

*Partners in Aid*

AGM Minutes

21 October 2010

1. OPENING & WELCOME

Chairperson Anne-Marie Maltby opened the meeting at 8 pm, at Fitzroy, Victoria

2. PRESENT

Anne Marie Maltby, Roger Hughes, Mary Dunne, Graham Moore, Glenys Hughes, Ian Pickering, Lyn Pickering, Amanda Stone, Chris Pittendrigh, Cecily Neil, Kerry Moore

3. APOLOGIES

Ms Kristin Aitken, Mrs Andrea Pickering, Joy Handley, Mr & Mrs Allnutt, Mrs L Baxter, Mr J Edwards, Prof WSC Hare, Mr K Hawkins, Dr A Myers, Mrs C Reeves, Mrs M White, Mr G Pickering, Rev Morris Lee, Mr G Betts, Mrs D Ginn, Mrs B Dickinson.

4. CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

The Chairperson's report was presented and is appended to these minutes.

Motion: That the Chairperson's report be accepted.

Moved: Graham Moore

Seconded: Amanda Stone

Carried

5. ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS

Nominations were called for Chairperson.

A written nomination was tabled from Andrea Pickering, seconded by Anne-Marie Maltby, for Graham Moore to be Chairperson.

There being no other nominations, Graham Moore was elected unopposed

Graham invited Anne-Marie to continue chairing the meeting while he continued to record the minutes of the meeting.

Nominations were called for Deputy Chairperson.

A written nomination was tabled from Andrea Pickering, seconded by Graham Moore, for Anne-Marie Maltby to be Deputy Chairperson.

There being no other nominations, Anne-Marie Maltby was elected unopposed.

Nominations were called for Treasurer.

A written nomination was tabled from Anne-Marie Maltby, seconded by Glenys Hughes, for Andrea Pickering to be Treasurer.

There being no other nominations, Andrea Pickering was elected unopposed.

Nominations were called for Secretary.

### ***Partners in Aid***

A written nomination was tabled from Andrea Pickering, seconded by Anne-Marie Maltby, for Kristen Aitken to be Secretary.

There being no other nominations, Kristin Aitken was elected unopposed.

Nominations were called for 8 directors.

Written nominations were received for;

Nominee	Nominator	Seconder
Roger Hughes	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Lyn Pickering	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Glenys Hughes	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Amanda Stone	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Chris Pittendrigh	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Ian Pickering	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby
Mary Dunne	Andrea Pickering	Anne-Marie Maltby

There being 7 nominations for 8 positions, the nominees were elected unopposed.

#### Honorary advisors

Motion: That the following Honorary Advisors be appointed.

Cecily Neil, Tom Beer, Joy Handley, Morris Lee

Moved: Anne-Marie Maltby

Seconded: Lyn Pickering

Carried

## 6. FINANCE

### Treasurer's Report

In Andrea's absence, Lyn Pickering read the Treasurers report and tabled the Financial Report and Profit and Loss Statement.

Motion: That the treasurers report be accepted

Moved: Lyn Pickering

Seconded: Amanda Stone

Carried

### Re-appointment of auditors

Motion: That the auditors, Water Dace Partners, be reappointed

Moved: Amanda Stone

Seconded: Mary Dunne

Carried

## 7. REPORTS

### *India – SEDS*

Amanda Stone presented the SEDS report. (Attached)

### ***Partners in Aid***

Lyn Presented the SEDS sponsorship report. (Attached)

#### *India – ABWU*

Anne-Marie Maltby presented the highlights from Joy's report. (attached)

#### *Bangladesh – JRDP and TTIS*

Roger Hughes presented the report (attached)

Questions – Land user rights were discussed. Some retain rights as they move from back to front of island. Teachers are not qualified and may only have primary education.

#### *Philippines – Sinangpad*

Glenys Hughes welcomed Cecily, explained that Val could not attend the meeting and then presented the report. (Attached)

Motion: That the project reports be accepted

Moved: Graham Moore

Seconded: Anne-Marie Maltby

Carried.

### 8. GENERAL BUSINESS

Amanda thanked Anne-Marie on everyone's behalf for her leadership over the past 3 years

CLOSE 10:01 pm

**Partners in Aid Honorary Chairman's Report 2010**

It is with great pleasure that I present the Partners in Aid Honorary Chairman's report for 2010 which will be my last as Chairman. The Partners in Aid name and logo are now registered trademarks and the dust seems to have finally settled from the time consuming and distracting events relating to the name change. We feel that we started the year with a clearer understanding of our organisation's strengths and goals.

We continue to pursue our goal of empowering disadvantaged communities through community development, education, skills training and enhancing the status of women. At an organisational level, we are working to consolidate and refine our policies, procedures and processes to ensure that these reflect best practice.

**Projects**

Our five projects are all going well as can be seen from the reports by our project coordinators. I will leave the details for them other than to say that we continue to be highly impressed by the commitment and dedication of our partners and the outcomes that they achieve as a result of our support.

**Finances**

We maintain a healthy and well monitored financial position which can be seen in the Treasurer's report. There has been a small drop in donations mitigated to some degree by the high Australian dollar. We have set up a new bank transfer facility which has not only simplified and speeded up the process, but secured more preferential exchange rates which significantly advantages our overseas partners.

**General Activities**

**Fundraising.** Our two main social fundraisers were extremely successful. Both well exceeded previous years with the annual Bright Luncheon run by Joy Handley raising well over \$2,000 and the Bayles Dinner topping \$5,000.

**Thanks to All**

I would like to thank all of our members and supporters for their continued loyal support. I would also like to thank the many people who have helped us this year, whether it be folding newsletters, stuffing envelopes, donating their professional services or providing them at preferential rates. Without this support, it would be very difficult for our organisation to make such a positive impact in the overseas communities where our projects are located.

I am very proud to be a member of Partners in Aid and proud of our achievements. As we continue our efforts to work towards and embed best practice, we must ensure our future sustainability both as a financially viable organisation and in our commitment to our overseas partners.

I would particularly like to thank all of the board for their hard work over the last year. I know that we all feel rewarded by how much is achieved by a small group of volunteers and their supporters, despite little corporate or government support. I am resigning as Chairman after three very rewarding years but look forward to my continued active commitment as a board member and to working with you all again.

**Treasurer's Report – Andrea Pickering**

For the first time in 6 years we had a drop in income in the 2009/2010 year, which is obviously a little disappointing. The major part of this reduction was due to reduced funds being received for 2 self-funded projects by long time supporters. With this factored in, the reduction in income relative to last year was a little over \$8000.

As we have had a good first quarter to Sept 30<sup>th</sup>, relative to last year, I think some of this reduction has a timing difference, as people have made their sponsorship payments, in particular, in this current year rather than in June.

Thanks to the support we have received from our donors, we sent \$137200 to our partner organizations during the 2009/2010 year.

Your board and small group of volunteers have again been working very hard to reduce costs. Unfortunately some of our larger costs (such as audit fees and ACFID membership) are unavoidable, and do not vary relative to our income. With the decrease in our income for the year, our administration percentage has increased, however is still under our stated objective of 15%.

As always, travel costs are a grey area, as they are felt to really be a project cost, rather than an administration cost. As well, your board members reimburse to PIA the cost of their travel. In light of this, if we were to remove travel costs from our accounts, our administration percentage for this year would be 8.2% of donated funds.

We again thank our supporters and donors for their continued support in our work.

**PARTNERS IN AID LIMITED**  
(Formerly known as FOR THOSE WHO HAVE LESS -  
ACTION AID AUSTRALIA LIMITED)  
A.B.N. 50 006 946 550

**AUDITOR'S INDEPENDENCE DECLARATION UNDER SECTION 307C  
OF THE CORPORATIONS ACT 2001**

**TO THE DIRECTORS OF PARTNERS IN AID LIMITED (FORMERLY KNOWN AS FOR  
THOSE WHO HAVE LESS - ACTION AID AUSTRALIA LIMITED).**

I declare that, to the best of my knowledge and belief, during the year ended 30 June 2010 there have been:

- (i) no contraventions of the auditor independence requirements as set out in the Corporations Act 2001 in relation to the audit; and
- (ii) no contraventions of any applicable code of professional conduct in relation to the audit.

WATERS DACE AUDIT AND ASSURANCE PTY LTD  
Chartered Accountants

.....  
Ryan O'Shea – C.A.

3rd Floor  
329 Thomas Street  
Dandenong Vic 3175

Dated this 20<sup>th</sup> day of September 2010.

# Partners in Aid

## Partners In Aid Ltd

159 Cranbourne Road  
Narre Warren 3805

### Profit & Loss [With Last Year]

July 2009 through June 2010

20/10/2010  
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	This Year	Last Year
<b>Income</b>		
General Income		
General Donation	\$17,528.59	\$17,895.00
Membership	\$1,750.09	\$1,818.28
Total General Income	\$19,278.68	\$19,713.28
Fundraising Income		
World Food Day	\$5,010.50	\$3,117.00
Entertainment Books	\$227.27	\$818.17
Ritchies Community Benefits	\$162.29	\$211.99
Total Fundraising Income	\$5,400.06	\$4,147.16
Bangladesh		
Symbiosis Project	\$8,035.00	\$11,864.42
Symbiosis Project - Ashcroft	\$16,300.00	\$19,130.00
Total Bangladesh	\$24,335.00	\$30,994.42
SEDS - India		
SEDS Child Sponsorship	\$36,228.00	\$38,725.00
SEDS Child Spons Gift Money	\$2,767.00	\$2,950.00
SEDS Project	\$12,431.56	\$11,161.75
SEDS Other	\$1,940.00	\$3,235.00
SEDS Medical	\$3,130.00	\$140.00
Total SEDS - India	\$56,496.56	\$56,211.75
ABWU - India		
ABWU Child Sponsorship	\$15,799.00	\$19,190.00
ABWU Child Spons Gift Money	\$590.00	\$560.00
ABWU Tailoring Project	\$1,445.00	\$7,958.55
Orphan Trip	\$20.00	\$80.00
Other Projects	\$4,640.40	\$240.00
ABWU Medical Fund	\$0.00	\$25.00
Total ABWU - India	\$22,494.40	\$28,053.55
Phillipines Project	\$60.00	\$40,672.59
Total Income	\$128,064.70	\$179,792.75
<b>Cost Of Sales</b>		
Gross Profit	\$128,064.70	\$179,792.75
<b>Expenses</b>		
Project Expenses		
Bangladesh		
Symbiosis Project	\$15,500.00	\$22,560.00
Symbiosis (Ashcroft Project)	\$19,000.00	\$20,130.00
Total Bangladesh	\$34,500.00	\$42,690.00
India		
ABWU - Sponsorship	\$7,968.00	\$25,182.00
ABWU - Sponsorship 5%	\$0.00	\$1,958.00
ABWU - Sponsorship Gift	\$3,062.00	\$1,255.00
ABWU - Tailoring Project	\$1,000.00	\$8,740.00
ABWU - Other Project	\$0.00	\$6,324.00
ABWU - Other	\$602.00	\$1,790.00
SEDS - Sponsorship	\$30,976.00	\$31,944.00
SEDS - Child Gift	\$1,914.00	\$3,330.00
SEDS - Sponsorship 5%	\$1,958.00	\$2,035.00
SEDS - Project	\$31,750.00	\$31,810.00
SEDS - Other	\$1,730.00	\$3,385.00
Total India	\$80,960.00	\$117,753.00
Phillipines Project	\$21,740.00	\$38,110.00
Travel Expenses	\$8,062.71	\$6,942.01
Total Project Expenses	\$145,262.71	\$205,495.01
In-Australia Expenses		
Accountant	\$2,774.09	\$2,180.00
Company Expenses	\$250.00	\$270.00
ARFCA	\$1,480.00	\$1,450.00

**Partners In Aid Ltd**

**Profit & Loss [With Last Year]**

**July 2009 through June 2010**

20/10/2010  
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	This Year	Last Year
Fundraising Expense	\$107.27	\$543.63
GST Rounding	\$0.04	\$0.24
Insurance	\$444.00	\$444.00
Name Change Expenses	\$0.00	\$3,346.36
Newsletter	\$1,994.00	\$1,490.00
Office Supplies	\$1,215.44	\$992.94
Postage	\$1,196.77	\$1,384.13
Sundries	\$0.00	\$120.00
Telephone	\$0.00	\$421.40
Training	\$163.64	\$160.00
Total In-Australia Expenses	\$9,841.00	\$13,132.65
Total Expenses	\$155,103.71	\$218,627.66
Operating Profit	-\$27,039.01	-\$38,834.91
Other Income		
Interest Income	\$441.59	\$1,120.18
Sundry Income	\$1,268.97	\$25,000.00
Total Other Income	\$1,710.56	\$26,120.18
Other Expenses		
Net Profit/(Loss)	-\$25,328.45	-\$12,714.73



## **REPORT ON SEDS PROJECT – INDIA**

This year SEDS will celebrate the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the organisation and 30 years of working towards its mission of helping “the poorest of the poor in the drought-prone area of Anantapur District in Andhra Pradesh”, in southern India.

When SEDS began, the main focus of the work was on community development by way of non-formal education and small loans to skilled target communities

As Anantapur is the second most drought prone area in India and much of its natural resources are depleted, it soon became clear that environmental problems would have to be tackled first, if peoples’ livelihoods were to be made sustainable. Starting in 10 villages near the small town of Penukonda a scheme of pioneering work was developed which aimed to empower local communities and improve their environment. Initially small nurseries were started for homestead plantations and planting of avenue trees along village roads. Re-a-forestation and more sustainable agricultural practices were introduced. From 1990, SEDS started using a more participatory approach, through the formation of Community Based Organizations. Involving the communities more in the effort made them actual stakeholders in the development process of the region. Throughout the years the scope and area of the work increased and the fruits of the sustained efforts became visible in the greener environment and the enthusiasm of the communities. (from the SEDS blog: <http://sedsngo.blogspot.com>).

In 2010, SEDS is working through an integrated rural development approach with an emphasis on women’s empowerment, watersheds, re-a-forestation and natural resource management. This is within five Mandals in the southern part of Anantapur District, in south western Andhra Pradesh. In these 5 mandals SEDS currently supports 125 villages, being some 12000 women and their families, 980 Self Help Groups, 120 Village Organisations and 5 Mandal Samakyas

Partners in Aid (formerly AAA), has supported the work of SEDS over 2 decades, funding part of the critical tank desilting work, and fish seeding in replenished water tanks. In 2009-2010, PIA provided \$31,750 enabling the desilting of 2 tanks at Mavatur and Cherukur and benefitting 148 villagers.

Lyn and Ian Pickering and I visited SEDS in January this year and were able to see first hand the ongoing desilting work and the benefits it is bringing to both the landscape, ecology and subsequently to the livelihoods of villagers. Allied with this work is the land and resource management work SEDS is doing, especially educating farmers, with their Farmers’ Field Schools, trialling and modelling sustainable farming methods, alternatives to conventional pesticides and fertilisers, and harvesting methods. The enthusiasm and interest of farmers was testament to the effectiveness of this work.

SEDS is regarded as one of the most progressive and effective aid organisations in India, and this has been very evident in 2010 with nation-wide acclaim for the development of the unique ID card for women (reported in our June newsletter) and the recent awarding to Manil Jayasena Joshua, CEO, the prestigious Information Week Edge Award at Mumbai for introducing IT based census information system for effectively catering to the NGO's target groups. She is the first woman in India to have received this award.

### ***Partners in Aid***

SEDS partnered with Bangalore-based Wolf Frameworks India Private Limited to create a technological data base of the millions of beneficiaries of programmes in 250 villages in Penukonda mandal.

With the UIDs for individuals being auto-generated, CIMS enables SEDS to track the effectiveness of their programmes from the mandal to individual-level. This is a truly sophisticated approach to monitoring the work being done and the recognition is well deserved.

Most satisfying for PIA this year has been the final launch of the Roger Griffiths Driving School. Former PIA board member, Roger Griffiths, passed away in 2008, and funds were made available to establish the Driving School in his memory.

Vehicles were purchased and adapted and the school officially commenced taking students in October (this month). Roger knew the importance of driving and vehicle maintenance as a skill for local people, but also as a valuable means of earning an income. Students must have a minimum of Year 10 to enrol in the school, adding incentive to students to complete school. The school is based in Penukonda and the course takes 45 days of instruction.

SEDS is undergoing a slow period of transition as the founders, Manil and Rajen Joshua, prepare to hand over the leadership of the organisation to the next generation. The ongoing support of PIA and other partner organisations will be critical in this transition period and the long standing friendship between the Pickerings and the Joshuas in particular are clearly beneficial to SEDS as it finds its way into the future.

Amanda Stone

**CHILD SPONSORSHIP AT SEDS in Central Southern India.**

**Report for the AGM October, 21<sup>st</sup>, 2010**

The sponsorship program at SEDS has again consolidated this year, rather than grown. Ian and I visited SEDS from 28<sup>th</sup> December 2009 to late January 2010. All but one of the students came in for the monthly activity at SEDS which was well planned by Iris and the team. We were able to visit many of the schools and follow up on some of the students at the higher levels (Year 8-10) who did not appear to be achieving reasonable results. In some instances, the students were working to their capacity, especially the girls from "Hidden Valley" who until recent years had rarely left their village. Being sponsored was special for them, but not as rewarding in some ways for their donors, because these girls have struggled throughout their schooling, approximately four years. There are several positive outcomes for these girls and other girls, including not being forced into very early marriage, regular monthly visits to the SEDS campus for cultural and sporting activities, as well as health care checks they receive on a regular basis.

We were advised by the Principal at one large Secondary school that one boy in Year 10 did not turn up to school often, and only arrived when he knew there was an exam. Students automatically move to each level at the lower grades and must attend exams at the higher level to receive a Certificate. A Year 10 Pass or Fail Certificate is a valuable piece of paper. When I asked the question at SEDS, the advice was that this particular boy came from the very lowest caste, and for an official complaint to be laid about his non attendance, this could be seen as discrimination because of his caste, and that SEDS could face re-crimination and repercussions harmful to the entire project work carried out by SEDS.

Whilst this may be an extraordinary situation, it highlights the fact that we as Australian supporters must understand the complexities of the socio-political activities within the communities where we support. It is difficult for our partner but I believe they handle the situation well in these cases and they provide help that would not be possible without their local knowledge and commitment.

With Iris as the Principal at the local SEDS English Medium School and in charge of the child sponsorship program at SEDS, the selection of children is being looked at more closely. SEDS must involve the local Village Organisation through their Health Care Field Workers, but I had asked if some simple guidelines could be put in place to help the local people to select children. I hope to have a look at some of the new ideas being implemented during our visit in November and December.

Iris is a Belgium citizen and teacher who works passionately and co-operatively with Manil Joshua and SEDS team members to achieve the best results for the children. A real added benefit is that she understands the expectations of Western sponsors. Iris made a commitment for three years at SEDS, with a possibility of extending this.

Overall, our sponsors indicate through their letters, notes, phone calls and emails to me that they very happy with the way their donations are being used, and the way Partners In Aid keep them well informed about their sponsored child through the photos, school reports and cards at Christmas. In excess of \$4,000 was raised in recent months for the medical fund for the sponsored children. .

Lyn Pickering  
SEDS Child Sponsorship Co-ordinator

**Bangladesh Project Report - Present by Roger Hughes**

The Jamuna River Sandbar People's Development Project

Our project operates on a sandbar island in the northern reaches of the Jamuna River. This last financial year was the last year of the current three-year contract. However the project has been extended under another contract.

The objectives of the recently finished project were to encourage:

- 1) Cooperation through increasing the capacity to work cooperatively;
- 2) Education through raising literacy levels by forming new literacy groups and consolidating the reading skills of existing groups;
- 3) Awareness of important social and economic issues;
- 4) Livelihood improvement through increased income and food production; and
- 5) Health through fostering improved mental and physical health.

It is useful to consider these objectives separately.

Objective 1: Cooperation. Three types of groups are involved. Primary groups emphasise the value of savings and cooperation. Secondary groups build on these skills and foster leadership within the group. Tertiary groups develop their skills further with an emphasis on marketing strategies and the total environment. One tertiary group graduated during the time of the project but the emphasis was on the new four (aim was three) primary groups with their 80 members. The flooding that occurred last year and the year before has made saving very difficult for these groups. However, they are embracing the concepts and hopefully they will progress to secondary groups in the coming year.

Objective 2: Education. Functional educational classes have worked well. However, the huge demand for primary education has stretched resources. Our school has been operating two shifts, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, instead of the one shift that was originally planned. This doubling has put pressure on both facilities and staff. Financial restrictions mean that the staff have been providing the second shift gracious. The school has been further stretched by the need to continue education through to class 5 rather than class 3 as was originally planned. In total 117 students instead of the originally planned 75 students are being educated. A further 35 students, instead of the planned 30 students, are receiving pre-schooling.

Objective 3: Awareness of Social and Environmental Issues: There was initial reluctance to be informed on such issues but ongoing classes on such issues as women's rights, dowries, polygamy, etc are now creating considerable interest. A modest 267 trees (aim was 250) have been planted over the course of the project. These trees help to stabilise the island but eventually will be lost as the island moves southward. Men are not heavily involved in the awareness programme because many are away generating an income to help support the family.

Objective 4: Improved Livelihood Security. This programme has been going to plan. The emphasis is on savings groups and classes in agricultural. Vegetable gardens have done well and there has been, as there always is, considerable interest in obtaining small loans.

Objective 5: Health. All classes have been going to plan. There has been a renewed effort put into identifying arsenic tainted wells, with 200 classes conducted to give information about the problem and 63 wells tested. The community was previously totally unaware of the problem. Now they are aware and safe wells have been painted green paint and contaminated wells with red paint. While arsenic contamination is present in a few wells it is not a major problem in the area.

### ***Partners in Aid***

The other project that Partners in Aid has with Symbiosis in Bangladesh is the Technical Training Programme TTIS. This programme continues to operate throughout the community as outlined last year. It is a valuable educational programme, offering vocational training with particular emphasis on in Sewing, Embroidery and Hairdressing. In view of the detailed account of the programme given last year, and the depth of the account of the JRDP above, I shall not dwell on it further.

*Partners in Aid*  
**PARTNERS IN AID**  
**ANNUAL REPORT ON ALL BENGAL WOMEN'S UNION HOMES, KOLKATA, INDIA**  
**October 2009 to October 2010**

It is my pleasure to present the annual report on All Bengal Women's Union in Kolkata. We funded many projects in the last year as well as sponsorships of 81 girls.

### **TAILORING & CUTTING PROJECT**

We have been funding this project for 16 years starting it with a bequest from a long time donor who was one of the pioneers of "For Those Who Have Less" now "Partners in Aid".

This last year has been rewarding for all 22 of the girls. Two girls married at the completion of their training and both were given hand sewing machines plus a cash amount of approximately \$25 for purchase of raw materials. They are taking tailoring orders from their neighbourhood and have become self sustainable and are able to look after themselves as well as their families. Three other girls are sufficiently trained to join our Production Centre (Tailoring) where they will earn according to their inputs. Two girls are ready to return back to their respective homes. Their widowed mothers will join them in making different articles which can be sold for them to earn their livelihood.

The girls have learnt to stitch and embroider many items e.g. tea-cozies, kaftans, petticoats, mobile phone cases, patch-work quilt covers, etc. They have also learnt cross stitch and Kantha (traditional Bengali) embroidery.

All the trainees make different articles and, if sold, they are paid stitching charges for those articles. They have recently been making Patchwork Quilts which are proving very popular. They almost sold out at the recent pre-Puja Sale which was a wonderful incentive for the girls! On an average, they earn approximately \$8-10 per month. The amount which they earn on monthly basis is deposited into their own Savings Bank Accounts.

We plan to continue funding this project as it has proved consistently successful in providing the young women with the means to earn a living after leaving ABWU.

**MACHINE KNITTING** is part of the above project. One group of girls have left the Project since they are studying in higher class. A new batch of girls aged 14 to 15 years has joined but have not yet completed their course. The training has been slow since the girls join the class after they return from school and the products are seasonal. They make the cardigans and pullovers for the students of our Pre-Primary and Primary School. They have also learnt to make woollen sets for infants, cardigans, scarves and shawls. I have seen all of the above and they are beautifully made. Many local people come to purchase these articles, especially the winter school jumpers as they are cheaper and of much better quality than they can purchase from the markets.

### **BLOCK PRINTING PROJECT**

This was a 'one off' project funded by the Rotary Club of Bright and provides training for eight girls. The girls are learning to print saris, bed-covers, table linen, etc. which are in great demand. I witnessed all of these on my visit in March and all their work was in great demand at the Spring Sale. It is hoped that proceeds of the pre-Puja sale will allow them to purchase some new wooden printing blocks. They

### ***Partners in Aid***

have recently had this sale and reports say that it was again a huge success, in fact better than the Spring Sale, as weather was better.

### **COOKING AND CANTEEN TRAINING**

Funding for this was provided by auctioning a gold nugget given to me by a good friend. Although only \$200 was expected, the nugget sold for over \$600 which allowed us to initiate this project.

There are six girls in this training program. Some girls were able to work in ABWU's own Restaurant, 'Suruchi' on Bengali New Year's Day and some have continued to help in 'Suruchi' at various times.

The girls have learnt to prepare many simple dishes. They have also learnt to cook meals for a large number of people including the rice and dal for the Children's Home which is no mean feat. They prepared sweet and savoury snacks which were sold at their Sales for which they receive incentives. The project manager has reported that due to lack of funds the girls are unable at this time to learn new dishes and constant supervision is required. We have not decided whether to continue funding this project in the future.

**REMEDIAL TEACHER:** This was for the After Care Home and at the time of writing, we have yet to receive a written report.

### **SEWIN MACHINES**

This project has been funded by Our Lady of the Snows in Bright. Two girls have already been given machines as per Tailoring Report and the two girls who are ready to leave ABWU will be given foot sewing machines. These cost approximately \$250 plus \$25 for each girl for the purchase of raw materials totaling \$300. There are enough funds to cover these costs.

### **GENERAL**

We currently have 81 girls being sponsored. The number is lower than last year as one sponsor who was sponsoring several girls had to withdraw due to illness. However, some of those girls have now left and we have been able to redirect some sponsorships.

As always some girls do better than others. Most noticeably, Mita Das, our blind girl, is now 23 and in her final year at University of Fine Arts!

Three girls in After Care home are in second year B.A.. They are all studying elective Bengali, English, Sociology and Education. Others have completed Madhyamik exams (middle school) and are now in year 11. Others are continuing with Para-medical training in a Pathological Lab cum Nursing Home. This course includes X-Ray, training in Receptionist duties as well as attending various doctors chamber's with ECG machines. Others have extra curriculum classes varying from classical music, classical dance, and computer studies, with one girl studying self defense. This is a three stage course; she is now in the last stage of this and hopes to become a trainer for others. Many girls take up extra tuition in computer studies. These are held in a State Youth Centre and they attend two classes each week. Rekhi Bai continues training at Missionaries of Charity where she is learning to teach children. She attends tutorial classes in the evening as do many others.

### ***Partners in Aid***

Some of the girls at Children's Welfare Home also excel in their school work sometimes placing highly or top in the class. This is a very great achievement when competing against girls who live with their family and often have had better grounding in pre-school education.

The CWH continue to provide many activities for the girls as well as similar extra curriculum course to ACH. They go on quite a lot of excursions and other activities include:

- Girl Guide activities and attendance at World Guide Day celebrations.
- Entry into competitions (such as drawing), run by various organizations.
- The ABWU Girls Band was selected to perform at Eden Gardens prior to the commencement of the IPL Cricket match. Seven of our girls are band members and it was telecast live on National TV.
- Three girls represented their school at an Inter-School Science Exhibition held at the local Baptist School.

An Orphan Trip was conducted in May. This was a major outing during the Summer Vacation with a trip to Puri and Orissa for a week. This was their first trip since 2007. A total of 101 girls and staff went by train; they stayed at a holiday home close to the beach and had many activities including bathing in sea, drinking coconut water, eating lots of fish and ice-cream and sight seeing including visits to Temples. A special bus was organized to take them to Nandan Kanan Zoo which is famous for the white tigers.

A number of girls attended a local five day camp. They all had general health check-ups, learnt new handwork, participated in group activities, interacted with other children and took part in a cultural program.

The highlight of the year for the CWH would have to be Joyeeta Roy being chosen to go to Japan to perform in many cultural activities over one month!!

### **FUNDRAISING**

The annual luncheon in Bright last November was the biggest success yet and raised over \$3000. The Alpine Women's Group picked up the RSL hall hire fee of \$130. The community in Bright continues to be very supportive of my commitment to ABWU and I am immensely proud of every one of them.

The luncheon this year is on Monday 15 November and Steve and Heather McNamara, generous supporters of ABWU, have offered their home as the venue this year to save the cost of hiring RSL. We will set up in their lovely 4 acre grounds and if the weather is inclement we have lots of space inside their home to accommodate all my wonderful supporters. The Melbourne Racing Club have also provided a voucher for a private room for four people at Caulfield Race Course.

### **THANKS**

I would like to personally thank all my wonderful supporters, especially in Bright. They have really taken ABWU to their hearts and there is never a day when I walk up the street that someone doesn't ask about 'my girls' and when am I going again!!

A huge thank you goes to Anne-Marie Maltby who does all the finance of this project now. I am so very, very grateful to her for all her work on this apart from all her other commitments as Chairperson. The day Anne-Marie found us on the web was a wonderful day for us all and I **KNEW** immediately that I could rely on her to both assist me and become a Board Member. Anne-Marie and



***Partners in Aid***

Michael...thank you both so much for all your support of me and ABWU I cannot put in words my appreciation.

JOY HANDLEY

PROGRAM CO-ORDINATOR

ABWU KOLKATA INDIA

20/10/10

**The Accomplishments of the  
SINANGPAD HEALTHY VILLAGE PROJECT**  
Province of Kalinga, Philippines  
(September 2009 – September 2010)

Presented by Glenys Hughes and Cecily Neil

**Guiding Principle:**

Making the most out of human potential and existing resources yields the best results in community development.

**Project Objectives**

- **General Objective:** To enable communities to reduce the incidence of water and environment-related illnesses in their barangays by encouraging healthy behaviour at the household level and by facilitating initiatives at the community level to remove physical barriers to community health and well-being.
- **Specific Objectives:**
- By the end of the project, the following had been achieved:
  - All the covered barangays/ villages had overcome physical barriers through construction of sanitary toilets by at least 75% of the total HH, 100% of HH have pigpens; 90% of HH practice proper waste management (liquid & solid).
  - Environment and nutrition related illnesses are no longer a public health problem in at least 75% of the barangays covered.

**Project Benefits**

- General improvement of the health and EVS condition;
- Communities are pro-active in identifying ,prioritizing and addressing their own health concerns;
- Organized mass action in addressing their community health concerns;
- Pooling of resources among, concern LGUs, organizations, other Government Agencies and community stakeholders;
- Recognition of the existence of Gender biases in the home and in the community, which hampers health development; and
- Internalization of the community members of the concept of devolution (autonomy & self-reliance).

**Details of accomplishments from Sept 09 – September 10**

- 225 sanitary toilets constructed benefiting 225 HH. Pooling of resources had been applied:
  - DoH: Plastic toilet bowls
  - MLGU: Transshipment of bought materials
  - SHVP: cement & Iron rod
  - Community/ HH: labour and available local materials
- Construction of 20 Pigpens for 20 HH:
  - MLGU: transshipment costs
  - SHVP: cement,
  - Community: Labour & local materials

## ***Partners in Aid***

- Proper Waste Disposal: Construction of 2 waste disposal compartments for 393 HH and 28 Iron stand with sacks for 120 HH
- Other activities sustained by the communities: backyard gardens, general cleanliness, dogs' anti-rabies vaccination, motoring activities in the village, sourcing for more assistance for the improvement of their health condition

### **Trainings/workshops conducted Sept 09 – Sept 10**

- (2) Input on Healthy Environment for children & Workshop on the 3 board games, picture analysis and book reading of the health story books
- (2) Direct coaching of teachers from 2 elementary schools in using the board games and pictures as means of conveying environmental health messages
- (2) Training on Soap Making covering 4 barangay women's and Sinangpad health core groups
- Funded (4) Health classes
- (11) School Demonstrations on proper Hand washing
- (3) Monitoring & Evaluation Workshops
- (1) Conduct of Community Diagnosis

### **Activities undertaken in the community – their own initiatives:**

- Conducted 8 Responsible Parenthood Classes (overcoming gender biases in child rearing)
- Supplemental Feeding (tie-up with Social Welfare Department)
- Seed Growing (with Agriculture Office)
- Continuing motivation of community members to participate in the environmental health movement in the area.
- Monitoring maintenance/ sustainability of healthy initiatives and updating of the data monitoring Board
- Information drive among school children and/ parents on health program benefits, etc.
- Reformulation (upgrading) of agreed community indicators.

### **Capability Building of village partners**

- Communities are trained to conduct simple training (1 trained team from the village conducted a Training on Soap Making in other area.
- CONDUCT OF COMMUNITY DIAGNOSIS & walk through the village...

### **IN SCHOOL ACTIONS**

- Motivate the school teachers to teach the children on health & WES messages thru proactive and fun activities through:  
Board games, picture analysis, charade, demonstrations
- Make the children as the prime movers in ensuring that their parents and neighbors are compliant to community regulations/ ordinances
- Allow the children to take active role in building a healthier environment

### ***Partners in Aid***

- School mass information drive with fun games and demonstration. Encourage healthy competition and let the children learn the art of proper hand washing, it can be done with a song for easier absorption...

### **Strengthen collaboration with partners...**

Results: beautification/backyard gardening, pigpens, toilets

### **Contributions to LGU**

1. Sustained community data monitoring board
  - 25 barangays
2. Compliance in the construction/improvement of pigpens
  - 36 barangays
3. Compliance in the Construction of sanitary toilets
  - 40 barangays
4. Household backyard gardening/beautification
  - 39 barangays
5. Construction/Improvement & maintain cleanliness of drainage canals (Households & village)
  - 32 barangays
6. HP activities in schools hand washing demo & utilizing board games and other visual materials
  - 14 schools
  - conducted 2 workshops for teachers in the utilization of board games as means of delivering health key messages to children.