



Education is a basic right for all children.

December 2016

Season's greetings to all!

A message from the committee

What a busy year 2016 has been! We would like to take this opportunity to extend a huge thank you to all of those who have so generously supported Meg's Children over the past year – new supporters and old, both in Australia and Nepal. With your help we are making a real difference.

This has been a significant year for us, with major changes to the way we operate in Nepal, taking a new approach to fundraising and gaining new supporters at home, and most importantly, our family in Nepal went from strength to strength, with many achievements to celebrate.

We have worked hard this year to adapt to changes to Nepali social welfare policy, and in doing so have strengthened our connection with our friends at the Siddhi Memorial Foundation, which is also based in Bhaktapur. With the support of Siddhi our younger children and house mum Bibechana have moved to a new home – Noble House – where we have installed a new water storage and solar hot water and lighting, which will make life much more comfortable in a country where electricity and water supply can be very unreliable.



In line with government policy, where possible we have also reconnected our children with family members, and will continue to support them to live and study in their home communities. We've also established an outreach program, to provide support to families living in poverty in the local Bhaktapur community.

In early 2017 we will have a number of young children joining our little family at Noble House, and we look forward to welcoming them! And as for our older children, they continue to amaze us

with their energy and drive, and their commitment to each other and to their younger siblings. Six of them are now studying at university, which is a wonderful achievement.

Trish and Vince travelled to Nepal in May and spent a busy week working with Siddhi and with Sagar to put in place all of the necessary changes. Recovery from the devastating 2015 earthquake has been slow, and the impacts of the blockade of the Indian border continue. The local people remain upbeat and always resilient!

Our Meg's in March fundraising initiative was a great success, and we thank all of you who took part and hosted an event. We are so grateful to all of our supporters, and would like to make special mention of Koorimal Rotary, North Albury Rotary, Inner Wheel Wodonga and Flanagan House at St Anne's Primary.

Our website and Facebook page have also recently been updated, and we encourage you to take a look www.megschildren.org.

We're pleased to report that planning has commenced in earnest for our major event, a gala dinner to be held at the Albury Club on **25 March 2017**. Mark your diaries, as this is sure to be a great night!

Thank you again for your generous support in 2016 and continued interest in Meg's Children Nepal. There is no doubt that together we are making a huge difference to the daily lives of these children, and helping to create a brighter future for them and for Nepal. There is much to look forward to in 2017 and we look forward to your continued friendship and support.

The Meg's Children Nepal Committee

Off to university

Six of our children (young adults!) are now studying in their chosen fields at university in Kathmandu. This is such a proud achievement for Megs, and one that seemed totally unimaginable ten years ago when Trish first visited Nepal and met these children, who were then living in extreme poverty. Now Rohsani, Reema, Sujeeta, Sagar, Radhika and Suresh are working towards careers in nursing, hospitality, business, fashion and computer science.

Roshani (pictured) is on track to complete her nursing course in 2017, and will be the first to graduate.



This is made possible through our repayable scholarship program. Each student writes an application to the committee in Australia to undertake their chosen course, and commits to repaying the tuition costs once they graduate and start work.

These funds will stay in Nepal and will be used to support other children through their tertiary studies.

Outreach program

This is a new initiative that has evolved over the past year in recognition that there is a huge need within the community where our children live, and that we are well placed to help make a difference.

Sagar has taken the lead on this work and we are so proud of him, and his strong sense of social responsibility. The Khatri family are the first to be supported through this program, and Sagar is pictured below with the youngest of their three children.



Meg's pays for school fees and makes a contribution towards rent, and we have purchased new bedding and clothing for the children, and formula for the baby. The results of this connection are already clear – the health of the children has improved markedly, and the two older children are now attending school.

This program aims to support families to look after their children in their own homes, and the nature of the support provided will depend on the particular need in each case.



25 years of Precious Public English School

The Precious Public English School in Bhaktapur celebrated its 25 year anniversary this year, and Trish and Vince were fortunate to be able to attend some of the celebrations.

Our children have attended Precious Public since 2006, and the teachers and administrative staff have always gone out of their way to support our children. The quality of education is excellent, and we wish Precious Public every success in its next 25 years.

Trish and Vince were honoured to receive an award on behalf of Meg's Children, acknowledging the long friendship between our two organisations.

Water and solar project – Noble House

Moving to Noble House near Bhaktapur has been a fantastic change for us. The house itself is very comfortable, and the living arrangements meet the requirements of the Nepali government.

There were a few modifications required before moving in, so earlier this year we submitted a funding application to the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart (MSC) Missions Project initiative to construct a water storage tank and install a solar water heating system and solar lighting.



We were very fortunate to receive a grant of \$12 500 for this work, which has recently been completed and will have long lasting benefits for current and future residents at Noble House. We are very grateful to MSC for their generous support, as are Bibechana and the children, who are enjoying life with a reliable source of lighting and hot water at Noble House!

SAVE THE DATE!!

Gala dinner at the Albury Club on 25 March 2017

For this event we are joining forces with another Albury-based charity ODASOV (Organisation for Development and Assistance for the Socially Vulnerable), which is working to support vulnerable people in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

This evening of entertainment (including Nepalese and Congolese music and dancing), dinner, a charity auction and more is one not to be missed. More details will follow in early 2017, but if you require any more information in the meantime please email megschildren@hotmail.com.au.

We look forward to seeing you there!

