



# Let's YAK

*Nying-Jey means 'Compassion'*

Official Newsletter for Nying-Jey Projects for Tibetan Communities (Australia) Inc



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NJP President

Geshe Sonam Thargye

I want to say thank you to all the sponsors and the Nying-Jey committee for their continuing support of the Tibetan communities in Tibet and India. I have no need to tell you all the history of NJP and outline the successes we have had raising funds for the school and the hospital, for the nunneries and for the monks in recent years. Most of you already know what has been achieved.

The education program at Sangye School has been very successful. This year, fifty students have finished their primary education and will go on to secondary school, and 50 new students will be able to begin their primary school education.

Now we have recognised a new project providing scholarships for students who have been successful in secondary school to help them progress to a university education. This year the program has commenced by offering two scholarships for students to go to

university in Shanghai and Beijing. We hope to expand this program year by year.

The work at the hospital has continued to help many, many people in the area. Over 200 patients a day attend the hospital or the clinic. The staff and patients are benefiting greatly from the new facilities.

Some westerners have travelled to Ganzi to offer their help to the school and the hospital. Last year one western teacher went to Sangye School to teach English. This year three westerners have decided to travel to Ganzi to teach at the school. Also this year one western nurse will spend some time working in the hospital. In 2007, one of our local people, a doctor, will spend several months working at the hospital. This is of great benefit not only to the patients but also to the staff who can learn many aspects of western medicine.

I want to say thank you so much. All this success comes from the Nying-Jey Committee and all the sponsors. The people of Ganzi are very grateful for this help. I look forward to another successful year for Nying-Jey Projects.

*Geshe Sonam Thargye*

## **Opportunity to Make A Difference**

*Do something wonderful and exciting that will make a difference and be a life changing experience!*



*The Sangye School and the Sangye Hospital are both looking for people who would be willing to spend up to 3 months of their time as a volunteer.*



*If you would like any further information please contact us and we will forward your expression of interest on to the appropriate people.*

# Going to school.... with your help

by Inge Fuglested



**G**anzi is in the Sichuan province of China or Eastern Kham if you're Tibetan. It's a small farming town, 3,500 meters up and last year I travelled there with Geshe Sonam's Top of the World tour and stayed on for two months teaching English at the Sangye School as a volunteer. It turned out to be one of the biggest experiences of my life and immensely rewarding.

To those who sponsor the school or are thinking about helping, let me assure you much is being achieved there. None of the children at the Sangye School would be receiving an education without your financial help. Their parents, mostly farmers or nomads, simply couldn't afford to send them to the public school, but Sangye School is free. Currently there are about 165 children, between the ages of 7 and 14 attending and the school and it is achieving excellent academic results.

Sadly, there is a waiting list of more than 100 children who are hoping to attend, but current funding limits the number of students, teachers and facilities.

## *What I found at the school?*

**T**he first thing that struck me about the school was the building itself. Sangye School is larger and better than I had imagined. The three-storey school seems well-built and houses half a dozen classrooms, a staffroom for the teachers, a couple of multi-purpose rooms and dormitories for the 60 or so boarders. To complete the inventory, there is also a decidedly inadequate kitchen and toilet block, both without running water. Water for washing and cooking is supplied through one tap located in the school yard.

In short, the physical facilities are good, but extremely basic..... the kitchen, toilets

and washing facilities could all do with urgent attention.

**T**he children seem very happy. During my stay I never saw a fight or any of the children looking sad or lonely. Quite the opposite. The students struck me as positive, inclusive and boisterous - like happy children anywhere. In class, they were polite and a lot quieter than we might be used to here.

The teachers are young and dedicated and seem to enjoy their work. There are virtually no teaching aids available at the school and some of the classes don't even have textbooks - for instance, only the eldest children have English textbooks. Obviously, this makes it difficult for the children to do homework, but having said that, the school achieves very good results, so it's mainly a question of making learning easier and more enjoyable.

The classes are large, between 34 and 56 students, which would probably be a nightmare here, but works fine at Sangye. It does mean, however, that it's almost impossible to give students individual attention. And there is little room to do group work - but I found there was always enough space to play "Simon Says" and other simple learning games, hugely popular with the children.

**C**urrently, the students only have one English lesson a week. This affects their proficiency and ideally each level would have three lessons a week, but that depends on the availability of staff.

## *What can be achieved?*

Ganzi is growing fast and is bound to see a major increase in tourism over the coming years. I found it a fabulously beautiful and

safe place to live..... decidedly Tibetan in flavour, with Tibetans accounting for around 75% of the population.

I don't think there's anything more important for Tibetans than education if they are going to have any say in their future and improve their standard of living. Similarly, a command of written and spoken English will open up opportunities and sources of information not currently within their reach.

It was interesting to see the Internet cafe in Ganzi almost exclusively frequented by Chinese - though mainly to play online games!

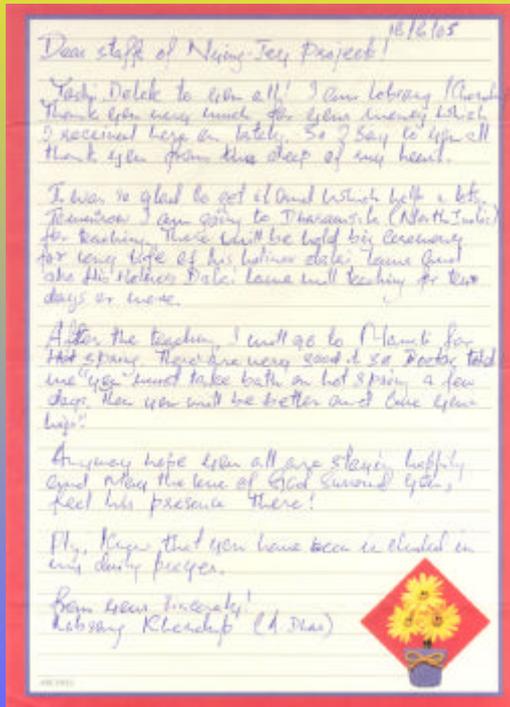
Sangye School needs funds to be able to hire more teachers, take on more students and acquire more teaching tools. They also need funds to continue improving the school's facilities with better toilet, washing and cooking amenities.

If you're interested in volunteering as an English teacher at the school, I'd be happy to help with any information.

I can be contacted on: [inge@thebeach.com.au](mailto:inge@thebeach.com.au)  
Otherwise, the best way to help is to offer financial support through the Nying-Jey Projects.

## +++ Medical Emergency Fund +++

Due to the poor financial situation of some of the exiled monks living in Southern India, they are not able to buy appropriate medicines or access medical services they need. One of the projects that NJP has is a fund to support some of these monks who need financial assistance to pay for health care. Below is the translated letter we thought you might enjoy reading that we received a short time ago from one of the monks who has been a recipient of these funds.



**Dear Staff of Nying-Jey Projects**

**Tashi Delek to you all! I am Lobsang Khendup. Thank you very much for your money which I received here on lately. So I say to you all thank you from the deep of my heart.**

**I was so glad to get it and which help a lot. Tomorrow I am going to Dharamsala (north India) for teaching. There will be held big ceremony for long life of his Holiness Dalai Lama and also His Holiness Dalai Lama will teaching for ten days or more.**

**After the teaching I will go to Mumbai for hot spring. They are very good so Doctor told me "you must take a bath in hot spring a few days. Then you will be better and cure your hip".**

**Anyway hope you can all staying happy and may the love of God surround you, feel his presence there!**

**Please know that you have been included in my daily prayers.**

**From yours sincerely  
Lobsang Khendup**

## Fundraiser Raffle Winners

We would like to congratulate Craig Davey of Torquay Victoria, as the winner of the Fundraiser raffle for a 2 night luxury stay at the Avalon Coastal Retreat in Tasmania.

**2nd prize** - a pair of Ripcurl men's & ladies watches went to Shirley Strachan of Belmont, Victoria.

**3rd prize** - a Medicine Buddha Thangka went to J Jacobson of Torquay, Queensland

Nying-Jey wishes to thank **Avalon Coastal Retreat** in Tasmania. ([www.avaloncoastalretreat.com.au](http://www.avaloncoastalretreat.com.au)), **Ripcurl Australia** and **Geshe Sonam Thargye** for donating the prizes that were raffled in this fundraising event.



**Craig Davey being presented with his prize by the secretary Janece Kelsall.**



# A Sponsor's Story

by Sue Duncan



A sentence in the advertisement for the Top of the World Tour in the Drol Kar newsletter Nov' 04, struck a chord with my twin sister Robyn and I. It said *"the tour is a rare opportunity for sponsors of students and nuns to meet them in their own environment"*. How could we pass up an opportunity like that.

We experienced something we will never forget - the children had lined our path from the gates to the main school building. They chanted 'Tashi Delek' and placed a kata around each of our necks.

We were ushered upstairs where Kusho Sangye Rinpoche welcomed us to the school. Once the welcoming was completed, Rob and I wrote the children's sponsorship numbers on the palms of our hands and rushed downstairs to try and locate them. One of the teachers assisted us to find our children, Tsering Drolkar and Phuntsok Wangyal. They were standing right in front of us!!! Rob had received a photo of Phuntsok from John Donaldson (one of the sponsors who had been there in previously) so we knew he was the right child. It was a completely different situation with Tsering however. The girl



in the passport photo I had received in August 2003, had a serious expression with a strong and determined look in her eyes. But the girl I was looking at was smiling and beautiful, like a doll. I thought "is that really you?" but the next thing I knew Rob & I were hugging them and you guessed it crying again.

Sponsors were invited back to the school on Tuesday afternoon to take their children shopping in Ganzi. We had been told that some of the family members would be there too. Rob and I were very excited to meet Phuntsok's mother and Tsering's grandmother. We had a very happy afternoon, with Phuntsok's mother demonstrating her excellent negotiation skills in the purchase of shoes, jackets

and socks for Phuntsok and Tsering. Rob & I were notified when the negotiation was finalised, so we could hand over the relevant amount of Yuans. The day was capped off wonderfully when Rob met Phuntsok Wangyal's grandmother and I met Tsering Drolkar's mother and father (who had been harvesting) and her little sister. It was during this day that I found out that the beautiful girl really was my sponsor child, Tsering Drolkar - firstly the strong side of her personality made an appearance in the shoe buying (that's another story) and secondly when her father showed me the letters and things I had sent her over the past two years.

On Wednesday we went back to the school to meet a group of nuns sponsored by Nying-Jey projects. Rob and I noticed a welcoming party of children had formed at the gates and we were very happy to see the smiling faces of Phuntsok Wangyal and Tsering Drolkar.

Sadly it was soon time to say goodbye - we told them through one of the teachers, who spoke excellent English, that we would think about them everyday.

Well we have been back in Geelong for some time now and do we think about them everyday? - Yes, with a capital 'Y'. Before the trip, the people we cared about lived in Victoria & Cairns - but now we have this connection with two children (referred to by Rob & I as the 'treasures') and their families in Ganzi. It is absolutely fantastic and has made a marked difference to our outlook on life.

I would like to finish by thanking Geshela and Kusho Sangye Rinpoche for making it possible and to Nying- Jey Projects particularly Fiona for all her hard work in organising the trip. For those of you who are considering going, well all I can say is *'do it.'* Hopefully, it will be just as rewarding an experience for you as it has been for Robyn and myself.



## ***A Little about our PROJECTS.....***

*NJP currently has several active projects running which are all designed to support our aims for the Tibetan communities in Tibet & India. These projects consist of:*

### **Monk, Nun & Student Sponsorship**

Enables the recipients to receive an improved standard of living and better themselves academically.

### **Medical Emergency Fund (MEF)**

Donations received are sent to selected beneficiaries who are ill and unable to pay for medical services. Is life saving for some and has greatly improved the health for others.

### **Sangye Hospital (HOS)**

Donations received for the hospital are used for the daily running costs and provision of infrastructure.

### **Sangye School (SCH)**

Donations received are used to improve the schools infrastructure and enable the school to continue to provide affordable education and lodgings to the students of the Tibetan community.

### **Exiled Monks Donations (EMD)**

Donations received provide assistance to monks living in exile throughout Southern India.

### **PostAid (PostAid)**

Donations received are used to cover the postage and handling costs of sending items to Tibet and India.

## ***And now our newest PROJECT.....***

# **THE SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

### **Scholarship Fund (SCF)**

Due to the overwhelming success of our student sponsorship program, we now have students who have progressed through secondary school levels and would like to continue their education at a tertiary level but cannot afford to. With this in mind we formally launched the Scholarship Fund at a fundraising dinner that raised \$2,354.88. Supporters donations have increased the total to \$5,469.88.

The cost of sending students to higher education is considerably more expensive. It is estimated that it will cost approximately \$2000 to keep a student at a University or TAFE college for a year. This money will cover the students fee's, travel, food and accommodation as they will need to travel to larger towns to find suitable schools.

Two students (one female & one male) have been selected to commence their Tertiary Education. We will publish their details in the next newsletter and on our website. It is hoped they will return to their communities and pass on their skills and help others to grow & develop. This will then complete the circle and given them the same opportunity that we take for granted as a **basic human right**.

## ***'Torquay to Tibet' Fundraiser at The Rose***

NJP committee member Fin Crothall and her husband Gary organised an evening of music and fun as we were entertained by seven different bands who all donated their time and talent to assist us to fund raise for the Sangye School & Hospital.



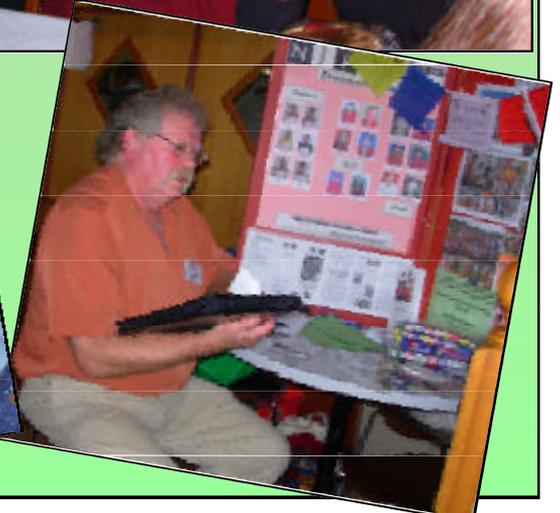
Above: Fin & Gary Crothall  
 Above L: Moonah  
 Bottom R: King Cadillac  
 Left: Soyang selling raffle tickets

## ***The Wild Yak Restaurant Fundraiser***

The launch of the Scholarship Fund was spent sharing great food, meeting other sponsors and hearing fabulous stories from sponsors who have travelled to Tibet to see the students & nuns. Fun night had by all.



Above: Committee members Cathy & Graham Wilson. Right: Geshe Sonam Thargye with past secretary Liz Herzer and Inge Fuglested  
 Below right: NJP treasurer Colin Kelsall. Below middle: Ven' Tashila



## MEMBERSHIP

Since our last Newsletter our membership has increased from 28 to 449 of which 246 are financial. A great result. Following concerns expressed by some members regarding their rights and liabilities, we have included a copy of the relevant legislation covering this issue:

### **ASSOCIATIONS INCORPORATION ACT 1981 - SECT 15. ACT NO. 9713/1981**

**Version incorporating amendments as at 12/12/2005**

#### **RIGHTS AND LIABILITIES OF MEMBERS**

*(1) Except as otherwise provided by this Act or the rules of an incorporated association, a member of the committee, the public officer or a member of the incorporated association shall not, by reason only of his being such a member or officer, be liable to contribute towards the payment of the debts and liabilities of the incorporated association or the costs, charges and expenses of the winding up of the incorporated association.*

*(2) Except where otherwise expressly provided by this Act or by its rules, membership of an incorporated association shall not be deemed to confer upon members any right, title or interest, whether legal or equitable, in the property of the incorporated association.*

#### **OVERSEAS AID & TAX DEDUCTIBILITY**

We now have the membership base to pursue our claim and have identified one major hurdle. We have to prove that the nature of the assistance we provide is 'Developmental' as opposed to 'Welfare'. Luckily we are receiving help with this and have received a draft copy of the application which has identified other areas needing clarification from our overseas partners. Both Geshela and Fiona will be seeking answers when they visit Tibet on the forthcoming Top of The World Tour in August. When we receive this information we will submit our application.

#### **GIFT RECEIPT ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The new system of sponsors receiving advice from students in Tibet seems to be working. We recently received 61 'Advice of Gift' receipts that were either emailed or mailed to the sponsors.

#### **LETTERS & TRANSLATIONS**

I'll try to clarify the situation regarding your letters and translations as it is different for Nuns, Monks & Students.

Writing letters to either Monks or Students: *Mail directly to them in English.*

Writing to your Nun: *Send them to us for translation. Either email them to us and we will email*



*them back or post them to us with a self addressed stamped envelope for their return.*

Please try and keep your letters short and simple as your beneficiary will not be as fluent in English as you are. Also letters sent to the Students do place a strain on the very limited nr of people available to translate them into English.

If you receive a letter written in Tibetan, we will translate it for you. Either scan and email it to us & we will email it back or post it to us with a self addressed stamped envelope for its return.

The address in China for both the Nuns & Students is available from our web site or call us.

#### **FAST FACTS AS AT 1st JUNE 2006**

Sponsorship Statistics	Total No In Program	Total Being Sponsored	Total Seeking Sponsorship
NUNS	165	130	35
MONKS	270	200	70
STUDENTS	179	175	4
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>614</b>	<b>505</b>	<b>109</b>

**DOWNLOAD THE NEWSLETTER IN  
GLORIOUS COLOUR FROM OUR WEBSITE**

[www.njp.org.au](http://www.njp.org.au)

**SUGGESTED GIFTS for STUDENTS:**

*Most of the clothing items listed below can be obtained in Tibet but are inferior in quality to our Australian goods. Also keep in mind that temperatures can drop to -10 degrees in winter, so make sure you buy goods that are of a good quality.*

T-Shirts, Fleecy Windcheaters, Coats, Jackets, Jumpers, Thick Socks, Beanies, Gloves, Shoes, Ugg Boots, Toiletries, Writing Sets, Writing Paper, Action Comics, Australiana, Book Marks, Soccer Balls, Stickers, Toys, Games, Hair Accessories, School Bags/Backpacks, Sleeping Bags(rated to -20 degrees).

**ALL ITEMS MUST BE SENT BY THE SPONSOR  
DIRECTLY TO THEIR BENEFICIARY**

## **Nying-Jey Projects AGM**

**Wednesday September 13<sup>th</sup> at 7pm**

Diversitat Community Centre, 9-15 Clarence St, Geelong West (west off Pakington St)

**EVERYBODY IS WELCOME**

Would you like to join the Nying-Jey committee? We currently have 2 vacancies on our committee. We meet the second Wednesday of the month in the evening. If you wish to nominate for one of these positions you need to be a financial member of NJP and you **MUST BE ABLE TO ATTEND THE MEETINGS.**

*For further information, contact the secretary at [njprojects@gmail.com](mailto:njprojects@gmail.com) or phone: 0425 765 757*

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