

***GOLDEN BAY FRIENDS OF NEPAL***  
**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**FY 2019 (April 2018 - March 2019)**



**Namaste!**

We are excited to share with you our 2018/2019 Annual Report. This report highlights the achievements and progress being made in Bhumlutar, Nepal as a direct result of your support and generosity. The villagers and students in Bhumlutar are eternally grateful for the assistance, support, and inspiration Golden Bay Friends of Nepal is providing.

## Rita, Taj, Siti and Jyoti Visit to Bhumlutar - May 2018

Rita (GBFON secretary) and Taj (chairperson GBFON) visited Bhumlutar in May 2018 for 2 weeks. This was a great opportunity to check in personally with our projects, visit the village, receive personal feedback from students attending our academy and drawing up future plans. Rita's daughter Siti and her good friend Jyoti (both from Golden Bay) became our first official volunteers (hopefully of many) and they loved the experience. Thanks Siti and Jyoti for your contributions and endless smiles : )

The following projects were set up during this visit:

- Setting up online learning, Khan Academy with 4 new laptops, generously donated from GB sponsors
- Sponsored 3 keen, motivated, green-fingered locals from Bhumlutar to introductory training at Everything Organic Nursery in Patlekhet.
- EVON/SPARKS trainings and visit to help Bhumlutar to grow organic food. Schedule for Mid July to plan, August training in seedbeds, Nov/Dec Grafting, pruning and pest management
- Purchased 21 new trees for local propagation to be planted around GBFON Academy's garden. Thai melon (pepino), Grape (seedless Himrod), Fig, Macadamia, Peach, Apple (Chenango, Dorsett Golden, and Anna) Almond (Shalimar), Pecan, Nectarine
- Seed Beds, Seed Bank & Student Grow Plots.
- Establishing an Organic Homestay in Bhumlutar. GBFON has offered to furnish one room in Bhupal's new family house (currently under construction) with 2 beds, mattresses, sheets, blankets, pillows and curtains. Visitors will be requested to make a donation to the family of NPR1,000/USD\$10 (or more, if they choose) and this will include sleeping, 3 meals a day and all hot drinks. If successful, we will encourage (and potentially sponsor) other families in the village to establish Organic Homestays if they have an extra room at least some time. This will generate much needed income for local villagers.
- Friends across the world (Takaka Primary school). The students in Bhumlutar had a very fun, enjoyable and interesting connection with students from Takaka Primary School in Golden Bay, New Zealand with the LED projector purchased with your kind donations. Penpals were set up between these 2 schools.



## August 2018 Volunteer: Andrew Stephenson

Andrew Stephenson, a local architect from nearby Motueka ([www.bellstephenson.co.nz](http://www.bellstephenson.co.nz)) heard about our projects in Nepal and offered to go and get involved. Andrew brought many skills to Nepal including Permaculture design, architecture, and building. Andrew became our first independent volunteer to Bhumlutar. It was his first visit to Nepal and he had a rewarding and enriching experience in Bhumlutar with the students, villagers and Bhupal's family during his stay

- **Rocket Stoves:** Andrew was concerned with the amount of internal smoke from wood cooking fires in many of the local houses. Rural Nepali women do the majority of wood collection and meal cooking in Nepal and they (and their children) are often exposed to excessive smoke. Andrew generously donated a Rocket Stove for the family and we are looking into distributing more smokeless stoves to interested villagers. We are also researching the latest generation of Rocket Stoves for potential distribution in the village. But we need to be sure they are wanted and will be used by the villagers
- **Chill Out / Multi-Purpose Zone.** Golden Bay Friends of Nepal wanted to create a simple, weather-proof, roofed structure where homestay guests and volunteers can find some peace and space, read a book, or just relax during their visit. Using locally sourced bamboo and timber from the village and a few metal roofing sheets, Andrew and Bhupal built this fantastic structure (see photo).

The structure will also be used for community workshops we are planning to offer, and provides a sheltered spot where visitors/volunteers can pitch a tent if they choose.

Big thanks to Jane and Rod from Silex Tools for donating 2 high-quality hand saws for construction projects in the village. Jane and Rod heard about our project in Nepal and generously donated these high-quality folding saws to help with building projects in Bhumlutar. The saws have helped with construction of the homestay Chill Out Zone and the frame for the composting toilet / shower structure.





## October Volunteers: Kerryn & Phil from Golden Bay

Kerryn and Phil from Golden Bay visited Bhumlutar for just over a week and helped with several projects.

- With Bhupal, they collected over 200 coffee and mango seeds and prepared poly bags with soil and compost to encourage seed propagation. In the spring, we will offer free tree planting training to interested villagers and students of Golden Bay Friendship Academy and then distribute these seedlings to local families with suitable land.
- Composting Toilet Frame. Kerryn and Phil also helped to construct an awesome frame to be developed into a composting toilet system with a separate space for outdoor bucket showers. After the compost is safely decomposed it can then be used to provide nutrients around the trees surrounding the Friendship Academy. Most village waste currently goes into tanks or holes in the ground but we hope to show the villagers how "Humanure" can be used to safely provide nutrients to feed local trees.



## First family visit to Bhumlutar - March 2019

Richard, Natasha, Maleka and Arjuna became the first group of 4 to visit and volunteer in Bhumlutar. They were also the first guests in the new homestay set-up for visitors. They found the homestay cozy and comfortable, the food delicious and the overall experience friendly and rewarding. Maleka and Arjuna were warmly welcomed by the local students and shown all around the village. We hope the establishment of the new homestay in Bhupal's house encourages more volunteers to visit and experience a rural Nepali village.

From their reports a couple of future community projects have become urgent:

- Dalit community help in Bhumlutar (Water system upgrade). A group of Dalit families in the lower part of Bhumlutar have been struggling to get clean water since the earthquakes and as a result many of the people have gastrointestinal problems and are repeatedly becoming sick. Golden Bay Friends of Nepal wants to help this group of Dalit families by upgrading their water system and water storage by donating plastic piping and water storage tanks.
- Dalit widow house rebuild. This widow has not been able to rebuild her house. Golden Bay Friends of Nepal are looking into ways of helping her and her 3 kids.





## TAKAKA PRIMARY SCHOOL Fundraiser

The students at Takaka Primary school here in Golden Bay hosted a lemonade stall at their recent Athletics Day. Delicious and refreshing cups of freshly squeezed lemonade were sold and the students raised an amazing \$265 to pay for 1 year of Wifi Internet at Golden Bay Friendship Academy in Bhumlutar. Students have now done 3 PenPal swaps between Bhumlutar and Takaka. The students in Bhumlutar and Takaka look forward to participating in future video calls together and strengthening the friendship with their new PenPals on the other side of the world.



## Proceeds from organic agriculture

Bhupal, Kopila and Laxmi are doing an excellent job around the Golden Bay Friendship Academy growing fruits, vegetables and mushrooms and so far this year we have raised NPR 10,250 selling peppers, chillies, mushrooms, pineapples and bananas. All of these rupees go to pay the running costs of the Golden Bay Friendship Academy.



## Community projects under development

As we have explained in the Annual Report, many of the villagers have been busy managing the construction and re-construction of their homes in and around Bhumlutar.

Now that the construction boom is slowing down, we plan to begin offering free training sessions in the village on various topics, including:

- Seed beds and seed distribution
- Making better compost
- Tree care (pruning, grafting and air layering)
- Mushroom farming sponsorship in village
- Basic health course (sanitation, garbage disposal, nutrition, first aid, risks of sugar, etc)

Other community projects we are investigating / developing include:

- Turkey pairs (for eggs, and potentially income generation)
- Rocket stoves / clean burning stoves (for cleaner/healthier cooking options)
- Charcoal production
- Waste management / mini incinerator
- Seed saving (non-hybrid)

**Thank you again** for your continued support and donations to help create opportunity for our rural friends in Nepal. We would like you to know that 100% of every donation made to date makes it's way to Nepal to help the local villagers. Our committee donates 100% of our time (unpaid) to helping our friends in Nepal.

Namaste,  
Golden Bay Friends of Nepal Committee  
Thomas (Taj) Rabosky - Chairperson  
Rita Scholten - Secretary  
Kees Brinkman - Treasurer