

Nepal Update – Tasmanian Rotarian – Kevin Shadbolt

Recently , Jean Thomson from the Corrimal Club through her contact Janice Reid , was sent back an update from a Tasmanian Rotarian , Kevin Shadbolt , who returned recently from Nepal.

It makes for sobering reading , and indicates that Nepal is STILL in need of as much humanitarian aid as possible.

It was a very strenuous trip, 5 weeks is a long time away but the problems they have in Nepal in particular were quite depressing. We were under pressure all the time to look at schools, orphanage etc. We did meet with Glen White and the consul Steve Rowe who grew up near where I live and whose family I knew from farming. That was an interesting and very pleasant experience. We also met Dr Ruet who made a special effort to meet several of us and to thank us for the equipment supplied to the hospital and the support of eye camps.

With great fanfare we opened the school we had funded and I opened the Water Project supplying over 200 homes school etc. with clean water. We were very impressed with the work done on these projects, hopefully they will maintain both.

Madan put us under much pressure to support a village of 17 families with our earthquake money. We were not comfortable supporting such a small community although their need was obvious. The last day we were taken to a remote village servicing a large area where a school of 800 kids had been severely damaged by the earthquake. We all agreed that this was an ideal project to support. Diplomatically we have asked the club to draw up an outline of both projects and an estimated cost for us to consider. Everyone seemed happy. We just have to wait for the information.

Back in KTM we met PDG Dilendra (an old friend) and talked to him about the proposed school project. He said that fitted exactly with the district goals. Schools were their priority and he encouraged us to proceed with this project – very reassuring.

We saw a house you had funded and a very grateful owner, a retired musician near the Hetauda eye hospital. The elderly couple very proudly showed us around – just great to see.

Amar went out of his way to assist us and even brought his delightful daughter Eyesha so assist Anne with shopping. (He is to arrange her marriage one day and I was quick to reminded him we have an eligible son!!)

There were many highs and lows during our time in Nepal. The blockade is considered more serious than the earthquake by many and it certainly has added to their woes. It seems a very sad country.

It was pleasing to see that our involvement has helped many and our next project will hopefully help even more but it is still just a drop in the ocean.