

Season's Greetings

Wow, another year has whizzed by again, and more exciting things are afoot. Next year marks 10 years since the first Meg's Children Committee meeting was called by Trish in Bowna, and many wonderful things have been achieved.

This year, some of our older children have made their way out into the world, and thanks to your generosity, are able to go on to great things!



Sagar, one of our original residents has moved out and has kept himself very busy. Not only has he started a company, Supporting Products for the Destination (SPD) Nepal (which you can find at www.facebook.com/spd.nepal), he has also started a boarding house for volunteers in Kathmandu. His company, SPD, employs three women. Some of the profits also go to help another children's home that receives no external support.

Here Sagar talks about SPD

'...the first thing is we pay the salary to the women who are making these beautiful products, we are paying them 160 NRS per product... We have to pay to them because they are the actual heroes who are making this come true... Then we do the charity too: we give 20% of our profit to Green Planet and 20% to Kopila Nepal. These funds will give small support to run these two non-profit organizations. Then we also keep some funds to start our new work to give you guys

more good recycled and handmade products.'

Needless to say, he is very proud of his ventures, and we are of him.



This year, we also have several students starting at university. Radhika will be studying Accounting, and Roshni (pictured right) will be studying nursing.

Radhika (left, with Sagar) has quite an amazing story. After being with Meg's from the very start, she returned to live with her aunt in Kathmandu about 18 months ago and now takes care of her elderly grandmother. On top of this, she has managed to achieve good grades and work part time, and is

now attending university.



We are also very pleased to hear that Ankita, our youngest (and probably cheekiest!) resident has moved back in with her family. Meg's will continue to monitor and support Ankita to ensure she receives every opportunity possible. It is important to note that many of the children in our home are not orphans in the traditional sense of the word, but are often with us as their families are not able to provide them with the opportunities they would like to. Supporting children to return to their families and is an important element in the Nepalese governments Children Welfare strategy, and is one that Meg's supports fully.



We are also very pleased to report that all the children are healthy and doing well at school. Many of them have grand plans of their own.

Reema wants to study dentistry when she finishes school, Susmita would like to be an architect and Bibesh (who is 9) wants to become a wrestler. The opportunities for these children to have grand plans are what you have helped us to achieve!



Geeta, Reema, Roshni, Susmita and Jessica

After the huge success of Christmas in July, the second half of the year was very quiet for the committee here in Australia. We were fortunate enough to be the beneficiaries of some very generous local groups.

The Inner Wheel of Albury held a Gold Class movie night for our benefit. The Golden Globe nominated *Gone Girl* had the audience on the edge of their seat, and provided much to discuss over champagne and nibbles. A great night was had by all, and we thank the Inner Wheel for their continued generosity!

The Rotary Club of Holbrook hosted Bridal Gowns Through the Ages at the Holbrook Hall. The event showcased wedding dresses near and far, old and new, and a wonderful time was had by everyone in attendance. We thank all the Holbrook Rotary committee members (especially Milt!) models, waitresses, musicians and helpers that made the evening such a wonderful success.



This year, we also reached another milestone. Thanks to some very hard work by David H our treasurer, donations over \$100 per annum are now tax deductible. As many of our children will be moving on to higher education, we are looking for donors who would like to make regular contributions to our wonderful cause. If you are interested, or would like more information, please do not hesitate to contact us at megschildren@hotmail.com.au.



Don't forget we have a wonderful website at megschildren.org, as well as a Facebook page www.facebook.com/megschildren (or search for Meg's Children). Information on upcoming events and fundraisers can be found here, so if you haven't already, like us on Facebook. If you need any information that you cannot find on the website or Facebook page, feel free to email us at megschildren@hotmail.com.au. Please pass this newsletter, or our information, on to anyone you think may be interested- many hands make light work!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who has supported us and attended our events throughout 2014. Without your support, the Meg's Children Committee would not be able to continue to enrich the lives of these children. The support you give makes a huge difference-every little bit counts.

With every wish for a very Merry Christmas and the happiest of New Years,

Meg's Children Committee.

