



Nepal Australia Friendship Association Qld. Inc.  
(Established 1989)

## **NAFA priorities in Covid-19 affected 2020-21**

### **President's Message**

After celebrating our 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary at our annual fundraising dinner in May 2019, little did we know what lay ahead in 2020 – a year like no other, due to Covid-19: no annual fundraising dinner - only a couple of market stalls and except for a short visit by myself in late January 2020 no visits to Nepal by NAFA executive officers. However, we survived and were even able to support some exciting new initiatives because of your generosity and three generous philanthropists: English Family Foundation, Goldberg Foundation and the Tucker Foundation. NAFA's four priorities in 2020 and the first half of 2021 were:

- 1. Completing earthquake rebuild of the Tawal area health post**
- 2. Providing Covid-19 personal protective supplies**
- 3. Meeting ongoing health, disability, education and childcare commitments**
- 4. Supporting economic development for farmers in a remote area recovering from the 2015 earthquake**

Further details are in the President's Report for 2020, which is now on the NAFA website ([www.nafa.org.au](http://www.nafa.org.au)). We have been able to achieve these priorities through the continued generosity of NAFA supporters and our guarantee that 100% of donations go directly to Nepal.

As I have not been able to visit our projects in Nepal since November 2019, I apologise ahead of time for the quality of a few of the photos in this newsletter. Nevertheless, I hope you find it informative and that it inspires you to continue to support NAFA through either regular or one-off donations. Please visit NAFA's website ([www.nafa.org.au/donations](http://www.nafa.org.au/donations)) to donate now.

In the meantime, please stay well and get vaccinated when given the opportunity, as we try and put the coronavirus behind us.

Rod Setterlund OAM  
President

## Completing rebuild of the Tawal area health post

The rebuild of the Tawal health post, destroyed by the 2015 Gorkha earthquake, has now been completed on land away from the landslide prone area where it was previously located. The health post services five remote villages in the area. The toilet block for the new health post was funded by the Goldberg Foundation.



## Providing Covid-19 personal protective items and food packages

NAFA allocated over \$13,000 for Covid-19 support in 2020. Personal protective equipment (infrared thermometers, hand sanitiser, face masks/shields, protective clothing and disposable gloves) and hand-washing basins, were provided to two schools, a remote health post, a home supporting young women with an intellectual disability and a primary ear care service. Funds were also allocated to provide food packages and general Covid-19 awareness raising, to people with a disability in Pokhara and to poorer members of the local community in Thimi. NAFA also provided funds to an organisation supporting front-line health workers in Nepal.





## **Meeting ongoing health, disability, education and childcare commitments**

NAFA is proud of the range and depth of its ongoing programs. They cover the areas of education, childcare and health, in both remote villages and urban locations. This was particularly important in the Covid-19 affected year, as NAFA executive officers were not able to travel to Nepal to assess new one-off project proposals. As last year's newsletter focussed on these ongoing programs, this newsletter presents highlights from the past twelve months. Covid-19 restrictions on indoor gatherings continue to prevent NAFA from holding our annual fundraising dinner. Please help us meet our annual commitments for our ongoing programs by making a tax-deductible donation before 30 June by visiting [nafa.org.au/donations](https://nafa.org.au/donations) to donate now.

### **Education**

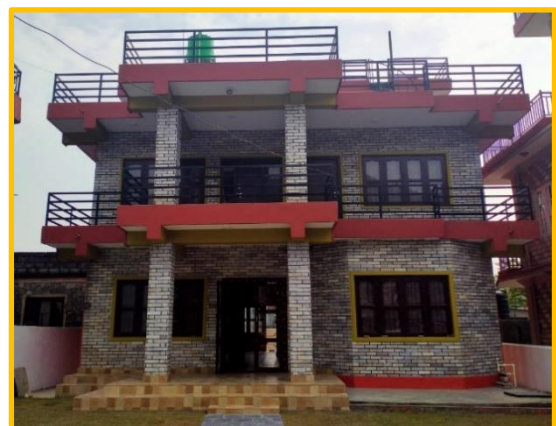
Nearly \$56,000 was allocated to ongoing education programs: Child sponsorship, further education and training and remote school teacher salaries and other school support.

Supported students from poor families included 30 disadvantaged children sponsored under NAFA's Child Sponsorship Program attending Vinayak Shiksha Niketan (VSN) school. 20 students were also sponsored under NAFA's Further Education and Training (FEAT) program from VSN, a school in the remote village of Tawal and students from Prisoners Assistance (PA) Nepal who have parents who were in prison. In 2020 these students studied architectural engineering, nursing, education, law, business studies, chartered accountancy and mechanics.

NAFA also sponsors two teachers in the remote village of Tawal that enables it to provide secondary school education up to Grade 10 for students from 6 local villages. NAFA also supported a school and after-school program in the remote village of Gamauli in western Nepal.

### **Childcare**

NAFA continued its financial support to two childcare centres operated by the Butterfly Foundation in Pokhara and a childcare crèche for carpet factory families in Thimi. The child care centre was forced to move out of its rented premises of many years and a new centre has been built on their own land. NAFA supported the fit-out of the new centre in early 2021.





## Health

Approximately \$23,500 was allocated in 2020 to 4 ongoing programs and 2 one-off health projects.

NAFA subsidises the salaries of two health workers, providing primary health care to over 3,000 people living in Tawal and 4 other nearby villages.

NAFA continues to be a proud supporter of Himalayan Health & Hearing (HH&H), which works in partnership with Keshab Dangol, an Otologist with the Nepalese Association of Hard of Hearing (NAHOH). NAHOH is also supported by NAFA to provide hearing care in outreach camps in the Kathmandu Valley and beyond in remote areas of Nepal.

Although Covid-19 restricted the activities that NAHOH could provide to the community in 2020, Keshab played an invaluable support role to NAFA, sourcing and arranging the delivery of Covid-19 related personal protective equipment and supplies to NAHOH and other NAFA funded partners in Kathmandu, Thimi, Pokhara and the remote village of Tawal.



In February 2020, just before Covid-19 infections started to rise in Nepal, Keshab accompanied a dental team from Kantipur Dental Hospital to conduct a combined four-day ear care and dental camp for villages in the Tawal area.



Since its inception, NAFA has supported annual eye screening and cataract surgery remote clinics conducted by the Tilganga Institute of Ophthalmology. In late January 2020 NAFA and Joy Foundation Nepal co-sponsored an eye clinic in the Hariharpurgahi Rural Municipality, performing a total of 172 cataract surgeries.

Finally, in the health area, NAFA funded the repair of a concrete water tank servicing the village of Tawal Besi, damaged by a landslide. The Nepalese consulate in Brisbane kindly provided a \$500 grant towards this project.

## Disability

NAFA allocated over \$8,400 to Sungava Home in Kathmandu in 2020, after beginning its support of this service the previous year. The home provides day care and vocational training to 22 young women with an intellectual disability. In Covid 2020 the home's staff continued to support the young women by providing online classes and risked their personal safety by visiting and providing support to the young women in their homes.

## **Supporting economic development for farmers recovering from 2015 earthquake**

NAFA's fourth priority in 2020 could only be achieved through the generosity of three philanthropic foundations (English Family Foundation, Goldberg Foundation and the Tucker Foundation) and two generous NAFA donors. The literature on community recovery after natural disasters emphasise the importance of local economic recovery. The three Foundations and NAFA donors combined to provide approximately \$60,000 towards three significant initiatives supporting farmers living in a group of Tamang villages in the Dhading district severely affected by the Gorkha earthquake in 2015. These initiatives included:

- second year funding of a three-year Growth and Sustainability project aimed at growing the Pasang Chowk Agricultural Cooperative, which has initiated income-earning projects such as a buffalo milk project supporting women members of the Cooperative, introducing higher yield "Sungurr" pigs for 18 low-caste Dalit women in the community and an electric dynamo project that improves productivity for Dalit metal work families that live in the area;
- the establishment of a permanent marketplace for the area, including the purchase and leveling of the land for the marketplace. Construction of a building that will comprise an office, shop and storeroom for the Cooperative, market shelters, toilets and a water tap; and
- a noodle-making initiative benefiting women members of the Cooperative.

