



## August Newsletter 2020

*Dear GO Members*

*Greetings from Auckland – New Zealand!!!*

*I hope you are all keeping well and safe from catching the Corona virus which is devastating the world? We are all fine here in New Zealand. After 5 weeks of full shut-down, we moved down to Level 1 restrictions a few weeks ago. We had no case reported for 15 days, so the Government moved to Level 1 and slowly we are getting back to normal. Our borders are closed and we have all been advised not to travel.*

*Only New Zealand residents are allowed to return home. Everyone who comes back, the Government is putting them in hotels for two weeks. So far we have about 50,000 who have returned home. Unfortunately, they are bringing the virus here with them and we now have about 27 confirmed virus cases, but they are not in hospital. We have four people who have breached the isolation and they will be prosecuted, one is already in jail waiting for sentencing!! Because we are running out of hotel vacancy, the airlines have stopped flights coming into New Zealand for three weeks. Many businesses have been shut down and 1000s have lost jobs. The Government is giving a lot of financial assistance to businesses to survive, but it is going to take a long time to come right. I know it's same everywhere but let's hope by next year it will be all over.*

*The GO Management Team has been discussing the 2020 YEAR of the OGBs and due to the uncertainty, it has been postponed to 2021.*

*Please read the GO Chairman's report below and a brief report from Neil Monteiro the principal of Dr Graham's Homes.*

**Finally Please watch this great Music Video made by Danny Khawas here's the link to the GO page <https://www.dghogbs.com/ogbs-homes-news> this was launched few weeks ago – enjoy**

Best wishes and Tashi Delek

*Thuten Kesang*

On behalf of GO Management team

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### **MESSAGE from ANIRBAN BHATTACHARYA Chair – GLOBAL OGB ASSOCIATION**

Dear Worldwide OGBs Family

We find ourselves living in a dystopian movie script straight out of Hollywood. These are indeed crazy, tough and challenging times that we find ourselves in. We pray that OGBs worldwide and loved ones are protected from this pandemic.

Due to the challenges facing the world and keeping in mind the present situation where travel is restricted, *The Year of the OGBs* has been postponed to 2021. Hopefully, by the end of this year we will get to see the rainbow after the dark clouds have parted.

Another casualty is the **Bike Ride–2020**. The epic Bike Ride from Thimphu to Kalimpong scheduled for September 2020, has also been postponed to September 2021. All the Riders have committed to return next year. We are super grateful and blessed to have them continue to shower their love for the school.

However, not everything has been bleak and gloomy during this shutdown!!!

### **“Heal the World” – OGBs Virtual Choir**

Social media woke up on 16th July 2020 at 7pm when the “*DGH Heal the World Project*” was premiered worldwide via You-Tube. It was a super initiative by Inspire India (a Delhi based NGO), Daniel Khawas (an OGB) and GO (Global OGBs). Thirty-one OGBs participated in it from 17 locations across the world, including a cruise ship!

From the reactions that are pouring in - everybody has been emotionally touched and moved by this as they were once again transported back to the school through the video. A huge thank you to OGB and ex-Choir



Master Shane Saviel, for taking up the challenge to ensure that no cracked voices were heard! A special “Thank You” to Danny for this initiative. His love for music stems from his dad, John Khawas and for those of us who spent some years in Lucia King, will remember his mum, Auntie Diana Khawas.

However, this music video is not just a trigger for reminiscing - it is also a wakeup call for OGBs to give back to the school. As Daddy Graham once healed the world, which he saw in front of him - where children had no hope, respect or future - he took it upon himself to build a Home for them. It is now our turn to give back and sponsor children who are unfortunate, and who are without hope. Give back through donations that will fuel projects to benefit children and give them an environment that enables nurturing and love.

So let us not just reminisce... and through this music, let us put our love for the Homes into action... visit [www.dghogbs.com](http://www.dghogbs.com) to see how you can donate or sponsor a child to make a difference. Many of us would have been lost if it had not been for Dr. Graham’s Homes - and many children are in the same position as we were. Will we turn away - or will we heal the world to make it a better place?

### **Cottage Renovation Project – January/February 2021**

All things being equal and the world returning to normal, the next phase of the Cottage Renovation Project is planned for the winter of 2021. Due to the uncertainty and inability of volunteers travelling to Kalimpong, we are planning to only renovate one cottage – either Assam or Heathland. This renovation will be funded from the proceeds of donations received during 2019 from OGBs and well-wishers. As soon as we know that the project will proceed – we will further advise OGBs.

### **GO Elections**

Reminder – Nominations are open for GO Members to submit an express of interest to join the GO Management Committee. Nominations close on 31 August 2020.

### **Anirban Bhattacharyya, OGB 1990 (Assam / Fraser)**

Chairman, Global OGB Association (GO)

Email: [ogbanirban@gmail.com](mailto:ogbanirban@gmail.com)

## **NOTE from Neil Monteiro, Principal of Dr Graham's Homes**

Please find the brief report on the current situation in the Homes. In view of the continuous lockdown and the grim chances of school reopening, we are totally uncertain about the upcoming Birthday Celebrations 2020. Nevertheless, even if we do manage to have a small function spontaneously, it will definitely be on a very low key.

It is practically impossible to plan anything for September, right now because everything will depend upon protocols that will be in place in the month of September, which is constantly handed down to us from various ministries.

### **A Brief Report on the Current Situation at Dr. Graham's Homes**

With the gradual relaxation of the lockdown in the hills, normalcy is being slowly restored. However, the School Administration continues to take all safety measures for the staff and children here at Dr. Graham's Homes. The Central dining hall is being sanitised on a weekly basis and all the employees working in this Department have been provided with basic medical supplies like Dettol soap, hand sanitizers and surgical masks. It is also mandatory for children and the cottage parents accompanying them to wear masks when they go for their meals. Despite the continuous lockdown the Central Kitchen has been running smoothly and the children are being fed properly under the present circumstances.

The cottages are also regularly sanitised. The cottage parents keep the children occupied with indoor games, gardening and also assist them with their assignments depending on the availability of the network.

Two pedal operated sanitizer dispensing units have been installed in the School Office and Main Office for all parents and visitors especially with the ongoing admissions for Class XI.

Under the prevailing circumstances the most challenging part of this lockdown has been online teaching which a totally new concept for both teachers and students. Our computer faculty along with the various subject teachers are working in tandem and uploading assignments for various classes' right from Kindergarten to Senior School on the School website whereby students can download and work on their assignments accordingly.

However, the major drawback in the hills has always been the poor network connectivity. Nonetheless, parents have appreciated the earnest efforts of our teachers in executing these online lessons where children are kept abreast of their lessons.

Despite this unprecedented situation, the ISC and ICSE results have been excellent as usual. Total number of ISC candidates (139) and total number of ICSE candidates (105)

#### **Names of Toppers ISC Stream**

Commerce: Rishika Tamang 88.25%

Arts: Tenzing Lhamu Bhutia 97.25%

Science: Tanvi Rai 87.5%

(One ISC candidate did not clear his Board Exams)

#### **Names of Toppers ICSE Stream**

Commerce: Ayush Bansal 95.8%%

Arts: Dhriti Bardhan 89%

Science: Komal Prasad 97.6%

(All ICSE candidates cleared their Board Exams)

At present we have around thirty-five (35) children in the campus as many children were permitted to go home on parents request.



*check our website for full information*  
[www.dghogbs.com](http://www.dghogbs.com)