

Working in partnership with the people of the Himalaya

ANNUAL REPORT
2018/2019



Sustainable education, health and environmental projects

**AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION**

Our mission 'why we exist'

To improve the quality of life of the people most in need in remote areas of the Himalaya.

Our vision 'what we will help to change'

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.

Our guiding principles 'how we work'

Our work is guided by:

Strong partnerships – we take a participatory approach with communities to understand issues from their perspective and, in partnership with them, work to deliver the outcomes they need most.

Empowerment – we aim to engage and empower people in the communities where we work so any change is sustained.

Alignment & harmonisation – we work closely with national governments to align our focus with their policies and priorities and we harmonise our approaches with Australian development programs and those of other development partners.

A long-term view – we are committed to building long-term capacity in the communities in which we operate.

Respect – we are cognisant of cultural and social sensitivities and are inclusive and respectful of all the people we work with.

Value for money – we monitor our projects to ensure they are evidence-based and relevant, delivered efficiently and are cost-effective.

Excellent governance – we have robust internal processes and governance and work diligently with partners and governments to safeguard monies entrusted to us.

Independence – we are a secular NGO with no political or religious affiliations, goals or policies.

Our geographic focus

Our geographic focus will remain in the remote, rural areas of Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalaya that are most in need.

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About us

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, conservation and climate adaptation 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 programs result in practical on-the-ground outcomes in some of the poorest, most under-resourced areas of the Himalaya across Nepal, Bhutan and Northern India. These programs also address human rights like gender equality and child rights in rural regions throughout the Himalaya. They are in line with the UN Sustainable Development Goals.

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

Over
600
very vulnerable girls and boys in Bhutan and Nepal were supported with scholarships so they achieve a basic education

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Our goals

Our current Strategic Plan has five Program Goals directly linked to:

Education



Health



Environment & climate change



Integrated community development



Gender & social inclusion



Four Operational Goals support AHF's delivery of these Program Goals and relate to good governance, a diversified funding model and improved monitoring, evaluation and learning.

Chairman's review

Since 2001, when we – the Founding Directors – met at the Bundanoon Hotel for our first meeting to form the Foundation, the AHF has kept its 'eye on the ball', focussed on providing practical, cost-effective assistance to the people of the Himalaya, with low administrative costs and an unwavering commitment to those we are helping.



Even when our operations were seriously 're-arranged' by the earthquakes of 2015 in Nepal and the ensuing major appeal and 'Build Back Better' program, we maintained our programs and level of help.

And every year, we have adapted, evolved and advanced, while keeping those core values and our commitments to the people of the Himalaya, and dealing effectively with 'growing pains', challenges and adversities.

As the saying goes, "if there isn't water at the bow, you're not moving forward".

2018/2019 was no exception in terms of challenges: for instance, we had to 'transition' between CEOs Carolyn Hamer-Smith and Angela Ford – but the professionalism, dedication and people skills of both of them got us through that, barely missing a beat – so much so that we met nearly all our 'milestone' targets, including a mammoth effort in reaching our revenue target of \$1.33 million: it gets more and more competitive out there for financial support, and we are so lucky to have such a wonderful (and growing) group of loyal supporters, donors and partners.

I can think of hundreds of instances of how our supporters have helped us achieve so much this year, but I'd like to mention two in particular:

- Through an amazing fundraising and operational effort spearheaded by supporter Neill Johanson, an earthquake-resistant Community Hall was built at the school in the village of Garma, in the Lower Solu Khumbu, and the amazing 'coterie' Neill has got together is already working on its next major fundraising effort.
- And the fourth 'Chairman's' Trek/ trip took place – with that group of stalwarts, and some welcome new faces, again raising a significant amount of money for projects; fundraising treks were again important for us, not just in terms of immediate fundraising but also, importantly, the trekkers gaining inspirational, first-hand experience of the difference they and AHF are making. There will be several more in 2019/2020 – check them out at australianhimalayanfoundation.org.au

2019/2020 is the final year of our five-year Strategic Plan, and while we are tracking very well, we face yet another challenging year to meet the '2020 targets'. I am sure we can do it, through the dedication and commitment of the Board, staff, our volunteers and supporters, and keep helping those wonderful people of the Himalaya.

Dhanyabad to all!

Simon Balderstone AM
Chairman



From the CEO

Tashi Delek, Namaste, Kuzuzangpo la. What a privilege it is to be reporting to you as the CEO of your Australian Himalayan Foundation (AHF). After joining the organisation in December 2018, I very quickly learned what a deeply engaged and motivated network of supporters our AHF family is.



Alongside our support from the Australian Government's NGO Cooperation Program, our professional skills, expertise and generosity position AHF so well to tackle serious challenges of poverty and injustice.

Just like previous years, 2018/2019 has been coloured with countless stories of success, impact and change that you have enabled.

- 14 schools in the mountainous Solukhumbu are now resourced with the facilities, learning materials, skilled teachers and trained parents so that they can deliver early literacy programs that provide current and future students in years 1–3 with foundational Nepali literacy skills that engage them in learning for life.
- Two nurses in Nepal's remote villages of Waku and Chheshkam provided over 2,000 immunisations to children and pregnant women, and more than 8,500 medical consultations to women, men and children who previously had to go without or to journey for many days for health services.
- Over 600 very vulnerable girls and boys in Bhutan and Nepal were supported with scholarships so they were able to attend school and achieve a basic education. Many of their families were supported with counselling services.
- And, 182 people from five villages in Zaskar, Ladakh attended ecology and climate change workshops to learn strategies to monitor and adapt to their changing environments.

I encourage you to read and share more of the achievements you've enabled in this Annual Report.

I am so thankful to all our partners in Nepal, Bhutan and in the Indian Himalaya who work so tirelessly to improve education, healthcare and environmental sustainability for some of the region's hardest to access and most marginalised communities. Based on deep trust and respect that we have fostered over many years, we are proud of sustained relationships with all of our partners, and we continue to strengthen their capacity, to ensure your support achieves the most efficient and maximum impact, and to help our partners open other doors of opportunities. This year we invested in Child Safeguarding and training with three of our key partners, for which we are grateful to our Child Safeguarding Adviser, Mark Morrissey.

Our AHF team continues to work magic with limited resources and capacity. I sincerely thank each and every one of our staff and volunteers (past and present) for every gift and contribution. Your commitment underpins every story of change – past, present and future.

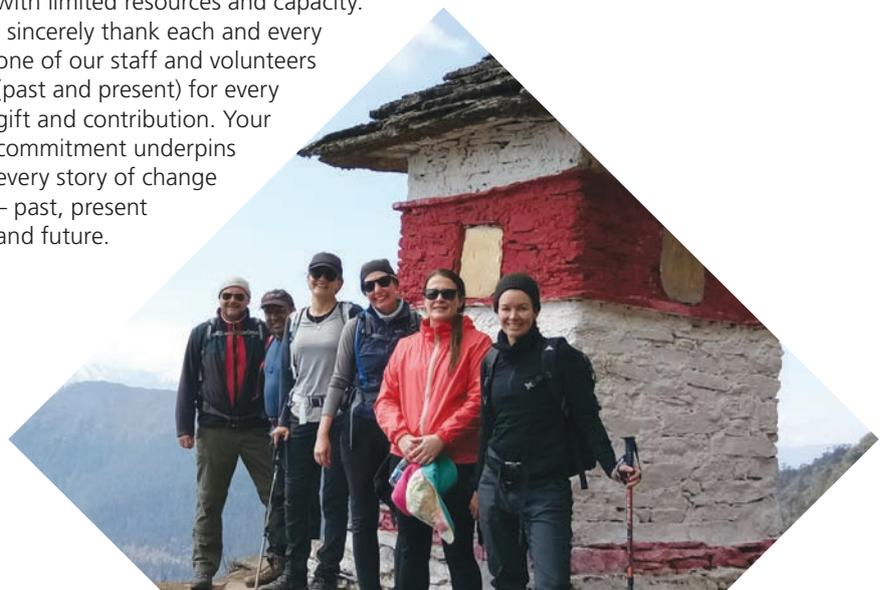
I offer sincerest of thanks to former CEO, Carolyn Hamer-Smith, our Chair, Simon Balderstone, our Directors and Committee members for my solid induction and for supporting a smooth transition for our high achieving small NGO.

With your support, the mountains of the Himalaya offer a very real reflection of the generosity of our Australian Himalayan family – it is seen, literally, in the villages, schools and health centres, but most importantly it shines in the faces of the people of the Himalaya.

Dhanyabad.

Handwritten signature of Angela Ford.

Angela Ford
Chief Executive Officer



Our programs

We celebrate another year of working in partnership with the people of the Himalaya and helping vulnerable people meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, health and the environment.

In its first year of a new three-year phase, our flagship Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) project continued to deliver on our long-term goal of providing better opportunities in life for children in remote Solukhumbu, Nepal, through improving the quality of education. Over 1,500 children directly benefited from the program implemented in 14 schools by our partner REED Nepal, with the support of the Australian Government through the Australian-NGO Cooperation Program. REED is the only Nepalese NGO with a teachers' professional development program accredited by the Nepalese Government's National Centre for Educational Development (NCED) and Centre for Education and Human Resource Development (CEHRD).

We also expanded our partnership with REED Nepal to pilot a new environmental project, Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI) in the Solukhumbu, focusing on community education on climate change and local adaptation. Taking into account the lessons learned during the pilot phase, a three year project starting in 2019/2020 has been designed. The project will raise awareness and mobilise communities to initiate local activities reducing the impact of climate change and promoting environmental conservation.

We entered into the second year of delivering the health project 'Nurses for Nepal' with local NGO, Action for Nepal. The project focuses on improving the health of the people living in Waku and Chheskam in the remote Solukhumbu region, particularly maternal and child health.

Despite slight delays to some activities due to the resignation of one of the nurses in Chheskam and the need to recruit a new nurse, the project has met targets and delivered critical healthcare:

- over 8,500 people were provided with outpatient services
- more than 2,000 immunisations provided to children and pregnant women
- close to 3,900 family planning services were delivered
- health sessions held in local schools reached a total of around 2,500 attendees
- close to 600 women were provided with antenatal care or information on safe maternal and child healthcare practices.

This year in India, AHF and SLC-IT commenced a new three year project: 'Integrating people, wildlife and climate change (IPWCC)' in Zaskar, Ladakh. Building on the success of the previous project implemented from 2015–2018 during which snow-leopard proof corrals were constructed resulting in up to 95% reduction in livestock depredation by snow leopards, the focus of the new initiative is to improve local livelihoods through promoting coexistence between people and wildlife in the context of a changing climate. Locals have reported a noticeable increase in temperatures in general and a decrease in winter precipitation in the form of snow, while rainfall is increasing along with more extreme weather events like flash flooding. Livestock corral construction has continued under the new program and workshops were held to raise awareness and mobilise community involvement in environmental conservation activities.

This year also saw the completion of the Zaskar healthcare projects training amchis, traditional health practitioners, on improved practices, particularly for maternal and child health.

In Bhutan, AHF continued its partnership with RENEW and supported 170 very vulnerable girls and boys so that they could access or remain in schools.

We saw big changes in our Programs team this year with the departure of two valuable team members, Tshering Lama O'Gorman (former Head of Programs) and Hannah Ireland (former Programs Manager), both of whom made incredible contributions to our work during their time at the Australian Himalayan Foundation, particularly towards the earthquake response program – *Building Nepal Back Better*. We are delighted to welcome Corinne Stroppolo who is now our Head of Programs, who has been joined by Celia Paoloni as Programs Manager, both highly experienced in international development.

AHF continues to proactively prioritise safeguarding the people we work with. We have revised a number of our policies, including the Prevention of Sexual Exploitation and Abuse. This also ensures the organisation complies with all standards of development practice, including ACFID's Code of Conduct and the DFAT's NGO Accreditation standards. We have continued our focus on strengthening the safeguarding capacity of our partners including providing specific training to RENEW, Action for Nepal and REED Nepal, in Child Safeguarding, with two separate sessions run by pro bono adviser, Mark Morrissey, and the Australian Embassy in Nepal during the year.

Gender equality and disability inclusion remain essential considerations in our work. AHF has been fortunate to be assisted with the latter by the expertise of our wonderful volunteer Sinora Tamang, who has provided training to REED Nepal, and opportunities for greater inclusion of people with a disability into our program is being assessed with her support.

At the heart of AHF's success is the support we receive from our Australian friends. Without your continued support, we could not deliver our programs. We wholeheartedly join our partners and the people of the Himalaya to share our gratitude and thank you for making a difference!





“
“...I think the project activities have been appreciated by the local people; the awareness sessions encourage students to incorporate healthy habits into their daily routine. People are more conscious about their health compared to the past years. This kind of Program definitely encourages people towards healthy habits for the betterment of their health.”

Hira Mani Roka, Manager
Waku Health Post



Tshering* is 15 years old and has been living for six years in Gawailing Happy Home in Thimpu, Bhutan. She has two brothers and two sisters but has not seen them since she left her home in Central Bhutan. She used to live with her mother's sister and was forced to do all the household work, all the cleaning, all the chores. Tshering was abused but is too shy and too ashamed to talk about this. She says she is happy in Gawailing, she does not have to do 'all those things'. She gets 'love and care'. In her school, she says she gets some peer support. With the scholarship funds, Tshering buys books, stationery, clothes and toiletries. She loves to play basketball, volleyball and cricket and would like to become a doctor or a lawyer when she is older.

Tshering, scholarship student
Bhutan

*Name changed to
protect identity

Your impact

Increase education levels

Nepal

Teacher Training and Quality Education

Without access to quality education, children in remote communities like the Everest region of Nepal are deprived of the life skills and knowledge gained from education, and are more likely to remain trapped in the cycle of poverty. In response, AHF's flagship Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) project is helping to ensure that children living in one of the poorest regions of Nepal have access to inclusive, high quality primary education for improved opportunities now and into the future.

TTQE focuses on developing schools in the Solukhumbu district of Nepal to become centres of excellence (Namuna schools) with quality teachers and educational resources which provide safe and supportive learning environments integrating schools and communities. A range of activities designed to identify and address the needs of the school community are being implemented including: teacher training; literacy programs; parent volunteer opportunities; facilitating school representatives in planning and milestone setting; support to child-led clubs; and providing materials for classroom and school upgrades.

These activities work towards four key objectives:

- develop Namuna Schools that can serve as models to other schools across the district
- improve children's competency in Nepali literacy in early years
- improve learning outcomes in the three main foundational subjects of English, Maths and Science
- provide scholarships and other support to very disadvantaged and marginalised children.

Following an evaluation and a project redesign process, 2018/2019 was the first year of a new three year project phase. In this year, REED and the Namuna Schools conducted needs assessments to develop plans and milestones across a range of initiatives for a better learning environment, increased parent engagement and improved student retention.

Child Club networks have been reactivated and supported to deliver activities on waste management and hygiene awareness.

School Management Committees, Parent Teacher Associations and teachers and students have built knowledge about the importance of education, gender and social inclusion, child safeguarding and literacy that supports the implementation of the Namuna Schools approach. Teacher capacity has been increased in literacy, early childhood teaching, English, Maths and Science. In addition, children with disabilities are accessing literacy and Namuna School initiatives with the employment and continued support of a teacher who herself is hearing impaired.

Assistance has also been delivered for very vulnerable children to ensure they can access schooling through the 'Going to School Support' program with scholarships and other basic support.

In coming years, the project will continue to strengthen and grow the Namuna Schools concept and literacy program to reach more students and communities with inclusive, quality education.

TTQE is implemented on the ground by our local NGO partner REED (Rural Education and Environment Development Centre) Nepal with technical support from AHF in project design, management, monitoring and evaluation and safeguarding measures such as child protection.

TTQE is supported by the Australian Government via the Australian-NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP), and is strongly supported by our community of AHF supporters.

Key achievements

1,553 students (**790** girls) at **14** schools accessed improved quality education via TTQE schools

860 children in grades 1–3 were provided with literacy materials

34 children accessed improved nutrition via school meals pilot program

489 very vulnerable children received financial and material assistance to continue schooling

180 students and **60** teachers received orientation in hygiene practices, and new hand-washing facilities provided at **7** schools

271 teachers from 100 schools trained to improve teaching knowledge in Science, English and Maths

“
...hand-washing facility supported by the project has helped us stay healthy with a convenient hygiene corner. I have developed the habit of hand washing and guiding my younger brothers and sisters to follow it at home as well.

”
Smriti and Subash,
Grade 8 students at a
Namuna School



170
 children from 18 districts across
 Bhutan were supported
 to continue their
 education



Garma Hall

Following several years of support to rebuild schools across the Solukhumbu district after the devastating 2015 earthquakes, 2018/2019 saw the final stage of this program. In previous years, 87 earthquake-resilient classrooms in 27 schools were constructed, repaired and retrofitted to meet earthquake safety standards structurally.

AHF benefits from a partnership with Sydney-based architects Davenport Campbell who previously assisted with the design of a masterplan and rebuild of Shree Garma Secondary School.

The next step of the masterplan was the building of a multipurpose School Hall which occurred this year using seismic design principles. A school construction committee oversaw the building and financial management. AHF, Davenport Campbell, who are both a donor partner and pro bono technical expert, as well as Taylor Thomson Whitting (TTW) who also provided pro bono engineering expertise, worked closely with REED Nepal to ensure high quality outcomes.

The construction was not without challenges including transporting the steel, but the hall is now completed and will provide a safe haven for the local community, a place for celebration and a place where the children can learn, perform and grow.

**Bhutan
 Children's
 Education Program**

Bhutan has made significant progress in expanding access to education, especially primary education. In 2018, basic education (up to class 10) net enrolment figures were reported at 96 percent*.

Despite those figures, vulnerable children are finding it hard to continue their schooling.

AHF works in partnership with local NGO RENEW (Respect, Educate, Nurture and Empower Women), a non-profit organisation dedicated to the empowerment of women and children in Bhutan, with specific attention to the survivors of domestic violence (DV) and Sexual & Gender Based Violence (SGBV).

The project aims to improve education indicators for children who have suffered abuse, violence, abandonment, neglect, who are orphaned or whose families cannot meet their basic needs. The program aims to keep those vulnerable children in school by funding uniforms, stationery, toiletries and other essential items, as well as through counselling and support by RENEW staff. AHF also supported the training of RENEW representatives on child safeguarding and will continue to strengthen the organisation in the coming year.

Key achievements

170 children from **18** districts across Bhutan were supported to continue their education

13 students completed class **10** in 2018/2019

* Source: UNICEF, Annual Report 2018, Accelerating Results for Every Child in Bhutan



182

locals from 5 Zanskar villages attended ecology and climate change workshops

Improve environmental outcomes and adaptation to climate change

India
Integrating people, wildlife and climate change in Zanskar

With as few as 4,500 snow leopards left in the world, AHF has renewed this year its partnership with the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust (SLC-IT) to protect these majestic animals and preserve livelihoods in the context of a changing climate. The project works closely with local communities to construct snow-leopard safe corrals across the remote Zanskar Valley of Ladakh in the Indian Himalaya, one of the prime habitats of snow leopard harbouring 60% of the cat's population in India. Traditionally, the farmers build low-level, dry stone wall corrals for their livestock – a critical means of income for farmers in these remote areas.

However, these corrals are open and exposed to attacks from snow leopards at night which can result in an entire herd being wiped out. Through the construction of simple wire roofing supported by wooden beams, private and community corrals built as part of the project are enclosed and 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 wanting to protect their livelihood.

Some communities in Ladakh report increases in sightings and numbers of brown bears, which pose threats to their precious grain reserves. Next year SLC-IT will start providing deterrent lights for villagers to keep bears at bay to protect the reserves.

Workshops were also conducted on climate change and human-wildlife conflict and the new phase of the project will maximise the involvement of local people through conservation activities such as monitoring of glacial retreats.

Key achievements

182 locals from 5 Zanskar villages attended ecology and climate change workshops
Livestock corrals have been constructed in 5 villages

Improve health outcomes

India
Zanskar Healthcare

Zanskar in Ladakh, India, is one of the most remote areas in the Himalaya. Heavy snowfall from November to May completely cuts its inhabitants off from the rest of the world and from basic health services. In these difficult snowbound months, the traditional health practitioners (amchi) are the only healthcare providers available to the locals.

The AHF commenced a four-year partnership with the Servants of Society (SOS) and Ladakh Institute of Prevention (LIP) in 2014 to support the amchi in order to help them better serve the Zanskar community. Last year marked the final year of the Zanskar Primary Healthcare program. Over the duration of the program, we supported annual workshops for amchi aimed at improving their traditional healthcare practices by offering training in maternal health, monitoring prenatal visits, educating new mothers on safe childbirth practices and attending births in their own villages.

Nepal
Nurses for Nepal

Difficult terrain, long distances to reach a well-equipped health centre, lack of education, poverty, and untimely identification of high-risk pregnancies contribute to high infant and maternal mortality in Nepal's mountain districts.

To respond to these issues, AHF partnered with local organisation, Action for Nepal, to establish the Nurses for Nepal project. Now in its second year, the project aims to improve the health of the people living in Waku and Chheskam in Solukhumbu, and in particular of women and children.

A trained nurse is supported in each locality, working with the local Primary Health Centre staff to increase their capacity to respond to basic health needs in the communities. This has included treatment of a range of diseases, immunisations, antenatal care and family planning. This year, the nurses also continued support and monitoring of the Female Community Health Volunteers (FCHV) and participated at Mothers' Group Meetings to provide information on various topics around safe maternal and child healthcare practices.

Progress results from this year indicate that training on the Birth Preparedness Package to FCHV has increased the knowledge of these valuable volunteers and resulted in increased engagement with the target community members. The nurses also conducted health education sessions in the schools of Waku and Chheskam. In addition, the health post management committees were strengthened to better support the health centres and child safeguarding training was provided to Action for Nepal.

Key achievements

4,497 outpatient services were provided in Waku, and 4,193 in Chheskam

1,102 (Waku) and 972 (Chheskam) immunisations were provided to children and pregnant women

86 women in Waku and 71 in Chheskam received antenatal care services

3 babies delivered in Chheskam (Waku does not have a birthing centre)

837 in Waku and 3,045 in Chheskam family planning services provided

5 schools in Waku (1,973 attendees) and 5 schools in Chheskam (483) provided with health education sessions on personal hygiene, hand washing, oral hygiene, communicable disease or changes in adolescence

Provision of information on safe maternal health and child healthcare practices by nurses to mothers' groups (262 women in Waku; 172 in Chheskam)





Nepal

Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI)

During 2018/2019, AHF worked with REED to undertake a scoping study and pilot an environmental education project in Solukhumbu District. The Everest Youth Climate Initiative (EYCI) aims to reduce local people's vulnerabilities and conserve local biodiversity.

Activities during 2018/2019 included stakeholder consultations and scoping study in partnership with the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN); trainings to teachers, school clubs and community groups about climate change and effective local adaptation to conserve the environment; seedling plantation for reforestation; and development of community education materials for increased climate awareness.

The pilot phase of the project paved the way for the design of a new three-year program (2019–2022) focusing on training and supporting school and community groups to plan and initiate activities that protect the environment and build the communities' resilience to climate-related changes.

Preserving arts and culture

India

Promotion of Tibetan Performing Arts and Careers

AHF supports Gangjong Doeghar Tibetan Performing Arts in Kalimpong, India, to help preserve and promote traditional music and dances of various regions of Tibet.

“ It was a great honour to be a first recipient of the prestigious AHF Art Award. At that time, I was struggling in the field of art after my graduation. After receiving this award, I was able to establish my personal work space Artudio – Centre for Visual Arts, which is now growing as one of the leading contemporary art spaces in Nepal. The award was a key to open the door to the art world as an independent artist. The award has made a huge impact on not just its recipients, but also on the entire field of contemporary arts in Nepal.

Kailash K Shrestha,
Inaugural winner of Himalayan Art Award in 2010

Himalayan Art Award

The Himalayan Art Award provides support to young artists across the region who would otherwise struggle to find the resources to express their talent. It has provided a launching pad for successful careers.

Recently, AHF partner Kathmandu selected the design concepts of a former award recipient, Kailash K Shrestha, for its artist series range. Kailash's design will be used as an exclusive one off to appear on a t-shirt series to be released in the 2021 Summer Season.

For every t-shirt sold, a portion goes to AHF Programs.

Key achievements

48 children were trained in Tibetan language, songs, dance and music

30 children who are visually impaired were also provided with training on Tibetan music instruments and singing

37 performances were conducted in festivals, sport or corporate events, in schools or for other occasions such as for His Holiness the Dalai Lama's birthday celebrations

2 workshops were conducted for students from US universities

1 male student found employment in a local school to teach dance and music

Schools for the Himalaya

Our Schools for the Himalaya project provides an opportunity of cultural exchange and fosters strong and lasting relationships between schools in Australia and those in the Himalaya. Schools in Australia are encouraged to raise funds to help improve basic facilities and educational resources. In some cases there may be opportunities for Aussie students to visit these schools and gain first-hand experiences of the effectiveness of our educational programs in Bhutan and Nepal.

Our community

Our Foundation has an extensive and generous community who share their passion for the Himalaya with their friends, family and colleagues, raising funds and awareness for our projects. Some highlights from this year are captured below.

In September we were joined for the Gala Dinner, by guest speaker Dr Tsewang Namgail, one of India's best known animal conservationists and Director of the Snow Leopard Conservancy India Trust, our partner in Ladakh, northern India. On the evening, AHF Ambassador Jackson Bursill was awarded the Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial Award to recognise his significant contribution to the AHF.

Our supporters in Noosa including the indefatigable Heather McNeice, held the amazing Noosa Summit Ball in October 2018, as well as many other fundraising activities throughout the year, raising over \$42,500 for our projects in Bhutan.

In May, our AHF family celebrated Himalaya Day in Sydney with a festive meal, this year marking the 100th Anniversary of the birth of Sir Edmund Hillary (who is an inspiration for our work). Also during this month, AHF's Chair, Simon Balderstone, CEO, Angela Ford and Head of Fundraising and Communications, Karen Locke met with some of our Melbourne supporters.

We were also excited to once again run the Kathmandu Neverest Challenge series in Canberra, Melbourne, Sydney and the inaugural Brisbane event, with over 600 participants running and hiking up and down hills to scale the height of Everest and raise over \$72,000 for our programs in Nepal.

In June, our former Head of Programs Tshering Lama O'Gorman joined a panel of speakers at the Indigenous Languages Conference where we partnered with La Trobe University for *'The Thousand Tongues in the Heart of Asia: Indigenous Languages in the Himalayas'*. The event was part of the International Year of Indigenous Languages – celebrating the languages of the Himalayas, whilst also examining the challenges they face in the 21st century.

We were delighted to again have a student intern placement for the third year through the international not for profit, IES Abroad (International Education of Students).

In June, Ellison Commodore, a university student from the USA, spent eight weeks with the team supporting us in a number of areas including communications and marketing activities.

Our AHF family have held dinners, morning teas, made jams and sold them, gifted a portion of sales from their products, run cruises, arranged art exhibitions and trivia nights and many other functions.

Others have trekked in Australia, Nepal, India and Bhutan while raising funds for various projects.

This year those treks included the amazing Himalayan Traverse escorted by both Simon Balderstone and Director Peter Hillary in December.

Long-time supporters Neill Johanson of Davenport Campbell, AHF Ambassador Tom Singleton, David Carolan of TTW and their Australian supporters created the incredible Garma School Community Hall fundraising campaign.

They worked with industry partners, the Garma school community and allies in the design and construction industry to raise over \$140,000 to construct an earthquake-proof community hall for the Garma School, which is also part of our Teacher Training and Quality Education (TTQE) program.

This campaign culminated in eight trekkers volunteering onsite at the hall to complete the work and more importantly to connect with the community.

AHF has also been fortunate to once again have pro bono consultants share their expertise with our team. The knowledge of people such as Maree Whybourne, Mark Morrissey, SallyAnn Hunting, David Nott, Reena Malik, Edwin Trevor-Roberts, Greg Ellis, Scott Lucas, Ben Kassel and Nicole Browne continues to help both the AHF team and our partners in the Himalaya.

And finally, the AHF team in Sydney would be lost without our volunteers. We have had the support of many great volunteers for our events, but our core crew Lucy Osborn, Sue Fagoaga, Upala Sunthankar, Sinora Tamang, Lindy Nisbett, Trevor Harrison and Debbie Dukes make up a special part of our community in Australia. They freely gifted their energy, enthusiasm and expertise throughout the year and we consider them part of our team.



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

Andrew is acclaimed as Australia's most accomplished high-altitude mountaineers. He became the first, and still remains the only, Australian to climb all 14 'eight-thousanders' and is the 18th person to ever complete this feat. He climbed 13 of the 14 without using bottled oxygen, only using it on Mount Everest, which he has summited twice. AHF 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 AHF.

Jen Peedom AHF Ambassador

Jen is known for her gripping, intimate portraits of people in extreme circumstances and her internationally renowned documentaries SOLO, MOUNTAIN and SHERPA; which was critically acclaimed on the international festival circuit (winning multiple awards including a BAFTA nomination in 2016). She has a profound passion, respect and understanding of the people of the Himalaya and their needs.

Dylan Hall AHF Youth Ambassador

Dylan's passion for the Himalaya was first ignited as a young boy travelling in the early 1990s. As the son of founding AHF Director Lincoln Hall, he has always had a close association with the Himalaya and travelled to the Khumbu and Everest Base Camp in 2005.

Alice I'Anson AHF Youth Ambassador

Alice visited Nepal for the first time when only 11 years old and felt a connection with the country and the people straight away. Her passion for travel and international aid led her to complete a Bachelor of Arts in International Studies. Alice is the daughter of renowned Lonely Planet photographer Richard I'Anson.

Jackson Bursill AHF Youth Ambassador

Jackson joined as a Youth Ambassador following his work establishing Neverest, a fundraising event for AHF in which over 150 people walked or ran the equivalent vertical height of Everest to raise funds for AHF. Jackson hopes to continue to work on events and programs that will raise the profile of AHF.

Tenzin Choegyel AHF Ambassador

Born to a nomadic family in Tibet, singer songwriter Tenzin draws on his Tibetan roots to create original compositions. In 1997, he came to Australia with little more than a bag, his Dranyen and a voice full of passion for Tibet. Tenzin has created a successful international musical career playing at prestigious events like WOMAD festivals and Carnegie Hall, New York performing with composer, Philip Glass.

Tom Singleton AHF Ambassador

Tom is a Nationally-awarded Architect and Design Manager, his expertise is designing schools. He has been working with us since the earthquake in 2015, helping to rebuild schools after the earthquake. His love of the mountains and dedication to education helps us strive for Nepalese teachers and students to have the best places to teach and learn.

Richard I'Anson AHF Ambassador

Richard is a freelance photographer who has built a career on his twin passions for travel and photography. He has published thirteen books including five editions of the best-selling Lonely Planet Guide to Travel Photography. As one of five photographers selected for the first series of National Geographic Channel's television documentary Tales by Light (now on Netflix), he is also a Master of Photography and represents Canon Australia as a Canon Master Photographer.

Alyssa Azar AHF Youth Ambassador

Alyssa is an Australian mountaineer and adventurer. She began trekking in 2005 with her first challenge, crossing the Kokoda Track in Papua New Guinea. After completing Mt Kilimanjaro in 2011, she began climbing. On 21 May 2016, she successfully summited Mt. Everest becoming the youngest Australian to summit Mt Everest.

Joe Bonington AHF Ambassador

Joe is the founder of Joe's Basecamp. He has trained with world leaders in fitness, strength and conditioning (his passion) and holistic health; been a trek leader of groups to the Annapurna region, Everest, Kokoda, Kilimanjaro and Bhutan. With a long family history of mountaineering and adventure, he broke new ground himself, being part of the first ascent of Danga 2 (6200m) in Nepal.

Cheryl Bart AHF Ambassador

Cheryl and her daughter Nikki Bart made history on the 23rd May 2008 when they became the first Australian mother and daughter team to climb the Seven Summits (the highest mountain on each continent) the last being Mt Everest. Cheryl has a successful career as a lawyer and company director, and was on the Board of the Australian Himalayan Foundation from 2013–2017.

Board of Directors

Simon Balderstone AM (Chairman)

Founder and Director of consultancy company; Adviser to Olympic movement; Member of the 1984 First Australian Everest Expedition; Award-winning journalist; Former Prime Ministerial adviser, SOCOG Board member and General Manager; Elected to the United Nations Global 500 Roll of Honour for Excellence in Environmental Achievement.



Julia Booth

Julia has 20 years of experience in the development and management of projects in the private, government and NGO sectors, with a focus on livelihood and education programs for women and children. She has a long history of cultural exchange with the Himalayan region, in particular with Bhutan. Julia teaches at USYD Business School in Strategy, Innovation and Entrepreneurship and Media communications.



Christine Gee AM

Co-founder Australian Himalayan Expeditions (now W.E) from 1975 to 1986; Royal Nepalese Honorary Consul General for NSW and ACT from 1987 to 2009; attaché to Nepalese Olympic Team for Sydney 2000 Olympics; since 2012 CEO, Bryce Courtenay International, preserving the literary legacy of Christine's late husband Bryce Courtenay; in late 2018 appointed 'ClimateForce' 2019 Ambassador.



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 first-hand the needs of schools.



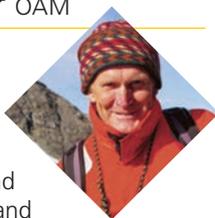
Peter Hillary

As the son of Sir Edmund Hillary, Peter is a life-long adventurer having summited Everest twice, traversed the South Pole overland via Shackleton Glacier and managed the first high-altitude traverse of the entire Himalayan range. Peter is an expedition leader, public speaker, leader of philanthropic missions, author and photographer.



Greg Mortimer OAM

Greg successfully climbed Everest in 1984 as a member of the first Australian Everest Expedition and the first to climb K2 and Mt. Vinson. He has led over 80 expeditions to 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.



Amit J Thapa

Head founder/CEO of @The Talent Agency, an International Talent Acquisition firm, co-founder of The Migration Agency, a boutique Australian Immigration firm and Chairman /co-founder of FONA (Friends of Nepal Association, Australia). A passionate leader with proven success connecting business, people and performance across a complex inter-national environment. Building upon a successful career across a breadth of industries, including the financial services, insurance, and retail sectors, in executive leadership positions.



Garry Weare (Deputy Chairman)

Himalayan guide and operator with 40 years of experience in the Indian Himalaya; Former Director and now Himalayan Consultant to World Expeditions; Hon Secretary (Australia) Himalayan Club; author and photographer including Lonely Planet's Trekking in the Nepal Himalaya (all five editions).



“
This year is the 100th anniversary of my father's birth, Sir Edmund Hillary. Obviously 88 years he was around doing extraordinary things up here in the Himalayas, and it's wonderful to be part of an organisation like the Australian Himalayan Foundation that is continuing this extraordinary work.

”
Peter Hillary
AHF Director

AHF staff & representatives

Key Volunteers

Lucy Osborn
Sue Fagoaga
Upala Sunthakar
Debbie Dukes
Lindy Nisbett
Trevor Harrison

AHF Staff

Angela Ford Chief Executive Officer
Corinne Stroppolo Head of Programs (part-time)
Celia Paoloni Program Manager (part-time)
Karen Locke Head of Fundraising and Communications
Kerryn Plummer Operations Manager (part-time)
Linda Jocelyn Finance Officer (part-time)

We are truly grateful to our former employees Carolyn Hamer-Smith (Chief Executive Officer), Tshering Lama O’Gorman (Head of Programs) and Hannah Ireland (Program Manager) who made significant contributions to the success of AHF during their time

Advisers

Dr Christopher Birch SC
Legal Adviser
Neil Fergus
Risk Adviser
Roger O’Meagher
TTQE Volunteer Manager
Jim Strang
Education Adviser
Mark Morrissey
Child Protection Adviser
Sinora Tamang
Inclusive Education Adviser

State representatives

Victoria
George Hillary
Jeff Kilpatrick
Doug Grant
Mike Dillon
Angela Han
Jules McLean

Queensland
Heather McNeice
Nicola Heppell
Karen Murray
Susie Pitts

ACT
Zac Zaharias



Thank you

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



- Accor Hotels
- ACME Foundation
- Adventure Associates
- Anni McNiven
- Anthony Wheeler
- Ascent Private Wealth
- Australian Aid Program, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade
- Australian Pharmaceutical Industries
- Ben Kassel (Haimat)
- Bill and Jane Gross
- Caroline Jones
- Chairman's Trekkers Support Group
- Cult Design
- Davenport Campbell
- David Carolan
- David Francis
- David Nott
- Deborah and Patrick Lockie
- Dick Estens
- Edwin Trevor-Roberts
- Elite Travel
- Emma Huffam and Trevor Builder
- Footprints Network (World Nomads)
- Gary McCaw (One Man One Million)
- Glen Bowden
- Greg Ellis
- Heather McNeice

- H&K Johnston Family Foundation
- Intelligent Risks Pty Ltd
- Intermain Pty Ltd
- Jackson Bursill
- Jeanette and Peter Young Foundation
- Judy Curtis
- Karen Murray
- Kathmandu
- Lambourne Partners
- Lateral Events Management
- Lowenden Foundation
- Mandala Living
- Maree Whybourne
- Mark Baker and Michelle Lim
- Mark and Lucy Osborn
- Mark Morrissey
- McNair Charitable Foundation
- Michael Flannery (Pharmacy Catalyst)
- MPA Construction
- Neil Fergus
- Nicola Heppell
- Nicole Browne (MediaOpps)
- Noosa Golf Club
- Pemba Capital
- Peter Letton Wharton
- Peter Townsend
- Pharmacy Catalyst – Instigo
- Pharmacy Phusion
- Reena Malik
- Richard Gorman (Corporate Financial Services)
- Robert Campbell
- Robin Hams

- Roger Butler
- Ruth Fitzhardinge
- SallyAnn Hunting
- Schiavello Systems ACT Pty Ltd
- Schiavello Systems NSW Pty Ltd
- Scott Lucas
- Simon Baggs
- StyleCraft
- Subhasis Banerjee
- Susie Pitts
- Taylor Thomson 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
- Work Arena
- World Expeditions
- WTP Australia

We would like to thank individuals and groups who raised funds through treks and challenges in support of the AHF, including: 2018/2019 Nepal Kathmandu Summit Club Trekkers, 2018/2019 Top 10 Aussie Summitters with Zac Zaharias, 2018/2019 Bhutan trekkers, 2018/2019 Chairman's Trekkers, Bright Sherpas, and all our individual Neverest participants. A special thanks to members of the Garma Community fundraising campaign and trek for their huge contribution and the Catalyst Pharmacy Group through Gary McCaw's One Man One Million Campaign for their support. There are many other people who over the past year have individually raised funds for the AHF while trekking or climbing in Australia, Nepal, Bhutan and the Indian Himalaya and we are incredibly grateful to you for your efforts.

Our sincere thanks also go out to our annual supporters and our regular individual donors who are the backbone of AHF and the work we do – we are immensely appreciative of your ongoing support.

Finally, we are truly grateful for the commitment and incredible support of all our key volunteers with special thanks to Lucy Osborn, Sue Fagoaga, Upala Sunthankar, Lindy Nisbett, Anna Birch, Trevor Harrison and Debbie Dukes. Also our thanks to our pro bono advisers Roger O'Meagher, David Nott, Edwin Trevor-Roberts, Mark Morrissey, Maree Whybourne, Dr Christopher Birch SC, Sinora Tamang, and the members of our Advisory Committees on Fundraising and Communications, Programs, and Finance and Governance.



Financial information

Strategy

To assist in providing long-term financial sustainability and to enable full commitment to our long-term programs, and help expand current and future programs, we continue to build up our Financial Reserves.

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 our commitment to high standards of program delivery.

Directors' benefits

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

“

It is great to hear that the (Nurses for Nepal) project is maturing and gaining significant local support.... I hope the program generates lots of interest to raise funds to roll the model out to other remote communities.

”

James Johnston
H&K Johnston
Family Foundation

How we raised our funds in 2018/2019

Donations & Supporter Contributions
\$940,439 (70.34%)

Community Education
\$9,294 (0.70%)

Events (Gross) \$219,331 (16.40%)

DFAT \$150,000 (11.22%)

Other \$12,948 (0.97%)

Interest \$5,024 (0.37%)

TOTAL \$1,337,036 (100%)



How we spent our funds in 2018/2019

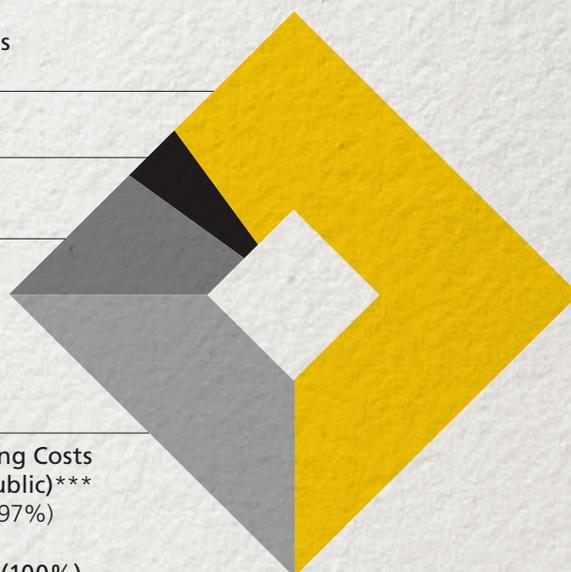
International Program Expenditure & Support Costs
\$815,533 (62.30%)

Community Education*
\$67,186 (5.13%)

Administration**
\$138,734 (10.60%)

Fundraising Costs (Govt & Public)***
\$287,644 (21.97%)

TOTAL \$1,309,097 (100%)



* 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.

** The AHF maintains administration costs to no more than 20% of donations each year. This ensures the AHF maintains transparent and accountable processes and robust, professional standards consistent with industry practice.

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

Income statement

For the year ended 30 June 2019

Income statement	2019 \$	2018 \$
Revenue		
<i>Donations & gifts</i>		
Monetary	939,364	912,931
Non-monetary	–	–
Bequests & legacies	–	400
<i>Grants</i>		
DFAT	150,000	150,000
Other Australian	–	–
Other overseas	–	–
Investment income	5,024	5,040
<i>Other income</i>		
Fundraising revenue	219,331	171,230
Supporter contributions	1,075	1,650
Community education	9,294	19,230
Paid parental leave subsidy	12,948	–
Revenue for international political & religious adherence promotion programs	–	–
Total revenue	1,337,036	1,260,481
Expenditure		
<i>International programs</i>		
Funds to overseas programs	593,259	731,390
Program support costs	222,274	212,536
<i>Fundraising costs</i>		
Public	249,195	181,537
Government & multilateral	38,449	39,017
<i>Community education</i>	67,186	54,598
Accountability & administration	138,734	111,746
Total international aid & development expenditure	1,309,097	1,330,824
Expenditure for international political & religious adherence promotion programs	–	–
Total expenditure	1,309,097	1,330,824
Surplus/(deficit) ordinary activities	27,939	(70,343)

Our Financial Reports have been prepared in accordance with the requirements set out in the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information on the Code please refer to the ACFID Code of Conduct Implementation Guidance available at www.acfid.asn.au. A copy of the full statutory financial report for 2018/2019 is available on request.

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 2018/2019.

The accompanying notes form part of these financial statements.

Balance sheet

As at 30 June 2019

	2019 \$	2018 \$
Assets		
<i>Current assets</i>		
Cash & cash equivalents	918,695	890,429
Trade & other receivables	2,481	2,012
Total current assets	921,176	892,441
Non-current assets – property, plant & equipment	3,121	1,067
Total non-current assets	3,121	1,067
Total assets	924,297	893,508
Liabilities		
<i>Current liabilities</i>		
Trade and other payables	20,157	15,662
Provision for employee entitlements	13,621	15,266
Total current liabilities	33,778	30,928
Total liabilities	33,778	30,928
Net assets	890,519	862,580
Equity		
Retained earnings	890,519	862,580
Members' guarantee	–	–
Total equity	890,519	862,580

Statement of changes in equity

As at 30 June 2019

	Retained Earnings \$	Total \$
Balance at 1 July 2017	932,923	932,923
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	(70,343)	(70,343)
Items of Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2018	862,580	862,580
Excess of Revenue Over Expenses	27,939	27,939
Items of Other Comprehensive Income	–	–
Balance at 30 June 2019	890,519	890,519

Independent audit report (IAR)

AUSTRALIAN HIMALAYAN FOUNDATION LIMITED
A.B.N 81 099 510 255

INDEPENDENT AUDIT REPORT
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2019



Opinion

We have audited the financial report of Australian Himalayan Foundation Limited (the Company), which comprises the balance sheet as at 30 June 2019, the profit and loss, statement of changes in equity, statement of cash flows and table of cash movements for designated purposes for the year then ended, and notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies, and the Directors Declaration.

In our opinion, the accompanying financial report presents fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance, changes in equity and its cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the accounting policies outlined at Note 1 to the financial report.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards. Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report section of our report. We are independent of the Group in accordance with the auditor independence requirements of the Corporations Act 2001 and the ethical requirements of the Accounting Professional and Ethical Standards Board's APES 110 Code of Ethics for Professional Accountants (the Code) that are relevant to our audit of the financial report in Australia. We have also fulfilled our other ethical responsibilities in accordance with the Code.

We confirm that the independence declaration required by the Corporations Act 2001, which has been given to the directors of the Company, would be in the same terms if given to the directors as at the time of this auditor's report.

We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion.

Emphasis of Matter – Basis of Accounting

We draw attention to Note 1 to the financial report, which describes the basis of accounting. The financial report has been prepared to assist the Company to meet the requirements of the applicable legislation and codes of conduct. As a result, the financial report may not be suitable for another purpose. Our opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Responsibilities of Management and Those Charged with Governance for the Financial Report

Management and Those Charged With Governance are responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial report in accordance with Australian Accounting Standards, and for such internal control as management determines is necessary to enable the preparation of the financial report that is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial report, management is responsible for assessing the Company's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters related to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless management either intends to liquidate the Company or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Those charged with governance are responsible for overseeing the Company's financial reporting process.

Lambourne Partners

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Report

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial report as a whole is free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with Australian Auditing Standards will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in the aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of the financial report.

As part of an audit in accordance with the Australian Auditing Standards, we exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout the audit. We also:

- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial report, whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by management.
- Conclude on the appropriateness of management's use of the going concern basis of accounting and, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Company's ability to continue as a going concern. If we conclude that a material uncertainty exists, we are required to draw attention in our auditor's report to the related disclosures in the financial report or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify our opinion. Our conclusions are based on the audit evidence obtained up to the date of our auditor's report. However, future events or conditions may cause the Company to cease to continue as a going concern.
- Evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial report, including the disclosures, and whether the financial report represents the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.

We communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that we identify during our audit.



Mr Scott Lucas
Registered Company Auditor (4384)
Lambourne Partners
Chartered Accountants
Level 1, 56 Hudson Street
HAMILTON NSW 2303

Lambourne Partners

ACFID

The Australian Himalayan Foundation is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct, and are committed to adhering to its high standards of corporate governance, public accountability and financial management.

DFAT

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 include 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 cooperation agreements with relevant statutory authorities in the countries where programs are implemented.



Complaints

AHF has an open and transparent complaints policy that can be found on our website. Complaints related to breaches of the code or any other matter can be directed to Angela Ford (CEO) on 02 9438 1822 or email angela@ahf.org.au

Complaints alleging breaches of the ACFID Code of Conduct can be made to the ACFID Code of Conduct Committee via www.acfid.asn.au/code-of-conduct/complaints



Positive changes to children's learning environment

Rampur Basic School, situated in Solukhumbu District of Nepal, has a majority of students from ethnic communities. The school has 127 students from early childhood/preschool through to grade 8. Before AHF support, the students did not have access to learning activities other than through textbooks. There were inadequate sports materials, furniture and science equipment. Further, there was no Early Childhood (ECED) classroom set-up. The toilet was almost unusable and there were no hand-washing facilities.

Since AHF and REED Nepal started working with the school community to establish it as one of seven Namuna (Model) Schools, there has been a dramatic change in the learning environment. The provision of teaching materials and 10 days training has been a highlight for teachers.

Tika Rai, an ECED teacher said:

"I was naive before training but now it's comfortable to look after 14 young kids. Six learning corners in ECED room mean students can choose playing and learning materials of their interest. Our ECED classes are now in line with standards of early childhood development."

Deputy Head of Mapya Dudhkoshi Rural Municipality, Junita Maya Magar, communicated:

"This ECED centre could be a model to nearby schools. This is a praiseworthy effort. ECED to grade 3 now has tables, new book corners and shoe racks."

Nala Bahadur Rai, Grade 2 teacher, reported:

"Our students have improved their habit of sanitation after being provided with shoe racks and carpet in the room. They are practising at home as well. Students wash their legs and take off their shoes before entering classrooms. The introduction of a book corner has encouraged reading within class hours."

The School Management Committee Chairperson, Mr Bhai Bahadur Rai, commented:

"It is a remarkable effort that our school has been provided with necessary materials and support."

271

teachers from 100 schools trained to improve teaching knowledge in Science, English and Maths



How can you help?

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

Stay informed

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 and social media.

Become a regular giver

By giving a regular monthly gift today, your tax deductible donation will help us to continue our vital work to help the most disadvantaged meet their priority needs through integrated improvements in education, health and the environment.

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.

Get involved

Come and volunteer with us! We have a range of opportunities and would love to hear from you. Please email info@ahf.org.au or call us on +61 2 9438 1822.

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.



**AUSTRALIAN
HIMALAYAN
FOUNDATION**

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Richard l'Anson, Trevor Harrison,
Simon Balderstone, Garry Weare,
AHF and Heather McNeice