

Newsletter April 2011



Laxmi & Swostani Bhudatoki with English marks of 99% and 79 %

It is now the start of the new school year for the children at Bright Future Community Center and Netra will have to start paying school fees. Netra has sent me some results from our students at Yagamati School. This is the community school for about fourteen students from BFCC . So far Netra has sent 7 results and all of those students have done well in English; in fact their highest mark was English in all instances. I think Netra is quite right in accepting some credit for this excellence on behalf of BFCC. It will be interesting to see if this improvement is more widespread.



Inside the new clinic with the nice clean tiled floor



The outside is now rendered and looks much cleaner when I was there in December

The new clinic has three new rooms which are being used by BFCC Health Centre and Red Cross. We need to wait until the Village Development Committee has its election and then Netra will talk to them about what they want to do with the clinic. It is really important the ideas come from the local people who understand what is needed. Netra assures me they have at least nine local doctors who are prepared to work with the Red Cross in the clinic.

The new sewing school has nine students, most of whom are local women, learning to sew. They are making shirts for children and some sort of dress for ladies, but Netra could not explain what it was and I could not see it properly on SKYPE. We are still a long way from export quality clothing, but it is leading to other advances. Five of the older ladies want to return to school and improve their education. The Government has organized classes for older women, but the cost is \$A100 each.

On Monday, April 4, last year's Latrobe group met at the Himalayan Sherpa Restaurant in Bridge Road. They have some wonderful fund raising ideas to help expand the clinic in Kopan. Apart from activities



around the University we hope to have a night out at a restaurant in Horsham.

We need more volunteers in all the branches of the BFCC.

This year I plan to speak to groups and encourage people to trek in Nepal and spend some of their holiday time in the Kopan area. A couple of weeks ago I spoke to the Girl Guides and they are keen to be involved in the projects in Nepal.

Netra talks to me almost every day and tells me what is happening to the children and the families. One young boy we started helping last year has lost his father. His older brother who is in Year 11 wrote to Netra asking if we could help. The mother is also not well. Of course we will help by paying the school fees and I hope Netra will have time to make sure the family is coping. I visited the family last year and took this photo of Ramesh and his father at their vegetable stall at Faika Chok (the intersection on the way to Bhouda)



Next door to BFCC is a family who holds the key to the library. I share a joke with the grandmother and we call each other Bajju. Netra tells me Bajju is very ill and is in hospital. I am not sure how much this is costing the family. The computer school is progressing. In the last report it was clear the numbers of paying students has almost doubled since the start of the school in 2006.

I have included a small boast. An article about tourists teaching English in Nepal was featured in one of the national newspapers. It included a photograph of me teaching in BFCC as an illustration of a foreign volunteer. Netra was trying to talk to the reporter so we could do a follow up, but he was outside Kathmandu.

Robyn Hodgens who volunteered at BFCC last year for three months has returned to Nepal and is working in a village near Jomson. I hope she can make use of some of the resources from BFCC.



Bright Future Community Center is growing each year. We are working more closely with the local community which should make BFCC more effective. If you are planning to visit Nepal with Teresa <http://www.slowtrekking.com/> or are trekking independently please make sure you visit BFCC.