

## **Report on the visit to: Nepal Village Development Project, Nepal Dental Project March - April 2012**

### **Nepal Village Development Project 66/2007-2008**

#### **Toilets and Sanitation**

Another round of 10 toilets and waste disposal systems have been completed, 5 in Arubot (4 Septic and 1 Biogas) and 5 in Dandegaun (1 septic and 4 biogas) villages.

All of the work is done by Nepali teams. Bishnu Shrestha and his team from the Community Health Development Society (CHDS) Nepal provide overall project management, coordination, and liaison with Rotary Australia (S Meihubers) and Healthabitat Pty Ltd (P Pholeros). The local construction team, which has arisen from the first village we worked in, ie these guys developed skills and knowledge during that project, is headed up by Surya Lama (Plumber and Program Consultant) and Ashish Lama (Team Leader and Program Supervisor).

Paul inspected the works, as per the usual arrangements, and believes there is consistent quality work. Young Niri, who struggles with literacy, is an expert bricklayer and concrete renderer, skills he learnt during our first project in Bhattedande. These guys work hard, and have guided the project well in these next 2 villages.

Bishnu will now do the feasibility for the next stage of construction, to be done in the second half of the year after the monsoon time. Ten more families will be selected. Attached with this report is the usual photo report, still in draft form as I'm still determining and matching the donors.

#### **Water Tank Survey**

I set up a water tank survey, checking the tanks in Bhattedande village, just to evaluate how they have been accepted, and whether they are being used. The answer is Yes, they are all used for water storage, however there were varying "states of health" of the internal and external taps, and some misunderstandings about the value of rainwater collection. However the water storage is highly valued, and is used for hand washing after the toilet. Paul has used some of the results of the survey to modify the design of some of the features of the tanks, and the village team will now do the repairs identified in the survey as well as explaining the positives of using the collected rainwater.



*Laxman Lama helping with the water tank survey*

### **Coincidental Rotary Teams**

Without any prior planning, it happened that Ron Marcus was also in Dhulikhel with his construction team. Several of the team members came to Dandegaun village to see the project and to participate in the keys handover. You'll see some of them in the attached project report.

### **Nepal Dental Project 158/2005-2006**

#### **School Dental Program - Shree Kali Devi School**

With the CHDS team I met the School Principal, Vice Principal, teachers and some members of the school management committee, in the school attended by kids from both Arubot and Dandegaun villages. We organised and later ran, a one-day dental camp for the kids. Of the 400 or so enrolled, about 100 came on the day which isn't bad considering it was right in the middle of school holidays (would that ever happen in Australia??). I examined the kids and recorded their oral health conditions while Bishnu and his team, plus a young dentist from Kathmandu, performed the essential dental care. We have funds from the International College of Dentists to carry out more dental camps in the school during the year.



*Training Bishnu in the dental survey method*

We intend to set up a school based toothbrushing program, the same as in Bhattedande (teeth and toilets remain a happy marriage). Then see the following paragraph.

### **School Sanitation Program**

However the Shree Kali Devi School has no functioning toilets, hence no taps or sinks for hand washing etc, let alone for toothbrushing. There have been 2 toilet projects over the past 11 years, which have resulted in 2 buildings connected to each other with no decent planning or function. The toilets from the first project - one toilet each for girls and boys, and a urinal each for girls and boys (!) - have filled up, and they overflow. Apparently these are used for "emergency" times. The three toilets from the second project were never connected to plumbing and have remained locked for over four years.



*The 2 “connected” but non-functioning toilet buildings*

Paul and the village construction team later inspected these “toilets” and have come up with a design solution. The school has accepted the proposal, and has offered to install a 1000 litre water tank and the sinks. Now we are trying to raise the funds for this, once Bishnu and his team work out the costs. The Bhattedande village team will be doing the construction and plumbing work, under the guidance of CHDS.

#### **Future planning:**

1. CHDS and the village team to plan and implement the next stage of the sanitation project, ie for the next 10 houses to receive toilets in Arubot and Dandegaun.
2. CHDS and the village team to improve the sanitation facilities at Shree Kali Devi School.
3. CHDS to conduct further dental camps at the school, and implement the school tooth brushing program once the sanitation has been fixed.
4. CHDS to continue with the school dental project at Bhattedande.
5. A couple of visiting dental teams are planned for the second half of this year, coordinated by North Gosford Rotary Club (September most likely) and Dee Why Warringah Rotary Club (November most likely).

At the end of October Paul Pholeros (not a Rotarian, but a Paul Harris Fellow) will coordinate an international team from the Building and Social Housing Foundation (BSHF), UK, to visit the projects. This is as a result of his organisation Healthabitat Pty Ltd winning the World Habitat Award in 2011, organised by the BSHF, with the Nepal project being one of the projects described in their submission.

#### **Visit by HE Susan Grace, Australian Ambassador to Nepal**

A week after we left HE Susan Grace visited the project in Bhattedande on 12 April. Paul, Bishnu and I had met with her on our last day just before getting to Kathmandu airport. Ms Grace expressed a keen interest in toilet and sanitation projects.

Bishnu and the CHDS team, along with members from the committee in Bhattedande, organised the visit for the next week.



*HE Susan Grace being guided through Bhattedande village by local team members*

Sandra Meihubers PHF  
Rotary Club of Dee Why Warringah  
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