



Newsletter May 2017

CWA Children's Home in Pokhara, Nepal

We are very pleased to send this newsletter straight from the CWA Children's Home itself. We ourselves will stay in Nepal until the end of June to continue our voluntary work for the benefit of the children.

All children and staff have survived the cold winter well. In the meantime, spring has arrived here. It is still quite chilly in the mornings and evenings, but when the sun shows its face during the day temperatures easily rise to 25° C.

Like before, we were able to harvest a lot of vegetables from our farming activities -at the moment white cabbage and broccoli are on the menu.



Nepali New Year and school holidays

In early April the Nepali school year came to an end with the final examinations. After three weeks of holiday the new school year has now begun. Many children were able to improve on their performance and, with the exception of two boys, passed their exams. Binay and Milan now receive extra tuition from our homework teacher.



The school holidays always provide plenty of time and chances to organize activities for the children. During the Nepali New Year festival the highlight this year was a three-day trip to Mount Panchasse. The effort to travel with all children, employees and members of the Board of Management (a total of 52 people) is in itself a great feat. But this time we also depended completely on our own resources for cooking and therefore had to bring with us all the food we needed and all the cooking and eating utensils. We cooked all our meals over an open fire.

The plan was to camp the nights at an altitude of 2.065 m on the mountain. Everything went well and the children helped to build up the twelve tents we had borrowed. Then very unexpectedly, later in the evening, we were surprised by a thunderstorm with violent rain showers. Soon we realized that the tents would not cope with a storm of this strength. So all of us - the kids with all their backpacks, sleeping mats and sleeping bags - hurriedly moved to a nearby Guesthouse.



Next day we hiked to the summit and walked through glorious rhododendron forests with fern trees and wild orchids on the way there. Despite the steep climb the children greatly enjoyed the hike. For the rest of the holiday, we organized short trips in and around Pokhara for the children. As for the rest of the time left to them, the children devoted themselves to supplementary music classes, to handicraft classes in our workshop, and to producing gorgeous Christmas cards, while still finding time to play the odd game.

Before New Year's Day everyone contributed to cleaning the Home from top to bottom, so that dust that had gathered in the old year was not borne into the new year.

The teenagers in our hostel

After completing their two-year college education, three girls will in May leave our hostel. Pooja (who trained in hotel management), Isha (who trained as teacher) and Alina (who trained in four-year nurse course) will from then on for six months receive our financial support in order to set up house, first of course to find a personal space to live in and then buy their first furniture. Our manager Bijay will support them in finding jobs appropriate to their training and education.



New children

Soon the CWA family will grow. The *District Child Welfare Board* (the Nepali Youth Office), has placed three girls of 5, 9 and 12 years of age in our Home. The necessary documents are currently being finished.

The birthday party

We are currently preparing the annual birthday celebration of all children. In the middle of May, we will celebrate with an excursion to the swimming pool, many team games, a big quiz, small gifts and of course with a special meal and delicious birthday cakes.



The new health insurance

In a new and positive development, presently, the Nepali state offers a health insurance package that we can sign up for. For an annual premium of 265 EUR covering all children and all employees, health costs of 500 EUR per person per year should be covered. It is not yet clear how, in practice, implementing this scheme will work. We believe, though, that it is an important step to meet health costs.

The audit

In our function as members of the Swiss Executive Board, we regularly check all documents and accounts of the organization. As to 2016, we can congratulate the Nepali management team with another flawless statement of accounts with complete transparency and accuracy for all invoices. This has already been accredited by the relevant Nepali authorities who granted the CWA Children's Home another extension of 'Grade A organization' certification. Nevertheless, we continue doing our own test that is very important to us.



Current projects

The new building for the planned expansion of the photovoltaic plant and the "Catastrophy Emergency Room" is finished. Now we will inquire for the prices of the required (earthquake) emergency equipment and appropriate shelves for safe storage. Tents, mats, plastic sheets, shovels, medical equipment, cooking utensils, crockery, water filters, water pumps, a generator, fuel, gas bottles and food supplies are requisite.

We hope to realize both these projects this year. In order to do so we will create separate projects - with their specific descriptions, aims and goals - and look for additional sponsors in addition to and separate from the sponsorships covering the daily running costs for raising the children and for maintaining the children's home itself.



News from Nepal

In compliance with the new constitution, regional elections have to be held in May. As a large number of political parties are taking part, many ballot papers are needed. In order to print these in time, printing of textbooks has simply been discontinued. The consequence of this is that, for many grades, only one third of the required text books are available.

Since not all ethnic groups have agreed to the new Constitution, the next general strike has already been announced.

The border with India may be closed again and subsequent scarcity of fuel and of gas for cooking will result. This is already resulting in extra price rises of food. School fees, too, will be raised again this year.



These new challenges do not keep us from continuing our work for the needy children in Nepal. With our qualified management team and well-trained employees, we have - over these last few years - been able to make great strides forward and help many children.

With your help we have steadily been expanding our support for the 31 children resident in the home. Besides, we have been supporting 17 children in the vicinity by enabling them to attend school and to have medical care when necessary.

All of this has been achieved with the great support of our sponsors -warm thanks to all supporting our causes!

We wish you a nice spring time and send greetings from Pokhara

Barbara Rentsch and Peter Vecker

