

Friends of Himalayan Children Inc

Annual General Meeting

Minutes

19th of June, 2021

Meeting opened: 6.15pm

Attendance: Som Tamang, Susan Devitt, Tim Trehearn, Kay Smith, Sue Lowth, Ian Lowth, Di Andrews, Georgia Smith, Colin Devitt, Mary Frances de Jourdan, Jonathan Clayton, Rosalind Pulley, Daniel Clayton, Pascale Clayton, Kurt Wagner, Christiana Wagner, Ivan Whittle

1. **Welcome:** Tim Trehearn welcomed newcomers and thanked everyone for supporting FHC
2. **Apologies:** Kirsty Nancarrow, Steve Johnson, Angus McColl, Peter Guadron
3. **President's Report:** Som Tamang reported that (due to Covid19) his year had been very quiet and he was very appreciative of the committed work of the committee. His highlight was the leadership training in Batase and he thanked the four trainers (Tim Trehearn, MF de Jourdan, Marika Rogers and Angus McColl.) He also thanked Kay Smith for her input preparing resources for the course.
Fundraising was very slow this year due to Covid and the difficulty running public events but the shoe drive (selling donated Salomon shoes), and the efforts of Jonathon Clayton and others with Containers for Change and change tins has been outstanding.
Sue Lowth added that current figures with the Containers for Change between July 2020 and May 2021 totalled \$18,500...a budget Som reminds us covers feeding children in the hostel and wages for a year.
Som is looking forward to returning to Nepal and looking forward to Jonathon returning as they both have not been on their annual trips. Jonathon Clayton was thanked for the thriving trees, crops and tea plantation which he has been instrumental in starting.
Di Andrews asked if the shed for wood was completed as well as the pathway finished which Som answered yes.
Kurt Wagner asked how sponsorship funding was allocated to individual children. Som and Tim Trehearn explained how funding was allocated.

The motion to accept the report was carried. Moved by Daniel Clayton. Seconded by Jonathan Clayton.

4. **Secretary's Report:** Mary Frances de Jourdan acknowledged the shared position of secretary with Kay Smith and thanked her for her ongoing support.
Mary Frances handed out printed copies of the annual report thanking particularly Tanya Younger for her outstanding and professional effort. The colour copy of this report will go to Himalayan Dreams.
The outgoing committee was thanked for all efforts. Particular mention went to Som – acknowledging the difficulties of being away from Nepal for 18 months and in spite of the difficulties still leading a successful charity.
Tim Trehearn for his ongoing leadership, work on newsletters and gentle coercion of volunteers into action.

Sue Lowth was thanked for outstanding work in the position of treasurer with particular reference to changing all our info onto MYOB, update of our database and keeping our books audit compliant.

Roz Pulley for providing her house for our only fundraising dinner before Covid made public fundraising impossible.

Carins Personalities were highlighted. These included Jonathon Clayton for his outstanding effort raising funds through the Containers for Change scheme. Steve Johnson was mentioned for his continued support of Najita, as well as creating a tool to produce Biomass Briquettes to reduce firewood needed for cooking as well as donation of a rotary hoe for garden and field work.

Tania Verbs (not from Cairns) was mentioned for her winning the World Nomad Film Scholarship – a film featuring Som and the FHC story.

Kirsty Nancarrow was mentioned for securing a Regional Arts Fund Grant writing Som's Story. She is hoping to find a publisher which will allow her to donate a percentage of the sales to FHC. Susan Devitt updated us with news from Kirsty:

Hi Susan. Thanks for the invite to the AGM. I will be going to a writing retreat from Thursday to Monday in the hope of completing more of Som's book so I can't make the AGM but I was wondering if someone could do an audio recording of Som's presentation and take a couple of photos as I may need this for the book. I asked Som to give me 2 hours a week for the book but it seems he just can't find the time at the moment so I am trying to progress the book as much as I can without his input. I now have an extension as it would have been impossible to finish it and have it published by the August 2 deadline. I am working hard to make this the best book possible and honour Som's incredible life and I am still hopeful of finding a publisher but if I can't, I will need your help to crowdfund for it to be published. That is a decision I will make towards the end of the year. I have had excellent feedback from industry professionals I have shared the first half of the book with. I will send you one author's comments. Feel free to read this to the AGM as a progress report. Many thanks,
Kirsty.

Angus McColl was thanked for his work with newsletters, desktop publishing work and his writing and Peter Guadron was thanked for his background work with Sujana to keep books up to date in Batase.

The Team in Batase were thanked. These include Sujana Tamang, Ama, Miss Paru, Tokmaya Tamang, and Bijay Tamang.

Tim Trehearn also highlighted the work of Anil Tamang.

Som Tamang spoke of his mother's influence (Ama). While he was growing up, his mother resisted child traffickers making sure her daughters (Som's sisters) were safe while many others nearby had young girls sold into abusive situations in India. He is appreciative for his mother's influence which is a key philosophy of this charity.

Garden Projects in Batase Village were outlined. These include new garden beds, retaining walls and crops.

Current sponsorship was reported on.

Mary Frances finished her report with highlights of the 10 day Leadership Training which occurred in March 2020.

The motion to accept the report was carried. Moved by Susan Devitt. Seconded by Tim Trehearn.

- 5. Treasurer's Report and presentation of audited financial statement:** Sue Lowth reported a profit of around \$59,000 for FHC in 2020, with an income of around \$66,000. In the 2018 financial year, these figures were around \$80,500 and \$91,500, respectively. She explained that, while FHC raises most of its income in Australia, outgoings in Australia are

minimal. Most of monies raised are spent on the charity's work in Nepal.

The motion to accept the report was carried. Moved by Kay Smith. Seconded by Susan Devitt.

6. Election of Office Bearers and Committee Members

President

Nominee: Som Tamang.

Motion to accept Som Tamang as President carried. Moved by Ros Pulley. Seconded by Di Andrews

Vice- President

Nominee: Tim Trehearn

Motion to accept Tim Trehearn as Vice- President carried. Moved by Roz Pulley. Seconded by Jonathan Clayton.

Secretary

Nominee: Mary Frances de Jourdan

Motion to accept Mary Frances de Jourdan as Secretary carried. Moved by Pascale Clayton. Seconded by Sue Lowth.

Treasurer

Nominee: Sue Lowth

Motion to accept Sue Lowth as Treasurer carried. Moved by Susan Devitt. Seconded by Ros Pulley.

Committee members

Nominee 1. Susan Devitt

Motion to accept Susan Devitt as Committee Member carried. Moved by Kay Smith. Seconded by Tim Trehearn.

Nominee 2. Roz Pulley

Motion to accept Roz Pulley as Committee Member carried. Moved by Som Tamang. Seconded by Kay Smith.

Nominee 3 Angus McColl

Motion to accept Angus McColl as Committee Member carried. Moved by Pascale Clayton. Seconded by Daniel Clayton

Nominee 4. Colin Devitt

Motion to accept Colin Devitt as Committee Member carried. Moved by Tim Trehearn. Seconded by Kay Smith.

Nominee 5. Georgia Smith

Motion to accept Georgia Smith as Committee Member carried. Moved by Som Tamang. Seconded by Susan Devitt

Nominee 6. Jonathon Clayton as Committee Member carried. Moved by Mary Frances de Jourdan. Seconded by Kay Smith.

7. Matters Arising

Kay Smith has offered support to Mary Frances de Jourdan in her role as secretary.

Peter Gaudron and Colin Devitt will offer assistance to Sue Lowth in her role as Treasurer.

First meeting of the new Committee will be on Friday 2 July at 6.30pm at Som's place.

Meeting closed at 7.20pm

Minutes taken by Mary Frances de Jourdan