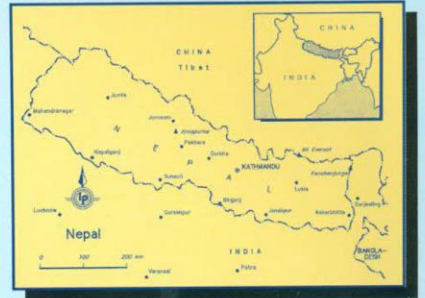


# WMT News

The Newsletter of the Wilkins Memorial Trust

No. 1 Spring 1996

## Three faces of the future



### UPDATE...

**F**OUR of our Trustees, Daphne, Patricia, Sarah and Richard, spent two and half weeks over Christmas and New Year in Nepal and visited all our projects. It was a hectic, but very productive, visit and this newsletter is a report of that visit.

WMT now has 8 projects through which it is implementing the aims of the Trust, namely the advancement of education, conservation and health, and the relief of poverty. This year, we are supporting two environmental education projects, IUCN posters and ECCA camps; providing for the education for three school children, Rosna (joint with PWMT), Sampana and Sunita; supporting Pokhara CBRS in its work with disabled children and providing a scholarship for Bhotu Chand from Burtibang to take a training course to qualify her as a Community Medicine Auxiliary.

We were delighted to find that all the projects are progressing extremely well. We are particularly pleased to report that Our Own Kitchen, a project set up to help destitute women in Kathmandu, is now self sufficient.

To us, **Rosna** is a very special Nepali child because of her early connections with Helen and Andrew and the family. Rosna is now a happy six year old who lives with her adoptive mother, Santi, near friends, Anne and Anthony Titley and their family.



We saw Rosna and Santi on our visits to the Titleys and visited Santi's one bedroom home in Patan. Rosna attends the 'Model Primary School' near her home and WMT, together with PWMT, provide for her schooling.

### Gandaki Boarding School (GBS)

**S**ampana Gurung is a very bright but shy 10 year old from Rithipaeni, the village in which Andrew and Helen stayed to gain Nepali language experience.



WMT provides Sampana with a full scholarship at Gandaki Boarding School. As with all scholarship students at GBS, Sampana was selected by examination and is extremely able. She

is now in Class V and is doing very well in her school work.

We visited GBS, met some of the staff and were shown round the school by Sampana and Aruna (the student sponsored by PWMT). Sampana told us that she particularly enjoys, and has a great interest in, science.

This is a new project for 1996 and one which we are very pleased to be able to help. **Sunita Lama** comes from Dal Choki, a village in Lalitpur District, and attends a school where ECCA camps are held. The plight of Sunita was brought to our attention by the Headmaster of Dal Choki school via Neeraj, our ECCA field programme officer.

Sunita and her brother were orphaned early last year and the children were reluctantly housed by a brother-in-law. By the middle of 1995, Sunita's brother had been taken away for work and Sunita was grudgingly kept on by her in-laws. She was made to work exceptionally hard in the fields and often had to beg round the village for food. Despite this, the Headmaster reports that she studied hard at school and appeared to be an intelligent girl determined to survive and succeed against all odds.



This year, her in-laws are moving out of the district; Sunita's plight has deepened as they have refused to take Sunita with them. The Headmaster at Dal Choki asked if WMT could help Sunita and, with Neeraj's help, arrangements were made for Sunita to go to a boarding school in Kathmandu which will also provide her with accommodation for the vacations. We visited Dal Choki school on our ECCA trek and met Sunita and the Headmaster. Sunita moved to her school hostel in Kathmandu on 19th February.

# The World Conservation Union

(IUCN)



Dr. Pande. Co-ordinator IUCN Environmental Education and Awareness Programme

WMT supports IUCN's environmental education and awareness programme the work of which includes the design and production of educational posters for use in Nepali schools. Last year, WMT co-sponsored with Lincoln School a poster on the insects of the mid-hills of Nepal and, this year, the plan is for a poster on the wetlands of Nepal. Dr Badri Pande is the co-ordinator of this programme.

We met him at IUCN's offices in Patan and discussed plans for future posters. Dr Pande is very enthusiastic about the project and spoke of the educational impact which the posters already in use are having. We saw the posters in use at the schools which we visited with ECCA.

# Dishing up a healthier future

(OOK)

(OUR OWN KITCHEN)

Our Own Kitchen was set up to help destitute women in Kathmandu run their own business of providing a catering service. There are now two kitchens, each run by three women. One is based on a school campus in Kathmandu, and the other at the SAARC Tuberculosis centre, Bhaktapur District.

On our visit to the TB centre kitchen, we were treated to a splendid lunch

- rice, dal, spinach, mustard leaves (cooked as a vegetable), a bean dish, fried potatoes, mutton curry, cauliflower and potato curry and salad

- and thoroughly enjoyed sampling their excellent cuisine.

Aparna Bhatta who originated the project is now developing further ways of helping such women become self-sufficient.

## Bhotu Chand Burtibang Community Health Project (BCHP)

Bhotu Chand is in the second year of the Community Medicine Auxiliary (CMA) course at Nawal Parasi Institute of Community Health on the Terai, the low plain in the south of the country. Her scholarship is sponsored by WMT and monitored by the International Nepal Fellowship (INF).

Bhotu is from Burtibang District. Burtibang is 3 days travel west of Pokhara; it is a busy trading town and a centre from which INF runs a community health programme (BCHP). We travelled to Burtibang - one day by landrover and two days on foot - and were shown many aspects of INF's work by Heather Payne and other INF staff.

Our programme included a visit to a sub-health post, meeting a CMA course applicant, seeing improved goat and rabbit breeding projects and a briefing (in song and dance), by the villagers of Malrani, on the adult literacy and income generation programmes of INF. Unfortunately, we did not have time to travel to Nawal Parasi so did not meet Bhotu but we do receive regular letters from her telling us about herself and her course.

## Pokhara Community Based Rehabilitation Service

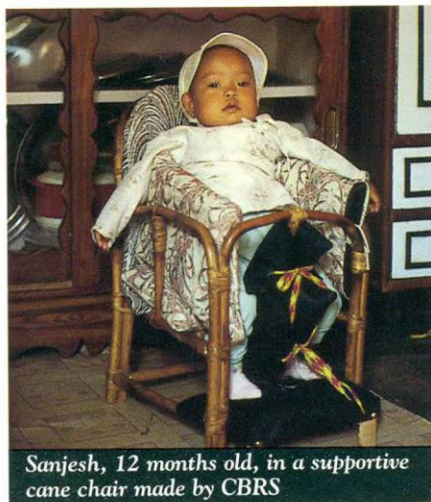
(CBRS)

CBRS works for and with disabled people, particularly children. Using affordable materials and training local field workers, CBRS aims to help the disabled have normal and independent lives as far as is possible, within the limits of their disability. CBRS also works with the community to increase public awareness of disability issues.

During our time in Pokhara, we visited CBRS and met Jane Schofield-Gurung, CBRS Co-ordinator, and some of the staff. We were extremely impressed with

the expertise, dedication and teamwork of the CBRS staff and this impression, gained in the CBRS office, was enhanced on our follow-up programme of home visits with CBRS field-workers.

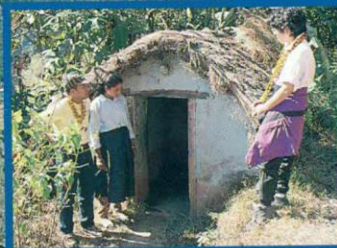
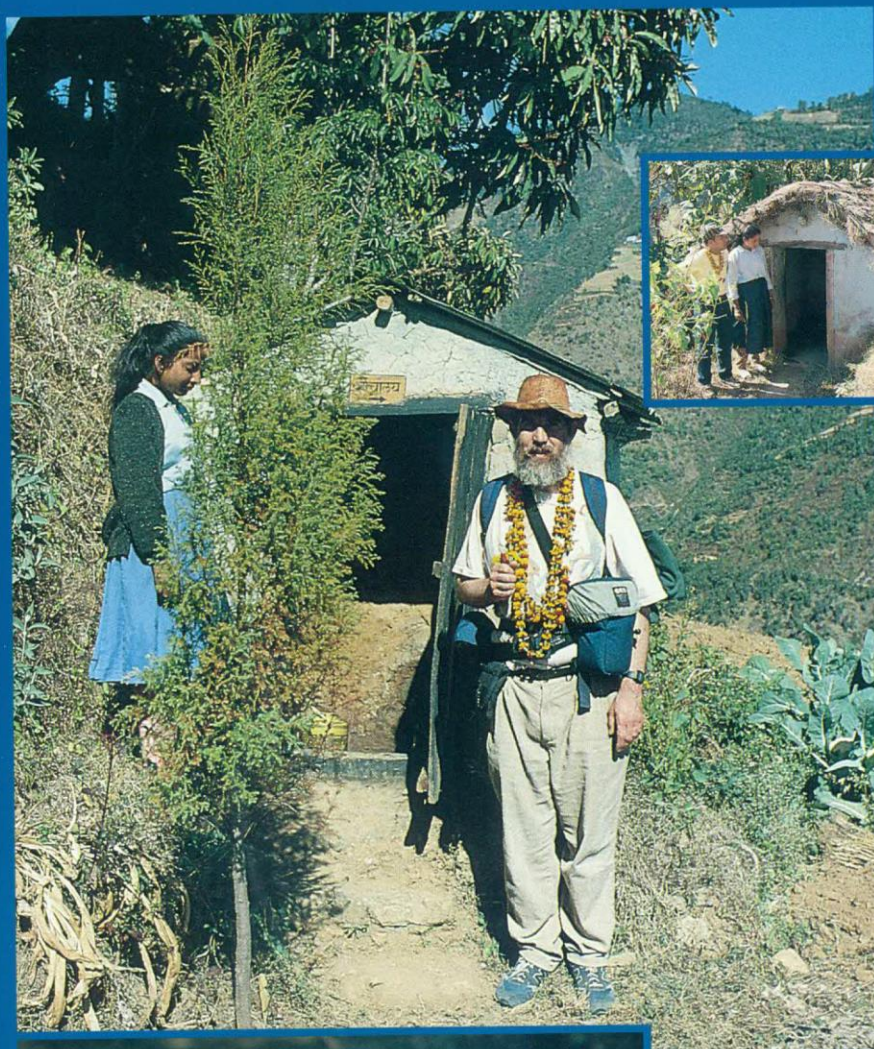
CBRS receives its core funding from a Dutch Charity but the support provided by WMT is most welcome as it provides additional finance towards much-needed extra items, such as a computer, that help the programme to run effectively and efficiently.



Sanjesh, 12 months old, in a supportive cane chair made by CBRS

# Environmental Camps for Conservation Awareness

(ECCA)



WMT sponsors an ECCA programme in the Lalitpur District of Nepal, an impoverished mountainous district just south of Kathmandu. It was here in Lalitpur that the PIA crash occurred.

The ECCA camps are conducted in five schools in the district - Lele, Dal Choki, Shankhu, Bhatti Danda and Pyutar. As well as environmental issues, ECCA's programme includes health and sanitation training, arts, crafts and cultural programmes, nature hikes, natural science lessons and technology (such as renewable sources of energy). Through training groups of campers, the environmental message is spread throughout each school (600 - 1000 children per school) to the campers' homes and the community and, via the campers, to other schools in the area, thus reaching a great many people in the Lalitpur region.

The WMT visitors spent three days trekking in Lalitpur and visited the villages of Bhatti Danda, Shanku and Dal Choki. We visited campers' homes in each village, were given welcome ceremonies at the schools and heard reports on achievements and proposals for future projects. Each camper had built, in their own home, a toilet, a smokeless stove and a rubbish pit. Some had also planted fruit trees. These are a considerable contribution to health and to environmental improvement.

Caring for the environment was featured in the schools with attention to litter collection and the creation of gardens. The schools were extremely enthusiastic but more financial input will be necessary to maintain this enthusiasm, for example, Dal Choki school wants to start a tree nursery but needs money for a fence (as local goats eat all the seedlings) and Shanku school needs money for water tanks for the school's toilets. Having educated the children in environmental issues, we feel it is important that some real improvements can be seen to be implemented. These are projects that the campers are initiating, have great commitment to, and for which they provide the work-force and raise some of the money whilst WMT provides extra finance.

We were impressed with the enthusiasm of the campers, especially the girls, the dedication of the counsellors we met and with the work carried out by the ECCA team, particularly Neeraj Nepali (Programme Officer) and Laxmi Timilsina (Field Co-ordinator), and their achievements already. We are very sad to have lost Neeraj as our Programme Officer as of this January and wish him well in his future career. We are, however, very pleased to have Hari Dongol, whom we met during our visit, as our new Programme Officer and look forward to working with him.

*Above: Loo inspection  
with Bhatti Danda  
campers*

*Left: Hari and Neeraj  
(ECCA team leaders)*



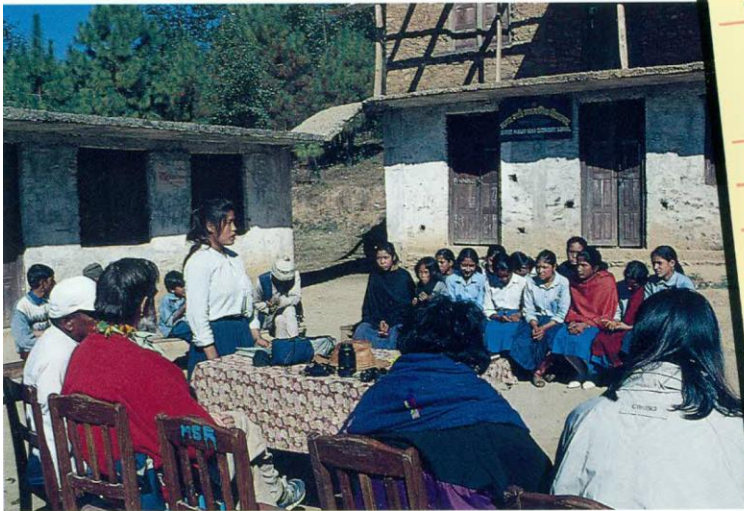
# Can you help?

WMT is extremely grateful for your continuing support of the Trust. Our projects too wish to extend their thanks to the supporters of WMT. Our visits to the projects allowed us to appraise how the money is being spent and, at the same time, we were able to assess areas that will benefit from

some extra financial input.

The ECCA schools in Lalitpur are a case in point; our ECCA programme has fired enthusiasm for environmental and health issues and now some extra help is needed to maintain the momentum in the schools.

*Can you help us raise some extra money this year to finance the following:...*



Shanku School's request for help towards windows and door for library

<b>Shankhu School</b>	
windows for library	Rs 2400 = £28
door for library	Rs 900 = £11
water tanks for toilets	Rs 9000 = £106
<b>Dal Choki School</b>	
fencing for tree nursery	Rs 4800 = £56
water tank for nursery	Rs 4500 = £53
seeds, pots etc.	Rs 2700 = £32
<b>Pyutar School</b>	
fencing for tree nursery	Rs 4800 = £56
water tank for nursery	Rs 4500 = £53
seeds, pots etc.	Rs 2700 = £32
<b>Bhatti Danda School</b>	
fencing for school and hostel	Rs16000 = £188
350 fence poles	Rs14000 = £165
transport of 350 poles	Rs 3500 = £41

**For more information...**

- I would like more information on **The Wilkins Memorial Trust.**
- I wish to make a donation of £ \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

Please send information to my friend,

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Postcode \_\_\_\_\_ Tel \_\_\_\_\_

We are also planning a series of slide programmes over the next few months, to let friends of the Trust see something of its work in Nepal and to help raise further funds for the projects.

If you would be interested in attending one of these programmes, would like more information about the trust or would like to make a donation, please fill in and post the coupon to the address below. Thank you.

## Our thanks...

The Trustees would like to express special thanks to Mike Cotts for designing and producing this newsletter, to Mick Sexton for auditing the Trust's accounts, to all our friends in Nepal who made our visit so successful and enjoyable and to everyone who helps with the running of the Trust.

**The Wilkins Memorial Trust**

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