

Sunrise Children's Association Inc.
"Bringing a brighter future to the needy children of Nepal"



NEWSLETTER
Edition 2,
March 2007

Dear friends of Sunrise,

We hope that you have had a restful festive season and a peaceful start to the new working year. As usual, the Sunrise team has been working hard, and we have lots to share with you since our last newsletter.

We celebrated Christmas in style with a combined Christmas/wedding party organized by Emma and Sarah. Volunteers Kumaran Yogaranandan and Elayn James were also a welcome addition to the Sunrise team over the festive season. With the further growth of Sunrise, the children of Daisy house moved into a new, larger home around 1km from the previous home, which they are enjoying immensely.



Emma's December visit

As always, Emma managed to pack an enormous number of activities into her flying three week visit, including making Christmas cookies with all the children. As well as spending quality time with the children at Daisy and Marigold, her visit also included numerous meetings with Child Welfare and Human Rights organisations. The Sunrise team continue to advocate on behalf of the SMNDA children, and we are hopeful they will be transferred into our full time care in the near future. Until then the Sunrise team continues to visit them on a regular basis.



Welcome to our five new children

Five new children joined Sunrise in December. These children had spent two nights in police custody, after being found wandering the streets of Kathmandu alone. These children had been sent from their villages to a disreputable orphanage in Kathmandu, which then on-sold them to another equally disreputable orphanage, from which the children were then 'lost'. The Child Welfare Board (CWB) rescued these children and requested that we take over their care. These children have settled into Sunrise extremely well and are enjoying their new home, and new family.

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Emergency Accommodation provided

In early February the Child Welfare Board (CWB) of Nepal, represented by Gyan Bahadur Lama, closed down an orphanage in Jorpati, the same suburb in which Sunrise is located. The children of this orphanage had been begging on the street while their carers drank the proceeds. These same carers abandoned the orphanage when they heard they were being investigated, leaving the children to fend for themselves. Sunrise agreed to provide temporary accommodation to 10 of these children until the CWB finds a permanent home for them. Three of these children have recently returned to guardians, with the remaining seven still with us.

Children's Party! Santa comes to a wedding party (Sarah Kemp)

On the 12th December 2006, or 26th Mangsair 2063, I married my now husband, Bikash Bhattarai. It was a wonderful party combined with the traditional intricate Hindu ceremony which itself takes several hours, aimed to astrologically assure the couple's good future and sanctify the wedding before God and society.



Emma with Sarah and Bikash, Dec 12th 2006

Bikash and I discussed whether we could have the children present at the ceremony, which I'm sure they would have loved. However for astrological reasons the wedding had to be held at night, and it was not practical. So between the three of us, Bikash, Emma and I, we decided to combine plans of a Christmas Party with a special children's party in honour of our wedding.

It was held on the 23rd of December, on the premises of Saraswati School, with the children from both SMNDA and

Sunrise in attendance. Emma had brought bags of prizes from Australia, and had planned several games for the kids – Pin the tail on the donkey (on the side of the schools bus!), 3 legged races, pass the parcel and egg and spoon races. The egg and spoon races in particular were a tremendous hit (not so for the poor boiled eggs though, which were an absolute mess!). The staff and committee members also had a turn, receiving much cheering and encouragement from the children.



Egg and Spoon race – a close finish!



Sarah and Emma



Krishna (SMNDA), Krishna (Sunrise), Sangeeta, Sarah, Bikash, Emma, Tulsi

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At the end of the day all of the children left with a prize, full from good food and lots of excitement.

Daisy house has moved!

On Wednesday the 21st of February the Sunrise team mobilized in force to achieve the mammoth task of safely moving 42 children plus a household of furniture into their new residence.

The new Daisy house is conveniently located just 10 minutes up the road from our previous location, and therefore from Saraswati school and Marigold house. The new building is part of a large compound which features a large garden and play area, one large main house, a smaller house behind, and a long shed which we hope to turn into an activities/playroom for the children. We are fortunate enough to have our new house manager, Krishna Kamal Khatri living in a separate house within the same compound. Slowly, with the effort of our Nepali team and volunteers, we are sure that a really special home for the children can be created out of this area.

Hep B Vaccination Programme

In January, Krishna and Sangeeta through Nepal Medical College, arranged for all the children to receive their vaccinations against Hepatitis B. Below are the children receiving their first round of injections.



Saraswati School Speech Day

Speech Day was an exciting time for all of the Sunrise children, especially for our three prize winners! **Saugat Mainali** (12 years old) won 3rd prize for a Nepali poem competition. **Subash Dhitang** (9 years) came 1st in a racing competition, and **Suman Lama** came 3rd in the same race. Well done boys!

As well as these awards, we are pleased to announce that Sangeeta Bhandari our Chairperson and Krishna Kamal Khatri, our Daisy House In-charge, received a special honorary award from Sarswati School for their dedication to the children's education.

Photos below: Photo 1; Binita Tamang performing a Tamang dance (top middle); Photo 2; Sadhumaya Budha (front middle); Photo 3; Niruta Lama, Susmita Lama and Susma (front row)



Kid's Feature Column

This edition features **Saugat**, winner of 3rd prize in the Sarswati school poetry competition. Saugat is twelve years, and has an infectious sense of humour. He's always joking and laughing, and as one of the oldest at Sunrise, is fondly looked upon as an older brother by his younger 'bahi and bahini' (brothers and sisters).

Photo below; Saugat and Australian volunteer Kumaran.

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Kumaran and Saugat

Volunteers: Kumaran and Elayn

Kumaran and Elayn were volunteers at Sunrise Orphanage over December and January. Kumaran worked incredibly hard especially with Bharat, taking him to physiotherapy with Tulsi every week, and spending his mornings and evenings living with the children, helping them with their homework, playing with them and sharing mealtimes. The children loved having Kumaran around and often ask about him, and when their Kumaran 'dhai' (big brother) will visit them again.



Elayn put to use her various skills, particularly her training in health and nutrition. She was able to suggest some minor improvements in the childrens diet, namely increasing their protein intake through adding more eggs to the weekly meal plan, as well as adding further useful techniques to Bharat's physiotherapy treatment.



Words from Kumaran...

"When I think of the word sunrise, I usually associate it with awakening, a chance to start over and exciting new possibilities. Each of these, to my mind, signifies what the children experience at Sunrise Children's Orphanage in Kathmandu.

During my stay, five children arrived at Sunrise for the first time. These children had been brought from a remote village and placed in a disreputable orphanage. Eventually, the Child Welfare Board of Nepal requested that they be re-settled at Sunrise. Upon arrival, they were quiet and kept mostly to themselves. If they smiled, their smiles were strained, suggesting courage in the face of uncertainty, rather than happiness. But these are words only and inadequate to the task. Who can remember the last time they were truly alone? Is it possible, surrounded as we are by friends and loved ones, not to mention material possessions? And then of course, there's that faithful accomplice, one's personality, the culmination of years of experience, spanning puberty, a first kiss, disillusionment and dogged determination. Strip all of these away and you might approximate a child of eight or nine, alone, tired and frightened.

One or two days after the arrival of the children I left for a 3 day trip to Pokhara. Upon leaving, the five new children were still subdued and only joined half-heartedly in play. When I returned, however, the five new arrivals, along with some of the other children, came tumbling down the garden path and their welcome was both surprising and overwhelming "Namaste, Kumar sir! Namaste!" They kept jumping up and down, wanted to carry my bag for me, and in their exuberance dragged me up the path. They stopped, though, and paused half way; one of the other children had a new toy or the like and this was causing great excitement. So with the fickleness that is so endearing of children, but so disconcerting when it concerns adults, they abandoned me and my bag and tore off to investigate the matter for themselves. The change from when I left could not have been more marked."

Excursion to Swayambunath

Fourteen of the older children enjoyed an excursion to Swayambunath Temple, otherwise known as "Monkey Temple", one of the largest Buddhist temples in Nepal with Emma, Kumaran and Elayn.



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Elayn's 65 Teddy Bears...

After returning to Australia our volunteer Elayn organized for 65 teddy bears to be sent over to Nepal with her friends, Tim and Lauren. Each child got to pick out his or her own stuffed toy from the bag, which they all loved.



Progress Report: Tax Deductibility Status MEMBERS NEEDED!

Two very dedicated people are working at getting us Deductible Gift Recipient status - Michaela Killips and our accountant Vijay Kathir. This will enable us to give some financial benefit back to those who help us so generously.

To achieve DGR status for an overseas charity we have to meet various requirements, one being that we need to have 100 official members of our organization, Sunrise Children's Association Inc. In spite of having numerous generous sponsors and donors, we currently only have 19 card carrying members! For **only \$15 per year** you can be a member of SCAI, and enjoy the following benefits:

- Opportunity to attend and vote at our AGM's.
- Become involved in making decisions about the future of Sunrise and its children.
- Be kept up to date on the progress of the children.
- Most of all, a sense of partnership and joy in becoming a member of the Sunrise Family!

Sponsorships and Sunrise Children's Village

We are proud to say that all of our children at Sunrise are currently sponsored!

However, child sponsorships only cover the essentials to care for a child – food, education, clothing and medical care. We still need support with the other essentials – rent, utility costs and carer salaries.

Please remember that while sponsoring these items may seem more mundane, you will still be kept up to date with the progress of the children and the orphanage, and will share in the events of these children's lives. You will also receive a similar sponsorship card with photos of the children and details of your sponsorship.

The costs for these sponsorships vary, from only \$30 per month to \$60 per month, so please contact Emma via email emma@scai.org.au if you are able to help.

Our sincere thanks to all of our generous sponsors and donors, you are all personally to thank for keeping Sunrise running.

Sunrise Children's Village Fund

As many of you will know, we recently launched our building fund. So far, we have had 6 kind sponsors come on board, donating \$40 each per month (\$480 each per year).

To purchase one large block of land of sufficient size to build **4 Sunrise houses** plus room to graze animals and grow crops, it will cost around AUD\$240,000. **The** countdown is on, from 500 we now **only need 494 more people to get involved and contribute \$40 per month!**

So for only one cup of coffee per week, you can be a founding donor of Sunrise Children's Village, a safe, loving, and importantly permanent home for more than 100 needy children!

Contact Emma or Michaela today about getting involved with either Sunrise Children's Village, supporting a child or our current household needs.

Upcoming Events!

1) "Sunrise @ Night"

On **May 13th 2007**, an exciting cultural evening will be held at Castle Hill Community Centre in Sydney. The evening will be full of live entertainment; stand-up comedy, dance, singing, and much more.

Costs are: \$20 Adults, \$15 Concession, \$50 Family (2 Adults and 2 children under 12).

For more information please contact:

Urmila 0414 471 160
Manju 0422 898 198
Kanthan 0424 676 568
Michaela 0412 363 401
or
urmila@scai.org.au

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The poster for 'Sunrise @ Night' features a blue sky with a yellow sun at the top. The text 'SUNRISE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS' is in white. Below it, 'SUNRISE @ Night' is written in large, stylized white letters. The date '5pm to 9pm Sunday, 13 May 2007' is in white. The cost is listed as '\$20 Adults', '\$15 Concession', and '\$50 Family (2 Adults and 2 Kids Under 12)'. The venue is 'Castle Hill Community Centre, Castle Grand (Pioneer Room), Corner Pennant & Castle streets, Castle Hill'. A quote from Marion C. says 'Mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible'. The featured acts are 'Stand-up Comedy (Raj-T & Hari-T), East meets West Fusion dance, Nepalese Cultural Dance, Classical Singing, Much Much More...'. A film strip shows four photos of children. At the bottom, contact information is provided: 'For More Information: www.scai.org.au' and 'Contact: Urmila (0414471160) or Manju (0422698198) or Kanthan (0424676568) or Michaela (0412363401)'.

SUNRISE CHILDREN'S ASSOCIATION PRESENTS

SUNRISE @ Night

5pm to 9pm Sunday, 13 May 2007

Cost:
\$20 Adults
\$15 Concession
\$50 Family
(2 Adults and 2 Kids Under 12)

Venue:
Castle Hill Community Centre
Castle Grand (Pioneer Room)
Corner Pennant & Castle streets,
Castle Hill

Come enjoy mothers day with Sunrise and bring joy to a needy child.
100% of the money raised tonight goes to the children.
"Mother's love is the fuel that enables a normal human being to do the impossible" ~ Marion C.

Featuring: Stand-up Comedy (Raj-T & Hari-T), East meets West Fusion dance,
Nepalese Cultural Dance, Classical Singing, Much Much More ...

For More Information: www.scai.org.au
Contact: Urmila (0414471160) or Manju (0422698198) or Kanthan (0424676568) or Michaela (0412363401)

As well as this there will be two other events held in 2007;

2) Cultural Event in Melbourne in June

Details will be sent out soon.

3) 3rd Annual Cultural Fusion Evening!

September 1st 2007 - Mark this on your calendar now, for a night of Bollywood and Nepali dancing, and traditional Asian cuisine. All the Sunrise classic fun, with an even bigger and better line up!

If you are keen to volunteer your time in helping organise one of these events please let Michaela, Emma, Sarah or Urmila know.

A sincere thank you again from the whole Sunrise Family, we couldn't do it without your support.

Emma Taylor
Michaela Killips
Sarah Kemp
Urmila Cuganesan

President
Secretary
Treasurer
Committee Member