

Nepali Village Initiatives Association Inc.

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

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