

The **Mandalay** *Projects*

Annual Report

to Members & Supporters

2015





An enthusiastic welcome from the children of Metta Geha Orphanage

The **Mandalay** Projects

Our **VISION** is:
*that all children will live free from fear of exploitation,
with access to a proper education.*

Our **MISSION** is:
to prevent the trafficking of children into the worst forms of child labour

Our **PHILOSOPHY** is:
*that children's vulnerability to trafficking is directly linked
to their living conditions and life opportunities.*

Our **OBJECTIVE** is:
*to reduce that vulnerability to trafficking
by giving children a safer and healthier environment and
by helping them to become more independent and self-sufficient.*

Shelter Health Education Hope

Dear Members & Supporters,

The past year has been another busy and productive one for The Mandalay Projects. Our project work at our partner orphanages in Myanmar has continued to expand – amongst other things, we can now add chicken farming to our portfolio! More details of our projects are set out in the next few pages.

We were busy on the administrative front, introducing new accounting software and improving our donation receipting process, as well as submitting another application to the Australian government for tax deductibility of donations. We also contributed in a small way to the disaster relief efforts in southern Myanmar, in the wake of Cyclone Komen, which badly impacted many townships in the Irrawaddy Delta region, home to a number of our partner orphanages. We already have several new projects lined up for 2016, with our usual mix of infrastructure, health, education and vocational training initiatives, and we look forward to sharing more details of these with you as the year progresses.

Helping poor and vulnerable children to become more independent and self-sufficient is what we do.

Your help in this is vital, and as always, we send you our sincere thanks for the incredible support we continue to receive from all over the world. Donations in the past 12 months have come from as far afield as the UK, New Zealand, Singapore and South Korea. So, from its Australian base, The Mandalay Projects is very much an international operation.

Thanks again, and best wishes for 2016.

The Board of Directors of The Mandalay Projects Limited

Ian Love (Chairman)

David Gibson (Chief Executive)

Lucy Henry (Director)



Three of the younger residents of Metta Geha

The Projects – 2015 highlights

Dharmalinkara Boys' Orphanage - Twante, Myanmar

In last year's Annual Report, we described how, from a green-field site, we have guided the local management team at this orphanage to build a wonderful 2-storey dormitory to house 200 boys. The dorm is now fully operational and has been augmented in the past 12 months by additional infrastructure in the shape of new toilets, washrooms, kitchen & dining room and a fresh, drinkable water supply.



Dharmalinkara Boys' orphanage

As has happened at a number of our partner orphanage sites, our project work here has attracted the attention of several local donors, who have helped to fund various food- and health-related programmes, including cleaning the water pond and planting vegetables in the orphanage grounds. All of this has combined to make the site safer and healthier for the resident boys.

A close-up photograph of a young boy with dark hair, looking down at an open book. He has gold-colored face paint or clay applied to his forehead, nose, and cheeks. He is wearing a red and black sleeveless shirt with a blue strap over his shoulder. The background is dark.

On a recent site visit, we established a new library in our dorm building. This created great interest and excitement amongst the boys, which in turn provided a useful reminder of just how valuable books are in a country which has been largely starved of education and development for 25 years.

In recent weeks, we have begun scoping out an ambitious new vocational training centre at the orphanage.

This will focus on developing skills which are of direct relevance to the surrounding rural community, with the combined aim of creating jobs and producing a sustainable income for the orphanage.

The boys at Dharmalinkara were enthralled by the books in our new library

Metta Geha Orphanage, Chin Hills, Myanmar

Our initiatives at this remote orphanage continue to focus primarily on improving the health of the children. Our horticulture project has gone from strength to strength, with the orphanage vegetable gardens now covering nearly 2 acres. We have renewed our investment in this simple, but highly effective, project for another year.

Our drinking water infrastructure project has come up against a number of logistical challenges, and we are still working through these in an attempt to bring a sustainable supply of potable water to the site. In the meantime, our large water storage tank and irrigation system have proved invaluable in supporting the fruit and vegetable crops.

Recent discussions with teachers and nurses in the local village community have confirmed for us that our initiatives have contributed to a general improvement in the health of the children, with a specific and important reduction in the incidence of vitamin deficiency and skin ailments.



David with Metta Geha manager Stephen

A photograph of a speckled chicken, likely a Bantam variety, sitting on a nest of light-colored eggs. The chicken has a red comb and wattle, and its feathers are white with dark spots. It is positioned in a wire cage, with a wooden structure visible to the right. The background is blurred, showing green foliage. A semi-transparent text box is overlaid on the bottom left of the image.

Following on from the success of our horticulture project, in the past year we have launched a small chicken farming initiative at the orphanage. The initial signs have been very positive –the chickens are seemingly much more healthy than the average specimen in the surrounding community (see photo!), and the production of hatchlings has exceeded our expectation. As a result, not only is there a regular supply of chicken meat to the orphanage kitchen, but the whole operation is quickly heading towards self-sustainability. Some of the cash surplus from this initiative will be reinvested in the horticulture project, resulting in a more broadly-based, and self-sustaining, farming initiative than we could have dared hope for, when we decided to give our support to the orphanage back in 2014.

Putao Orphan Care Centre, Kachin State, Myanmar

We launched a small support programme in 2015 at this orphanage, located in the far north of Myanmar. Home to just 20 boys and girls, and run by one very dedicated local lady, the orphanage has no regular donations or other means of support. When we asked the lady what her priorities were for the children, she told us she needed basic medicines and was particularly keen to improve the sanitation around the water well, which is the only source of water to the orphanage. We decided to help with both of these issues. We established a Medical Fund, with assistance from a local pharmacist, and we have rebuilt the water well, adding a wall and roof to reduce the risk of contamination of the supply. These are very basic and low-cost investments, but they have had an immediate impact on the conditions at the site.



The manager of the Putao orphanage inspecting the old water well at the site

Project Site Visits – 2015 highlights

Visits to our project sites, funded personally by our Directors, members and supporters, are a critical part of our process. They allow us to understand more comprehensively the challenges and priorities of the management team at each of our partner sites. They also give us the opportunity both to review, at first hand, progress in our existing projects, and to evaluate potential new projects. These visits can be challenging, and involve a lot of hard work, and we are very grateful that we have a core group of supporters who are willing to travel to some fairly remote locations to help us with our programme. These photos were all taken on site visits during 2015.



Fund raising activities

Our supporters around the world had another active year in 2015. Thanks to everyone for all their hard work and endeavour in raising funds in support of our projects. Here are just a few of the highlights . . .



Kelly Stone, UK

Kelly organized a party for friend Fiona Barton's birthday. Instead of buying presents, she asked her friends to donate to TMP. A fun evening was had by all and £500 was contributed to TMP.



Ian Love & friends, Australia

The Claremont Concert Band, led by David Cusworth put in a great effort busking over Christmas, and raised over \$400 for TMP.

Separately, Ian was instrumental in establishing a fund-raising campaign in support of emergency relief work in the wake of Cyclone Komen.



Liz & Tim Lofthouse, Australia

Over 100 family and friends enjoyed a wonderful summer's evening of jazz organised by Liz & Tim, which raised over \$3,000 for The Mandalay Projects.



Deryck Graham, Australia

Another fabulous fundraising event, this time an outdoor movie night, organised by Deryck in Perth WA. Well-supported by friends and neighbours, the event raised \$500 for TMP.



Fiona Barton, UK

Long-standing TMP supporter Fiona undertook a series of day challenges involving a 5 hr walk, 4 hrs of tennis, a 3 hr bike ride, a 2 hr swim and a 1 hr run. She persuaded family and friends to sponsor her, and Fiona's efforts raised £1,500 which was donated to TMP's chicken farm project in the Chin Hills of Burma.

Cathy Birch and Jane Tucker, Singapore

The annual Quiz Night & Auction at the British Club in Singapore, held to raise funds for TMP, has become something of an institution. The 2015 event, organised by Cathy & Jane, with support on the night from quiz-master Simon Cholmeley and great TMP ambassadors Marie Hudson, Heather Allen, Lucy Hill, Shukor & Edmond, raised an amazing \$30,000.



TMPL administrative matters

The TMPL Board met regularly throughout 2015, and was grateful for the support of **Candice Stevenson**, as company secretary, and **Michael Brown**, who has taken on the role of our in-house accountant. These services are provided pro bono, allowing us to ensure that substantially all of the money donated to TMPL is deployed directly in our project work.

The Board approved the introduction of a new accounting/book-keeping platform, and we are now in the process of reviewing software to help us manage our supporter/donor database and improve our communication with all of our stakeholders.

In May and June, the Board conducted an in-depth review of its strategic plan, which resulted in some minor adjustments to our operating model and a re-prioritisation of our project work. We also submitted another application to the Australian government, asking for tax-deductibility status for donations to TMP in Australia, and we await the outcome of this process.

The **TMPL Annual General Meeting** was held in Perth, WA on 28th November, 2015.

In March, TMP Directors Ian Love and Lucy Henry met with Australia's Minister for Foreign Affairs, The Hon Julie Bishop MP. The discussion confirmed that what we are doing is consistent with Australia's aid objectives in reducing human trafficking. We were pleased to discover that Minister Bishop knew of us. She genuinely shares our passion in this area.



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