Ghunsa Boarding School project update

Our local Non-Government Organisation implementation partner the KBSS has been granted approval to commence work on the new boarding school in the Ghunsa Village. This is required because many of the students’ homes are more than a day’s walk from the school and they either currently do not attend or sleep on the floor of the classrooms after hours.

To commence construction requires local stone for the foundations and timber for the frame. The timber is cut locally and cured for four months over winter. A completion date of 10th of July 2015 has been set. The local community will be contributing 25% of the cost of the project. The significance of community’s co-contribution is the value they will place on the new
asset and recognition of the projects importance for the future of the community and securing a brighter future for the children of Nepal and the Ghunsa village.

![Image](image_url)

**HDFA Insights | Economic Development, ‘Without tourism - Nepal would be a poorer place’**

Nepal, home to eight of the 14 giant 8,000m-peaks in the world, is and will always be one of the most popular trekking destinations in the world. The idea of trekking was born at around the time when Sherpa Tenzing Norgay from Darjeeling, India and Sir Edmund Hillary from New Zealand became the first people to set foot on Mount Everest on 29th May 1953; and since then tens of thousands of trekkers and climbers have explored the beauties of the Nepal Himalaya. In hindsight, the timing of the pair was spot-on as this was also the period, when the Nepali population, especially the people of the Everest region, had lost their trading business with Tibet due to the Chinese occupation in 1950.

Since then tourism has been one of the main pillars of Nepal’s development strategies, especially those aimed at addressing rural poverty. “Tourism reaches deep into the hills and valleys of Nepal and touches the lives of the local people. Even without roads and infrastructure, trekkers, pilgrims and adventurers contribute significantly to the incomes of village people in Nepal,” explains tourism expert, Lisa Choeygal. However, Choeygal emphasizes that even though arrivals are on the increase, revenues are still dropping. “In order to get out of this downward spiral, Nepal needs to refresh its product offers and service standards to attract higher value visitors,” she continues.

According Nepal’s Ministry of Culture, Tourism and Civil Aviation, in 2013 Nepal received almost 800,000 tourists, creating more than 500,000 jobs. “Some areas such as the Everest Khumbu region are world-wide models as to how mountain tourism can improve, enrich and even transform the lives of the indigenous inhabitants. Without tourism, Nepal would be a poorer place,” Choeygal continues. Until recently, trekking tourism mainly concentrated on the well-developed Everest and Annapurna regions, but now other, more remote areas are seeing an increase in tourism due to a new-born idea: the Great Himalaya Trail (GHT), which reaches from the Khaptad National Park in the most western corner of Nepal all the way to the Kanchenjunga region in the East, which is also the focus of the Himalayan Development Foundation Australia (HDFA).
Through its engagement, the HDFA does not only provide much-needed education to the region, it also promotes trekking tourism with its Kanchenjunga Trek website (http://kanchenjungatrek.org/), which makes this magnificent trek more attractive to tourists, who are keen to visit a remote corner of Nepal. “Like anywhere else, we have fantastic and unbeatable resources in this district, however, we must package and present them well to achieve their maximum value and compete with other high quality destinations,” Choeygal concludes.

With HDFA’s plan to establish Internet capability via a satellite link to its prime project school and maybe even expand it via a long-range Wi-Fi system throughout the area, the Kanchenjunga region could soon be a number one trekking destination in Nepal bringing more development and education to its people.

*Billi Bierling, Kathmandu – HDFA Ambassador*

*Events / Pachermo JANUARY 2015 - Winter Mountaineering course*

Brighten your January with some winter sun, invigorating days out and a cheeky 6000er. A winter Mountaineering course in **January 2015** in Nepal with **Victor Saunders**, Pasang Tendi and Karma Geljen.

The Himalayan Development Foundation Australia, together with the fabulous Vic Saunders (UIAGM) and tip-top local guides Pasang Tendi and Karma Geljen Sherpa have created a trip to learn the winter mountaineering skills for an Alpine style ascent of Pachermo (6187m).

Staying in the lovely Yeti Mountain Home lodges on the way up, with a helicopter sightseeing trip to get out and a few bottles of bubbly too there’s no shortage of comfort, care and sparkle!

And because we like to share the love, the profits from the trip go to support the work of the Himalayan Development Foundation Australia & the Pasang Lhamu Mountaineering Foundation.

For more info please visit the [Thamserku website](http://www.yetimountainhome.com/en/ymh-packages/special-yeti/item/148-pachermo-2015.html)

All inquiries and bookings via Jo Chaffer: [jo@korakoru.com](mailto:jo@korakoru.com) in conjunction with Thamserku: P.O. Box 3124, Gairidhara 4, Baluwatar, Kathmandu, Nepal

| T: +977 1 4000701 / 03 / 04 | E: info@thamserku.com | W: www.thamserku.com |
**Prince Alfred College | Father/Son Experience | Ama Dablam Base Camp, Sept/Oct 2014**

At the end of September, Prince Alfred College in Adelaide headed off again to Nepal on a Father/Son Experience in support of HDFA. The trip was put together by HDFA Board Member, Andrew Stace who is also a teacher at the College and has spent a lot of time exploring the hills of Nepal.

Taking fathers and their sons away from their busy lives for a couple of weeks to spend quality time at such an important point in their lives was something that Andrew felt was important for people to experience. We all get caught up in the day to day of life and to step back and enjoy new sights and to go on a journey with family is an opportunity that might otherwise get skipped by.

The group spent a couple of days in Kathmandu before the trip, taking in the sights, doing their last minute shopping and relaxing before heading to the mountains, flying into the infamous Lukla Airport.

This year’s group trekked to Ama Dablam Base Camp (4500m) in the Everest Region. They were treated to spectacular views and clear skies along the whole journey. The group shared many great experiences in the villages along the way and enjoyed the challenging terrain.

The highlight of the journey was the morning the group climbed 800 vertical metres from Pangboche up to the base camp with some of the best views of the Himalayas and Everest taken in from this point.

After the trek, some of the group travelled to Chitwan National Park to spend time in the jungle, others went bungy jumping and some chose to relax in Kathmandu.

We again thank Prince Alfred College for their ongoing support of HDFA and look forward to this relationship continuing into the future.

If you would like to organise a trek into the Himalayas in support of HDFA please contact us and we would be more than happy to help you make this happen!
The HDFA team is putting on their hiking boots to raise money for HDFA’s Ghunsa project. A 14 day trek into the shadow of the world’s 3rd highest peak, Mt Kanchenjunga will take them through a remote area, which is visited by very few trekkers, and is in great need of foreign support (departing late October). So far our valuable supporters raised over $10.000 to support the Himalayan Development Foundation Australia to deliver the Ghunsa Village Project in Nepal. A huge thanks for your efforts.

Both the Adelaide and Canberra based trekkers organised a fundraising dinner at a local Nepali restaurant. The evening included a short presentation by board member Duncan Chessell, guests enjoyed a Nepalese dinner accompanied by beautiful wines donated by various Adelaide Hills and Barossa Valley wineries, thank you for your generosity.

We would like to take to opportunity to especially thank one particular guest for the donation of $2,000 to the Himalayan Development Foundation, a very generous donation. We would also like to thank those guests attending who have decided to sponsor one of the children in the Ghunsa village. Ongoing donations enable us to truly develop ongoing support for this community and helps us accomplish our vision to build sustainable communities in Nepal. If you would like to sponsor a child as well please contact us for more information: info@hdfa.org

Donations can still be made through Givematcher.

The Arnold-Chessell Family  The Galloway-Warland Family  The Twining Family  Kendra Morony  The Wood Family

Donate & be matched
**Warm clothes for our school children**

Our Nepal trekkers and volunteers collecting the lovely work by Lorraine Bailey and her group Venture of Love who are making warm clothes to send to Ghunsa.