

**BENEVOLENT ORGANISATION OF DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH & INSIGHT
(BODHI) AUSTRALIA, INC.**

**Annual General Meeting
1 June, 2003
4 Queen St, Campbell Town Tasmania 7210**

MINUTES

Opening of meeting: 13.09

Introduction: as previously discussed, we aim to shorten AGM, but to have a committee meeting following.

Present

Simon Brown, Susan Woldenberg Butler, Dr Colin Butler, Jane Hudspeth, Dr Denis Wright (by email).

Apologies

Dr Scott Bell, Dr Jenni Bond, Dr Miriam Dixson-Burge, Angela Douglas, Patricia Earhart, Dr. Gerry McGushin, Sally McGushin, Dr Elise Perry, Graham Ranft, Senator John Watson

Confirmation of minutes from last preceding annual general meeting (these minutes are attached to these minutes)

Accepted: moved: Jane Hudspeth, seconded: Simon Brown

Business arising from last annual general meeting

We still haven't been able to contact Lobsang Gelek, a Tibetan community health worker. He wants us to fund what we think is a branch clinic for the elderly in Orissa, India. Tenpa TK said he would mention it to Tenpa TK, but then Tenpa was transferred. We still think it will be too expensive.

Discussion re general problem of communication with people in India and Tibet – comment from Simon Brown that we have done well to get as far as we have.

Presentation and acceptance of reports:

President's report: (attached to these minutes)

TDS, Thanks to all, especially Jane Hudspeth, Tony Scavone & Tony Scavone

Adult literacy – fund third year in Sohbar, Meghalaya

Comment (CB): Quicker on trace if repeat delay occurs with transfer of funds to India.

Library nucleus from Scotch Oakburn (Launceston)

Muyput project, Meghalaya – US\$1000; that money has arrived safely

Discussion re practicality of stool microscopy self-examination

Discussion re Tenpa's resignation

Acceptance of President's report: moved: Colin Butler, seconded S. Brown

Director of Electronic Communication's report (attached to these minutes)

Acceptance: moved Simon Brown, seconded Jane Hudspeth

Medical Director's report (attached to these minutes)

Acceptance: moved Simon Brown, seconded Susan Butler

Treasurer's report (attached to these minutes)

Acceptance: moved Simon Brown, seconded Susan Butler

Election of office bearers

President	Susan Butler
Vice-president	Jane Hudspeth
Treasurer	Colin Butler
Secretary	Denis Wright

All re-nominated and elected

Election of committee members

Susan Butler moved that Dr Jane Bell and Dr Jenny Porteous be removed from committee, with thanks to them. Decided that another attempt to contact Jenny be made, within 3 months, prior to her removal (we have lost contact with her). Simon Brown seconded.

Appointment of an auditor. Camerons (Launceston) to be approached, and asked to continue. Also to be thanked

General business.

1. Discuss appointment of Dr Shanti Raman as Community Adviser, Australia. Would like to invite Dr Raman formally.
2. Discuss duties Community Adviser
3. Discuss ways to increase attendance at AGMs

4. Discuss issuing annual receipt at the end of the financial year to direct-debit donors.
5. Redesign donation slip: add 'please circle'.
6. **Disband Tax-Deductibility committee** Jane Hudspeth moved, seconded Susan Butler

Discussion: CB: we would dearly like Shanti to be more involved, but her having a title may not be essential – she could serve on committee, as a special position (if she wants) or simply as a member.

Resolved: CB to approach Shanti with this request.

2. Appointment of new India Field Representative. Discuss Dr Ghonglah

Discussion: CB: best to do this in person, when in Meghalaya in October. We want to be sure that Dr Ghonglah does not have unrealistic expectations about BODHI's size, projects or potential salary. However, at the best case, Dr Ghonglah could enhance BODHI's effectiveness and reputation.

Attendance at AGM – additional participants may be able to participate electronically, as suggested by Denis Wright: proposed by Jane Hudspeth, seconded by Simon Brown. This would give us a useful cushion for meeting the quorum.

Decision taken to send regular donors by direct debit (eg Luiz Ribiero) an annual receipt.

Date of next meeting To be determined
Close 14.50

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2002-May 2003

I. Tax-deductible status

- A. Tax-deductible status was achieved this year, after many years of trying. Thanks to everyone on the committee, especially Jane Hudspeth and Luiz Ribeiro, and everyone else who helped.
- B. BODHI Australia Overseas Relief Fund was created , both as an amendment to Constitution and account at Island State Credit Union (separate fund and checking account to meet TDS requirements).
- C. The name on our credit-card account was changed to meet Australian government requirements.
- D. There's been good support in the Australian community since we achieved TDS. For example, Shan Ali of the Grameen Bank made the first donation, of \$100.

II. Projects

A. Revolving Sheep Bank

1. Update

Year 04 is underway. Professor Goldstein has now received the report from Yonden, but at this date (28 May) has not yet translated it. We're still waiting to hear how much the project will need for Year 04, this year. Prof. Goldstein had requested 10% more than last year, but I queried that. Nomads were to begin repaying the loans; consequently, our contribution should be less.

2. Fundraising

There's been no formal fundraising for the Sheep Bank this year.

3. Publicity

a. See Medical Director's Report.

b. As mentioned in the last President's Report, I contacted Pema Thinley, editor of *Tibetan Review*. So far, he's not publicised the Revolving Sheep Bank, but we are exchanging newsletters.

4. Future

We're waiting for the report from Prof. Goldstein. Next year will be the last year of this experimental project. Don't know how the resettlement of Tibetan nomads by Chinese officials is impacting the Revolving Sheep Bank. When asked for critical literature about Chinese resettlement of the nomads of Tibet, Prof Goldstein provided his website address: <http://www.cwru.edu/affil/tibet/nomadpapers.html>

B. **Adult Literacy in Sohbar, Meghalaya, NE India**

We're funding this project for another year, at the same cost of US\$1000. When queried that costs should be reduced due to cupboards, et al already being purchased, Dr Ghonglah said that there are other expenses, such as travel. We accept this.

There was a problem with funds reaching Dr Ghonglah via wire transfer. We had to pay for a trace (\$20), which found that the funds had arrived in his local bank branch within a week. The latest wire transfer, in early May 2003, reached Dr Ghonglah 16 May.

C. **BODHI Mass Health Awareness Campaign**

Tenpa TK has sent a report and photographs, which are available in the BODHI office in Campbell Town and presented at this meeting. Tenpa tried to address the issues raised the report form, but didn't provide sufficient details. He did include photographs, some of which are on the website. Tenpa has now been transferred to Kollegal, the most inaccessible Tibetan settlement in Karnataka, South India, making communication even more problematic. He has also resigned.

D. **Other**

1. Library from Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston, Tasmania
Donated by teacher who found us listed under Tasmanian non-profit organisations. It brought in \$162.
2. Library at Sohbar
D.1. was nucleus for a library at Sohbar. We provided \$500.
3. Adult Literacy Project in Muypat, Meghalaya
We've decided to fund a second project of Dr Ghonglah's, in a very remote and poor village in NE India. This project has the approval of the village headman, who doesn't object to women being educated. We've sent US\$1000.

4. Explored CARED child labour projects in South India, but rejected due to unfavourable report from U-Assist, SAS charity in Sweden. I was keen to do it, as I'd like BODHI to branch out. However, Denis and Colin overruled.
5. Dr Shanti Raman will be spending six months in India later this year. She's going with her husband, a musicologist, and two young children. We're hoping that Dr Raman will identify potential projects.
6. Peruvian microscopy. Colin heard about a low-tech project in Peru in which villagers examined their own faeces for bacteria under a microscope. This had dramatic public health benefits. We've contacted Tamsyn Murray, the person responsible, a PhD student in Brisbane, who was very helpful. We wrote to the Tibetan Department of Health in Dharmasala regarding this project, but never heard back. We're keeping it in mind.
7. Ethiopia. We were contacted via email by Prof Alemayehu, an Ethiopian international economics professor working at a university in Georgia, in the U.S. He wants to semi-retire in a few years and do some health, education and agricultural projects in Debre Elias, his home village in Ethiopia. We've been corresponding with him. Prof Alemayehu has sent us photographs and extensive information.

III. Volunteers

None this year. As discussed last year, we're no longer seeking or fostering volunteers.

IV. Other

A. Email correspondence

1. Luke Duggleby. An English photojournalist who has donated images for use in the newsletter and on the website.
2. 4 French medical students. Claire Jacob, a medical student in Paris, has been corresponding with us. She and 3 other medical students are volunteering in Mundgod this (northern) summer and hope to take medicines and equipment.
3. Extensive email correspondence with Marty and Gail Rubin over the bar mitzvah project of her son, Zach. Marty and Gail wanted him to donate the money (about \$300) to one of BODHI's projects, but he wanted

to do something different. Nothing we had appealed to him. We were happy to be part of the process of a child deciding how to best use his funds for others.

B. India Field Representative

1. Tenpa TK resigned as India Field Representative 31 March 2003, due to poor health and work commitments. He's asked for a letter of reference, which we'll do.

2. Dr Hallelohim Ghonglah has offered to be BODHI's India Field Representative, which we're inclined to accept. We met him at an MAPW (Medical Association for the Prevention of War) conference in Sydney around 1994. Colin's going to India later in the year and will talk to him. Discuss in General Business.

C. Dr Shanti Raman proposed as BODHI's first Australian Community Adviser. Her U.S. counterpart, Richard Patterson, is active. Discuss in General Business.

D. Website. Have been busy with this during the year, as well as much email communication.

E. Fundraising

1. Newsletter.

a. The latest newsletter, No 24, may be the best one ever, in terms of financial return. This could be because it's the first one at the end of the financial year after BODHI Australia achieved tax-deductible status. We note that two donations of \$1000 each came in from Tasmanian GPs in the first week; perhaps the Tasmanian community micro-project (library books from Scotch Oakburn to home schoolers) contributed?

2. No events this year.

F. Publicity

1. Bryan West (geography teacher in Far N QLD) is still in touch and interested. He has asked Colin to contribute to an online OpEd zine. He had his students go to our website; response was positive.

2. No events this year.

3. We did a mailing to all the Tibetan Department of Education

schools in India, as part of our educative function.

4. Corresponding with SAS U-assist, the charitable arm of SAS Airlines (we'd contacted them re CARED).

G. We continue to receive the odd email in German, and would like to find someone who speaks German to translate.

H. Thank you very much to the directors, officers and committee members for their hard work and support over the year.

DIRECTOR OF ELECTRONIC COMMUNICATIONS REPORT 2002-May 2003

2002 has seen an exciting development in BODHI's activities online, as the website has been reshaped, relocated and reorganised. Although much remains to be done, and constant routine maintenance is required, the combined efforts of Susan, Colin and Denis have given the site a real facelift. We have left the angelfire free provider for a number of reasons, not the least of which was that the advertisements were intruding seriously on the usefulness of the site. Thanks to the ecotimecapsule project, I have placed BODHI on a subsite which is trouble-free in many respects and which costs BODHI nothing to use. The URL is <http://www.ecotimecapsule.com/bodhi/>

There seems to be a growing interest in BODHI through the site nationally and internationally, and I am making enquiries to place a reliable web counter on the site so that we can get a clearer picture of the traffic and which parts of the site are being visited.

It is envisaged that the site will continue to grow in the coming year, offering increased communications possibilities and a greater chance of attracting donors and helpers for BODHI.

BODHI Times is available in colour from the website as soon as each issue is ready for publication. There are also some interesting articles online at the site, and we envisage more interactivity for visitors to the site as the year progresses.

Denis Wright
Director of Electronic Communications

Medical Director's Report

BODHI Australia Inc

Campbell Town, Tas June 1, 2003

For 2002

- ◆ Tenpa TK's amicable resignation as BODHI's India representative, mostly because of his ill health. This, together with excessive other commitments, may explain his poorer communication of late. His transfer from Mundgod to Kollegal is noted and we wish him well.
- ◆ Application for Tenpa's position by Dr Gonglah. To be discussed in October at our proposed meeting when I go to India.
- ◆ Visit to Shillong, Meghalaya, India to see Dr Gonglah planned for October. Also a visit to the Indian Institute for Environmental Economics is planned, as are meetings in Delhi with colleagues of Dr Gurjar, of Mainz, Germany (originally from Rajasthan).
- ◆ Offer of support from Dr Shanti Raman, who will be in New Delhi for the second half of this year.
- ◆ Further meeting with Professor David Rapport, who has offered to write article for BODHI.
 - ◆ No further contact with Drs Dan Rikleen and Kristin Lobo.
- ◆ Continued support from Dr Greg Schwarz (who hopes to volunteer to work in Bhutan one day).
- ◆ No further correspondence with Dr Rachel Kohn from the ABC Spirit of Things – this may eventually lead to a radio programme re BODHI and “engaged Buddhism.” We have sent newsletters, but had no response. This should be followed up.
- ◆ Health does not just depend on primary or secondary health care, but also education and economic status. I am comfortable, therefore, that projects that do not focus only on health are beneficial for both development and health. However, if we are able to raise the funds, then a specifically health-orientated project would be desirable, perhaps in NE India. This could be a component of a larger project.

- ◆ We do not have much involvement with Tibetan refugees at present, and this trend is likely to continue with Tenpa's resignation. I do not regret this, since the identification of suitable and sustainable projects involving Tibetan refugees in India is problematic, for several reasons.
- ◆ My recent promotion (to research fellow at NCEPH) should offer further opportunities to gradually increase awareness of BODHI's existence, and I hope to advance the achievement of its aims. I have been asked to participate in a research programme based in Cambodia in the second half of 2004, which may also lead to opportunities for BODHI. The goal of engaging a greater percentage of people interested in Buddhism remains unfulfilled.
- ◆ A number of recent publications are relevant to BODHI's work. These are listed in the appendix.

Appendix: Recent (2002 to date) publications of relevance to BODHI's work

- Butler, C.D. 2003: Environmental Challenges. In: *The Food Atlas* (E. Millstone and T. Lang), Earthscan, London, U.K., pp. 16-17.
- Butler, C.D. 2003: Water Pressure. In: *The Food Atlas* (E. Millstone and T. Lang), Earthscan, London, U.K., pp. 18-19.
- Butler, C.D., Corvalan, C., and Koren, H. Human health and well-being in global ecological scenarios. *Ecosystems* (submitted) (invited)
- Butler, C.D. The environment always matters. *Development Bulletin* (submitted) (invited)
- McMichael, A.J., Shearman, D., and Butler C.D. Climate change position paper, prepared for the International Society of Drs for the Environment.
<http://www.healthyskepticism.org/dea/policy/ISDE%20climate%20policy.doc> 12.2.03
- Butler, C.D. 2002: The poverty of economics in times of global change. *Asia-Pacific Network for Global Change Research Newsletter* **8**(2): 4-5 (invited).
- _____. 2002: Global nutritional inequalities. In: Furnass, B. (ed) *Nature and Society Forum*, Canberra, pp 37-40.
- _____. 2003: Tropical health, the Sachs Report, causality and politics. *Australasian College of Tropical Medicine Bulletin* **12**(1): 6-7. (invited)
- _____. Equity and peace. (invited keynote paper). *In Search of Sustainability Conference* www.isosconference.org.au (Australia 21, Nature and Society Forum and Sustainable Population Australia)
- _____. 2002: Dangerous climate change and global food security. *Science dEbate*
<http://www.sciencemag.org/cgi/eletters/296/5575/1971>
- Lee, K., Bradley, D., Ahern, M.J., McMichael, A.J. and Butler, C.D. 2001: The need for an informed and open debate on globalisation and health *eBMJ*
<http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/323/7311/504#EL1>
- Lee, K., Bradley, D., Ahern, M.J., McMichael, A.J. and Butler, C.D. 2002: Globalisation and health. Informed and open debate on globalisation and health is needed. *BMJ* **324**, 44.
- Lee, K., Bradley, D., Ahern, M.J., McMichael, A.J. and Butler, C.D. 2002: Globalisation and health. Informed and open debate on globalisation and health is needed. *Global Change and Human Health* **3**(2), 16-9.
- Butler, C.D. 2002: Globalisation and health. *BMJ* **324**, 1276.
- _____. 2002: Lomborg, McMichael, and egalitarianism. *eBMJ*
<http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/325/7378/1461#28286>
- _____. 2002: Politics, health and justice *eBMJ* <http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/325/7378/1431#28291>
- _____. 2003: Sex has plenty to do with AIDS, at least in sub-Saharan Africa. *eBMJ*
<http://bmj.com/cgi/eletters/326/7381/126/e#28856>
- _____. 2003: Old letters, new rules. *Lancet* **361**, 706.
- _____. 2003: How political should a general medical journal be? Politics, health and justice are intertwined. *BMJ* **326**, 821.
- _____. 2003: International submissions to journals. *Lancet* **361**, 1388.

- _____ 2003 (in press) Public goods, economics, and obesity *In Touch* Public Health Association of Australia (invited)
- _____ Health matters. In *The Natural Edge* project, Smith, M., et al (editor) (invited chapter).
- _____ Poverty, inequality, future food security and conflict. For *Poverty, Food and Health in Welfare: Current Issues, Future Perspectives, Lisbon, July, 2003*. (under preparation)

Oral presentations:

- McMichael A.J., Butler C.D. 2002: Global health trends: Evidence for and against sustainable progress, *International Union for the Scientific Study of Population, Committee on Emerging Health Threats*, Rostock, Germany, June, 2002.
- Butler, C.D. 2002: Population health and the environmental war. *Healthy Ecosystems, Healthy People. International Society for Ecosystem Health*, Washington DC, USA, June.
- _____ 2002: Global social capital, sustainability, and hope. *Indo-Pacific Ecosystem Health Conference* Perth WA, November. (invited)
http://www.chs.ecu.edu.au/research/ceh/conference_2002/index.html 13.2.03
- _____ 2003: The Australian dilemma. *Airs, Waters, Places Conference*, University of Newcastle, NSW, Australia. April 14-15 (invited)
- Van Kerkhoff L, Butler CD, Eckersley R. Sustainability and health. Internal NCEPH presentation April 30 (invited).
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Pending:

- _____ The impact of population change: Key issues for future development policy. *Population Change And Population Futures In Asia-Pacific: Implications For Development Policy*, Visions Theatre, National Museum of Australia, Acton, Canberra, 5 June 2003 (invited)
- _____ 2003 Poverty, inequality, future food security and conflict. *Poverty, Food and Health in Welfare: Current Issues, Future Perspectives*. Lisbon, Portugal. July 1-4, 2003
- _____ 2003 Global environmental change and human well-being. *Max Planck Institute for Chemistry, Atmospheric Chemistry Division, Mainz, Germany* (June 27) (invited)
- _____ 2003 Ecosystem services, human health and the future. *Environmental Protection Agency*, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (July 10) (invited)
- _____ 2003 School of Public Health, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC, USA (July 11) (invited)
- _____ and Corvalan, C. 2003 Ecosystem change and the future of civilisation. *Traversing Boundaries*. International Society for Environmental Epidemiology, Perth WA Sep 24-26.

1. Audited report

As previously, our accounts and bank statements were audited, gratis, by Camerons accountants, Launceston. The total bank balances at the close of 2001 were \$6,137, and this increased to \$12,564 at the end of 2002. As well, BODHI US owed BODHI Australia \$2,893, meaning BODHI Australia's total assets were \$15,457 as of 31.12.02.

2. Income

β Donations

Total income in 2002 exceeded \$10,000, for the first time. This was because the response to newsletters 22 and 23 (see figure), each narrowly exceeded the record set by newsletter 18 (\$4055, which had included \$500 from donors in Europe). The response to newsletter 22 included \$1250 from Prof. J Guillebaud, in exchange for work done by Dr Denis Wright on his eco-time capsule website. Newsletter 23 (the first after the granting of tax deductible status) raised \$4000 solely from Australian donors (the first time this has happened), and the early response to newsletter 24 suggests we will pass this milestone again (\$3880 from 22 donors). The average donation also increased, to slightly over \$100 for each newsletter in 2002. However, the total number of donors fell, and it is of some concern that so few donors are first-time donors.

β Fund raising

Our main fund-raising effort was to attend the Dalai Lama's tour in Victoria, the ACT and NSW. At least one BODHI representative attended each event, involving substantial time and travel. Despite BODHI being a major underwriter of the tour, with a maximum liability of \$10,000 (underwritten by Susan and I) and an involvement since 2000, the result was disappointing. Reasons for this included lack of liability insurance, which proved impossible to gain in the short notice given (only a week or two) and which prevented us from having a separate stall in Melbourne or Geelong. As well, the organisers in Sydney failed to respond meaningfully to preliminary communications (procrastinating for many months and then not returning calls or emails). In the end, all organisations (including the the Australian Tibet Council [ATC]) were excluded from the Sydney and Canberra events, contrary to earlier advice. A debacle was avoided by co-operation with the ATC, and the Geelong Dharma Centre. Respectively, these organisations allowed BODHI to use a quarter of a table in Melbourne and a poorly located fraction of a table in a crowded tent in Geelong for the one day the Dalai Lama was there.

About 100 posters were sold or given away, realising \$795 after non-detailed expenses of about \$200. About 100 posters were hand-carried from the US, so that our Australian stock is roughly the same now as before the tour. As well, we distributed about 1500 newsletters and brochures, and conversed with many passers by. This generated useful publicity, but has not led to a single donation that we can identify. Jeni Crump, Jack and Audrey Meltzer (in Melbourne) and Dr Shanti Raman (in Sydney) were very helpful with other aspects of the logistics for these events (eg transporting posters, minding the stall etc).

The tour made a substantial profit, but unlike previous tours, funds were not dispensed to any Australian organisations.

A collection of books donated by Scotch Oakburn College, Launceston, raised \$160 (funds raised in 2003). A hand knitted jumper donated by Mrs Margaret Butler raised \$82 (also to appear in 2003 records).

3. Expenses

Projects

One major project was funded, for \$2500. Newsletter expenses, accounted as a project, equalled \$157 (via a complex formula – see computer for details).

Printing and postage

These expenses remain low. Printing was, again, our major expense (\$510), and we continue to use the same printer, at the University of Tasmania. International postage was largely done through the ANU bulk mail centre, and these modest costs were mostly donated by Susan and I.

Office

As with 2001, BODHI Australia did not pay *any* email, telephone, web design, travel or other office expenses in 2002.

Bank charges

Bank charges remain high in comparison to the years before we opened the credit card account. However, the credit card facility pays for itself, including by facilitating donations from overseas. If we set up internet donations (eg using epay) a credit card facility will also be essential. Bendigo Bank has continued to subsidise the cost of transfers of funds to India.

Administrative cost ratio

Non-project expenses (net of that owed by BODHI US) totalled \$1059 (excluding approximately \$200 incurred in selling the posters). This was 10% of the total income for 2002, and is the lowest percentage to date. Further reduction to the absolute cost of expenses appears unlikely, but the percentage should be lowered if total income continues to rise. We still have many spare newsletters, and economies of scale mean the minimum print run is likely to remain 1000.

Amount owed by BODHI US

\$2893 as of December 31, 2002. As explained in earlier reports, this is the cumulative debt owed by BODHI US for their component of newsletter, other printing and postage costs since 1998 (see table). The amount includes that offset by BODHI US credit card donations that are currently deposited in the BODHI Australia account. BODHI US now has sufficient funds to cover this debt.

Further details

See tables, figure and audited statement. More detailed records are held in Colin's computer with a back up in Susan's and also on a Zip disc. Original bank statements are kept at Campbell Town.

4. Strategies

Newsletter

Continues to be the main fund-raising vehicle and is also important for publicity and communication with members. The Australian mailing list has been slightly expanded, mainly by including people that I have met at conferences and through work. As yet, this has not led to any donations (though this strategy has been successful in the past). The most recent newsletter has generated an unusually positive response (judged by comments as well as donations).

Website

Has continued to improve, and we think it desirable to establish a direct payment facility, on a trial basis. Mr David Butler advised that the Donate Net option (which wanted 10% of donations) was too expensive, though epay (about \$300 per annum plus 50c per transaction) may cost more if web-sourced donations are low. However, epay offers the convenience of a direct credit facility to our Australian credit card account. As well, there was no guarantee that Donate Net would not increase its charge in future, and it would have been galling for 10% to be siphoned off, had we received a large donation this way.

Publicity

BODHI has received publicity from several publications, including in the Lancet, the BMJ (in several letters in which I stated my association with BODHI as a potential conflict of interest – these letters were relevant to Third World development), and the Bulletin of the Australasian College of Tropical Medicine. The ACTM article included a paragraph about BODHI, and included the listed the BODHI website. As well, I am a keynote speaker at a forthcoming Ausaid sponsored symposium and workshop on development in the Asia Pacific (to be held in Canberra in June, 2003), and preliminary publicity for this meeting has mentioned BODHI. Finally, my listing at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health [NCEPH] website mentions BODHI, including the website url.

Future tours of the Dalai Lama

Unless a written guarantee of fuller co-operation is given by the organisers of future tours, and unless the insurance problem can be solved, I do not think that BODHI should underwrite future tours of the Dalai Lama.

Posters

A verbal approach to Paul Bourke, director of ATC for ATC to sell posters on our behalf on a commission basis was politely rejected. Nevertheless some might be sold through two ATC contacts we met at Melbourne, for example at WOMAD.

Launceston Buddhist Centre

Initial verbal interest has not yet resulted in evidence of a deeper involvement.

Other strategies

Adrienne Kjellstrom (wife of Prof. Tord Kjellstrom at NCEPH) has expressed an interest in supporting BODHI.

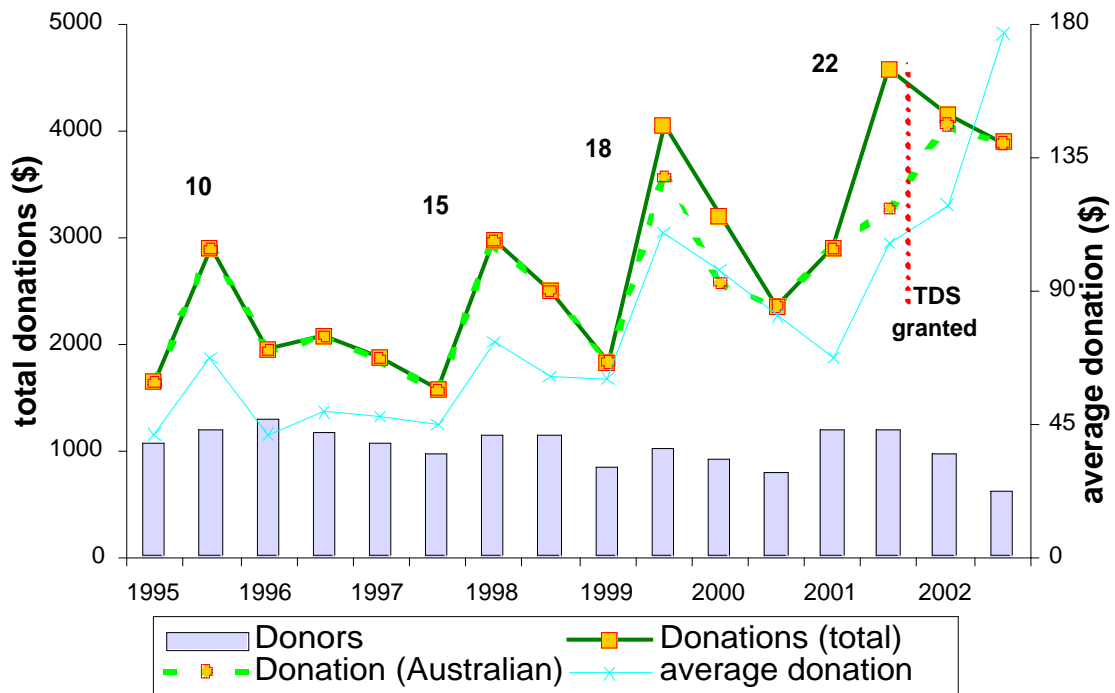
Future Projects

BODHI Australia is accumulating a sum sufficient to cover the liability for the Sheep Bank project this year (we can hope for, but not rely on a repeat of last year's successful 13 Ugly Docs event).

A visit is planned for Meghalaya in October, and if encouraging will probably result in further projects in N.E. India. It is desirable, however, to develop projects elsewhere as well.

INCOME (calendar years)					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Australia (general)	3770	4407	6034	5070	5095
Aust (to BAORF)					2755
Australia (total)					7850
Europe	0	0	500	540	1250
US	0	0	100	570	222
New Zealand	0	0	85	0	0
Donations total	3770	4407	6651	6265	9322
Posters	0	80	30	0	795
Interest	5	6	16	92	91
Other	0	0	231	0	0
ATS	4700	500	0	500	0
Total	8475	5507	6929	6857	10208
cumulative income (98-on)		13982	20911	27768	37976
EXPENSES (calendar years)					
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
PROJECTS	4997	2150	275	6326	2500
Projects (n/l)	216	146	126	66	157
Projects (total)	5213	2296	401	6392	2657
Projects as % inc	62%	42%	6%	93%	26%
Expenses as %	99%	75%	37%	115%	37%
other exp	38%	34%	32%	22%	11%
proj as % cumul inc		54%	38%	52%	40%
other exp as % cumul inc	38%	36%	35%	31%	26%
on hand as % cumul inc					16%
Post (domestic)			208	217	315
Post (int)				94	20
Post (US)			288	205	
Post (total)	1202	664	495	516	335
N/letters/env			766	299	221
N/letters/env				182	184
Envelopes				103	94
Brochures			674	51	0
AGM notices				25	0
Other print					11
PRINT (TOTAL)	957	794	1440	660	510
Fundraising	0	60	45		0

Office	181	0	0	0	0
Tel/email	250	122	50	0	0
	1998	1999	2000	2001	2002
Software	0	100	0	0	0
Travel	150	0	0	0	0
Bank fees & taxes	63	10	228	291	314
Govt charges	40	40	51	40	42
Staff	563	176	0	270	0
Transfer India	0	25	0	0	0
TOTAL EXPENSES	8403	4142	2584	7904	3781
non proj tot exp	3190	1846	2183	1512	1124
Cumulative admin exp	3190	5036	7219	8731	9855
Owed by BODHI US	1321	752	690	64	65
non proj exp (net US)	1869	1094	1493	1448	1059
net non proj exp as % inc	22%	20%	22%	21%	10%
cum non proj exp	1869	2962	4455	5903	6962
cum non proj exp	22%	21%	21%	21%	18%



BODHI Australia: donors (including overseas, non US) analysis 1995-2003.

Donations increased substantially in 2002, and this trend looks like continuing into 2003. Average donations have increased even more, but of some concern the total number of donors (striped columns) has not increased. Data for 2003 are until May 27. Tax deductible status was granted prior to newsletter 23, in late 2002. The numbers (10, 15, 18, 22) refer to the newsletter issue.

**BODHI Australia AGM
7 April 2002
Campbell Town, Tasmania
Minutes**

Open:

Present: Colin Butler, Simon Brown, Jane Hudspeth, Denis Wright, Susan W Butler

Apologies: Dr Gerry & Sally McGushin, Graeme Ranft, Angela Douglas, Pat Earhart

Previous minutes: Presented as read. Moved: Simon Brown, Seconded: Susan Butler.

Business arising from minutes

Jane will investigate rules governing appointment of sub-committee members: done promptly.

Everything else will be covered subsequently.

Reports

Director of Electronic Communication: BODHI Australia 2001

There has been little activity in upgrading and renovating the BODHI website since the last partial facelift, and there is much which ought to be done to refurbish the site. Our free host, Angelfire, is not the easiest to deal with since its incorporation into the Lycos network. When it comes to the mechanics of file management, it changes its format regularly and previous methods of doing things stop working. These are not insurmountable problems but the process is time consuming and doesn't encourage quick modifications to the site.

Nevertheless, I would like to make better use of the "stop press" segment (under the NEW button on the navigation bar) that logs initiatives and changes in BODHI's operations as these circumstances arise. I would also like to have a part of the site devoted to an HTML version of BODHI Times - the stories and images in an electronic format. At present, a downloadable (pdf) version of the latest issue is available on the site, but a flexible online version would not take that much time to create. It could include extra illustrative material and stories that don't make it into the regular issue because of space considerations. Space is virtually limitless in online versions.

All that's required is time and energy!

Denis

President's Report: BODHI Australia 2001

I. Projects

A. Revolving Sheep Bank.

1. Update. Year 3 is underway. We're still waiting for Yonden's report. Prof Goldstein says that there was a hold up, but that things are going well.

2. Fundraising. BODHI Australia and BODHI US have made a commitment to send US\$4200 to Prof Goldstein in May. BODHI Australia is to be responsible for 50% of this, and we have the funds in hand.

a. Australia: Good individual response (see treasurer's report). Bryan West, a teacher in QLD, unfortunately has changed his email address, and we have lowered our expectations of his fundraising event.

b. The Australian Tibetan Society donated \$500 for the RSB, as promised, and as mentioned in my report from last year. No corporations were approached in 2001.

c. Slides: Malcolm Dick, manager of Stallard's Camera House at Ulverstone, Tas, has made slides for a slide show from Prof Goldstein and Dr Beall's book, *Nomads of Western Tibet*. This was used at the slide show held at Rugs of Tibet, Hobart, and we hope will be used at similar events.

3. Publicity.

a. Richard Patterson sent a copy of a Discovery Channel documentary video (in US compatible format) featuring the work of Prof Goldstein and Dr Beall among the nomads in Western Tibet. A BODHI supporter, Eliot Bliss, made a copy suitable for Australian videos (PAL Secam), which was also shown at the slide show night.

b. Pema Thinley, editor of *Tibetan Review*, has agreed to exchange newsletters and publicise the RSB and our other work.

4. Future. We estimate that the cost of years 4 and 5 of the RSB will be similar to this year, that is, about another A\$16,000. We hope that BODHI Australia will be able to pay for 50% of this.

B. Adult Literacy in Sohbar, Meghalaya, India

This project is educating 50 adults. Unfortunately, children have had to be turned away, due to lack of funds (see BODHI Times 20).

C. BODHI Mass Health Awareness Campaign.

Details of this project were provided in BODHI Times 21. Tenpa TK has informed us that the project has started. He has promised to provide a project report shortly. His mother has just died.

D. Other: see Medical Director's report.

II. Volunteers.

Unfortunately, we have decided that for the present it is unrealistic to actively seek volunteers. Because our funds and resources are so limited it is, in general, not worth the risk of falsely raising expectations of possible placements among would-be volunteers. BODHI Australia's current inability to provide any financial support means that only extraordinarily motivated individuals are likely to proceed (such as Wendy and Kim Birley in the early 1990s). Others, such as Andy Baird and Jeni Crump, are as likely to find a placement on their own as through our contacts. References to BODHI seeking future volunteer placements on the website (if there are any) should be deleted.

III. Tax-deductibility

A. Good news! We've made some progress with AusAID. After sending copious information and several email exchanges, Carolyn Nimmo recommended that BODHI Australia be granted TDS. However, this is only the first step, and Allan Tonkin has requested further information.

B. An important issue was all the community support we got. The letters of support were vital.

C. Senator John Watson provided sound advice, including to update our Constitution. Tony Scavone, in Hobart, was very helpful with this (pro bono).

D. Here's the latest email from Allan Tonkin, Carolyn Nimmo's superior:

'I have now been able to view Colin's response to Carolyn's e-mail, and have now had the opportunity to review your whole application as well. I still believe that Bhodi will need to strengthen their claims against two of the

criteria. I have referred to these below:

‘Criterion 1 its activities are focussed on development and/or relief and it has a record of providing aid in a professionally competent manner

‘While I can see that Bhodi have been involved in worthwhile development activities in the past we need to convince the Minister that Bhodi are able to undertake effective development work now. It still remains a concern that the financial statements for 1999 and 2000 indicate only minimal involvement in projects, while most of Bhodi's expenditure has been on pamphlet/ publications. The provision of a spreadsheet from Colin that indicates a lot of volunteer activity during the last 10 years does not bear out Bhodi's claims providing effective development as most of the in-kind donations from members seem to have been on publications and domestic administration.

‘I believe that you will need the 2001 audited financial report to better indicate that Bhodi has recently been disbursing monies to projects at least to an extent more than the cost of administration/publications.

‘Also to date, we have not received copies of your newsletters. As these would contain descriptive information on Bhodi projects they would be very useful to support your claims against this criterion.

‘Criterion (v) it is clearly identifiable as Australian

‘Some photographs of the Australian identity of Bhodi at the point of Aid delivery against some of your projects would strengthen your claims against this criterion. This is particularly important for Bhodi given that it seems that much of your work is undertaken in conjunction with your US Affiliate.

‘Please contact me should you have any queries regarding the clarifications and additional information that we are seeking.

‘Regards, Allan Tonkin, Community Programs Section
Australian Agency for International Development Phone: 02 6206 4667’

As you can see, there's still a lot to do. The problem with photographs is that our projects are not capital works, like buildings, but tend to be intangible. I've emailed Dr Gonghlah requesting that he do a banner or something similar for us, stating that this project is the work of BODHI Australia, photograph and email it.

E. Here's what Carolyn Nimmo, who approved our original application, had to say recently: ‘After my positive comments earlier in the year it must be frustrating to have a pause in progress now, but I am sure there is still movement

in a positive direction.

‘I truly hope it doesn't take too long now.’

IV. Other

A. Fundraising: also see treasurer's report

1. We have not heard from Julian Green and have not contacted him (apart from sending newsletters).
2. Year 11 & 12 students at The Friends' School, Hobart sent \$100 for RSB.
3. Posters at all venues when HH Dalai Lama visits in May.

B. Publicity

1. In order to take advantage of the Dalai Lama's Australian tour, and also to help Dr Marty Rubin with his "15 Ugly Docs" fundraising event, BODHI Times 22 will be printed early.
2. We receive regular requests in German for information on volunteering, but so far have been unable to make any concrete use of this (we have at times requested that German contacts help with raising funds in Germany).

C. Should we use mailing wrappers rather than envelopes to further cut costs? For discussion in General Business.

Medical Director's Report

A more favourable global environment for aid?

Globally, the anti-Western terrorist attacks of September 11 have stimulated some soul-searching by wealthy nations towards international inequality. The value of aid projects has been advocated by many powerful individuals (see Medical Director's Desk for BODHI Times 22, attached.) This change in perception may (optimistically) be a factor for the increased number of donors for the most recent newsletter.

Future projects

My view is that we should not seek to develop any new health related projects at the present, until funding for the RSB and other existing projects has been met. (Perhaps we can send Lobsang Gelek – see President's report – a few hundred dollars for supplies at some point, but from the sound of it, the population served does not justify the establishment of the clinic that he proposes.) I hope that the Dalai Lama's visit, and further careful and detailed correspondence with AusAID will eventually bear fruit, by gaining TDS and by increasing donations and volunteer activity. (Should the Dalai Lama's tour make a profit, and we become short-listed for funds then I think we should first seek to complete funding of the RSB.)

We have continued to waste substantial time and energy in correspondence with volunteers who have not been able to translate their wishes into actions. Perhaps as a rule of thumb we should be very blunt, and suggest to such people that if they aim to invest (say) ten hours of their time raising funds then they should first donate (say) five hours of pay (if they then want to do more that's fine). This approach may seem counter-productive, by risking offence, but our experience increasingly is that unsolicited offers to help by individuals, unknown to us, produces very little if any concrete result.

Appointment as Fellow for Health and Sustainable Development, ANU

As of April 11, 2002, I have been appointed as a post-doctoral research fellow at the National Centre for Epidemiology and Population Health, at the Australian National University, Canberra, in sustainable development and health. This meshes very well with BODHI's aims, and means that I will have increasing contact with highly placed individuals, around the world, who are relevant to BODHI's work. However, expectations should not be raised that this will produce any substantial or rapid changes for BODHI. My PhD and MSc studies have already brought substantial contact with people in this field, but comparatively few seem to have a truly genuine wish to reduce poverty and to improve health, and most of those who do are already extremely busy and often over-committed people (from experience, interest in BODHI, even among this selected population, is generally minimal – on the other hand, many of our most loyal and generous donors have resulted from personal contact.).

Perseverance and patience

If we can retain sufficient patience, including being prepared to appeal if TDS status is rejected, and continue as we have done then TDS may eventually be granted, though possibly taking at least another year. We may then be able to consider undertaking a more professional and ambitious fund-raising campaign (eg a national tour giving talks; this could work if we could find individuals in different towns and cities who could help with accommodation and rent a hall – for example in libraries, church halls and Buddhist centres.

BODHI remains a unique organisation with considerable potential. The need for sustainable development has never been greater, and will increase in the coming decades. It remains to be seen, however, if affluent populations can meet these challenges. BODHI Australia is subject to external forces which we cannot change, and which have made fund-raising for Third World development increasingly tough in recent decades. Just to keep going as we have done is difficult and we should not under-estimate our achievements to date, irrespective of external recognition.

I think it is also very important that we continue to pace ourselves, to not make too many commitments, and to focus on a few key events each year. Our priorities for the next year are clear – TDS, the RSB, and the Dalai Lama's visit.

I would also like to see the newsletter go to a few more sites in the Third World, especially to Tibetan schools in exile. Perhaps a list of contact names and addresses can be obtained from Chope? I think this is consistent with the educative role of the newsletter. If this is done I think an accompanying letter should be sent.

I will make a self-censored version of this available for publication on the web (if we do this still? I think it would be a good idea.)

Colin Butler Campbell Town 7210 April 7, 2002

General business

I. Future projects

A. Lobsang Gelek

Susan: I'd like to consider funding Lobsang Gelek, dependent upon establishment of appropriate communication and that his proposal meets our criteria

Colin, Jane and Simon agree that this sounds like a good idea.

Colin: My view is that we should not seek to develop any new health related projects at the present, until funding for the RSB and other existing projects has been met.

Denis: Strongly agree

B. Adult Literacy in Sohbar, Meghalaya, India

Colin: I'd also like to consider supporting Dr Ghonglah for another year of the Adult Literacy Project in Sohbar.

Susan: We're waiting to hear from him.

Jane and Simon: This sounds like a good idea.

Denis: What chance do we have of increasing funding on this project?

C. Revolving Sheep Bank

Colin: We should not proceed with any new projects until funding is secured for this project. After this year, we are funding it for two more years.

Susan: We could approach the Committee for the Dalai Lama's 2002 visit for funding for the next two years—if there are funds left over, as there were last time.

D. Educative role of BODHI Times

Colin: I argue that the BODHI Times has an educative role as well as an informative one and estimate it to be 10% of total production costs.

Susan, Jane and Simon agree that it serves an educative purpose.

Denis: I think the reasons given are compelling and I wonder whether 10% is too

low. Is it a ball park figure? I would have thought that 25% is reasonable, but I realise there is no point in making it so high that it becomes provocative.

After discussion of this point, Colin, Susan, Jane and Simon agree that 25% is a reasonable figure.

1. Susan to ask Choje Paljor, the Dalai Lama's representative, for list of Tibetan schools in India and schools in Australia interested in Tibetan matters.
2. Susan to contact Elizabeth Smith for same.

E. Volunteers. Cut back (see reports).

Colin: We need to vet more carefully and limit correspondence and time with volunteers who may be well-meaning but are unable to translate their wishes into actions. Perhaps as a rule of thumb, we could suggest to such individuals that if they think they might be able to donate n hours of their engaged in fund-raising or other efforts, then they should first consider donating $n/2$ hours of pay before so doing, or at least becoming a member. This approach risks offence, but my experience increasingly is that unsolicited offers to help by individuals, unknown to us, too often produces little if any concrete result.

F. Susan to continue email correspondence with Dr Ghonglah and Lobsang Gelek, but not raise expectations.

II. Mailers v. envelopes

Colin and Jane think mailers should be used. Simon and Susan opt for envelopes. Denis undecided at first. Discussion. Susan points out that mailers will increase the workload during mailings. Simon asks how much money will be saved. Colin says that the total cost for envelopes last years was \$100. Susan points out that this is low, considering that we use 6 different kinds of envelopes. Offer to reduce use of return envelopes. Jane and Colin eventually agree that it's better to retain use of envelopes. Denis agrees.

III. Tax-deductible status

A. Discussed previously.

B. Colin to drop off copies of BODHI Times to Allan Tonkin at AusAID next week. He will send a synthesis of medical director's report and a current financial report, recalculated at \$25.

IV. Fundraising

Colin talks about a more favourable global environment for aid. Globally, the anti-Western terrorist attacks of September 11 have stimulated some soul-searching by wealthy nations towards international inequality. The value of aid projects has been advocated by many powerful individuals (see Medical Director's Desk for BODHI Times 22, attached.) This change in perception may (optimistically) be a factor for the increased number of donors for the most recent newsletter.

Denis responds: I wonder if the website might not be used more to promote funding from national and international sources? I have always felt that we could do that better.

V. Publicity.

In response to mention of the video Richard Patterson sent to help with publicity and fundraising, featuring the work of Prof Goldstein and Dr Beall among the nomads in Western Tibet:

Denis: I wondered if it might be an idea to let SBS have a look at the video. How long does it run for? (And would they have permission... - probably too complicated....) I wonder if Foreign Correspondent (ABC) might be interested in doing their own story on it. You never know...

Other matters

- I. Susan to write Bryan West, teacher in Queensland who has lost touch.
- II. Jane to write Bendigo Bank re interest donations and ethical policies. Colin notes that we have a good relationship with the Bendigo Bank in Launceston, whose manager waives wire transfer fees.
- III. Jane raised point of electronic newsletters. Discussion.
- IV. Simon suggests contacting Margaret Throsby's guest last week, possibly Jack Heath. Colin may be meeting with him next month re poster sales at Sydney venue of Dalai Lama's teachings.
- V. Culling of mailing lists

This occurs regularly.

Committee

TDS committee to remain the same: Luiz Ribiero, Jane Hudspeth, Jane Bell, Jenny Porteous and Colin and Susan Butler.

Election of office bearers

Susan Butler moved that in the absence of further nominations the present office bearers be re-appointed. Jane Hudspeth seconded.

Thanks to all for coming. It's much appreciated.

Date and place of next meeting: To be determined.
