

## Newsletter - February 2023

### Chairperson's Report

2023 is off & running & while it is a new school year for us, it's second semester of the year for our students in Nepal. Two students will complete their studies in the next few months while others continue with current courses.

On behalf of The FONAI team I would like to congratulate Canopy Nepal founder & CEO Mohit, who was recently recognised by the International Literacy Association as one of '30 under 30' honorees for 'The Future Of Literacy.' Mohit will also be relocating to USA in the fall to take up a scholarship he was awarded from Harvard University to complete his Masters in Education. Mohit is a wonderful mentor to us, the Canopy team & our students. What outstanding achievements Mohit!



I was excited to welcome ex FESSHIP student Sanjeev BK & his wife Namita at Adelaide Airport in early December. Sanjeev was our first student to complete a Bachelor degree, graduating with a Bachelor of Science -Honours Computing in 2019. He has since worked in the IT field in Nepal & will begin his 2 year Masters in Information Technology – Graphic Design at Torrens University in February. Sanjeev has kindly assumed responsibility for managing the FONAI website.



Another former student, Hem, also a talented basketballer, recently relocated to Canada to study computer technology. Hem completed Years 11 & 12, Barista training & several medical scholarship preparation courses whilst on FESSHIP scholarship.

FONAI supported both Sanjeev & Hem for 2 years before they left the Orphanage managed by Mother Rajan in 2015 & 2016. We are proud to have been part of their continuing education journeys & wish them well.

I am looking forward to speaking at the Rotary Club of Mitcham's Feb 8 meeting.

I will be talking about my recent trip to Nepal, the RAWCS SEEP program, FESSHIP, & other programs we have worked together on over the past few years.

Mitcham Rotarians are long time supporters of Nepal & we enjoy a close association in supporting many programs to successful completion with them!



This month we resumed our monthly video calls with Deekshak & Monal, where we exchange news & manage any challenges collaboratively. Deekshak is pictured here in his FESSHIP manager shirt with FONAI & FESSHIP logos embroidered by JT's Embroideries in Willunga who donated their services. I presented this shirt to him on my last trip to Nepal. Thanks to Jason & Aimee for your generosity & fabric advice!

Lynne!

## FESSHIP - Scholarship Program Update

Its been a busy winter for our team & our students. Once again there have been some major achievements & milestones reached & we congratulate them all.

Following his successful completion of Year 12, our youngest & longest scholar, Sushant, completed Barista training & a 3 month internship with our good friends at Cocina Mitho Chha.

Sushant is currently working as a soccer coach at Radiant High School, tutoring Year 4,5 & 6 students in maths & science at Canopy & recently began working at a call centre.

After 6 years of living in Institutions or hostels, Sushant is now living in a rented room with friends & plans to work for a while while he considers his future options.



Saugat, whom we have supported since the first year of his undergraduate studies, graduated with a degree in Developmental Finance in December & is now undertaking preparatory studies for entrance exams into the banking sector. He should know the outcome of his efforts in a few weeks. We wish this dedicated & talented young man great success.



Prachandra is completing the final year of his Bachelor in Computer Science & after 5 years in hostels recently moved into rented rooms with his sister Manju, also an ex FESSHIP student.

Shrinkhala is now working every day in Canopy's finance section, gaining valuable experience while she completes the third year of her Bachelor of Business studies.

Our two nursing students, Sajina & Shovan, are currently completing the compulsory community service requirements of their nursing studies & are on track to graduate in April.

We are very proud of all of the students & thank Deekshak & his team for their continued dedication & commitment to them all.

It is very gratifying to see the students mentored so successfully to independent living!



## Fundraising.

2023 projects are under discussion with our intrepid team & details will follow.



*from the FONAI team*

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