

# RAN News May 2012



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Rural Assistance Nepal (RAN)  
GPO 24529, Kathmandu, Nepal  
marianne@rannepal.org  
+977 9841770550



Children at Shree Saraswoti School, Rukum

## Highlights:

- Garimudi Secondary School celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary
- Kalpana Chowdhary completed her first year teaching at Shree Jagadamba Higher Secondary School at Madhela in Bardiya
- School library was started at a Shree Saraswoti School, a small community school in Rukum
- Computers went to schools in Bangeswal, Garimudi and Bardiya
- Volunteers helped at schools, healthposts and hospitals
- RAN's teachers in Garimudi, Madhela and Deusa and two nurses at Deusa healthpost doing a great job.

Thanks go to everyone who has helped to make this possible. RAN is a small charity, operating on a shoestring, but this is proof how a little can go a long way.

I spent a month in the UK earlier in the year and it was a delight to visit friends, and go to the schools in Scotland, Bolton and Ruislip who continue their valuable support to the schools in Nepal.

**Bardiya:** *On my visit to Bolton Sacred Heart Primary School, I was presented with a beautiful book of messages from the children at the school which I took to Bardiya to present to Kalpana Chowdhary, the primary teacher sponsored by the school in the UK.*

Kalpana is from Madhela and has been teaching Class 1 at Shree Jagadamba Higher Secondary School, Madhela since last April. The school is delighted with her teaching and she's just taken government exams to get her license to potentially get a job as a government teacher. School was still in the process of registering students for the new academic year, so I presented Sacred Heart's book to Kalpana and Gauri Malakar, manageress of Tiger Tops Karnali Lodge who is helping support this school.



Visiting the school, it was great to see the new eco-club building that has been contributed by Tiger Mountain. The school is at the forefront of a movement to link the local schools and promote environmental awareness in this, one of Nepal's richest areas for biodiversity and endangered animals like tigers, rhinos, and elephants. Last year, Room to Read started a school library and in January 2012, Royal Mountain Travel contributed three computers to the school, to start up the possibility of teaching basics to teachers and students. It is hoped that maybe it won't be too long before the school can have access to the internet.

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Last Autumn, a volunteer spent a month teaching the children and teachers here, and she is planning to return for longer towards the end of the year. Another volunteer is hoping to go for a month or two before then to help train to use the computers.

**Garimudi:** *At the end of 2011 it was the school's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary that was celebrated at the school with a number of dignitaries such as the Chief District Officer and Constituent Representative for the district.*

At the same time, a couple of computers donated by Shoestring/Koningaap went to the school. School friend and teacher, Julie and her two teenage daughters came out from Australia during their summer break to spend a couple of weeks teaching teachers about the computers as well as innovative ways to teach using iPods.

It was a great pleasure to go to Bridgend School in Alness to talk to the children writing to students at Garimudi. Letters were exchanged and the class presented RAN with a cheque to support the schools in Nepal.



Meanwhile, in St Andrews, friends have been busy with their knitting needles and have done a terrific job making knitted items to raise funds in support of the teachers in Nepal.

Gill has been busy fundraising in many different ways and was also successful in selling some of the beautiful silk and pashmina scarves that are made by the Women's Foundation's (WF) workshop in Jorpati, Kathmandu, the proceeds of which will go to help the Foundation's women's shelter and daycare centre. The Kathmandu Chorale also kindly contributed half of the donations for their Christmas concert to the daycare centre run by WF.

**Rukkum:** *Particular thanks go to Shoestring/ Koningaap, a Dutch travel company that works with Royal Mountain Nepal. As well as providing a couple of computers for Garimudi, they donated books, science materials and some money to build bookshelves for the new library in the community school that's running in Rukkum for poor children.*

Dharma Gosain, formerly hospital manager at the mission hospital here, set up the school in his home when he moved to Kathmandu. An English medium school, it aims to provide quality free education to a third of the students who come from the very poorest families in the village.



Samjana is registering a new patient for diabetes counseling; Mahesh from Pyuthan is taking notes

**HexN (UK) and diabetes:** *December saw the second of the diabetes' conferences that are being supported by HexN (UK) to promote awareness of the problem of diabetes in Nepal.*

One of the attendees at the last conference, Dr Sailesh Shrestha immediately put into action the message that was being shared of the need to provide patient support and counseling. He sent one of the paramedics from the district hospital in Pyuthan District where he was working to Kathmandu's Ganghalal Heart Hospital for a week's training that pioneering Dr Jyoti Bhattarai and her team are trying to set up for wider dissemination.

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Dr Shree Ram examining a new Doppler donated by a medical student.

**Soo Jung Community Hospital:** *Several volunteers spent time helping the doctors at the hospital as well as Kapallekhi sub-healthpost, a couple of hours' walk from the hospital. Here they provided regular training sessions as well as helped seeing patients.*

Although registered with the government, this former charity-run hospital is a community hospital that now receives next to no assistance from the organization that set it up, nor gets any help from the government. Struggling to survive, there's no provision for the poorest patients who can't afford to buy medicines. Several volunteers and donors have contributed medicines and medical supplies and RAN provides what assistance it can.

**Volunteers:** *Many volunteers have helped at schools, healthposts and hospitals around the country. Thanks go to their help and generosity as well as to the Nepalese friends, without whom this could not be possible: Dr Shree Ram Tiwari at Soo Jung Community Hospital, Dr Kashim Shah at Gulmi District Hospital, Dr Bikalp Pokerel at Bajhang District Hospital, and Gauri Malakar for her help at Bardiya.*

## Summary of the year:

- Volunteers helped at schools at Garimudi, Dolakha; Madhela, Bardiya; Bangeswal, Pyuthan; Chauri, Kavre; Chainpur, Bajhang; Tamghas, Gulmi; Ilam, Ilam; and the Women's Foundation's shelter in Kathmandu.
- Doctors, nurses, paramedics and medical students helped out with training as well as treating patients. Not only donating generously with their time, many brought useful and much needed medical supplies, equipment and donations. Volunteers worked at the sub-healthposts at Deusa, Solukhumbu, Bangeswal, Pyuthan, Rawadolu, Okhaldunga, Madhela, Bardiya, as well as the Friendship Clinic in Megauli, Chitwan. In addition, volunteers helped at the district hospitals at Gulmi and Bajhang, as well as the community hospitals at Doti and Ilam.
- Kathmandu Chorale who donated money from their winter concert in December to help the Women's Foundation's daycare centre.
- Travel companies in and outside Nepal: Royal Mountain Travel and Shoestring/Koningen, a Dutch tour operator has been very generous with their support in providing computers and materials for the schools; Tiger Mountain Karnali in Bardiya provides valuable support to the school in Madhela.
- Head teachers, teachers and children at the schools in the UK give ongoing support: Ruislip's Sacred Heart Primary School, Bridgend Primary School and Bolton Sacred Heart School.
- Ladies in Scotland and friends who have in various ways, from knitting to curry evenings, have been busy raising money to make RAN's work possible.
- HexN (UK) with their regular supply of medicines to Deusa's healthpost.