 25% decrease in sponsorships but balanced these losses with a 250% increase in donations courtesy of a large donation from the Rotary Club of Brownhill Creek.

Looking Forward.

In 2022-2023 we will welcome 15 students to the program. It will be a busy year as over the duration four of our students will graduate, one with a Bachelor of Developmental Science and two with Diplomas of Nursing and one with a Higher Education Certificate. Two girls will also complete their Higher Education Certificates (HSE) at the end of the coming financial year.

We recently received the exciting news that Sabina, a recent HSE graduate, has been accepted on full scholarship (USA\$15,000) to complete her Bachelor of Science at the Asian University for Women in Bangladesh. This is a wonderful opportunity for her and we are very proud to have supported her for the past 2 plus years. More good news this week about our two wonderful nursing students. Both received outstanding results in their exams with Sajina achieving the highest marks in her college.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank each and every person who has contributed to the FONAI FESSHIP Program.

- FONAI Committee, Canopy Nepal, Deepshak Bhattarai / Manager, Supporters, Sponsors, Rotary Clubs, past members, Jam makers, Book sellers, Craft suppliers, Adelaide Knitters, particular thanks to Woolmore's Fine Foods and Emmaline's Country Kitchen Bakery. I'm sure I have missed people! Sorry – Thank you.

Lynne Rawson Chairperson FONAI

12/9/22

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Testimonials

"I always find the sessions and programs conducted by Canopy Nepal effective. I believe organizing such interactive discussions can be one of the ways to improve the quality of public schools and ultimately bridge the gap between private and public schools in the country." - **Shailendra Shrestha (Guardians)**

"Thank you so much Canopy Nepal for your continuous support, guidance, and care for my sister, Kopila." - **Sangi Sherpa (Guardians)**

"I am grateful to the FESSHIP team for assisting me with the community visit because I learned a lot of new things that will help me in the nursing field in the coming days." - **Sobhan Tamang (Scholar)**

"I am so happy and I have a great experience dealing with critical and routine hospital cases that every human being faces at some point in their lives, and I am also proud to assist sick patients." - **Sajina Pariyar (Scholar)**

"The panel discussion has helped me understand the teachers' perspectives on their roles of making education accessible to all the individuals." - **Sushant Shahi (Scholar)**

Copies of all relevant reporting documents will be available on our website.