

# Chairperson's Annual Report

## Earth Garden Foundation Australia Limited, 2017

As mentioned in last year's annual report, closing the office in Victoria and reopening it in Broome, with no staff assistance for EGFA tasks, has had a huge impact on the ability of me and Judith to expand EGFA operations.

We have managed to maintain all the core activities as follows:

1. Liaising with Yadav at HLF to monitor current projects and to seek proposals for new projects.
2. Liaising with TEAM Nepal staff, Neel Bahadur Shahi and Bikash to monitor and activities at the TEAM Nepal children's home.
3. Working with the auditors and accountants to manage all financial and audit requirements and queries.
4. Bookkeeping and banking.
5. Maintaining updates on all EGFA activities in the regular half page advertisement in Earth Garden magazine.
6. Maintaining regular email contact for support, advice and decision making with all six Directors of EGFA.

That's the good news!

### Finances

The not-so-good news is that the administration costs of EGFA are starting to weigh heavily on the finances of our small family publishing company. We are determined to maintain the commitment we first made back in 2008 that if people make a donation to EGFA, 100% of their donation will go to project costs, not administration costs. This is starting to get a little difficult to maintain.

So we are discussing with the accountant his idea that in future, we may make a second annual donation to EGFA from the Gray family philanthropic Fund. The first donation, of course, now covers all EGFA's expenses each year for TEAM Nepal and HLF joint projects.

The second, new donation, could cover the expenses and time Judith and I put in to maintain EGFA and do the six tasks listed above which were formerly done by our paid staff in Victoria, and which cost around \$35,000 pa in wages and fees (eg annual ASIC company registration fees etc).

As expected, the Snow Leopard jacket sales have now dropped off completely as we have mopped up all demand. They have been a huge success, but these days EGFA is now fully funded by the Gray Philanthropic Fund.

### Projects completed

In 2015-2016 EGFA surged ahead, funding six projects, installing 96 lights, and assisting a staggering 97,000 villagers.

In 2016-17 we completed five projects, assisting 41,700 villagers.

### 43rd project - Kumal Gaun Primary Health Care Center for Vaccine freezer and Birthing center, Kumal Gaun, Kalikot District

- Solar panel x 80 watts - 8 Pc
- 150 AH solar batteries – 4 Pc

- 2.5 KVA Inverter – 1 pc
- Charge Controller – 1 Pc
- Mounting frames – 2 set

**US\$4,862**

**44th project - Shree Shamba Tscholing Buddhist Monastery, Gilung, Lamjung District**

- 100 watt Solar Panel – 1 Pc
- Solar LED lights – 10 Pc.
- Charge controller 08A 12V – 1 pc
- Volta Battery, RE100E lead acid

**US\$1869**

**45th project - Dura village classrooms/literacy project, Ramechaap District**

five 20watt solar set with 3 solar LED lights in five different literacy centers around Dura VDC, which will benefit about 100 participants initially by the project.

**US\$1998**

**46th project - Beteni Health Post and Birthing Center, Okhaldhunga**

- Solar panel x 80 watts - 3 Pc
- 130AH solar batteries – 2 Pc
- LED Lights -16Pcs.
- Charge Controller 40A-12/24 – 1 Pc

**US\$2542**

**47th project - Joshibunga health post and birthing centre at Baitadi**

- Solar panel x 80 watts - 8 Pc
- 150AH solar batteries – 2 Pc
- LED Lights - 6Pcs.
- Charge Controller 45A-24V–1 Pc
- Inverter 2.5KVA/24 VDC – 1Pc

**US\$4213**

**TEAM Nepal**

Once again EGFA has paid the annual running costs of the children's home after carefully scrutinising its annual budget, which lists items right down to hair oil and toothbrushes. The level of detail in their budgeting is astounding.

We maintain regular contact with the inspiring Neel Bahadur Shahi, the social worker and founder of TEAM Nepal.

This year TEAM Nepal is exsumngi visits from study groups form the National Geographic Society in the USA, which has chosen the home as a model of aid development.

We remain convinced that the home is running beautifully, and we encourage any director who can manage it, to visit and stay there for a while to judge for themselves.

**Future**

I am very happy with the way we are maintaining the projects and operations of EGFA. I expect the next year to be very similar to this year.