

## President's Report for NVIA Inc. for 2015-2016

The year was one of remarkable progress. May I start with thanks to the Directors elected at the 2015 AGM (see Minutes above) together with Simon Cowen, former Managing Director of SkyBus, who was appointed by the Board on April 10. It is gratifying to have an enthusiastic team guiding the way forward. I also thank our supporters in Nepal, notable the Board and staff of LEARN.

Achievements during the year included:

- **Receipt of \$800,000 from the Estate of Andrew Jack**, former member of the Rotary Club of Portland. The funds have been invested and are now generating income to support our ongoing operations (in particular, the payment of salaries of the staff of LEARN, the NGO we established in Nepal in 2014)
- **Appointment of Dwarika Amgain to join Kishna Pun on the staff of LEARN** in the role of Chief Training Officer. Dwarika had been Founder and Principal of Edify International School, Kathmandu since 2009 and was a Founder and life member of the Counsel for Mathematics Education, Nepal.
- **Continuing service delivery by LEARN.** In 2015-16 this included
  - Second 10-day training course for teachers of Rima Resource Centre
  - 6-day refresher courses for teachers of Ghara and Rima Resource Centres
  - In-school support for teachers of Ghara and Rima Resource Centres
  - Baseline survey of teachers of Tatopani Resource Centre
  - 5-day key teacher training program in Kathmandu150 teachers are now engaged in our training programs
- **Accreditation by the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission as a Public Benevolent Institution**, yielding Income tax exemption, GST concessions and Deductible Gift Recipient status, all effective 1 January 2016. Accordingly, we can now issue tax-deductible receipts for gifts exceeding \$2.00.
- **Formulation of an application to The Rotary Foundation for funding support of a \$100,000 project to provide training for 75 teachers of Tatopani Resource Centre over three years.** 40% of the funding will come from eight Clubs of three Districts in Australia together with seven Clubs in Nepal. The application had received all necessary Club and District endorsements by May 2016, but approval by the Foundation is still subject to negotiations.
- **Publicising our project at the Rotary Convention in Seoul in May-June, attended by 43,000 Rotarians.** We had a booth in the House of Friendship and convened a Breakout Session. Prior to the Convention we met and gained the strong endorsement of Past Rotary International Director (1998-2000) and Past Rotary Foundation Trustee (2012-16) Julio Sorjus. The application is currently under review by the Foundation as it falls outside their normal guidelines, as it has been regarded as funding the activities of another entity (namely our NGO LEARN). With the active support of Rotary International Director Saowalak Rattanavich, we are confident that our problems will be overcome, though they have delayed the project considerably.

Until a Board decision in April this year, membership of the Association was free, and all people on our emailing list were recorded as members. Over the year the number on that list grew from 270 to 450, and the Board decided to introduce a tighter definition of membership. This now open to open to individuals, families or other entities identifiable by an email address on the basis of:

- a donation to the Association (minimum \$20) in the current calendar year (tax-deductible)
- 1 vote per membership (couples contributing jointly each having a vote).

At the time of writing this report (20/10/16) the Association had 23 members who had collectively contributed \$36,820 since January.

Peter Hall, President