



Welcome to the first newsletter of the Paul Pholeros Foundation. Our first year of operations has been huge.....firstly registering as a Company Ltd with ASIC, then achieving charity status with the Australian Charities and Not for Profit Commission. We were told it couldn't be done in the current geopolitical climate, but hey, **We Did It!**

Then on to setting up the admin and management structures, finances, reporting, gaining support, recruiting our first PPF Fellowship team, and lining up the project work for the guys in Nepal.....huge. We held our first AGM in June with the PPF members, now we are all looking forward to our next round of activities for 2019-20.



Marcus, Aidan and Bob at the PPF launch

PPF Fellowship Team 2019

At the launch we introduced plumber Aidan Ward and media operator Marcus Gleeson.

Aidan hails from Sale, Victoria, and had worked previously in a plumbing program in Indonesia. Marcus had completed a Diploma in Screen and Media and was keen to put some of these new skills into practice.



PPF merchandise

PPF Launch

We launched the PPF on 15 February at the Micha Nussinov Gallery in Redfern, a fun and successful evening - many thanks to our hosts Micha and Shelley and our team of volunteers. The PPF team was introduced, PPF merchandise was snapped up and funds were raised through donations and gentle auctioneering.



Bar Tolo at the launch



The PPF Team in Nepal

Aidan and Marcus arrived in Nepal in mid-March to stay for 4 weeks – Aidan’s travel was “extended” by 2 days, due to in flight medical emergencies which were then followed by aircraft technical glitches.

However, he arrived smiling and with several more Facebook friends. The team settled in to the village and work life, and took some time to visit a plumbing training college near the Indian border where a copy of the Nepal Plumbing Regulations was useful reading.



Plumbing and construction team onsite



PPF Team training workshop in Nepal

Nepal Sanitation Construction Project - A tribute to PP by the villagers

The PPF team worked on a sanitation block construction project in the village of Bhattedanda, where PP started the village sanitation program in 2007. The villagers were keen to build a sanitation block in their most holy place - a site in the nearby forest - where a Buddhist stupa already exists and where many religious ceremonies and festivals are performed, and cremations carried out. The project was funded by Rotary donations, with the PPF team providing plumbing and media expertise. The villagers dedicated the block to PP in recognition of the large contribution he had made to improving their lives.

The project was slow to start and the team found themselves stepping into site supervision roles before finally being able to install the plumbing infrastructure for toilet and shower waste disposal and drainage. All the time working with local staff and tradespeople, sharing skills and knowledge.



Completed sanitation block



What's Next

The PPF is getting ready for the PPF Team 2020. We are working with our partner the Dhulikhel Hospital to identify small projects in their health outreach network, where facilities require plumbing improvements. Bishnu Shrestha, the PPF Nepal Coordinator, is liaising with the hospital public health team for this feasibility stage. We plan to start recruitment for Team 2020 by October.

The PPF is also investigating the possibility of offering two study grants in Nepal to help young people gain formal plumbing training and qualifications. The grant recipients would then work alongside future incoming PPF plumbing teams.

Fundraising for the PPF is ongoing and we plan to organise a large fundraising event some time before the 2020 team leaves for Nepal. We will notify you of this event!!



Aidan and local children



Aidan and Satyaman working together

Acknowledgments

The PPF wishes to thank its Board and Members: Bob Puffett, Grant Stewart, Sandra Meihubers, Inta Heimanis, Philip Porter, David Bartolo, Jana Heimanis, Kriss Heimanis. We are grateful to the Dusseldorp Foundation for its generous support and to all our donors and pro bono supporters.

More information available at ppfoundation.com.au
Instagram [@paul_pholeros_foundation](https://www.instagram.com/paul_pholeros_foundation)



Marcus and Aidan after Nepal Holi Festival



“When the hard, physical work was done, and we started the more technical work, it was extremely enjoyable being able to pass on knowledge to willing “students”. Watching their enjoyment as they put their new skills into practice was really rewarding. This shows how valuable hands-on training can be. The same can be said for how great it felt when we learned something in return. I loved the challenge and would go back in a heartbeat.” Aidan Ward, Plumber 2019

“This was an incredibly humbling and enlightening experience for me as I not only learned new skills to benefit my career but was also exposed to an entirely new world with a deep rich culture, magnificent scenery and a generous heart that is shown in each and every one of the villagers faces. I feel truly privileged to have been given these experiences which will stay with me for the rest of my life.” Marcus Gleeson, Media Coordinator 2019