

Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc.

Registration no. A0054301J ABN: 79 892 132 355
29 Blue Mount Road, Trentham, Victoria 3458

NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the Fifth Annual General Meeting of the
NEPALI VILLAGE INITIATIVES ASSOCIATION INC.
will be held at 29 Blue Mount Road Trentham, Victoria
on Sunday the 29th day of November 2015 at 4:00pm

Please note that members may attend the meeting by telephone conference call.
Instructions are appended to this Notice of Meeting

AGENDA

1. Attendance
2. Apologies
3. Adoption of Minutes of the Annual General Meeting held on 16th November 2014
4. President's Report
5. Treasurer's Report
To receive, consider and adopt financial statements for year ended 30 June 2015
(Statement in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Act)
6. Election of Committee:
President
Vice-President
Treasurer
Secretary
Up to four ordinary members
(Note: under the rules, office bearer roles may be combined)
7. Adoption of the motion:
"that the Rules of the Association be replaced by a new set of Rules distributed with this Notice of Meeting and accessible from the webpage www.nepalaid.org.au/association".
8. Any other matter which may be lawfully brought forward



Peter Hall, President
7 November 2015

**Minutes of the Fourth Annual General Meeting of the
Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc.
held at 4:00pm, Sunday 16 November 2014 at
29 Blue Mount Road, Trentham, Victoria**

Present: In person: Peter Hall, Ronda Hall, Michael Dillon, Shirley Proctor
By conference call: Pat Baines

Failed Conference Call connections:

In Australia: Ted Giblin, Deb Lewis, Marg Millard, Francisco Remision, Karen Stock

From Nepal: Rabi Baral, Krishna Pun, Laxmi Pun, Umed Pun, Dilip Shrestha,
Rajendra P Shrestha, Kailash Tamang

Apologies: Henk Bak, Charles & Di Bender, Geoffrey & Joan Brunt, Susan Carew, Graeme & Sue Cooksey, Liz Dobson, Robert Eadie, Ian Esmore, Eb & Helen Friedrich, Ern & Barb Kulmar, Jason & Jenny Lasky, Ken Mansfield, Lynne Mohr, Gordon Nightingale, Sue Ogden, Jan Smith, Diana Traversi, Virginia Turner, Gus Walta

From Nepal: Uttam Phuyal, Bhim Kumari Pun, Shiva Subedi,

Quorum: Despite difficulties with conference call connections, there being five persons present a quorum was declared.

Adoption of Minutes: Minutes of the Third Annual General Meeting held on 24th November 2013 were adopted unanimously

President's Report: The President's report was accepted

Treasurer's Report: Financial statements for the year ended 30 June 2014 (Statement in accordance with Section 30(3) of the Act) were received and accepted.

Election of Committee: The following appointments were made to the Committee:

President: Peter Hall

Vice-President: Krishna Bahadur Pun

Secretary: Ronda Hall

Ordinary members: Michael Dillon, Deb Jones, Margaret Milburn,
Shirley Proctor, Karen Stock

Other matters: No other matters were brought to the meeting.

The meeting closed at 4:20 pm.

President' Report for 2014-2015

Membership of the Association is recorded on the webpage www.nepalaid.org.au/association. There are no fees for membership, and as at 30 June 2015 membership stood at 270, a growth of 33 during the year.

The Association continued to focus its activities throughout the year on the provision of training to teachers of rural community schools in Western Nepal. We now have 150 teachers in training under the program. This was the first full year of the operation of LEARN which had been incorporated, under the auspices of the Association, as a Non-Government Organisation (NGO) in Nepal in 2014. LEARN delivered its first training course in Ghara village in April 2014.

In the 2014-15 year, LEARN delivered:

- * continuing in-school support for schools of Shika and Ghara VDCs
- * an Orientation Program for Ghara parents and school committee members (Sept. 14)
- * a 10-day Basic Training course for 75 teachers from 12 schools of Rima Resource Centre (Oct. 14)
- * 6-day Refresher Training course for teachers of Rima Resource Centre (April 15)
- * second a 10-day Basic Training course for 40 teachers of Ghara VDC (April-May 2015)
- * Orientation Program for Rima parents and school committee members (May 15)

Funding for these programs came from private donors and, for Rima, a grant from the Australian Embassy. The Department of Education in Nepal was directly involved in the delivery of the programs, providing a Resource Person to work with our trainers.

I wish to extend my thanks to all who have participated in the activities of NVIA over the year, and in particular to those in Nepal who have administered LEARN and delivered the programs. Special thanks go to Krishna Pun as CEO of LEARN; to Kailash Tamang in his role as Chief Training Officer and subsequently Consultant to LEARN; to Umed Pun as President of LEARN; the rest of LEARN's Board of Directors; and the trainers engaged to deliver our courses.

I acknowledge the strong endorsement of our programs given by Rotary clubs in Nepal (6 in Pokhara, 1 in Baglung). With their support, action is under way to initiate a three-year program that will extend the training to a further 75 teachers of Tatopani Resource Centre. At least half a dozen clubs in Australia have indicated their support for this program in anticipation of funding assistance from the Rotary Foundation. It is expected to commence early in 2016.

Finally I would like to thank all supporters on our mailing list for their interest, and in particular those who have contributed financially. The program is ever growing, and we are in constant need of funding to maintain it. Every donation, no matter how small, is much appreciated.

Peter Hall
President

Explanation of Proposed New Rules *Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012*

The Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 introduced extensive changes to the law governing Incorporated Association in Victoria. It introduced new items that the association's rules must address including a Statement of purposes (these were previously documented separately).

A further reason to change the Rules is a desire to become accredited by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) as a Public Benevolent Institution (PBI). This will bring considerable benefits including:

- Income tax exemption (previously adopted through a self-assessment process, but warranting confirmation through registration as a charity, given the prospect of significant income in future years)
- Deductible Gift Recipient status, enabling the Association to issue tax-deductible receipts for donations, thus eliminating the need for these to pass through the Rotary Australia Overseas Aid Fund.

The Executors of the Estate of Andrew Jack, former member of the Rotary Club of Portland, have agreed to allocate a substantial sum to the Association, to be invested to provide income to sustain future operations such as the payment of salaries to staff employed by LEARN.

Various options for accommodating these funds were considered, including the establishment of a Charitable Trust or of a Public Ancillary Fund. Alice Macdougall, Special Counsel at Herbert Smith Freehills, Lawyers, advised that our best option would be to gain ACNC accreditation as a PBI. She has given her service pro bono and has supplied draft rules that comply with the requirements of:

- the Associations Incorporation Reform Act 2012 (Vic.), administered by Consumer Affairs Victoria
- the Income Tax Assessment Act 1997 (Cth).
- the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission Act 2012 (Cth)
- registration as a Public Benevolent Institution.

Most of the rule changes are standard and should not require explanation. The one exception is:

Purposes of the Association (new Rule 2)

These were stated in the Minutes of the Incorporation meeting (as:

1. *To foster and support initiatives of benefit to the Nepali people, including but not restricted to initiatives directed towards:*
 - * *community-run schools that improve the quality of education for Nepalis*
 - * *local health services that support rural communities in Nepal*
 - * *community projects that bring jobs and opportunities to Nepali villages*
2. *To manage projects consistent with the above purpose including projects registered with Rotary Australia World Community Service*

To achieve PBI status it is essential that the Purposes demonstrate commitment to serving people in need. The proposed revised version is:

The purposes of the Association are to support people in need in Nepal, in particular those of rural and remote communities, by, without limitation, supporting:

- (a) *community-run schools that improve the quality of education for Nepali children;*
- (b) *local health services that support rural communities in Nepal;*
- (c) *community projects and other initiatives that bring jobs and opportunities to Nepali villages; and*
- (d) *international projects consistent with the above purpose, such as projects of Rotary International and its constituent entities including The Rotary Foundation and Rotary Australia World Community Service.*

Attendance by Conference call

We are indebted to **HotAir Conferencing** for the free use of their tele-conferencing services. This is a landline-based service delivering much higher quality than Skype.

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1800 151 624

This is a free call from Australian landlines and some mobile phone networks. We believe these include Telstra/Optus/Virgin mobile (including amaysim, Jeenee Mobile, Boost Mobile, SpinTel, iiNet), and other providers from telephones on a current plan. Please note that calls from hotels and business centres) are normally charged.

If you are unsure of the cost of dialing 1800 numbers and must use your mobile phone, it may be cheaper to dial:

03 9679 0793

Please note that you will bear any call costs incurred. You can read more about joining a conference call from a mobile phone at: www.hotairconferencing.com.au/1800

When the system answers you should slowly enter the PIN:

945 622 857 #

Listen to any announcements made by the system

If the moderator/chairperson is not already in the meeting you will hear music until they join.

If you are calling from a noisy location you can mute/unmute your line by pressing *6 (star then six) on your telephone.

Please advise by email before the meeting if you intend to use this service.