

# THE EAST WEST OVERSEAS AID FOUNDATION

## Newsletter

Issue 27, June 2019

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

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**For those that do not know me, I have been involved in our Foundation for the past 15 years. I have recently taken over from Beth Charles as President and have very large shoes to fill!**

The year has started with a trip to Uluru in January, accompanied by my daughter and grandson. It was so exciting and gratifying to see some of the results of the hard work we do locally to raise much needed funds.

*The photo is of some of our young adults who all now work or study in Chennai. They should be very proud as they have achieved remarkable outcomes through years of hard work.*

There are more children to follow. It takes \$A1600 annually to pay for their tertiary education and living expenses, plus many years of care beforehand for these amazing young adults.

We all have our own reasons for being involved in this organisation. For me, it is the opportunity to be personally involved in providing a home, a safe environment and education to children. I never take for granted how fortunate I am to live in a country that has a safety net for our marginalised people.

You will find information on our work involving the environment, health care, community development, education and child rights and relief elsewhere in this newsletter and on our website [www.tewfa.org.au](http://www.tewfa.org.au). I particularly recommend the latest update from India under the Events and News page.

Please enjoy reading the rest of the newsletter and consider joining us as we are a small but committed crew! We have various sub groups such as the Gala Dinner group, the Golf Day group, the Thursday Working group or the Management Committee. We would welcome anyone with an interest in our Foundation, has a sense of fun and has ideas and/or time to contribute. Better still, plan a visit to Uluru and witness first hand what a special place it is.

**Judy Nutbean** President



## NEWSFLASH

We are excited to announce that The East West Overseas Aid Foundation has recently been granted Schedule 1 Charity status by the Australian Taxation Office. We have had Category 2 status for the past 18 years. The Foundation is now eligible to receive donations from Private Ancillary Funds as well as Public Ancillary Funds. If you know any family or friends with these funds please consider informing them of the excellent work done by the Foundation.

The Schedule 1 status has also involved changing our name to The East West Foundation of Australia (TEWFA). Much consideration has been given to the need for a name change. We believe that our new name reflects more closely the Foundation's current aims and purposes.

A new logo has also been chosen. We are fortunate to have had our friends at Kreategraphics to design the logo pro bono. Very soon your donation receipt will include the new name and logo. Gradual changes will also be made to our letterhead and forms etc as our current stationery stock runs down.

It has been a long journey! We express our heartfelt gratitude to our pro bono law firm Arnold Bloch Leibler who worked on our behalf. Thanks also go to Ron Merkel and Beth Charles for their tireless efforts on this important project.

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### TWO NEW CLASSROOMS!

The opening of two new primary school classrooms by donors from Singapore took place on the 8th February.

Dr Vimala Selvadurai, a TEWFI Foundation Fellow, had kindly hosted a dinner at her home in Singapore last year and raised the required funds. The visitors liked what they saw at Uluru and pledged to fund two more classrooms for the middle school!

### THE RECENT KOLAM COMPETITION AT ULURU





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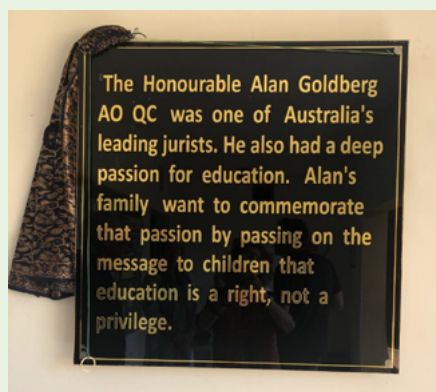
### RACHEL GOLDBERG

Rachel Goldberg visited earlier this year for the inauguration of a classroom at the Uluru Early Learning Centre that she and her husband Alan had donated to. Rachel spent many hours with the school children and participated in some of their tutorial classes. At the inauguration she spoke of Alan's passion for education.

Rachel's previous visit was in 2002 when the Uluru Children's Home was being built. So many changes, and so much achieved since then.

#### *Pictured:*

*Rachel with the Early Learning Centre teachers, Head Teacher Mrs Amudha and children.*



### NELLIE CASTAN

Nellie Castan visited TEWFI in January 2019 for the inauguration of Castan's Way and Castan Bridge. Nellie donated both the building of the road and bridge to commemorate her husband Ron. Ron Castan AM QC (1939-1999) was one of Australia's greatest Human Rights lawyers. The road and bridge are a tribute by Ron's family to his journey, an important part of which included his trip to India as a law student in 1960 when he met the Dalai Lama and Prime Minister Nehru.

Nellie spoke warmly to the staff and the Uluru children about Ron's contribution to Human Rights and also spoke of his journey in life.



*Nellie Castan at the opening of the Castan Bridge*

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## VOLUNTEER BARRY COOPER'S REFLECTIONS ON ULURU VISIT FEBRUARY 2019

*"The thing is that I now have a much better idea of the challenging context within which Uluru is making its tremendous achievement. If it was only happy children that would be enough, but it's far far more ..."*

*First of all, what an achievement Uluru is: the Children's home, the Clinic, the School, the link with Auroville ... All have become part of the community and as I grow to understand the 'political' challenges within the community, that's been no easy task....*

### **The Financial Literacy Program**

*My idea was to expose different groups to different parts of the Financial Literacy spectrum. The Trading and Saving Game for Littlies:*

- Lesson #1:** *was that there were little Littlies and not-so-little Littlies, both of whom played in different ways - and therefore requiring a different teaching program.*
- Lesson #2:** *was that in Tamil Nadu, the concept is not so much Trading and Saving but Bargaining and Accumulating!*
- Lesson #3:** *was environmental: the overhead fans can play havoc with lightweight teaching materials! Personally it was a joy to see (and hear!!) them all enter into the spirit of the game.*

### **The Bookkeeping Program:**

*The next step in the sequence was the Student group who worked through the professional technicalities of taking simple bookkeeping records and turning them into Accountant-speak ... Profit & Loss, Balance Sheet and Cash Flow Statement - and knowing why. In these sessions, the contribution of Usha, Siran and Meneka was immense - and they all now know how to work from the prepared scripts and run the session. For this group, I, with Siran's help, hooked iniPax.com into the overhead*



*projector and showed how the whole book-keeping, financial statements and benchmarking exercise can be done online. iniPax.com is a website that I've developed over the years and is available (free of charge) to Uluru. So ... the Littlies have now been introduced to Bargaining and Accumulation; the Students have acquired technical accounting skills that will benefit the community. Which leads to the next group ... Uluru staff.*

### **Community Outreach**

*Uluru and its staff are respected members of the community. It doesn't take much imagination to see them as the villages' go to people when advice is needed or things start to go wrong. So the sessions with staff were designed to let them know about their new resource: the Students, Usha, Siran and Meneka. People who can be called on if help and advice is called for from the villagers. Staff were shown what is available and when it could be*

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*applied - but none of the technical stuff ... that's already in good hands, those of the Students. The students are now quite capable of entering data from bookkeeping records and explaining financial ratios and benchmarks.*

### **Women's Groups**

*The fourth group were down in the Community Centre: the Women's groups ... the pinnacle of the sequence, the people who can apply all this Financial Literacy stuff. The sessions began with the things that can make a business better, the global benchmarks that are just as relevant to a watermelon farm as the Tata Group... Again, Usha and Siran were fantastic at turning my words into those that the women could comprehend. The interaction ranged from 'how can I use this to start a watermelon farm?' to 'That's not the way we do things around here.'*

### **So ... to summarise the Sequence ...**

- Littlies, an introduction to business
- Students, technical hands-on exposure to Financial Statements and Benchmarks
- Staff, introduction to the skills that Uluru can offer to the community
- Women's Group, direct explanation of the business benefits of a well-maintained bookkeeping program

### **All very well, but what did all this really achieve?**

*I believe that the program and the audiences were right. My own personality defect is that I always feel that I could have done better. That's not false modesty. I have brought a lot back and have a lot of re-writing/re-building to do - which I'll certainly share when it's done... I could have made much better use of your technology ... computer lab and overhead projector ... but I think that my learning Tamil is a bridge too far. Gujji helped me with a page of phrases that I thought might break the ice (not an appropriate metaphor, given the glorious weather) but I'm afraid that when I tried them I was met with blank stares - followed by gales of laughter when my attempts were translated by Uluru people! Inevitably, 7 days is too brief. .... but as I've said, I've already embarked on rethinking my material and will get it back to Uluru as soon as it's done.*

### **Finally, the People**

*I wish I could name all of them, but I can talk about those with whom I have worked directly. I've had long talks with Aditi... we talked about so many things and explored so many ideas in such a short time... Usha and Siran, brother and sister, brought life to the various sessions by listening to my words and presenting them to an audience that clearly 'got it'. Great minds, both of them, and lovely people. Meneka did the same for the second student session - and was always there to lend support and reassurance on so many other little things... The teaching staff, from the Littlies room to the computer lab. Raj - who, with immense skill, kept me alive to and from Chennai and to and from Pondy (see how I'm talking like a local!). Geetha who watched quietly and was always welcoming. The Clinic who treated my blistered toe as though it was heart surgery. The Chef ... loved every mouthful but was so generous I may never eat again! The social worker (I'm sorry, one name I didn't catch) who was so kind and supportive when we went to the Women's group and then back at Uluru. The Fishing fleet. Always there, seen and heard, day and night. The joy of the farewell concert on Saturday evening. The Bird Life. THE KIDS.*

Thank you TEWFI

**Barry (aka Uncle; aka Pa)**

### **STOP PRESS:**

Barry is in negotiations  
to return to Uluru.  
Thank you Barry.





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**TEWOAF's Day Sponsorship Program underpins the whole of the Foundation's activities on the ground.**

The money received goes some way to cover the running costs of the Uluru Children's Home, which cares for a particularly vulnerable group of children, providing them with a safe and caring environment. The funds also support the community education, development and environmental programs the Foundation runs.

The Day Sponsorship donors have played a key role in assisting the Foundation to keep operating over the years and we would love to have 365 days fully covered.

Day Sponsorship cards are included in the Newsletter.

Please consider joining the Foundation Day Sponsor 'family', or perhaps sign up on behalf of a family member or dear friend as a Christmas gift.

*We thank Seasol once again for generously continuing to cover the administration costs for this program.*

## Please make a difference Sponsor a Day



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## 2019 Annual Golf Day



### WHAT A DIFFERENCE A GOLF DAY MAKES

The weather gods were kind and the 11th annual Golf Day was a fantastic success. There was some spirited competition between the teams competing for the inaugural Real Estate Agents' Cup. It was won this year by Peter Virgano and his team from Jellis Craig. Well done gentlemen!

The organising committee would like to express gratitude to all the sponsors and supporters and in particular, Seasol International. They, along with John Shuster, covered most of the administration and printing costs for the event.

We would also like to thank major sponsors ULR Land Rover Malvern, BMF Construction, Jellis Craig Real Estate, Burgess Rawson Real Estate, Nelson Alexander, Gross Waddell Real Estate, Ladbrokes, Radisson on Flagstaff Gardens, Shaw and Partners and River Capital Pty Ltd.

Lajosi putters and Samsonite generously donated the major prizes.

The event was a great financial triumph, raising more than \$45,000. This contributes significantly in providing healthcare, education, relief and refuge for destitute children, and the overall development of sustainable, vibrant communities in Southern India.

As our fundraising events are for the most part organised and staffed by volunteers, the Foundation's overheads are kept to an absolute minimum. We can therefore direct the funds to those most in need.

Thanks to everyone who helped to make this day a success!

### SAVE THE DATE

#### TEWFA 2020 12th ANNUAL GOLF DAY

We hope you can all join us for another fun day!

February 28th 2020 at the Southern Golf Club



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**SAVE THE DATE**

27th ANNIVERSARY

**Gala  
Dinner**

**Saturday October 12th  
2019 at 7pm**

**Manningham Function Centre  
Doncaster**

Come dressed in your brightest and best and enjoy great Indian cuisine, Auctions and Raffle.

Tickets \$150 each  
(\$95 concession for students under 25)

Funds raised will help our development programmes that cover health care, relief for children at risk, education, community development and environmental sustainability.

We look forward to seeing you there.  
Your invitation is enclosed with this Newsletter.