SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S

# HIMALAYAN TRUST

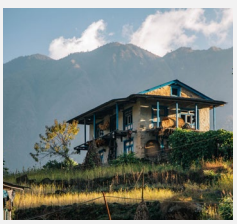
# ANNUAL REPORT



## 2023










HIMALAYAN TRUST
FOUNDED 1960
BY SIR EDMUND HILLARY

The Himalayan Trust is an nonprofit humanitarian organisation working in the Solukhumbu Mt Everest region of Nepal.

Our aim is to improve the health, education and wellbeing of people living in this region.



## INTRODUCTION

When Sir Edmund Hillary made the first ascent of Everest in 1953, it was the beginning of a long legacy that would shape the lives of people from the Himalayas to New Zealand. In the 70 years since then, the Himalayan Trust has played a big role in supporting the people of the Solukhumbu region and Ed's legacy and vision still remains relevant and important.

## OUR APPROACH

### Power in Partnership

The people and the communities of the Everest region are at the centre of all our work. Ed established the Trust to operate in an inclusive way. As such we listen to the community, provide assistance where we can, and support their vision for a better future.

### Sustainable Development

We work in close partnership with local organisations in Nepal who all have unique local expertise, knowledge and experience. Working together means we can have a greater impact and ensure long-term, sustainable change.

### Long Term Commitment to Change

We are committed to supporting the people of Solukhumbu and the Everest region for many years to come. Our projects and actions all work towards a long term goal of breaking the cycle of poverty.

NAMASTE

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The 2022/23 year has seen significant involvement from the members and supporters of Himalayan Trust both domestically and within the international Himalayan Trust community. Throughout the year many of our members have contributed much to our fundraising activities and their contributions have made all the difference, Thuuche and Thank you. Although the New Zealand Everest 70 celebrations fall outside of the financial year to which this report relates, the outpouring of support from donors and supporters during this time has been incredibly empowering to the Himalayan Trust's mission in New Zealand and abroad.

We acknowledge the incredible passion and support that Rt Honourable Helen Clark and Sir Graham Wrigley have brought to the international Himalayan Trust cooperation around the Everest70 anniversary celebrations.

We would like to pay special thanks to the tireless work and inspiration of Lisa Choegyal, New Zealand's Honorary Consul to Nepal, who has been an incredible advocate for the work of the Himalayan Trust in this important year.

We are also very grateful to the support that the New Zealand government continues to provide the Himalayan Trust. The New Zealand High Commissioner in New Delhi, David Pine, continues to be a strong advocate for our work as well as our partners at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade in Wellington. Tēnā koutou.

To our partners at Himalayan Trust Nepal, for without whom our work would not be possible: thank you Pasang Dawa, Mingma Norbu and Lhakpa Tenji.

And last but certainly not least, the volunteer board of the Himalayan Trust who's significant investment of time and expertise makes our work possible. Thank you Peter Hillary (chair), Michael Gill (deputy chair), Claire Newman (strategy), David Simmons (education), Phurenje Sherpa (cultural), Bruce Arroll (healthcare), Emma Heydon (healthcare), Kirsten Nicholson (water), Alex Witten-Hannah (legal), and Lindsay Strang (healthcare).

## LINDSAY STRANG'S TENURE ON THE HIMALAYAN TRUST BOARD

For the past year Lindsay has been co-opted onto the Himalayan Trust board, however, at our AGM in November he will be stepping down from that role. He will continue to be committed to help with the work of the Himalayan Trust where he can. We'd like to take this opportunity to express our gratitiude for his commitment and work on the board for so many years.

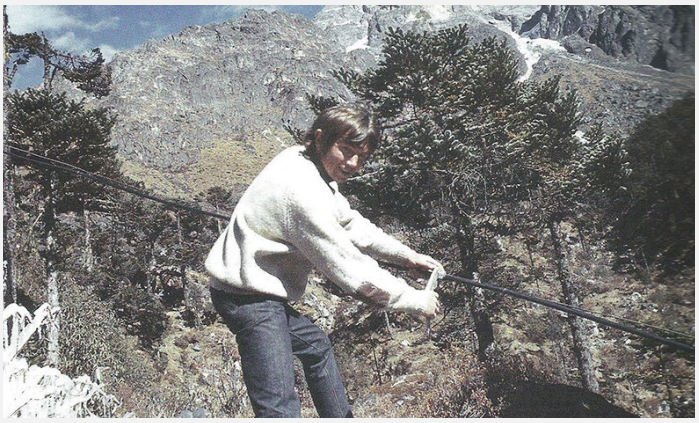
Lindsay Strang was thirteen years old when Sir Edmund Hillary gave an address at his Nelson school.  Lindsay was inspired. He decided to become a doctor, took up climbing, and planned to do overseas volunteer work once he had qualified. After graduation, he worked at Christchurch Hospital, where he met Dick Evans and John McKinnon, who told him about Khunde Hospital. There he also met and married Genevieve Thompson,

a nurse, well known as a lively contributor to the medical parties they both attended. Like Lindsay, Genevieve was the daughter of a Presbyterian minister and had had thoughts of volunteer work. They talked together about Khunde and decided to apply for 1972–1973.

In the end, the two Strangs worked in Khunde from November 1971 to January 1974 with a brief interruption in 1973 to welcome the arrival of new baby Dorje Strang.



Left | Genevieve Strang shows her new baby Dorje to the locals. 1972-74



Right | Lindsay Strang mends the pipeline that runs from the Khunde spring down to the village tank beside the hospital. 1972-74



Left | Lindsay and Genevieve Strang with Ed Hillary and Ang Rita in 1973.




Right | Lindsay Strang leading a group of Summit Challenge participants on a hike to Mueller Hut, Mt Cook, 2021.

On their return to Christchurch Lindsay entered general practice in Darfield near Christchurch with ex-Khunde doctor Dick Evans. He joined Max Pearl and John McKinnon as the backbone of the Medical Committee of the Himalayan Trust until the committee was disbanded in 2003. When it resumed its role in 2012 Lindsay was again at its centre and in 2016 became a Board Member where he has been an essential voice of commonsense and wisdom based on 50 years of experience and enduring affection for the people of The Everest region of Nepal.

In addition to healthcare advice, Lindsay has been instrumental in many fundraising activities as well as education programme work.

Thuuche and thank you Lindsay for your years of dedicated service to the Himalayan Trust.

## MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR

Dear Himalayan Trust members, Supporters and Friends of the Himalayan Trust,

2023 has been a remarkable year in which we have celebrated the accomplishment and legacy of 70 years since the first ascent of Mt Everest and 60 years since the creation of the Himalayan Trust. The trust has been a tried and true supporter and facilitator of education, health, infrastructure and environmental programmes in Solukhumbu. Our commitment to this legacy and mission remains steadfast.

### Steadfast Progress on Quality Education Programme Solukhumbu (QEPS)

Our core mission revolves around providing quality education to the people of the Himalayas. In 2023, we have made significant strides in this area, continuing the great work started by Sir Edmund Hillary. We've made progress in the improvement of school facilities, the establishment of 8 new computer labs alongside our partners at Edutech Nepal, and have provided support to many teachers and students through educational programmes, teacher training and scholarships. Our partnership with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trad (MFAT) with the Quality Education Programme Solukhumbu (QEPS) and the Literacy through Integrated Learning (LIL) programmes for our improved education outcomes has been an essential and primary collaboration and we are very thankful for their support, guidance and commitment to our work.

### Global Attention through E70 and Event Success

The Himalayan Trust gained global attention across New Zealand and the world over the 70th anniversary of the first ascent of Mt Everest on 29 May 1953. We participated in celebrations in the Khumbu which included the new Sir Edmund Hillary Visitor Centre at Khumjung and the Tenzing Centre at Namche Bazaar; then in Kathmandu including a meeting with the president of Nepal Ramchandra Paudel , there were 'rock star' receptions in New Delhi with lively and exciting events including an outstanding celebration at the New Zealand High Commission with wonderful stage sets and a large and happy crowd enjoying the presentations; this was followed by celebrations in London which included an audience at Buckingham Palace with King Charles. The Hillary and Tenzing families then spoke at an Everest 70th event in Geneva. Of course the Himalayan Trust held fundraising events in Auckland and Christchurch and I will go to San Francisco for the E70 celebration in late October for the American Himalayan Foundation of which I am a board member. In some ways our series of Everest 70th events mirrored the journey of the 1953 Mt Everest Expedition as they descended from the mountain and travelled around the world to London for the Queen's coronation and the knighthoods of John Hunt and Edmund Hillary.

### Continuity through an Unstable Economic Environment

The 2022/23 year posed economic challenges on both a global scale but also in New Zealand and the Himalayan Trust under the leadership of Alexander Hillary and his colleague Casey Hemmingway ran a variety of fundraising programmes. We are very thankful to our regular givers, event participants, fundraising dinner attendees and to a number of major donors for enabling the Himalayan Trust to continue its uninterrupted support to the Himalayan communities. David Sokol and his family that I guided up into the Khumbu has extended his support of HT's contribution to Khunde Hospital for another ten years at USD$50,000 pa. Fundraising is our primary responsibility and a continued challenge and we will work to increase this over the next few years through Summit Challenge, Everest Day, Himalayan Trust events and sponsorships.

TASHI DELEK

In conclusion, I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to MFAT, our supporters, donors, board, and the entire Himalayan Trust team for their unwavering dedication and passion. I am confident that our collective efforts will continue to make a positive impact on the Himalayan communities we serve and that New Zealanders have such a special relationship with.

Thank you for your trust and support, and I look forward to another year of transformative change with our partners in the Himalayas.

Sincerely,

Peter Hillary
Chairperson, Himalayan Trust

Above Right | The Everest 70 celebrations roundel used internationally.




Above | Peter Hillary speaking at the opening ceremony of the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitors Centre.



Left | Peter Hillary and Dr Kami Temba at Khunde Hospital.



Right | Mike Chisholm, Mingma Norbu Sherpa, Norbu Tenzing and Peter Hillary at the opening of the Namche Computer Lab.

## A YEAR IN NUMBERS

Despite a challenging year of change, our work has continued. Alongside our partner organisation Himalayan Trust Nepal, here is an insight into what we have achieved.

**290** Scholarship students. 111 Male and 179 Female.
A record number of female recipients

**106** Schools with stationery support
up from 65 the previous year.

**20** Teachers with salary support. 14 male and 6 female.

**35** Computer labs maintained and supported with 8 new labs built.

**43** Schools engaged in the Literacy through Integrated Learning programme.

**4,439** Patients treated at Khunde Hospital.
1,833 Male and 2,606 Female.

**1,164** Patients treated at Phortse and Thame clinics

**24** Trekkers travelling to Nepal to visit HT projects.

**33** School-based Teacher Training programmes.

**604** Summit Challenge fundraisers - a new record.

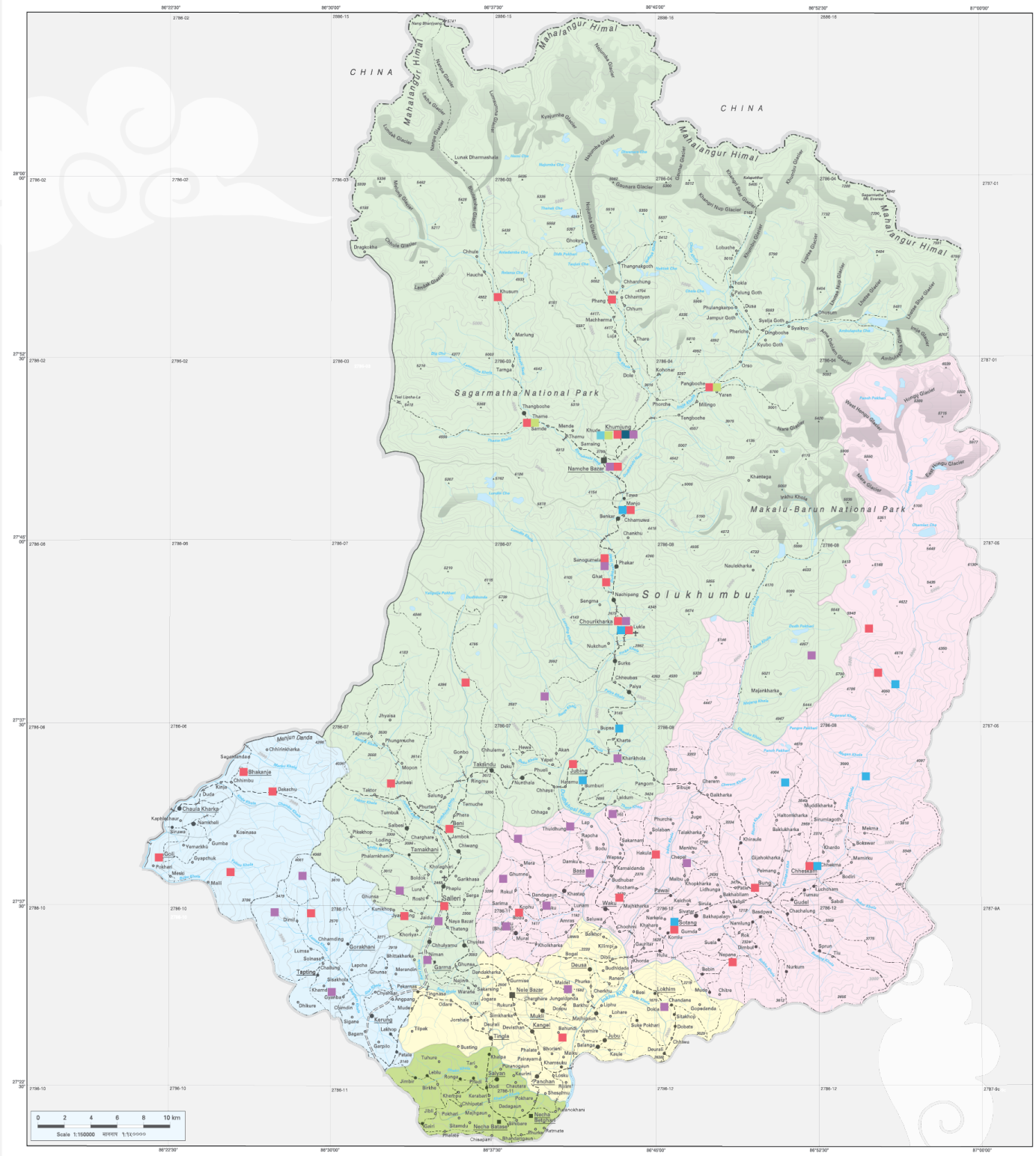
OUR IMPACT

# PROJECT MAP

## Solukhumbu Himalaya Nepal

The Himalayan Trust has projects throughout Solukhumbu in education, healthcare and water. In the 2022/23 year the following locations had active projects. This map does not include every single project location as there are over 100 different locations. Locations on this map are not entirely accurate but provide an idea of project distribution.

- Education
- Computer Labs
- Healthcare
- Water
- Environment
- Other



# HEALTHCARE REPORT

## Healthcare Programme Report from Himalayan Trust Nepal

The health sector has been one of the major programmes of Himalayan Trust since its inception in the 1960s. The Health Programme was initiated by Sir Edmund Hillary in the Khumbu region to address some of the endemic health issues such as goitre, tuberculosis, and malnutrition, while also providing primary healthcare services to the local people. In response to these needs, Khunde Hospital was built in 1966.

Initially, the hospital was operated by volunteer doctors from New Zealand and Canada until 2005 when the responsibility of managing the hospital was taken over by local doctors. Currently, Dr. Kami Temba Sherpa and Dr. Mingma Kanchi Sherpa, alongside a dedicated team comprising nurses, a community-medicine assistant, a lab technician and a maintenance manager.



Above | The Khunde Hospital team which is lead by the absent Mingma Kanchi Sherpa. From left: Dr. Kami Sherpa, Nima Sherpa (Auxiliary Nurse Midwife), Fura Doma Sherpa, (nurse), Sita Kala Rai, (lab assistant) and Sarmila Sherpa (cook and house keeper).

Khunde Hospital as well as the peripheral clinics has been under the management of Himalayan Trust Nepal since 1976 until today. Throughout its existence of over five decades, Khunde Hospital has consistently delivered high-quality healthcare services to the local community and visitors to the region. The hospital serves the communities residing in Khumbu and the Upper Farak region of KPLRM, specifically ward 3, 4 and 5. In addition to catering to the local population, the hospital extends its services to individuals who have migrated to the area for employment purposes, which is an increasing trend. Over the last fiscal year, the hospitals outpatient department recorded a total of 4,439 patients. Furthermore, two outreach clinics located in Phortse and Thame treated 1,164 patients. Overall, the management of Khunde Hospital, including the two outreach clinics, provided medical care to a total of 5,603 patients.

The major types of clinical problems seen daily at both hospital and village clinics are similar to previous years with predominantly infections (respiratory and urinary) followed by non-communicable diseases such as hypertension. The disease pattern over the past few years continues to change. Infectious and communicable disease decreases every year, to be overtaken by non-communicable diseases such as hypertension and diabetes. People are more aware of the non-communicable diseases now leading to frequent screening. Also, patients are reported to attend general examination even if they are in good healthy condition.

As mentioned in our previous Annual Report, after 30 years of funding for Khunde Hospital, the Sir Edmund Hillary Foundation of Canada has had to discontinue it's support. HTNZ's chairperson, Peter Hillary secured funding for Khunde Hospital for two years, in May during the E70 celebrations we were delighted that David and Kelly Sokol commited to extend this support for another 10 years. This incredible expression of support covers over $100,00 USD p.a. in costs to run the hospital each year. This funding is being split between the American

Himalayan Foundation and HTNZ in a joint management partnership. We are very grateful to the Sokol Family Foundation for their commitment and generousity which means that Khunde and the dependant regions have secure healthcare for the coming decade. Thank you David and Kelly.

If you would like further details on the healthcare report please contact info@himalayantrust.org.



Left | David, Kelly, John, Lucy and Camilla Sokol in traditional Sherpa dress at Namche Gompa.



Right | Extensive and modern, facilities at the newly opened government hospital in Phaplu.

## EDUCATION

### Quality Education Programme for Solukhumbu

QEPS has continued strongly into its 3rd year, implemented under the strong leadership of Mingma Norbu and Lhakpa Tenji Lama. The programme consists of 13 components that range from:

- Literacy through Integrated Learning (LIL) programme (in 43 schools),
- School Based Teacher Training Programme (SBTTP) (in 33 schools),
- The establishment of Computer Labs (in 8 schools),
- Teachers support (17 teachers in 12 schools),
- Scholarships awarded to students at the basic, high school and college levels,
- Teaching materials support to 106 schools,
- Classroom management support to Solukhumbu schools
- Small grant support to schools.

### Literacy through Integrated Learning

The main objective of this programme is to increase the literacy skills of students in Grade 1-3 and ECED through integrated learning approaches. The programme aims to provide support through activities like classroom activity planning and home reading log book use and implementation.

### School Based Teacher Training Programme

A large part of SBTTP work focusses on briefing teachers on the recent changes in the basic level (Grade 6-8) curriculum in Nepal. These sessions focussed on Nepali, English, Mathematics and Science subjects over several sessions that trained 51 teachers. Teacher training for ECED teachers was also conducted, which focussed on improving capacity and curriculum delivery. Extensive follow up and monitoring support was carried out for these training programmes with meetings and workshops.

### Computer Labs

The establishment of computer labs in community schools of Solukhumbu stands as a significant project implemented through the collaboration between EduTech Nepal, Himalayan Trust New Zealand, and Himalayan Trust Nepal. From the year 2022/23, Himalayan Trust New Zealand has shared the fifty percent of the total cost in computer purchase with EduTech Nepal. We are delighted to be partnered with Edutech Nepal to deliver strong technological literacy opportunities to Solukhumbu. 8 new computer labs in the 2022/23 year add to a total of 27 computer labs throughout Solukhumbu.

### Teacher Support, Scholarships and Teaching Management.

For many years the Himalayan Trust has been providing salaries to teachers to facilitate English medium education

for the students in Khumbu schools, ensuring quality education in major subjects such as English, Science, Social Studies, and Math. Currently, we support 17 teachers from 12 schools.

Further support is provided to schools throughout Solukhumbu in the form of helping Parent Teacher Associations and School Management Committee's navigate their complicated roles.

Scholarships are an important part of the QEPS programme which are distributed using a selection process that considers gender, disability and social/financial factors. The scholarship details are shown in the table below. Ethnicity of scholarships is predominantly Sherpa and Rai with some scholarships going to minority groups such as Tamang, Magar and others.

| Scholarships | Male | Female |
|---|---|---|
| Sir Edmund Hillary Memorial Scholarship | 20 | 28 |
| Khumbu Pasang Lhamu Rural Municipality and Himalayan Trust Bachelor Level Scholarship (for students of KPLRM) | 6 | 4 |
| Himalayan Trust Bachelor Level (for students of Southern Solukhumbu) | 8 | 7 |
| Mountain Disaster Relief Education Support (MDRES) Scholarship | 1 | 4 |

## Teaching Materials Support and other Small Grant provisions

Providing teaching materials has had a significant impact on the functioning of the schools in rural Solukhumbu, effectively reducing the financial burden on parents and the school administration. Materials supplied include a range of items such as attendance registers, exam copies, A4 paper, pens, pencils, exercise books, drawing papers, record files, envelopes, glue sticks, board markers, and tapes.

Additionally we have provided small grant support to a range of miscellaneous causes. This includes a 3-kilowatt solar power system to operate the computer lab at Junbesi Secondary School. This new solar power system has enabled consistent and regular computer learning opportunities for the students. Through the utilization of solar energy, the computer lab can operate efficiently, ensuring that students have uninterrupted access to computer-based leaning resources. Other small grant support has included things such as science lab equipment support to Khiraule Basic School, child-friendly furniture support (grade 6-10) to Shree Taksindu Secondary School, and support to build a toilet to Shree Pipalbot Basic School.



Left | A lesson being taught in the newly inaugurated computer lab in Bung.



Right | A solar system before installation at Junbesi school to provide consistent power to the computer lab.

NEW ZEALAND
FOREIGN AFFAIRS & TRADE
Manatū Aorere

There's a lot more to our education programme but the impact of this work across the region is clear.

Our Quality Education Programme is delivered with support and funding from the Aotearoa New Zealand International Development Cooperation Programme – Ngā Hoe Tuputupu-mai-tawhiti. (MFAT). We are very grateful for this ongoing collaboration between the New Zealand government and Himalayan Trust. QEPS 2 ends in April, 2025.





Left and Right | A before and after image of an Early Childhood Classroom at Himchuli Basic School in Bung.

## OTHER PROJECTS

### Outstanding Water Project Proposals

The Himalayan Trust still has two outstanding water project proposals with completed designs for the villages of Jorsale and Benkar. While we aren't in a position to address these projects financially, we acknowledge the importance of these projects for these communities and intend to assist with these projects.

### Outstanding Education Proposals

We also hold many miscallaneous education projects from schools throughout Solukhumbu that range from playgrounds and teacher salaries to multistory buildings and computer labs. The Himalayan Trust will be taking on several minor projects in addition to our QEPS programme in the next financial year.

### Menstrual Health

We have recieved calls to address menstrual health inequalities and facilities throughout Solukhumbu. The Himalayan Trust is working with HTN and New Zealand based supporters to develop a programme for implementation in 2025.

### Environmental Projects

Environmental projects are a core part of Himalayan Trust's history, and as climate change has a bigger and bigger impact on the Himalayas we are working to reintroduce and environmental programme to our ongoing portfolio of works.

## OUR PARTNERS

We'd like to express our gratitude to our partners at Himalayan Trust Nepal whose dedication and consistency have been instrumental in achieving our goals of making a positive impact in the Himalayan region. We'd like to thank the entire HTN team for their hard work but in particular, to Pasang Dawa Sherpa, Mingma Norbu Sherpa and Lhakpa Tenji Lama for their leadership, expertise, and reliability. Thuuche.



Left | A briefing at the Himalayan Trust Nepal office for the recipients of some of the Himalayan Trust's scholarships.



Right | Students stand at morning assembly at Pelmang School.



Above | Students walking home in the evening after school at Cheskam Secondary School in lower Solukhumbu.







Above | Images of the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitors Centre in Khumjung.

## THE SIR EDMUND HILLARY'S VISITORS CENTRE

### Written by Sarah Hillary

In his book, Schoolhouse in the Clouds (Doubleday 1964), my father begins by telling the story of how he came to be building schools in the Everest area. He writes that in October 1960 they were camped on a barren windy hollow beside the Tolam Bau Glacier huddled around the fire deep in conversation with the Sherpa members of the expedition. He was interested to know more about Sherpa history after spending many years on expeditions working with them and gaining great respect for their strength of character and positive outlook. At the end of the discussion, he asked if there was one thing he could do for them, what would it be? Urkien Sherpa responded that learning was the one thing that they most desired for their children, and that they would like their children to go to school.

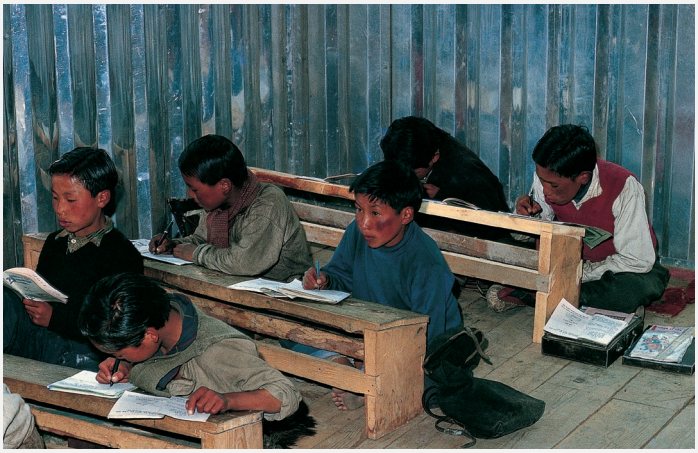
The following year funding was obtained to build a small school building in Khumjung village (3780m elevation) on the slopes of the sacred mountain of Khumbila and a few kilometres from Everest. The foundation stone was laid by my mother, Louise, on March 18. At the conclusion of the Silver Hut and Yeti expeditions in May, four of the expedition members stayed behind to construct the building out of a prefabricated aluminium supplied by the Calcutta Aluminium Company. Some of the corrugated sheets were too large to be carried in by porters from Kathmandu and were flown to the hazardous Mingbo Valley airstrip at 4,700m a day's walk away and carried down to Khumjung from there.

Tem Dorje Sherpa from Darjeeling was recruited as the first teacher which was a great success, and it wasn't long before there were many more petitions for schools from the villages nearby. This was the beginning of the Himalayan Trust, an organisation that has been collaborating with the local people in the Solu Khumbu now for more than 60 years – improving lives through the provision of local education and health care and the installation of water supplies; repairing and rebuilding bridges and monasteries, reforestation programmes, pollution control and more.

But the little schoolhouse was the start of it all. Education of the children and access to local schooling has transformed hundreds of lives and offered bright new possibilities for children of the region. Khumjung



Left | The building of the school, 1961



Right | Khumjung School students, 1961

School now has many buildings, and the original classroom is no longer used for teaching. In 2018 community leaders approached the Himalayan Trust Nepal for help to turn the schoolhouse into a museum. It was hoped that an exhibition permanently installed in the classroom would celebrate the achievements of local children and acknowledge the part played by Sir Edmund Hillary and Himalayan Trust in helping them realise their dreams.

Until opening, the project has been jointly managed by the Himalayan Trust Nepal in consultation with the Khumjung School Management Committee, and a New Zealand team comprising Sarah and Peter Hillary, Rick Pearson, architect and exhibition designer, Alexa Johnston, curator and writer, and later joined by Nick Eagles, graphic designer.

In May 2019 Sarah Hillary, Rick Pearson and Alexa Johnston travelled to Nepal to meet with the members of the School Board and Parent Teacher Association, the Himalayan Trust Nepal and local government representatives. Their initial ideas and Rick's design for the centre were enthusiastically received.

Funding has been obtained by generous contributions by Rolex Perpetual Planet, Himalayan Trust organisations from United Kingdom, New Zealand and Nepal, the New Zealand Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade Manatū Aorere, Sir Edmund Hillary

Stiftung, Germany, The Greater Himalayas Foundation - Honouring the Legacy of Mingma Norbu Sherpa, and many other generous contributors.

The first stage of the project was the repairs and strengthening of the building. The exhibition designs were developed, and the furniture and display panels fabricated in Kathmandu. Himalayan Trust Nepal engaged Serki Sherpa to paint the ceiling in traditional images and to copy a painting from 1967 by local artist, Kappa Kalden, of the Khumjung and Khunde villages on a very large scale.

The exhibition has ten sections: History of Khumjung School, Class projects, Traditional Sherpa Life in the Khumbu, Student Profiles, Himalayan Trust Profiles, Sir Edmund Hillary, Sagarmatha National Park, History of the Himalayan Trust, The Challenge Ahead and a Natural History Frieze.

The information is displayed as text and image panels, with a computer interactive developed by Marc Simpson of Toulouse of old class photographs supplied by past headmaster Mahendra Kathet, a video made by Alexander Hillary using historical footage by Mike Dillon, slide shows and many video interviews. A beautiful 3-D printed model of Everest from 1953 was produced by Shapewerk in Leipzig, Germany. Many



Left | Mike Gill, Peter Hillary, Alexa Johnston, Mingma Norbu, Rick Pearson, Pasang Dawa, Sarah Hillary and Nick Eagles meet about in Auckland 2023





Middle | Rick Pearson and Dipu Sherpa during Installation in March 2023.
Right | Alexa Johnston, Sarah Hillary and Rick Pearson on Khunde Ri, May 2023.

of the historic images were obtained from the Hillary Archive at the Auckland Museum Tāmaki Paenga Hira and the information for the traditional Sherpa life panel is from Dr Lhakpa Norbu's book Through a Sherpa Window (Vajra 2008). The brilliantly painted ceiling and large wall work by Serki Sherpa, also add hugely to the display. The floor parquetting, lighting system and some of the repair works were done by Ang Tshering Sherpa, youngest son of Urkien Sherpa.

Once the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitor Centre opens on May 29 2023, it will be managed by the Khumjung School Board, with assistance from the Himalayan Trust Nepal. Income will be generated by the sale of souvenirs and an entry fee for international visitors which will be used to maintain the Centre and support the school. It is anticipated that the centre will attract more visitors to the beautiful villages of Khunde and Khumjung.

This project has been a long process, but it has been a hugely rewarding collaboration between the teams in Aotearoa New Zealand and those in Nepal, continuing the close way of working that occurred in the early days of the Himalayan Trust. I became involved because of my long experience working in museums in New Zealand, but also because I felt so strongly that this story must be told. There were so many people who worked so hard to bring about positive change in Solu Khumbu, including my parents. Education has played a significant and positive role for the mountain communities, giving them better opportunities for the future. But education is also necessary so that we can understand the best way forward to ensure the protection of the environment and how to live in a sustainable manner. There is so much more to do, but we can only succeed if we work together.

**The Sir Edmund Hillary Visitor Centre - New Zealand Team:**
**Peter Hillary** – Fundraising and project advisor
**Sarah Hillary** – Project leader and coordinator
**Rick Pearson**- Architect & exhibition designer
**Alexa Johnston** – Curator and writer
**Nick Eagles** – Graphic designer

**The Sir Edmund Hillary Visitor Centre - Nepal Team:**
**Pasang Dawa Sherpa (Lukla)** -Project concept/advisor
**Mingma Norbu Sherpa (PhD)** - Project director
**Lhakpa Tenji Lama Sherpa** - Content printing and editing coordinator
**Mahendra Bahadur Kathet, Pema Diki Sherpa, Phurba Cheten Pradhan** - Content translator
**Bijay Shrestha** - Project engineer
**Dipu Sherpa** - Site supervisor
**Baween Raj Tandukar** - Finance management
**Fura Yangjee Sherpa** - Logistics management
**Khumjung School Management committee** - Management support



Above | Louise and Ed Hillary providing prizes to students at Khumjung School, circa 1965.




Left | Himalayan Trust Nepal teacher trainer holding a HT exercise book at Shree Debisthan Basic School in Lower Solukhumbu.



Right | Students at the Pema Cholling Monastic School in a newly built HTNZ and Edutech computer lab.




Left |Students in a newly completed early childhood educational development (ECED) classroom in Salleri, lower Solukhumbu.



Right | Mike Chisholm of Edutech Nepal who we are partnered with to build and maintain quality computer labs for Solukhumbu.



Above | Students from two grades being taught simultaneously at a small school called Shree Debisthan Basic School.

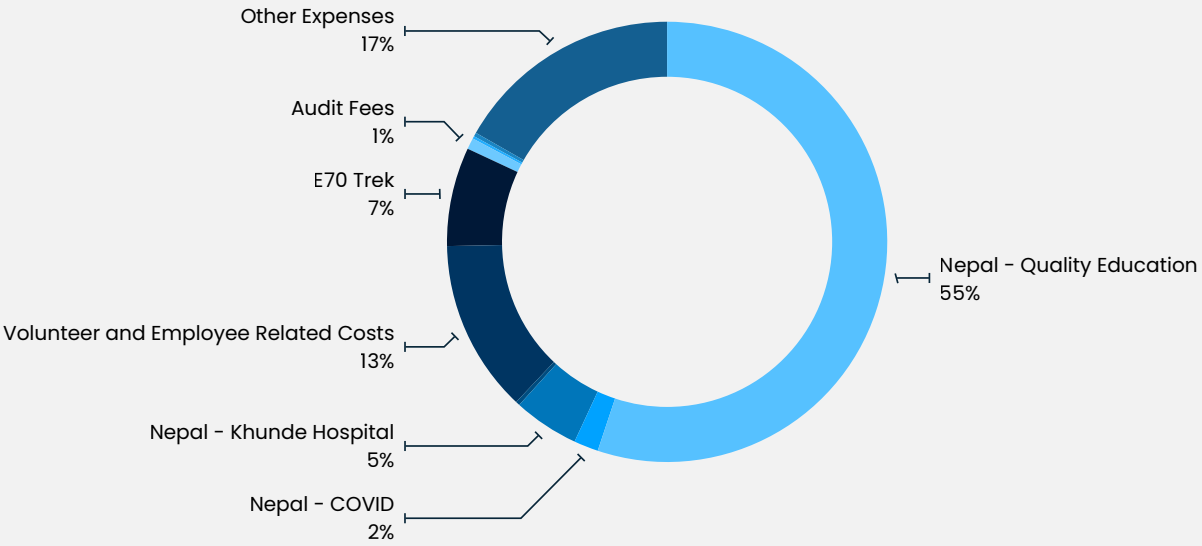
# FINANCIAL REVIEW

## Financial Statements for 2022/23

The Himalayan Trust has had another challenging year financially. Despite heightened awareness and activity through Everest70, donations remain low and the state of the markets has meant that income streams from across the board have not met the demand of our ongoing work in Nepal. However, the Himalayan Trust continues to maintain its financial obligations to our development projects, explore new fundraising opportunities and strategically manage the Endowment Fund.

### EXPENDITURE

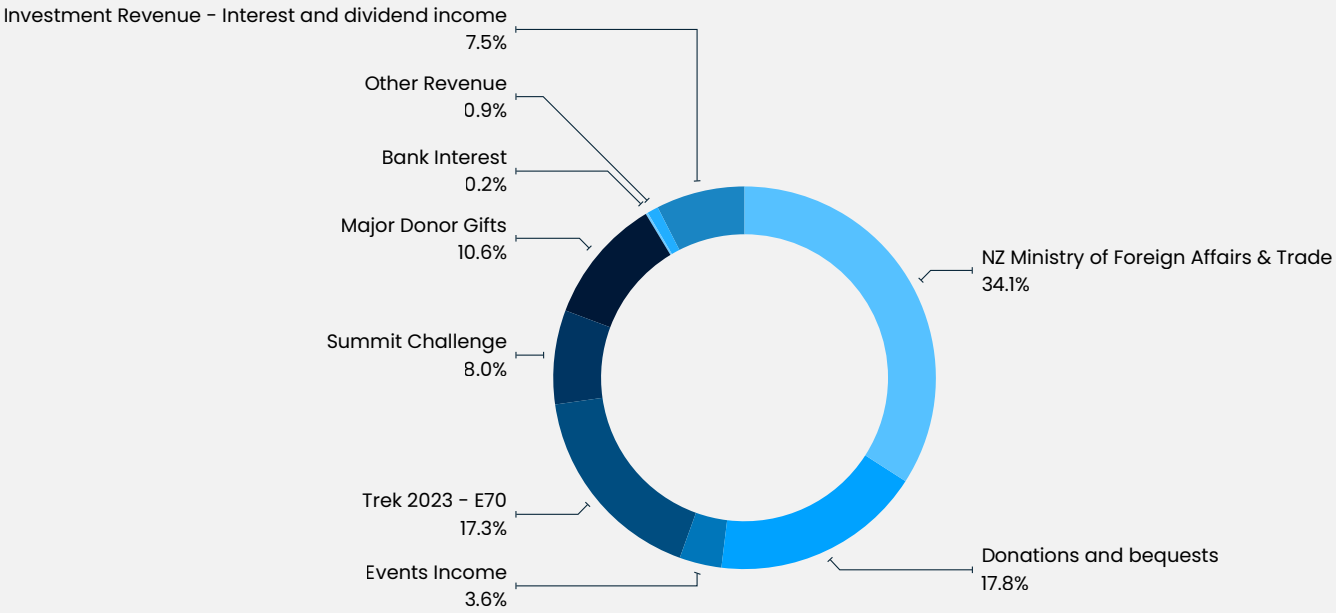
Total expenditure ($1,445,913) for year ending 30 June, 2023.




Besides E70 costs, Himalayan Trust's expenditure remains relatively similar to previous years. In the 22/23 financial year, 62.1% of total expenditure went towards Nepal programmes costs where we continue to report high quality delivery on a broad array of programmes with sound management.

### INCOME

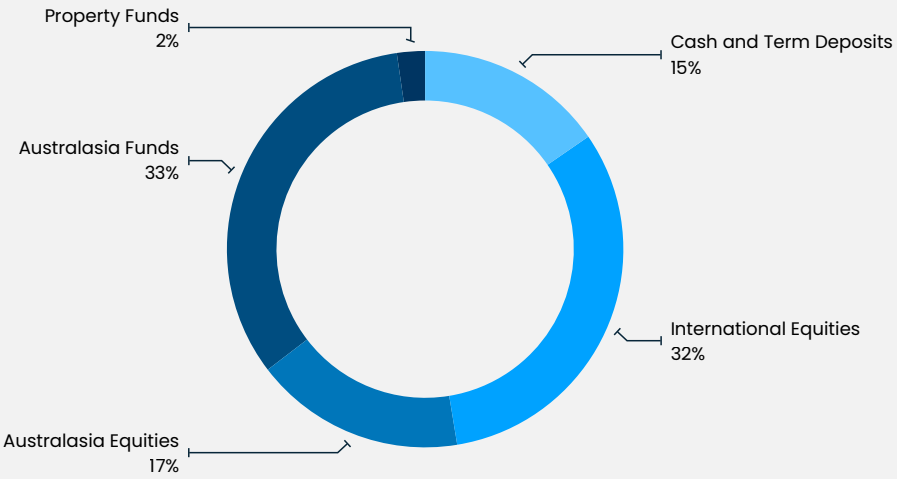
Total income ($1,129,405) for year ending 30 June, 2023.



Investments continue to prove themselves an essential component of our financial plan delivering strong fiscal return among a challenging fundraising market. Reducing return on fundraising appeals, peer-to-peer campaigns and corporate partnerships continues to limit our ability to take on further project expenditure in Solukhumbu. Everest70 was a very successful campaign with the trek proving to be a valuable fundraiser alongside the events income from auctions. Despite regular giving numbers dropping throughout the year due cost of living concerns, efforts made to acquire new donors, have started to show success.

## INVESTMENTS

Investments are a critical component of our Strategic Plan to ensure the consistent delivery of our programmes for many years to come. In 2023, we have been reviewing the Statement of Investment Policy and Objectives (SIPO) which will see a portion of the portfolio put towards growth assets while maintaining a conservative balance with funds and cash. Himalayan Trust's equity sits at $3,885,115 NZD as at 30 June, 2023. The following illustrates the distribution of investments.




During the years between 2003, which was the 50th anniversary of the First Ascent of Everest, and Sir Ed's death in 2008, he built an endowment fund to remain in perpetuity and generate income from investments, for funding projects in Nepal of the sort to which he had given so many years of his life. The Himalayan Trust aims to grow the Endowment Fund throughout the next decade to ensure lasting support for Solukhumbu.

An excerpt from Sir Ed's will:

*I declare that I have had a full life with much happiness and a share of sadness. I have little cause for complaint. If however some people in New Zealand feel I have made some contribution to the prestige of my country then they could best demonstrate this by continuing modest support to the Himalayan People I have worked with for so many years."*



## FUNDRAISING OVERVIEW

The Himalayan Trust would like to thank our committed and generous supporters over this past year that have made our fundraisers a success.

### Christmas Appeal

Our Christmas Appeal aimed to utilise the brilliant photograph of Santa on a Yak walking through the trails of Khunde village. The campaign was run predominantly online and saw the introduction of Himalayan Trust Christmas cards sold via the online shop.

### Summit Challenge

2023 was our largest Summit Challenge to date, with 604 individuals and teams together raising $95,000. It was also the inaugural year of our partnership with the Australian Himalayan Foundation to put on a trans-Tasman Challenge, playing on the brotherly rivalry between our two nations.







Between rising inflation and the cyclone crisis, our participants told us that fundraising was harder than usual. We also saw lower uptake of the fundraising side of the Challenge in general - with fewer participants uploading their profile photos, completing their profile descriptions, posting to their blog/social media and sharing their fundraising. However, ultimately it proved itself again as a capable fundraiser.

### Everest Day

For the 70th anniversary of the ascent of Mt Everest, events were held across the world hosted by a variety of organisation. Events were held in: Khunde, Khumjung, Namche, Kathmandu, New Delhi, London, Geneva, Auckland and Christchurch and collectively drew thousands of supporters. Our main fundraising activities for Everest Day were held in July in Auckland and Christchurch which falls outside of the time frame of this report. However, prior to this we held a fundraising trek to attend events of importance to the Himalayan Trust. The trek was a resounding success with participants providing positive feedback on the activities, itinerary and organisation. The trek travelled from Kathmandu to Lukla and through the villages visiting schools, water projects and monasteries up to Thame before back tracking to Khumjung and Tengboche before May 29th when the Everest70 celebrations were held and the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitors Centre was inaugurated.

### Marketing and Communications Strategy

In the past year, we have made significant strides in enhancing our marketing and communications efforts, resulting in improved donor engagement and support for our mission. One of our key achievements was the successful implementation of ActiveCampaign, a cutting-edge CRM and marketing automation tool. This upgrade has enabled us to provide a more personalized and seamless donor experience, with our contact list growing 5% in the past year up to a total of nearly 7,300 contacts.

We have also committed to consistent communication with our supporters. Our weekly newsletter, Mail by Runner, and our monthly newsletter have been instrumental in keeping our community informed and engaged. Additionally, we have recently

introduced two new communication initiatives - the quarterly Regular Giver's Update and the quarterly Member's Update. These updates will provide our loyal donors and members with in-depth insights into the impact of their contributions. We look forward to building on these successes in the coming year and continuing to connect, inform, and inspire our dedicated donor community.




Left | Norbu Tenzing spoke passionately at the Everest 70 events in Auckland and Christchurch.



Right | Peter Hillary, Alexander Hillary, Prime Minister Chris Hipkins and Phurenje Sherpa at the Auckland Museum for Everest70, 2023.

## Regular Giving

We have been working hard at expanding our regular giving programme, with the understanding that regular giving has the ability to form the backbone of our fundraising strategy. We now have over 300 monthly regular givers across New Zealand and abroad, an over 18% growth rate in the past year alone. This growth can be attributed to a dramatic improvement to our online donation form which makes the process of becoming a regular giver easy and desirable. This boost in on-website conversion is also partly thanks to our newly implemented 'always-on' social media marketing, which works to recruit new regular givers into our audiences.



Left | Trekkers and HT supporters Judi and Jasper Murphy on the Namche bridge.



Right | Francesca Harriman, Leigh Wayne Miller and Helen Clark crossing the bridge near the entrance to Sagarmatha National Park.

## Mail By Runner

Our weekly Mail by Runner newsletter has continued to grow since its launch almost two years ago. We now have over 400 subscribers, with an average annual growth rate of 20%. We're really pleased with these trends and have had great feedback from our readers on the bite-sized concept.

## Social Media

Over the past year, our social media strategy at The Himalayan Trust has achieved considerable growth and engagement. Notably, our Instagram account has seen a remarkable surge, with our following expanding by over 50% to nearly 1,900

dedicated followers. Meanwhile, our Facebook page remains robust with a loyal following of over 9,300 supporters. Our success on social media can be attributed to a well-balanced content strategy. We've curated a diverse mix of content that includes educational historical posts, regular bite-sized updates sourced from our Mail by Runner newsletter, real-time updates on program delivery in Nepal, and compelling campaigns and appeals. This mix has allowed us to connect with our audience on multiple fronts, keeping them informed, inspired, and engaged.




Left | Representatives from local government, Hillary and Norgay families with Helen Clark at the Khumjung visitors centre.




Right | A corner of the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitors Centre that addresses traditional Sherpa life and important figures in the local community.

## OPERATIONS

### A New Strategic Plan

The Himalayan Trust board is proud to announce the publication of a five-year Strategic Plan for 2024-2029. This plan outlines the goals and methodologies that will guide Himalayan Trust through the next 5 years. This plan draws on the lessons learnt by board and staff to develop and improve our operations from fundraising to programme design and implementation. This strategic plan can be found at himalayantrust.org/accountability-and-planning.

### Systems and Processes

Our commitment to refining and optimizing our systems and processes at The Himalayan Trust has yielded substantial benefits over the past year, aligning with our vision for a lean and effective non-profit organisation.

Coming up on two years ago, we made the decision to transition to the Raisely donation platform, which has transformed the donor experience. With Raisely, we offer our one-off and regular donors the convenience of instant PDF tax receipts, along with the flexibility to manage, edit, or pause their donations at their convenience. This represents a significant leap forward compared to the donation platforms we used in the past, enhancing donor satisfaction and reducing the burden on our staff. Transitioning many donors to Raisely has not only improved efficiency but also streamlined our year-end financial processes and eased the process of providing receipts upon request.

In line with our commitment to automation and documentation, we've integrated our various software systems, creating a centralized hub of information within Raisely, supported by a robust backup in our CRM, ActiveCampaign. This "single-source of truth" ensures accuracy and consistency in our data management, making it easier than ever to access and utilize critical information for decision-making and donor engagement. These improvements have allowed our Operations Team to operate comfortably with just two employees, down from the previous four. This reduction in staffing costs has proven invaluable during uncertain financial times, helping us allocate more resources directly to our mission.



Above | Mingma Norbu Sherpa in his family home with the HTNZ trekking group in Monjo.



Left | Members of the Khunde community prepare to welcome visitors celebrating Everest70 for a traditional Sherpa lunch.



Right | Peter Davis and Helen Clark standing on the trail in front of Khunde Village.



Left | Sue Leydon, Peter Hillary, King Charles and Jamling Tenzing at Buckingham Palace.



Right | Ang Kaji Sherpa and Phurenje Sherpa with Mcleans College student volunteers at the Auckland Museum.




Above | Sherpa students performing a cultural dance for the inauguration of the Sir Edmund Hillary Visitors Centre on the occasion of the 70th Anniversary.

## Membership

Throughout the history of the Himalayan Trust, it's members have been a core part of every aspect of it's operation from fundraising to governance and programmes. Over the past year we have begun to develop a revitalisation of the membership programme. Our new membership payment system has seen strong uptake and our membership newsletter has maintained strong readership. The next financial year will see bigger changes to our membership offering.

## THANK YOU

**The Himalayan Trust would like to thank you all for your generous support over the past year.**

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THANK YOU




**Get involved in other ways and support the Himalayan Trusts work with communities in Nepal:**

**Organise a fundraising event:** There are so many fun and creative ways our supporters have been raising money for us: mufti days, bake sales, quizzes, Fiver for Ed days, auctions and dinners. If you would like to organise your own fundraising event, we'd love to hear from you.

**Sign up for a challenge:** Sign up for a challenge! Summit Challenge in March, or create your own fundraiser at fundraise.himalayantrust.org for a physical challenge that will motivate and inspire, while doing good for the people of Solukhumbu.

**Give a Fiver for Ed:** A Fiver for Ed is part of our annual fundraiser: Everest Day, which is held on the 29 May. Get involved to celebrate Ed's Himalayan legacy and the lasting relationship between Nepal and New Zealand.

**Trek with us:** Join our treks in May, 2024 to the Everest Region - We are excited to be embarking on a Mountain Bike trek and a Hiking trek.

**Leave a legacy/Bequests:** By remembering the Himalayan Trust in your will, you will enable us to continue Sir Ed's legacy of helping the people of Nepal for generations to come. Contact fundraise@himalayantrust.org

**Regular giving:** Our founder, Ed Hillary wrote in his will: "I declare that I have had a full life with much happiness and a share of sadness. I have little cause for complaint. If however some people in New Zealand feel I have made some contribution to the prestige of my country then they could best demonstrate this by continuing modest support to the Himalayan People I have worked with for so many years.".

Learn more at www.himalayantrust.org

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The Himalayan Trust is a registered charity with the New Zealand Charities Commission, registration CC39393.



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Donate at www.himalayantrust.org/donate

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