



From left: Mingmar, Dolma and Sharmila. Mingmar and Sharmila have just completed their Grade 10 here in Batase and now have free time to help in the field and volunteer at the FHC Hostel. Both want to go onto High School so they can study Education and become teachers.



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FRIENDS OF HIMALAYAN CHILDREN (FHC) • Empowerment through education

# PROGRESS

**f TAKE ON NEPAL** "Our volunteer administration ensures nearly 95% of funds raised go directly to supporting disadvantaged children in regional Nepal."

**SEPTEMBER 2022**

## Tenzin Dolma Tamang



Tenzin is from Helambu's Pating village. She is seven years old and has a younger brother and sister.

She is our newest member, coming to FHC's Hostel only few weeks ago. Her father died from Covid and Tenzin's younger siblings still live with their mother. Unfortunately Tenzin's mother alone can't afford to educate Tenzin so FHC has invited her into the Hostel. She loves dancing, singing and running.

Our support for her would not be possible without your continued help. Thank you.

### FACEBOOK

Become friends on our FB pages and follow the regular posts from our staff and supporters in Batase Village.



## Vale Jenny Pyne



*"We are deeply saddened by the news of Jenny Pyne's sudden passing. Jenny was a truly incredible person, she was kind hearted, strong, loving and gentle with the most caring and kind nature."*

*Jenny always supported our work in Nepal, she attended fundraisers and donated generously. Jenny will be missed so much and will forever be remembered. A beautiful woman gone way too soon. We are truly sorry for your loss Rob, you are in our thoughts."* Susan Devitt

Jenny Pyne, wife to community leader Rob Pyne, passed away suddenly and unexpectedly on 7 August at the age of 51. She died from a sudden heart attack.

*"The lovely young daughter to Andy Brelsford and Dianne Ellen Brelsford; the 19-year-old girl who married a quadriplegic (knowing he would need almost constant care), and a wonderful mother to Kat Pyne"* writes Rob Pyne.

## Thinking of travelling to Nepal?



Last news letter we talked about travel to Nepal and what is required. Circumstances are changing so here is an update.

- 1. Visas** – all visas are multi entry, meaning you can leave Nepal and return on the one visa. Visa's are available on arrival (by air or overland) or you can pre-plan (<https://www.immigration.gov.np/page/visa-on-arrival>). Another useful website: <https://visaguide.world/asia/nepal-visa/> If getting a visa-on-arrival, they happily accept US dollars (US\$30 for 15 days; US\$50/30; US\$125/90)
- 2. Covid rules** (to enter Nepal) – rules and regulations for

travel to Nepal are changing rapidly as the Covid pandemic situation evolves. As of writing, **fully-vaccinated travellers (double vax) are NOT required to have a PCR test** done to either leave Australia or arrive in Nepal. Those without the vaccination certificate have to present a negative result from a PCR test taken within 48 hours of travel to Nepal. <https://www.smarttraveller.gov.au/destinations/asia/nepal>

- 3. Passports** – due to demand, allow for six weeks to get a new one. A passport requires at least six months validity remaining before you enter any country.



## Congratulations to our Year 10 students



Gyanmaya Tamang



Akriti Tamang



Som Bahadur Tamang



Sunil Tamang

Congratulations to our Hostel Year-10 students who have successfully completed their Secondary Education Examination (SEE).

Special congratulations to Gyanmaya Tamang for the highest achievement. She scored 87.5%, which equates to a GPA\* of 3.5 and an 'A' rating. Gyanmaya came to the FHC Hostel four years ago after she lost her mother and a brother to the earthquake in 2015. In 2020 she topped the Basic Level Exam (BLE) for the district with 96.5% when she went from Grade 8 to Grade 9, winning the school a \$2000 grant. She aims to study further to become a nurse.

Congratulations Akriti Tamang for achieving 83.75% (GPA3.35/A). Akriti came to our hostel in 2016 after her father died and her mother was too unwell to care for her. Her two sisters also live with us at the Hostel. Akriti hopes to become a leader in her community and work for the government. She wants to advance gender equality in Nepal and improve the lives of women, especially for young girls.

Congratulations also to Som Bahadur Tamang for achieving a result of 78.75% (GPA3.15/B+). Som came to FHC's hostel in 2016 with his brother and sister. He wants

to make a career out of guiding trekkers around Nepal.

Congratulations to Sunil Tamang, who scored 77.5% with his exams (GPA3.1/B+). Sunil came to FHCs Hostel in 2016 with his younger sister, Samjhana. Sunil aspires to go on to university to study medicine and become a doctor.

Congratulations also to:

- Pasang Tamang (GPA2.9/B+)
- Biraj Tamang (GPA2.8/B+)
- Nirmila Tamang (GPA2.5/B)
- Sharmila Tamang (GPA2.5/B)
- Sangam Tamang (GPA2.4/B)
- Mingmar Tamang (GPA2.4/B).

These are fantastic results, considering they have all suffered much disadvantage in their young lives. We are very proud of their achievements. Doing extra study outside of the school is a big part of the culture at FHC's Hostel. We encourage the students to do extra study with help from the Hostel mother, Miss Paru. She has succeeded at university and is an inspiration and mentor to the students.

Now these students have some power over their destinies. **You have made this possible.**

*\* Grade Point Average scored out of 4*

## The wet season in Batase? No worries...



The wet season is an important part of the weather cycle, and the cycle of life, in Nepal. Batase is a rural village very dependent on cropping for its success so rain is to be rejoiced.

For our Hostel students, getting to school is about a 1-kilometre walk through the village and the fields. For them the rain is just a part of life. School goes on.

## National Paddy Day



Recently the Hostel kids celebrated National Paddy Day (Rashtriya Dhanropai Diwas) here in Batase village. National Paddy Day is an annual festival in Nepal, which marks the beginning of the rice planting season. It is

celebrated on the 15th of Ashadh (usually late June or early July) every year.

Similarly, 15 Ashadr is also celebrated as a day of feasting – to enjoy a traditional dish of curd and beaten rice.

## Himalayan views...



Morning views from FHC's Hostel.



## New arrivals to our FHC Hostel family



A big welcome to Karsang Tamang (right) from Kalleri village in the Helambhu Province.

Karsang is the younger sister of Dolma Tamang (left). Their mother was badly injured in the 2015 earthquake and sadly passed away. Their father went away to foreign country for work and when

he returned, remarried, leaving the care of Karsang to an uncle in Kathmandu. Her uncle couldn't afford to give her an education so she has come to stay with us at the FHC Hostel.

Now she is being cared for and educated, thanks to FHC supporters.



A warm welcome too, to sisters Mendo Tamang (right) and Muisani Tamang. They are from Nuwakot district, which is a distance from Batase. Their parents separated and their mother remarried, leaving the girls in the care of their father. Their father later remarried and left the girls in the care of their Aunt, who couldn't afford to provide for them.

*"Some how they heard about this organisation and they contacted us about their family situation. After knowing about them we brought these young and amazing girls here to our beautiful home."*

*Thank you so much everyone for your great support and make this happened here in Batase village."*  
**Sujan Tamang**

## Winners are grinners...



Congratulations to (from left) Bindu, Munu and Radhika for winning the 'Quiz Competition' at the Batase School.

*"You all are an inspiration to all the young people and wishing you even more success in the future. We are proud of you."* **Sujan Tamang**

## COMMUNITY SUPPORT – Thanks Tanya and Ken



FHC recently received an incredibly thoughtful and generous gift from long-time supporters, Tanya and Ken Younger.

Tanya and Ken wanted to send special solar lights (Little Sun) to our Hostel kids in Batase Village. Electricity supply to the village can be unpredictable. These lights will make a huge difference to the children being able to continue to study and have fun at night, even when the lights go out.

Knowing there were close to 50 children in the hostel at that time, they decided that they needed to provide for all! The lights are high quality and come from Germany.

To pay for this, Tanya and Ken decided to forgo Christmas gifts to each other and their extended family. This sort of dedication and generosity is what fuels FHC. The

lights have been purchased and Som will deliver them when he visits Batase later this year.

Thank you Tanya and Rob. We look forward to sharing pictures of the kids using them.

A big thank you also to the following for your ongoing support and generosity to FHC:

- 7 Spices Indian Restaurant
- Captain Cooks Diner
- Edge Hill Friendly Grocer
- Rohit Chandel (Stratford Dolphins Football)
- Richardson Family
- Di Owens
- Jonathan Clayton
- Peter Guadron
- Peter Trehearn and Alison Dunning
- Salomon Shoes.

## New school facilities progress



Construction of the new school rooms and facilities is nearly completed and painting has begun. These facilities are being built on the school grounds. The Nepalese government is using relief funds from the 2015 Earthquake donations for the build. Labour is provided by the local villagers.

Included is a computer room with computers generously provided by Rotary International and Rotary Club of Cairns Sunrise. One room for a science lab and another room for presentations where students will practice leadership skills and project presentations. The fourth room is a teacher's common room and store room.





# HOW CAN I HELP?

There are many useful ways you can contribute to our cause.

## BECOME A MEMBER



For just \$10/year you can become a member of Friends of Himalayan Children.

You will be added to our email database and notified of up-coming FHC activities and events. Members get a 10% discount. And you will receive a quarterly news letter

with all of the latest news about what has been happening in Batase and beyond. You can join online at:

[www.f-hc.org/support/become-a-member](http://www.f-hc.org/support/become-a-member)

## FHC DONATION TINS



Do you know of a high pedestrian-traffic venue (ie. café, bakery, corner shop, butchery) that would be willing to have one of our charity tins displayed on their counter?

If so, please contact Jonathan on 0414 281 196

If the tin is lost or stolen, the venue will have no liability whatsoever.

We can also supply a chain and attach the tin to the counter.

## FUNDRAISING IDEAS?

- We have nearly 600 people who are paid up members or who donate regularly to FHC.
- If you have any ideas for a fundraiser, however small, please email Tim Trehearn at: [donations@f-hc.org](mailto:donations@f-hc.org)
- If you would like to give a talk about FHC to work colleagues or friends, please let us know and we can supply pull-up banners and advertising materials.
- Every cent counts and we are responding to more and more needy children in Batase Village.

## RECYCLING FOR FHC



Most soft drink cans, plastic bottles, beer bottles and cans, juice poppers, and even Yakult bottles are redeemable. Just look for '10c' printed on the label.

- You can take your redeemable containers to any recycling centre in Queensland and the code **C10010512** will direct the money straight to FHC.
- Big thank you to the Brisbane recyclers who are already directing refunds to FHC.
- Or get your collection to us and we can process them:
- **REDLYNCH:** call/text Jonathan – 0414 281 196; or email [pascalleclayton@gmail.com](mailto:pascalleclayton@gmail.com) with your address for pickup; or drop them off in front of their garage door at 29 Eugenia Cres, Redlynch; or
- **EDGE HILL:** call/text Di Andrews – 0408 180 201, or drop them off at 8 Fleming St, Edge hill; or
- **CARAVONICA:** call/text your location to Annett Musumeci – 0434 702 126 and she can collect; or
- **FRESHWATER:** call/text Maureen Cameron – 0407 737 337, or deliver to 16 Merrybrook Street, Freshwater.
- **ATHERTON:** call/text Mary Frances – 0400 607 323, or deliver to 3B Crisp Close, Atherton.
- **WANT TO BE A COLLECTOR TOO?** email [info@f-hc.org](mailto:info@f-hc.org)

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Support a child in Batase

[www.f-hc.org/sponsor](http://www.f-hc.org/sponsor)

**FOR JUST \$30 PER MONTH**

you can provide essential support for a child to be able to succeed at school to Year 10, while living at home.

**You can make a difference.**

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Sponsor a child in FHC Hostel

[www.f-hc.org/sponsor](http://www.f-hc.org/sponsor)

**FOR JUST \$50 PER MONTH**

you can guarantee a child a place in school and the support needed to help the child in our Batase Hostel succeed to Year 10.

**You can make a difference.**

EMPOWERMENT THROUGH EDUCATION



Sponsor a youth in Kathmandu

[www.f-hc.org/sponsor](http://www.f-hc.org/sponsor)

**FOR JUST \$150 PER MONTH**

you can support a young adult attending Higher Secondary School in Melamchi or Kathmandu.

**You can make a difference.**