

The **Mandalay** *Projects*

## **Annual Report**

to Members & Supporters

**2014**





## The **Mandalay** Projects

Our **VISION** is:  
*that all children will live **free from fear of exploitation**,  
with **access to a proper education**.*

Our **MISSION** is:  
*to **prevent the trafficking of children into the worst forms of child labour**  
(as defined by ILO Convention #182)*

Our **PHILOSOPHY** is:  
*that children's vulnerability to trafficking is directly linked  
to their living conditions and life opportunities.*

Our **OBJECTIVE** is:  
*to reduce that vulnerability to trafficking  
by **giving children a safer and healthier environment** and  
by helping them to become **more independent and self-sufficient**.*

**Shelter   Health   Education   Hope**

## ***Dear Members & Supporters,***

Welcome to the 2014 edition of our regular Annual Report.

During the past year, The Mandalay Projects has continued to play a modest, but directly impactful, role in the fight against the trafficking of children. The importance of our mission, and our objectives as an organisation - as set out on the previous page – were put into context by the recent publication (by the UN Office on Drugs & Crime) of the 2014 *Global Report on Trafficking in Persons*.

As the UN Report highlights, trafficking in persons is a truly global phenomenon: between 2010 and 2012, victims from at least 153 countries were detected in 124 countries worldwide. The majority of the victims are female, although men and boys are also trafficked in significant numbers. Women and girls are not only trafficked for sexual exploitation, but also for forced labour and for other purposes. **The percentage of children among victims is increasing and children now comprise nearly one third of all detected trafficking victims in the world.**

Many countries have recently passed legislation criminalizing trafficking in persons as a specific offence. However, definitions of human trafficking vary, as does the capacity to identify offenders and victims. The overall criminal justice response to trafficking in persons, which has historically been very weak, has not significantly improved.

We are therefore more committed than ever to playing our own part in the fight against this global crime. As you know, we focus our energy on disrupting the supply of potential trafficking victims, by giving children a better start in life than they would otherwise have. Our task is simply-defined: we aim **to help children to help themselves**.

Our main project work in the past year has been conducted at two partner orphanages in Myanmar. In both cases, we are gradually working through a series of support initiatives which have been highlighted by our “*Building Blocks of Hope*” project appraisal process. More details of the projects are set out in the following pages, along with information on project site visits undertaken by our team in the past 12 months. We also describe some administrative matters, including the continued expansion of our management team, and details of some of the many fund-raising initiatives launched by our supporters. All in all, it has been another very busy and productive year in the history of The Mandalay Projects. We hope you enjoy reading the review.

The work we undertake would not be possible without the support of our loyal band of members and followers around the world.

We send you - as always - our humble and heartfelt thanks for your contribution to our work, and we wish you and your loved ones a safe, healthy and happy festive season.

Best wishes,

*The Board of Directors of The Mandalay Projects Limited*

**Ian Love** (Chairman)

**David Gibson** (Chief Executive)

**Lucy Henry** (Director)



## The Projects – 2014 highlights



### **Dharmalinkara Boys' Orphanage - Twante, Myanmar**

Our work at this site provides a good insight into the way TMPL operates. Ian & David first visited Dharmalinkara in 2006 and, although we were impressed by the management team's commitment to helping underprivileged children, we had some reservations over the governance of the facility. We have kept in touch with the orphanage, visiting regularly and respectfully monitoring progress, and in 2012 decided that we could launch a development initiative with the local management team, in partnership with our NGO friends at *Myanmar Kinderhilfe*.

**Fast forward to late 2014 and we are very proud of our achievements at Dharmalinkara.** From a green-field site, we have guided the local management team to build a wonderful 2-storey dormitory (pictured above) to house 200 boys, and have started work on the surrounding infrastructure (toilets, washrooms, kitchen & dining room) which will help create a safe and healthy home for these children. In financial terms, this is one of the largest projects we have ever undertaken. We think the impact on the lives of the children will be even more significant. We have already commenced discussions with the local managers on the next phase of our support, with an emphasis on education and vocational training. We are very excited about what we have achieved here, and about the potential future role we can play in the development of this site.

## Metta Geha Orphanage - Kampetlet, Chin State, Myanmar

This residential care facility is as far off the beaten track as any that we've worked with, but the welcome we receive from the children is well worth the trek. There are around 50 residents of Metta Geha, a mixture of boys and girls aged from a few months to 17 years, and they are a simply delightful bunch of kids. Our initial priority here has been to improve the health of the residents on a sustainable basis, and there have been three main elements to this approach in 2014 - **water, quality of food, and medical supplies & health checks.**

Our **water project** has had three features - piping a fresh supply from a spring source 6 miles away from Metta Geha, building a storage tank to ensure stability of the supply, and creating an irrigation system to support the orphanage's fruit and vegetable gardens. All three have been successfully implemented this year.

The **supply of food** to the orphanage has been largely dependent on external donations. We decided to help the management team create a sustainable supply of fruit and vegetables for use in the kitchen, or for sale through the local market. This project has so exceeded our expectations that it qualifies as one of the most effective projects we have ever sponsored. On our recent site visit, we practically lost count of the number of different crops which had been grown successfully, and which were being added to the daily menu at the orphanage.



The stepped vegetable gardens of Metta Geha

We have decided to renew our commitment to this project, and have funded another year of development. On our next visit we will look for signs of self-sustainability, as profits from the sale of some of the crops will be available for reinvestment.

The final element of our health programme has been **the physical well-being of the children**, and how best to monitor this and deal with any resultant issues. We knew from earlier visits that the overall health of the residents was not good - there was a range of ailments from skin complaints to Hepatitis B. Our support programme has evolved from an initial focus on the provision of appropriate drugs, to the arrangement of a quarterly schedule of visits from a Yangon-based team of health workers.

**It is clear to us (and has been confirmed by local nurses) that, as a direct result of these three initiatives, the health of the children has significantly improved in a fairly short period of time. We look forward to seeing further progress in the coming year.**

## Project Site Visits – 2014 highlights

Regular visits to our project sites, funded personally by our Directors, members and supporters, are an essential element of our *modus operandi*. In 2014, there were several such visits, the main features being a large team trip in April and a directors' field visit in November. If any of you would like to join us on a future site visit, please let us know.





### TMPL administrative matters

The TMPL Board undertook a review of governance procedures during the year, which resulted in a number of important amendments to our **Constitution**. We also introduced a **new Membership Policy**. All of these were formally approved by the Board, and subsequently signed off at the **TMPL Annual General Meeting**, which was held in Perth, WA on 30<sup>th</sup> November. Thanks to Board Member Lucy for all her efforts in this area.

As part of our ongoing commitment to best practice in corporate governance, we introduced the role of **company secretary** during the year, and we're delighted to announce the appointment of **Candice Stevenson** to this important position. Candice has a wealth of experience in company secretarial, financial controller and accounting roles, with both private and public companies. She was born in Myanmar and therefore has a direct affinity with the work of TMPL. We extend a warm welcome to Candice and look forward to her participation in the future development of our organisation.

We announced mid-year that our Director **Rob Nash** had resigned from the Board, due to other work commitments. We are very grateful to Rob for the valuable contribution he made during his tenure on the Board, and look forward to his continued involvement as a member and supporter of our work.

We reviewed our social media exposure during the year and, in particular, made some adjustments to our **Facebook** presence. We have closed down the TMPL "Group" on Facebook and introduced a new "Page", which we invite all of our members and supporters to visit and to "like", so that we can be sure of maintaining contact with all of you.

On the theme of member support, we have created the position of **Membership Manager** to help us manage and expand our growing band of supporters. We are now actively seeking a new team member to assume this role. Are you interested? Take a look at the job ad on the back page of this report.

## Fund raising activities

Our supporters around the world are a creative lot, and they were as active as ever in raising funds for TMPL during 2014. Here are just some of the highlights from an eventful year:

### Chloe (UK)

"This summer I of the great unfit will walk The South Downs Way (100 miles), to raise money for this important cause. Every child deserves to be safe and anticipate a future, no child should ever experience the horror of being trafficked, so I will walk the 100 miles to raise money for The Mandalay Projects.



"Well done everybody - you helped me raise over £1018 & there are still a few pledges to round up for those lovely children in Myanmar (Burma)."

### Ian (Perth, WA)

"Thanks to Peter, Jim, David, Phil and Simon & Asha (for the poster). Our 1 hour of busking raised \$186, not bad for an hour's work. To put this in perspective, a person in Myanmar would have to work 15 days to enjoy the same income."



### Cathy & Jane (Singapore)

The Singapore team hosted another hugely successful Quiz Night & Auction. Old stagers Mark & Fiona have passed the baton to Cathy, Jane and the loyal team of Marie, Heather, Shukor & Tom. This fabulous evening raised an incredible S\$27,000 which was donated to TMPL.



### Asiva & Liyah (Singapore)

News of another fabulous fund-raising effort on behalf of TMPL. Two little girls in Singapore, aged 8 and 10, have raised \$800 towards our project work. This included donating their own birthday party funds. Well done Asiya and Liyah, and thank you for your wonderful contribution.

### Lucy (Perth, WA)

"Thanks to the generosity of Western Australian supporters I took around \$1,800 with me to contribute towards making a safer, healthier environment for the children of the Metta Geha Orphanage."



### Liz (Perth, WA)

"Thank you so much to everyone who supported the Mandalay Projects fundraiser last night. It was a fabulous evening of music, comedy, fun and friends. We raised over \$2,000 which will go directly to support the children of the Kampelet Orphanage in the Chin Hills. I hope to get back to Burma later this year to visit this orphanage."



By the way, if you missed the live interview with Ian & Lucy on ABC Radio 720 in June, here's a link to the broadcast:  
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yOCdg4eWQZ0>

# The **Mandalay** Projects



## **Situation Vacant: Membership Manager**

*You'll need to research database options, work out how the database will interact with our website and social media, set it up, then manage it. It will be more work to start with, less once it's all set up and in maintenance phase. Like all of our team, you won't be paid with money. But don't let that put you off - we've found the feeling you get from knowing you've made a difference to a child's life is ample reward.*

*You'll be responsible for:*

- *Researching and recommending a free membership/supporters database that interacts with our website and/or Facebook*
- *Setting up the database using the existing list of members and supporters*
- *Maintaining, updating and improving the database on a regular basis*
- *Helping to develop and send communications to members and supporters such as Facebook posts and newsletters.*

*You'll need to be:*

- *Familiar with using social networking platforms to generate support for a cause*
- *Able to set up and manage a database*
- *Able to motivate yourself and get on with things*
- *Committed to investing the time to make this work*

*Experience with Wordpress would be an advantage.*

*If this sounds like you, or you'd like to find out more, please contact [lucy@themandalayprojects.net](mailto:lucy@themandalayprojects.net)*



[www.themandalayprojects.net](http://www.themandalayprojects.net)



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