

BODHI President's Report for the Calendar Year 2018

Dr Devin Bowles

The last year saw BODHI continue its work to help communities and to be a symbol of interfaith support to those in need. In 2018, revenue declined slightly. BODHI opted to be financially conservative, to ensure both strong sustainability and that our donors funds were put to the best possible use, and restricted project expenses accordingly. Our focus on Dalit communities continued, and our support was centred on Bahujan Hitay Women and Child Welfare Society, guided by Karunadeepa in Pune and the Aryaloka Education Society (centred in Nagpur). Work in Pune included a creche, with food and medical care provided to attending children. It also included efforts to empower women, including through family planning. Kitchen gardens of fruit trees are another outcome of this work.

Identifying worthy projects which represent good value for donor's investments is an important challenge for BODHI. In addition to seeking to maintain or expand donations in the coming year, identifying new projects will be important. We hope that expanding our relationships with various Buddhist communities, in Australia and abroad, will help us fulfil this goal

The BODHI Executive is likely to greet new members at the forthcoming AGM, but we also know that Brian and Gerry Warren will be stepping down from the Executive due to other commitments. Let me acknowledge their strong contribution in this role over many years. BODHI must also recognise the other Executive members and our very generous donors, without whom BODHI could not do its important work.

BODHI AUSTRALIA FINANCIAL REPORT FOR 2018 CALENDAR YEAR (mainly)

Prof Colin Butler (treasurer)

This supplements the auditor's report (Camerons Accountants, Launceston Tas, dated May 7, 2019.)

1. **Total income** for 2018 fell by 6% compared to 2017 (adjusted so as to not count a \$500 repayment in 2017 by Kabita Chakma as income); almost identical to 2016.
2. **Advertising** by Biodistributors fell further (to \$2000), but Fortress Learning have increased their support, which they (and we) now classify as advertising. However, for 2018 this was recorded as income. In 2018 Fortress Learning support was \$2600.
3. **Donations** fell by 9% compared to 2017 but were 15% higher than 2016, the lowest of recent years, as donations fell after Susan's death.
4. **Bank interest** rose slightly, to \$3606, due to maturation of a two year term deposit. Overall, the trend for declining interest income is continuing.
5. **Dividends**: the reason for the increase is a mystery, un resolved by phoning My State (our credit union – we have two accounts with them, but this has not changed).
6. We sold one poster, via the website.
7. **Project expenses** in 2018 were unusually low (\$12,461). This was largely because a temporary communication gap in December 2018 with the Aryaloka Education Society that delayed anticipated payment (\$13,951) from December 2018 until January 16 2019.
8. **Closing balance** in 2018 was almost \$164,000 but by February 2019 (after the transfer to Aryaloka was made) it was back to a typical level, in recent years, of \$148,752.
9. Our **ratio** of non-project expenses to income was similar to 2017 (9.2% vs 9.3%).

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10. **Moanoghar:** although the last AGM recommended that we send another tranche (approximately \$20,000) to Moanoghar this has not yet been done; mainly to my apprehension over the difficulties of sending funds and my isolation from excellent communication facilities. I did contact Westpac (as Moanoghar have an account with them) but without success. In October 2018 I wrote to Mr Shane Elliott, the Chief Executive Officer of the ANZ bank (after he had advertised, in response to the banking Royal Commission, as willing to respond to emails about their service from the public) – he did not respond. I feel that I need to be in a place with very good internet and phone access for at least a month after making the transfer, so that I can troubleshoot, as I did last time. Procrastination was influenced by a conversation with Dr Bryan West, who visited Moanoghar in early 2018. Bryan reported that Moanoghar is very well-established, by no means a struggling enterprise. Bryan (one of our most generous donors/advertisers, now for almost two decades) also mentioned how he was attracted by BODHI’s stated wish to help “start ups”, and he stated that Moanoghar did not really fit in this category. This curtailed enthusiasm.
11. In 2018 I spent three full days with the Aryaloka Education Society (Nagpur) and also with the Bahujan Hitay Pune Project (Pune). I was satisfied that each project is running as they have described and I feel our funds are well spent. Funds for this travel were partly provided by two funders for my academic work (who each contributed to a round the world air ticket, which included stops in India) and partly by BODHI US. Local expenses were entirely met by our partners there. BODHI Australia did not bear any expenses for this travel.
12. Thanks to our auditor, Greg Harper, at Camerons. In 2018 the audit process was less gruelling, as collated email correspondence with our partners was not required.
13. All international transfers continued to be done electronically, using ANZ. To date, our transfers to India have been incident free; in contrast to sending funds to Bangladesh.
14. **Bendigo Bank:** Our credit card donation capacity was stopped in 2018 (as resolved at the 2018 AGM) because it was costing us funds and hardly anyone uses a credit card to make a donation any more. The account with Bendigo Bank remains useful (and there are no charges) as this is where interest from one of term deposits is transferred to It (the interest in the other term deposit rolls over). Changing the terms on the two term deposits is now more difficult, requiring a resolution made at either our AGM or at a special meeting. Emilia della Torre and Lucia Arman are now listed as signatories with Bendigo Bank. I think the rule is that any two of these three signatories (i.e. Colin David Butler Emilia Della Torre, Lucia Arman) can change the term or close the term deposit, but this **also** requires the resolution at the AGM or special meeting.
15. The table below does not include the posters (nominally worth \$975)

	2018	2017
Opening Bank Balance Jan 1	147,949	149,903
Income		
advertising	2,000	3,000
dividends	611	221
Donations (BOARF)	24,833	27,170
Donations (non TDS)	100	100
Interest	3,606	2,937
repay forward payment (Kabita)	-	500
posters	20	
Total Income	31,170	33,927

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Expenditure		
Accountant/auditor	771	715
Admin Fee (Colin)	1,671	1,458
AGM venue	200	200
Bank charges	88	220
Filing Fees	62	61
Printing, Postage, Stationery and faxes	37	22
Projects	12,461	32,779
Travel		426

Total expenditure	15,290	35,881
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BANK BALANCES

My State Credit Union (BAORF)	19,389	7,016
My State Credit Union	3,017	2,861
Bendigo Bank	2,648	1,264
ANZ savings	1,911	2,143
ANZ working	142	92
Term Deposit 1 (B Bank)	50,916	50,916
Term Deposit 2 (B Bank)	85,694	83,522
Petty Cash (cash)	112	134

Closing balance 31 December	163,828	147,949
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projects	12,461	32,779
total expenses	15,290	35,881
non-project expenses	2,830	3,102
income	30,670	33,427
non-project expenses as % of income	9.2%	9.3%

PROJECTS	state/country	2018	2017
Aryaloka Education Society	Nagpur, Maharashtra, India		14,279
BHPP/TBMSG	Pune, Maharashtra, India	12,461	13,292
Moanoghar	Rangamati, Chittagong Hill Tracts, Bangladesh		5,207
Total		12,461	32,779

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**Director of Electronic Communications Report
Colin Butler**

Activities for the year 2018

Website: is fairly easy for me to do, but requires good internet access, which is often difficult in Tasmania. Suggestions to improve it are very welcome. Page visits are generally between 1500 and 2000 a week.

Facebook continues, also with a “page” It has about 1300 “friends” with a new friend joining every week. If people post purely religious material on it I delete it and often have to remove the poster as a friend. A few people (in India and Nepal) do post material relevant to social and health work among the poor; such posts are welcome. More re-posting of Facebook material would be welcome.

Twitter: our account exists but has rarely been used.

Mail Chimp: I produced (with input from the committee) about 3 messages in the last year – two were longer and I started calling these “newsletters” so that we are now up to “BODHI Times number 54”. I also used MailChimp to produce a short message advertising today’s public meeting with Eventbrite. **please suggest email addresses for the mailing list.**

YouTube videos: no real progress but the suggestion was made that I be interviewed by someone, perhaps Lucia, while being filmed.

Mainstream media: Now that we have reached 30, I will write to “God Forbid” and also the Religion and Ethics Programme on Radio National. ABC state radio in Tasmania may also be interested in a short interview.