



Working in  
partnership  
with the  
people of the  
Himalaya

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**Annual Report  
2015/16**

Sustainable education, health and environmental projects

**AUSTRALIAN  
HIMALAYAN  
FOUNDATION**

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**The Australian Himalayan Foundation aims to improve the quality of life of the people most in need in remote areas of the Himalaya.**

Front cover image: AHF Maternal Health Care Program, Zanskar Valley, Ladakh, Indian Himalaya





# Who we are

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*Over the years, thousands of Australians have visited the Himalaya. For many it is an opportunity to trek beneath the world's highest peaks and to appreciate some of the world's most hospitable cultures.*

Yet the Himalaya is not just a vast adventure playground. For the local communities life is anything but easy – with access to basic health and education services often out of reach. In response to these needs, the Australian Himalayan Foundation was formed in 2003 and strives to ensure the long-term viability of sustainable health, education and environmental programs across the Himalaya.

We work in partnership with the people of the Himalaya to help the most disadvantaged meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, health and the environment.

These cost-effective projects are combined with practical on-the-ground outcomes in the poorest, most under-resourced areas of the Himalaya across Nepal, Bhutan and Northern India. These programs help to reduce poverty and address human rights like gender equality, child rights and the rights of marginalised groups in rural regions throughout the Himalaya. They are in line with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals.

The AHF is a registered Australian NGO with no political or religious affiliations. We are members of the Australian Council for International Development and have accreditation status with the Australian Government Overseas Aid Program (DFAT).





# Chairman's Review



*Moral village, Lower Solukhumbu, October 2016:*

*Early morning (still in sleeping bag) – looking well to the north to a clear line of high Himalayan peaks, including Mera Pk, and out the other window to the nearby playground of the Moral Primary School...*

... which we (Greg Mortimer and I, Bhim Bogati CEO of REED, our in-country Nepal NGO partner, and our AHF supporter trekkers) had visited the day before, meeting our scholarship holders and teachers trained under our Teacher Training and Quality Education program.

Lower in the valley yesterday, we had also trekked to Kanku School, inaugurating two classrooms rebuilt jointly by AHF and the Himalayan Trusts of NZ and UK, and talking to more scholarship holders and teachers – all 17 teachers having received TTQE training.

Greg and I are accompanying an AHF support/fundraising trek and checking on the progress of our school repair and rebuild projects, following on from our emergency relief and “Temporary Learning Centres” assistance after the tragic 2015 earthquakes.

This trek has brought home to me more vividly than ever the fundamentals of AHF’s work helping the people of the Himalaya:

- The demand and need for our assistance, particularly in giving the children – and especially the girls – of the Lower Solukhumbu region, the gift of a better education.

- The appreciation, value and great cost-effectiveness of our help in an area where there is severe disadvantage and lack of opportunity and facilities for the basic human rights of education and good health. As the Nepal Government District Education Officer at Salleri said at another classroom inauguration: “Only you (the Australian Himalayan Foundation) are in this whole district and only you give our schools such assistance”.
- How right we are to rigorously maintain – despite the requests and pressures for all sorts of funding – our grass-roots focus on “giving what is needed most to those who need it most”.
- The many ways (including donations, trekking and organising events or other fundraising/sponsored trips) AHF supporters can help us help the people of the Himalaya.

2015–16 was yet another busy and successful year for AHF, featuring the raising of \$1.2 million to fund projects; an enormous amount of work on the application to the Australian Federal Government for full accreditation; the implementation of a successful Social Media Strategy (thank you Ben Kassel and the Haimat team); the development and initial stages of implementation of the schools’ repair and rebuilding program; and the successful delivery of our on-going programs in the Himalaya.

And I want to thank so much everyone in the growing AHF family – Members; project partners; all corporate and private donors; volunteers, pro bono helpers and event contributors; support trekkers (including Kathmandu Summit Club trekkers and the Chairman’s Trekkers); Carolyn and all the staff (still only three full time staff); and the three AHF Board Advisory Committee Chairs and the rest of the Board – it is the individual and collective efforts of you all which enable us to do what we do for the people of the Himalaya.

**Simon Balderstone  
Chairman**





# From the General Manager

*“I suspect nothing has ever been built in Solukhumbu with this amount of planning and design. My father’s construction method was somewhat organic. These are remarkable plans and will change the future of these communities.”*

These were Peter Hillary’s words when late last year he first saw our plans for the rebuilding of schools in the Everest region that had been damaged and destroyed by the 2015 earthquakes.

These earthquake-resilient classrooms, aimed at building Nepal back better, were the result of a dynamic partnership between AHF and Australian architects Davenport Campbell and HASSELL and Sydney-based engineers Taylor, Thomson, Whitting (TTW). Together we have created architectural designs for low-cost, environmentally sustainable, earthquake resilient classrooms incorporating traditional elements of Nepalese architecture with a functionality and durability rarely seen.

As one of the few NGOs working in the remote Solukhumbu region, we recognised early on the need to respond to this disaster with the rebuilding of schools to ensure the ongoing benefits to children and communities of our education programs. Over the past 12 months we have been grateful for our established track record in the region and our strong relationships with local communities and the government of Nepal, which stood us in good stead for the approval of these innovative plans by the Ministry for Education. This rebuild work is now well underway with more than 20 new school buildings complete.

With all this work going on, we are pleased to report that our existing programs continue to provide communities across the Himalaya with access to vital health and education services. In June, I travelled to Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya to see firsthand how maternal health services are being made available to mothers living in the remote valley of Zanskar and to see the importance of training the local medical practitioners (known as amchi) in the delivery of these services. It was also very encouraging to meet with our partners, the Snow Leopard Conservancy and to see how a simple intervention involving the construction of enclosed corrals for livestock were saving the lives of hundreds of snow leopards by preventing farmers from killing these endangered animals.

In the background, our work has been significantly strengthened by an expanding team (we were thrilled to welcome our new part-time Book-Keeper Linda Jocelyn to the team this year) and the development of a five-year Strategic Plan by management and Board. This plan is shared on our website and will shape our choices in responding to changes in the environment in which we operate and how we best support the people of the Himalaya now and into the future.

Enormous development challenges still exist across the region in terms of accessing quality primary education, improving basic health outcomes, reducing poverty and, as the events of 2015 have shown, in adapting to climate change and the increased frequency of natural disasters. It is our aim to continue providing sustainable community-based education, health and environment-led projects across the region in response to these challenges and to strengthen and expand the long-term relationships between Australia and the Himalaya.

We are very fortunate to do this work in partnership with an amazing network of supporters, volunteers, partners and donors who all share our vision of improving the lives of those living in the Himalaya and that’s what makes this work so rewarding. We thank you sincerely for being on this journey with us and we look forward to working alongside you well into the next five years.

**Carolyn Hamer-Smith**  
General Manager





# Program Review



*The past year has involved a concerted effort from our AHF team to upgrade our systems and processes as we step up towards developing our sectoral programs. This has included mainstreaming gender and disability in effective ways into our work across education, health and the environment.*

This is a process that has included strong planning with our partners and stakeholders in the region and bringing in necessary expertise when required. It is equally a process of assessing what real changes we have made, where our gaps are and what capacity we and our partners have to strengthen the work we do for the people in the Himalaya region.

In the past year – in line with our approach of ‘learning by doing’ – we have successfully piloted small projects in Nepal and Bhutan for women’s economic empowerment and professional development. Following a needs analysis, these projects have given training such as weaving and tailoring to women from disadvantaged and marginalised backgrounds. With the support of the Australian High Commission in India, the pilot project in Bhutan is complementing our ongoing support for girls’ education as we develop a flagship gender program with our in-country partner RENEW. In Nepal, similarly, the pilot project that is being funded by Soroptimist International, is being integrated into our current teacher training program as a means to gender empowerment and equality. Gender and social inclusion training was also run for school teachers and for staff at our in-country partner REED in Nepal. In order for us to focus on addressing disability issues in our work, we commissioned a study on disability in Nepal which is being followed by training on inclusive education focusing on addressing people with disabilities.

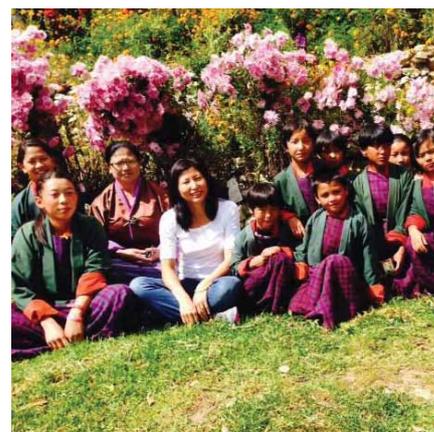
This year, our flagship education program in Nepal, Teacher Training & Quality

Education (TTQE), made notable strides in program delivery to improve the standards of rights-based, inclusive child-friendly education in primary schools in the remote, mountainous Solukhumbu district. REED reports that there has been an increase in the pass rate and learning achievements of children together with a reduction in the dropout rates.

AHF carried out an independent review of the TTQE program this year which has provided us valuable findings that will be used to further strengthen the program. It recommends focusing on literacy improvement for early grades, addressing children with disabilities, using a model school approach and developing the active engagement of parents and local communities.

As part of our efforts to upgrade our operations this past year, we have reviewed and updated our existing policies and strategies as well as adding relevant new ones which can be found on the AHF website. A key strategy which articulates our ethos is the ‘Partnership Strategy’ that says “...our success in improving the lives of the people in remote parts of the Himalayan region is inextricably linked to our capacity to identify, support and develop respectful relationships with local partners and local people.”

Tshering Lama O’Gorman  
Program Director





# Building Nepal Back Better

*Following the devastating earthquakes in Nepal in April and May 2015, the Australian Himalayan Foundation's Nepal Earthquake Appeal raised over a million dollars thanks to the generosity of our supporters, partners and the wider Australian community.*

The AHF has spent the last 18 months diligently working to ensure that these funds are managed in an accountable and cost-effective way with a focus on 'building Nepal back better'.

Of the 300-plus schools that the AHF supports through the Teacher Training & Quality Education (TTQE) program in the Lower Solukhumbu region, more than 200 were assessed as being in urgent need of rebuilding or repair. We have been working hard to get kids back to school by providing 19 temporary learning spaces for kids while we plan the rebuild of earthquake resilient schools in the Everest region.

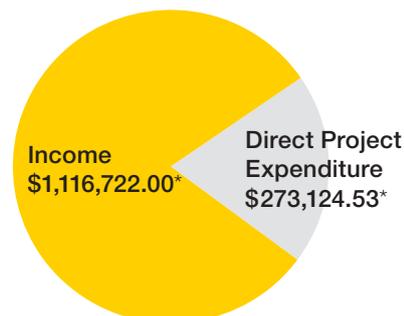
With the pro bono assistance of Australian engineering and architectural firms, Taylor Thompson Whitting (TTW) and HASSELL, we have pioneered an innovative lightweight steel frame design for schools that incorporates contemporary seismic design principles. These frames are light enough to be carried on the back of porters into remote areas, yet strong enough to withstand future earthquakes as well as monsoonal storms. In addition, the Australian architectural firm Davenport Campbell has developed architectural plans for a low-cost environmentally sustainable, earthquake resilient school using best practice seismic principles and specifically catering for the needs of students with disabilities.

We are also working in partnership with the Himalayan Trust NZ and the Himalayan Trust UK to rebuild and retrofit 22 schools through the Lower

Solukhumbu Education Rebuild and Recovery (LSERR) project. This project is an ambitious, long-term commitment to the people of this region that will see all three organisations working together to build safer, stronger schools in Nepal.

With AHF's track record in the region and strong relationships with local NGOs, communities and the Nepalese Government, the innovative plans we have designed have been approved by the Nepalese Ministry for Education. It has been challenging work in the face of political instability in Nepal and the closure of the vital border crossing between Nepal and India late last year which delayed our rebuilding work, as well as the lengthy approval process of the design plans by the Ministry of Education, but with the dedicated commitment of our in-country partners, REED, we are moving ahead.

## Five Year Rebuild Program: Income vs expenditure from the Nepal Earthquake Appeal from 25/4/2015 – 30/6/2016



\*Does not include administration and management costs associated with implementing the project including the hire of engineers in Nepal.

Over the course of the next five years we intend to repair and rebuild 25 schools in total, involving a phased approach to the release of funds which will be based on prioritising the needs of each of the schools involved.

As part of the repair and reconstruction work, the AHF has also focussed on the upskilling of members of the communities in which these schools are based. AHF has funded masonry skills training courses for over 60 local people from the Lower Solukhumbu region. This training was conducted onsite by experienced trainers/engineers from the National Society for Earthquake Technology (NSET). Working with REED, this training has helped to build a skilled labour force that will boost local capacity and economy and AHF has already employed 10 graduates from across these training groups to complete the retrofit of those schools identified by AHF for repair.

As at 30 June, AHF has completed the repair and retrofit of 20 classrooms in five schools and a further 18 schools are planned for 2016–2017.

One of the architectural rebuild designs by TTW/HASSELL





# Teacher Training and Quality Education – Our Flagship Program

*The UN estimates that 57 million school-age children are currently not in school and research shows progress towards universal enrolment is slowing. These out-of-school boys and girls are being denied their basic human right to access a quality education and without it their future opportunities are dramatically limited.*

In remote communities like the Everest region of Nepal, children as young as 11 carry heavy loads for days at a time and have no chance of receiving the benefits of a basic education. In response to this need, the Australian Himalayan Foundation's flagship Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) program, operating in one of the poorest regions of rural Nepal, helps ensure that all children have access to primary education.

TTQE aims to strengthen inclusive, child-centred education with a major focus on teacher training, the provision of educational resources for poorly resourced schools and educational support for marginalised and vulnerable children who for various reasons may not be attending school.

In this last year, this educational support enabled 550 students to attend school of which:

- 369 were girls from disadvantaged families experiencing extreme poverty and 181 were boys
- 344 of these were Janajati (vulnerable indigenous population)
- 145 were dalit children (untouchable caste)
- 28 had a disability

Accredited by the Government's National Centre for Education Development (NCED) and implemented in coordination with the Department of Education (DOE), TTQE is recognised as one of the most comprehensive education programs in rural Nepal.

The 12-year Program commenced in 2005 in the Everest region and was

extended to the poorer remote rural schools in the south of Solukhumbu in 2008. AHF's in-country delivery partner REED employs Nepalese trainers with support from Australian and New Zealand volunteer teachers, to train rural primary school teachers in inclusive, child-friendly teaching techniques. Initial training workshops are followed by refresher training and in-service support, with concurrent selection and training of Key Teachers to support and eventually assume training responsibility. Opportunities are provided for participation by female teachers with female Key Teachers given priority for further training.

TTQE's high-level goal is to contribute toward the delivery of quality, inclusive child-friendly education in the remote mountain district of Solukhumbu.

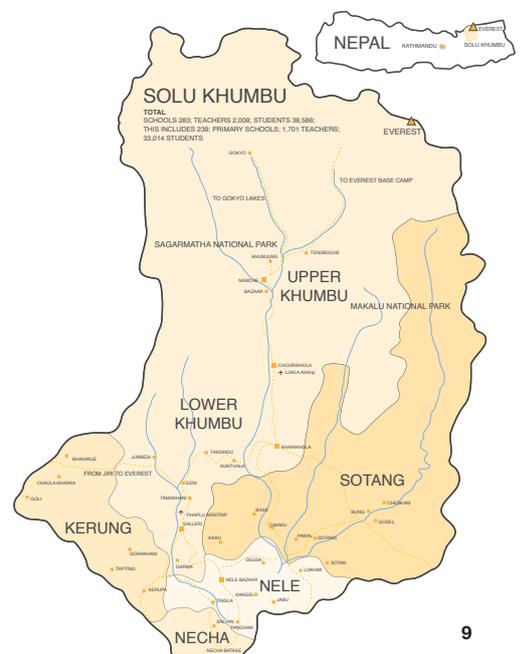
TTQE runs workshops with School Management Committees and Parent Teacher Associations to engage support from local communities on inclusive, child-friendly education. TTQE's Child Clubs also engage primary school children in the Program and these clubs helps to inform local communities on issues surrounding children's rights.

In order to support the future direction of the TTQE program, AHF funded a major external and independent evaluation of the program in May 2016. The purpose of the evaluation was to identify the successes and challenges of the program, any lessons learned since the previous evaluation in 2014, and to assess the ongoing relevance of the program in the Lower Solukhumbu region. The evaluation concluded that the TTQE program has

made impressive inroads in increasing local teachers' knowledge and understanding of child-friendly approaches and that the program has diversified as time has gone on to respond to the needs of the communities in which it is based.

## The TTQE Team

On the ground our program is implemented by our dedicated project partners REED (Rural Education & Environment Development), a Nepalese NGO based in Kathmandu and our Education Consultant, Jim Strang, who was instrumental in establishing the original teacher-training program run by Sir Edmund Hillary. A further dimension to the program is the valued contribution of a team of volunteer teachers from Australia and New Zealand who work with REED in the field.





# Our Programs

## Education

### *Working with women and girls*

#### **Bhutan**

Working in partnership with local NGO RENEW, an organisation dedicated to the empowerment of women and girls, AHF supports a flagship gender program in Bhutan, recognising that investing in the education of women and girls is fundamental to creating strong, stable families, communities and countries.

The first phase of this program provides girls from some of the remotest disadvantaged corners of Bhutan (where children often walk up to 3 hours a day to reach school) with access to an education by providing textbooks, school uniforms, school bags and lunch.

The second phase of the program is a vocational training program that provides technical training opportunities for young women. This project focuses on skills development and income generation for underprivileged women who endure economic hardship and have no social support in their communities. Women are trained in the creation of traditional Bhutanese textile production, enterprise development and economic management.

Together these projects form an integrated community development program that ensures just as many girls are attending school as boys and that those girls can go on to receive technical skills to provide long-term livelihoods. This in turn is enabling these women and girls to become independent.

#### **Nepal**

In Nepal the AHF is providing support specifically to increase the capacity of young girls to become trained workers, providing them with employable skills and the opportunity to be leaders and decision-makers within their communities.

This training program includes a 12-month mentoring opportunity, creating long-term livelihood opportunities and economic independence for women living in these remote, rural communities.

## Health

### *Maternal health*

#### **Indian Himalaya**

Zanskar is one of the most remote regions in the entire Himalaya. Located in the region of Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya, heavy snows in winter cut it off from the outside world for over six months of the year. During this time medical facilities are non-existent and villagers rely heavily on the amchi – the traditional medical healers – for primary health care. Sadly, the region has unacceptable rates of infant mortality, often as high as one in two children.

Our aim is to decrease these tragic rates of infant mortality and assist with improving maternal healthcare in the region – both of which are part of the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

We do this by funding annual workshops for the amchi aimed at improving their traditional healthcare practices, as well as enhancing them with modern health care techniques. This training focuses on maternal health and the female amchi are trained in monitoring prenatal visits, attending births in their own villages and educating new mothers in the community on safe childbirth practices. This year more than 40 amchi attended the training.

Many amchi, with the assistance of the AHF, have gone on to undertake further training in the government hospital in the capital Leh, as well as monitoring prenatal visits births in their own villages, educating new mothers and passing on their knowledge to other community members.

In addition to the amchi training, the AHF also operated a five-day residential medical camp out of the main hospital in Zanskar providing the local communities access to free healthcare – a greatly needed service as the hospital often remains unattended and without medical supplies.

#### **Nepal**

According to the District Health Office report, approximately 2,637 pregnancies are expected in the Solukhumbu district annually and 634 in the Sotang area; yet for many villages the nearest hospital is usually understaffed and a day's walk away.

In the southern district of Sotang are the villages of Bung, Chheskam, Gudel, Pawai, Waku and Lokhim which are among the least developed in the Solukhumbu, where maternal and neonatal mortality are quite high.

AHF's project in this area supports maternal health care and service delivery for pregnant women, mothers and newborn babies. The main objective is to strengthen the health service delivery for pregnant women and newborn babies and improve antenatal care. It covers both ante and postnatal care and involves the funding and training of two dedicated maternal health care nurses for the region.

This project was originally established in memoriam of AHF Director, Lincoln Hall.

LADAKH

● DELHI



## Environment

### Snow Leopard Conservation

#### India

There may be as few as 3500 snow leopards left in the world and many of these are found across the Himalaya. Humans are largely responsible for the snow leopard decline – poachers hunt them for their pelts, body parts are used for traditional medicines and the leopards often come into conflict with local farmers. The AHF is working closely with the Snow Leopard Conservancy (SLC) to protect the endangered snow leopard through partnerships with local communities in the remote region of Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya.

This project supports the construction of snow leopard-safe corrals across the Zaskar Valley. Traditionally the farmers build low-level, dry stone wall corrals for their livestock – a critical means of income for farmers in these remote areas. These corrals are however open and exposed to attacks from snow leopards at night at which time an entire herd can be wiped out.

Through the construction of a simple wire roofing for these corrals supported by wooden beams, these corrals are enclosed and in this way prevent snow leopards from accessing the livestock. It is a simple and effective means of preventing the deaths of snow leopards at the hands of farmers.

In the last year SLC India have constructed nearly 20 snow leopard-proof corrals with a further 10–12 scheduled for construction in 2017. These corrals have had a 90% success rate resulting in a dramatic reduction in the number of snow leopards killed by farmers in the Zaskar Valley.

## Arts & Culture

### Preserving Tibetan culture

#### India

In association with the Australian Tibetan Society we support the 'Gangjong Doeghar' Tibetan performing arts in Kalimpong, North India which preserves and promotes traditional Tibetan cultural dance and music. With our support they are able to provide training to many young people of the Himalayas in keeping alive Tibetan cultural dance and the music traditions of all the regions of Tibet. Many of the artists who have been enrolled in 'Gangjong Doeghar' are now employed in various schools locally and some are working in cultural organisations overseas.

## Special Projects

### Himalayan Art Awards

Although the Himalaya boasts a rich cultural heritage, there are few opportunities for creative expression for many talented artists in the Himalaya. The Himalayan Art Award provides support for a select number of emerging artists for the period of one year and in return, the artists commit to donating one major and one minor artwork to the AHF.

The works are then auctioned off in Australia at our major events and the funds raised are then designated for future awards, creating a fully sustainable arts program. This project supports young artists across the region who would otherwise struggle to find the resources to express their talent.

This project was originally established by AHF supporter Margie Thomas in memoriam of Australian artist Murray Zaroni.

### Schools for the Himalaya

Our Schools for the Himalaya program gives Australian schools an opportunity to meet students on the other side of the world living a completely different way of life. The program links Aussie schools with schools in the Himalaya and provides a genuine opportunity for cultural exchange and to build a strong and lasting relationship with a school in the region.

Schools in Australia are encouraged to raise funds to help improve basic facilities and educational resources. There are also opportunities for Aussie schools to visit these schools and gain firsthand experiences of the effectiveness of our educational programs.





# Board of Directors and Staff

## Board of Directors

### **Simon Balderstone** *AM (Chairman)*

Director of consultancy company; adviser to Olympic movement; member of the 1984 First Australian Everest Expedition; journalist and author. Former Prime Ministerial adviser, SOCOG Board member and General Manager.

### **Cheryl Bart** *AO*

On 24 May 2008, Cheryl and her 23-year-old daughter Nikki became the first mother-daughter team to reach the summit of Mount Everest. The scaling of Everest also saw them complete the 'Seven Summits' challenge: climbing the highest mountain on each continent. Cheryl is a Director of the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, Spark Infrastructure and ESTA Utilities.

### **Julia Booth**

Julia's area of expertise is in the development and management of projects in the Private, Government and NGO sectors. For the last 15 years she has concentrated on development projects with a focus on livelihood and education programs for women and children. She has a long history of cultural exchange with the Himalayan region and with the nation of Bhutan in particular. Julia was appointed to the Board in March 2014.

### **Janine Constantine**

International Development specialist with 20 years' experience developing and managing aid projects for the Australian Government, United Nations agencies and NGOs.

### **Christine Gee** *AM*

Nepalese Honorary Consul General (1987–2009); co-founder of Australian Himalayan Expeditions (now World Expeditions); Attache to Sydney 2000 Nepal Olympic team, member of Chief Executive Women.

### **Barbara Hall**

Barbara is a long-time secondary school teacher. As a teacher at the International Australian School in Singapore she began, with husband Lincoln Hall, the AHF 'Schools for the Himalaya' program and has visited the region regularly, determining firsthand the needs of schools.

### **Peter Hillary**

Adventurer (twice Everest summiteer, South Pole overland via Shackleton Glacier, first high-altitude traverse of entire Himalayan range); expedition leader, public speaker, leader of philanthropic missions; author and photographer.

### **Greg Mortimer** *OAM*

Greg successfully climbed Mt. Everest in 1984 as a member of the first Australian Everest Expedition and he was involved in the first team to climb K2 and Mt. Vinson. He has led over 80 expeditions to the Antarctica and is the co-founder of Aurora Expeditions. Greg is the Vice President of YHA and a Director of Mawson's Huts Foundation and he has received the Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to Australian mountaineering. Greg was appointed to the Board in March 2014

### **Garry Weare** *(Deputy Chairman)*

Veteran trek guide with over 35 years' experience in the Himalaya; Honorary Secretary (Australia) for the Himalayan Club; former Director and now consultant to World Expeditions; author and photographer.



## Ambassadors

### Michael Dillon *AM*

#### *AHF Ambassador*

Adventurer and one of the world's leading mountain cinematographers and documentary filmmakers with 40 films to his credit; member and Director of Photography on the First Australian Everest Expedition 1984; AFI award winner. After many years of service as a Director, Mike now continues his support as an excellent Ambassador for AHF.

### Andrew Lock *OAM*

#### *AHF Ambassador*

Acclaimed as Australia's most accomplished high-altitude mountaineer, Andrew recently became the first Australian to climb all 14 of the world's 8,000 metre peaks. The Foundation is proud to have Andrew as its first Ambassador.

### George Hillary

#### *AHF Youth Ambassador*

George has always had strong connections with Nepal, through his father, Peter Hillary, and late grandfather, Sir Edmund Hillary. He has been fortunate enough to travel through the area on several occasions, during which time he has been able to foster a more personal connection with the Nepalese communities, as well as the projects and goals of the AHF.

### Dylan Hall

#### *AHF Youth Ambassador*

Dylan's passion for the Himalaya was first ignited as a young boy travelling in the early 1990's. As the son of founding AHF Director Lincoln Hall, he has always had a close association with the Himalaya.

### Alice I'Anson

#### *AHF Youth Ambassador*

Alice's passion for travel and international aid led her to complete a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies and recently completed an internship with the AHF. Alice is the daughter of renowned Lonely Planet photographer, Richard I'Anson.

### Jackson Bursill

#### *AHF Youth Ambassador*

Jackson joined as Youth Ambassador following his work establishing Neverest, a fundraising event for the AHF in which participants hiked, ran or biked the equivalent vertical height of Mount Everest to raise funds for the AHF's Nepal Earthquake Appeal following the devastating Earthquakes in 2015. Jackson has now expanded Neverest to include events in both Canberra, Melbourne and Sydney and it is raising funds for the AHF's TTQE program. Jackson is also a member of the Australian Cross Country Ski team.

## AHF Staff

### Carolyn Hamer-Smith

*General Manager*

### Tshering Lama O'Gorman

*Program Director*

### Siobhan Reynolds

*Communications and Fundraising Manager (part time – job share)*

### Upala Sunthakar

*Communications and Fundraising Manager (part time – job share)*

### Linda Jocelyn

*Bookkeeper (part time)*

### Jim Strang

*TTQE Program Coordinator (Nepal)*





# Thank you to...

## Our Donors, Sponsors and Supporters

*With heartfelt thanks to our major donors, sponsors and loyal supporters that make this work possible:*

- Accor Hotels
- ACME Foundation
- Annie McNiven
- Ascent Private Wealth
- Australian Aid Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Bill Gross
- Davenport Campbell
- David Francis
- Footprints Network (WorldNomads.com)
- Gary McCaw
- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- HASSELL
- Heather McNeice
- Hunter Hall International
- Ian McNair Charitable Foundation
- Jeanette & Peter Young Foundation
- Kathmandu
- Kids in Tents
- Krista Waddell
- Lateral Events Management
- Lowenden Foundation
- Mark and Lucy Osborn
- National Geographic Channel
- Nepalese Australian Association
- Nicholas Llewelyn-Smith
- Peter Lemon
- Peregrine Travel
- Pharmacy 777 Foundation
- Robert Oatley Wines
- Ruth Fitzhardinge
- Samuel Rogers
- Sherpa Insurance
- SMEC Foundation
- Soroptimist International
- Stephanie Hart
- Stewart's Way
- Taylor Thompson Whitting (TTW)
- The Dick and Pip Smith Foundation
- The Himalayan Trust NZ
- The Himalayan Trust UK
- The Ian Watson Foundation
- The Sun Foundation
- The Sunrise Foundation
- Wild Women on Top
- World Expeditions

*We would also like to thank the following individuals and groups who organised fundraising treks and challenges in support of the AHF:*

2015 Bhutan Trekkers Heather McNeice, Krista Waddell and friends, 2015 Everest Base Camp Trekkers, 2015 Kathmandu Bhutan Summit Club Trekkers, 2016 Ten Summit Trekkers and Zac Zaharias, 2016 Textile Traditions of Bhutan Trekkers, 2016 Chairman's Trekkers, 2016 Bhutan Chomolhari Base Camp Trekkers, 2016 Kathmandu Nepal Summit Club Trekkers, 2016 participants in Neverest and Jackson Bursill, and all those who so generously contributed to the Nepal Earthquake Appeal to support the recovery and rebuild of our schools in Nepal following the devastating Nepal earthquakes in April and May 2015.

Finally, our sincere thanks to our Annual Supporters and our regular individual donors who are the backbone of AHF and the work we do – we are immensely grateful for their ongoing support.

# Financial Information



## Strategy

We continue to build up our Overseas Aid account in order to fully commit to our long-term programs – in particular our financial commitment to complete the 15-year cycle of our TTQE program.

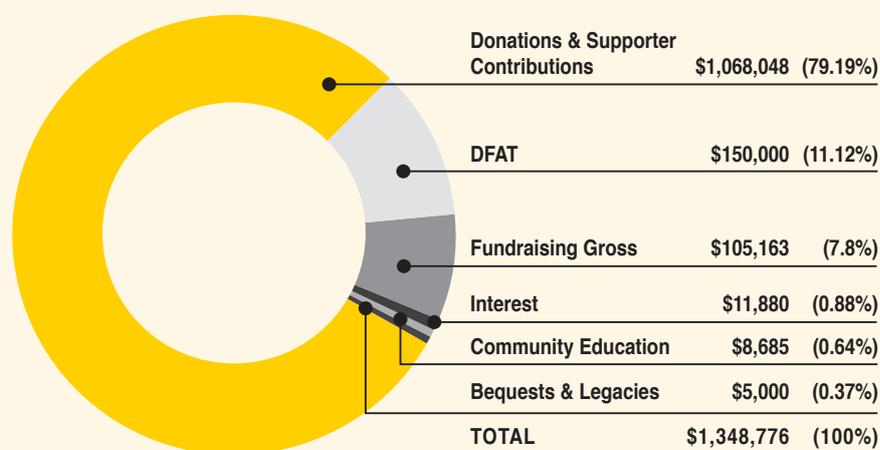
## Donations

Donations go into our Overseas Aid Account for program payments and associated program costs. The funds are held in a bank account with all interest credited for future program payments. In line with AusAID requirements as well as our commitment to high standards of program delivery, 20% of donations were spent on management and administration costs. This reflects best practice that ensures the AHF maintains robust, professional standards consistent with industry practice.

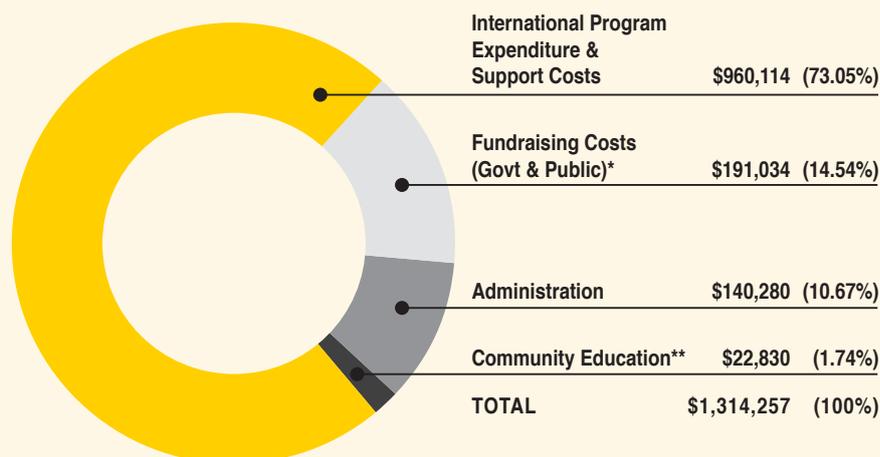
## Directors' Benefits

The Chairman and all other Directors did not receive payment or benefit of any kind.

## How we raised our funds in 2015–16



## How we spent our funds in 2015–16



\* Fundraising costs include all costs associated with events plus expenses integral to applications for government funding.

\*\* Community Education expenses include regular AHF Supporter evenings, which are not organised as fundraising events, but as an opportunity for our Supporters and friends to gain an update on the AHF. Community Education costs also include a percentage of expenditure from general fundraising events that are assigned to promoting our development programs.

# Income Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>REVENUE</b>		
<b>Donations and Gifts</b>		
– Monetary	1,057,793	1,618,425
– Non Monetary	–	–
<b>Bequests and Legacies</b>	5,000	–
<b>Grants</b>		
– DFAT	150,000	181,500
– Other Australian	–	–
– Other Overseas	–	–
<b>Investment Income</b>	11,880	8,349
<b>Other Income</b>		
– Fundraising Revenue	105,163	121,101
– Supporter Contributions	10,255	16,270
– Community Education	8,685	8,984
<b>Revenue for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs</b>	–	–
<b>TOTAL REVENUE</b>	<b>1,348,776</b>	<b>1,954,629</b>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
<b>International Programs</b>		
– Funds to Overseas Programs	814,335	676,298
– Program Support Costs	145,779	109,596
<b>Fundraising Costs</b>		
– Public	138,321	130,617
– Government and Multilateral	52,713	25,136
<b>Community Education</b>	22,830	19,708
<b>Accountability and Administration</b>	140,280	211,334
<b>Non Monetary Expenditure</b>	–	–
<b>Total International Aid and Development Expenditure</b>	<b>1,314,257</b>	<b>1,172,689</b>
<b>Expenditure for International Political or Religious Adherence Promotion Programs</b>	–	–
<b>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</b>	<b>1,314,258</b>	<b>1,172,689</b>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) ORDINARY ACTIVITIES</b>	<b>34,519</b>	<b>781,940</b>

The accompanying notes from part of these financial statements.

# Balance Sheet



AS AT 30 JUNE 2016	2016 \$	2015 \$
<b>ASSETS</b>		
<b>Current Assets</b>		
– Cash and Cash Equivalents	1,388,186	1,343,657
– Trade and Other Receivables	–	1,366
<b>Total Current Assets</b>	<b>1,388,186</b>	<b>1,345,023</b>
<b>Non Current Assets</b>		
– Property, Plant and Equipment	669	457
<b>Total Non Current Assets</b>	<b>669</b>	<b>457</b>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>1,388,855</b>	<b>1,345,479</b>
<b>LIABILITIES</b>		
<b>Current Liabilities</b>		
– Trade and Other Payables	19,537	14,979
<b>Provision for Employee Entitlements</b>	<b>17,087</b>	<b>12,789</b>
<b>Total Current Liabilities</b>	<b>36,624</b>	<b>27,768</b>
<b>TOTAL LIABILITIES</b>	<b>36,624</b>	<b>27,768</b>
<b>NET ASSETS</b>	<b>1,352,231</b>	<b>1,317,712</b>
<b>EQUITY</b>		
Retained Earnings	1,352,231	1,317,712
Member's Guarantee	–	–
<b>TOTAL EQUITY</b>	<b>1,352,231</b>	<b>1,317,712</b>

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

## STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN EQUITY

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2016	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2014</b>	<b>535,772</b>	<b>535,772</b>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	781,940	781,940
Items of Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2015</b>	<b>1,317,712</b>	<b>1,317,712</b>
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	34,519	34,519
Items of Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
<b>BALANCE AT 30 JUNE 2016</b>	<b>1,352,231</b>	<b>1,352,231</b>



*A copy of the full statutory financial report for 2015/16 is available on request from our office. Our summary financial report complies with the standards set out by the ACFID Code of Conduct. Please refer to [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au) for further information.*

Australian Himalayan Foundation Ltd's reserves are comprised entirely of retained earnings held for unrestricted purposes. There were no adjustments, transfers or asset revaluations made in 2015/16.

A copy of the full statutory financial report for 2015/16 is available on request from our office.

#### **Table of Cash Movements for Designated Purposes**

No single appeal or any other form of fundraising for a designated purpose generated 10% or more of the Australian Himalayan Foundation Ltd's international aid and development revenue for the financial year ended 30 June 2016.

#### **Independent Audit Report Scope and Opinion**

**Scott Lucas, Partner, B.Comm FCA Dip FP**  
**Lambourne Partners**  
**[www.lambourne.com.au](http://www.lambourne.com.au)**  
**Newcastle**

14 November 2016

## **Complaints Policy**

The Australian Himalayan Foundation is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) and a Signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, which is a voluntary, self-regulatory code of good practice. Information about how to make a complaint can be found at [www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

The AHF has a process in place for handling any complaints. Please direct your complaint to Carolyn Hamer-Smith (General Manager) on **02 9438 1822** or email [carolyn@ahf.org.au](mailto:carolyn@ahf.org.au)



The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade is the Australian Government agency responsible for managing Australia's overseas aid program.

DFAT's accreditation process provides both the federal government and the

Australian public with confidence that where the Australian Government provides grants to Australian NGOs to implement aid and development programs, it is funding professional, well-managed, community based organisations capable of delivering good development outcomes.

As an officially accredited aid agency, the Australian Himalayan Foundation is required to demonstrate that all relevant financial and program policies and

procedures are in place and adhered to when providing funds to our in-country partners. These included acquittals, audits (in Australia and overseas) and monitoring and evaluation reports. In addition the AHF is obliged to develop stringent risk assessment guidelines and policies, and provide evidence of co-operation agreements with relevant statutory authorities in the countries where programs are implemented.



# How can you help?

*You can help to make a difference in the Himalaya in the following ways:*

### Join as a Supporter

Our Supporters are crucial to our development – we are a community-based organisation and rely on a pool of talented supporters to provide expertise, inspiration and assistance. We hold regular events and keep Supporters informed through our Yakety Yak newsletter and updates to our website.

### Supporter Categories

All Supporter Fees are tax deductible:

Individual	\$50 per annum
Family	\$75 per annum
Bronze	\$250 per annum
Silver	\$500 per annum
Gold	\$1,000 per annum

### Make a Donation

All donations to the AHF are greatly appreciated, and can be made online or by post. Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

### Make a Bequest

Create a living legacy to assist future generations in the Himalaya by remembering the AHF in your will.

### Trek for the AHF

Trekking in the Himalaya provides an ideal opportunity to raise funds for the AHF. Contact the AHF office for further information.



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