



**AUSTRALIND
CHILDRENS
FUND**

Make a Difference

NEWSLETTER SEP 19.4

EDITOR: Lynette Kelly

ACF is an Australian-based NGO supporting community development projects in India with a focus on health and education for children with disability and disadvantage. 100% of all donations go directly to projects in India. For more information, visit:



www.australindchildrensfund.org/



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PREMA VASAM

Chennai, India



MITHRA

Chennai, India



**JOHNSONS SECONDARY
SCHOOL**

Herbertpur, Northern India



PARIJAT ACADEMY

Guwahati, Assam, India

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(above) Lynette Kelly with school children from Parijat Academy earlier in 2019.

NEWS FROM PARIJAT ACADEMY

As I sit on the verandah at Parijat Academy, I can't help but reflect on how far Parijat has come over the 7 years I have been visiting. How Uttam Teron's vision for joyful education for all became a reality. And with the help of his wife, family and a group of dedicated teachers continued to grow. Add to the mix a small group of local and international supporters that believed in Uttam's dream, the school grew from a single bamboo hut for 4 children to a group of solid cement structures that now hold classes for 504 children.

Of course Uttam's vision didn't stop there. 'Joyful education for all' has always included providing education for the remote forest villages of the Gharbanga region. Parijat's focus is now on providing support for a classroom, library and teachers for 77 students that reside in the Gharbanga forest region. A further 68 children from the region now live at Parijat Academy and we (Tara and I) were lucky enough to be there for the official opening of the hostel. The hostel provides accommodation for 28 girls and is a joint effort of Australind and supporters arranged by the Lindbergh family from the US. The Lindbergh's daughter Elise was a volunteer at Parijat in 2016. The former hostel was a bamboo hut and was parallel to a road that has gradually become a main thoroughfare for heavy vehicles. During monsoon season it was impossible to keep the water out and a dirt floor added to the issues.



(Above) Location of Parijat Academy in Guwahati, Assam, India.

Parijat is located in Guwahati, a region in the state of Assam, India. Assam has a population of 31 million people with 32% living below the poverty line in 2012.

Lynette first discovered Parijat Academy when she travelled to India in 2012 and met Uttam and his wife, Aimoni, who had started the school in 2003. Since this time, Australind CF has supported Parijat to grow as a school and home for children in the region.

Lynette Kelly and her daughter, Tara, travelled to India in February 2019 to make a return visit to Parijat.

IN MEMORY...

It is with deep sadness that the Australind family recently received the news on the sudden passing of Ambika's husband, Charles. Our thoughts and prayers are with Ambika and her baby girl. Jan Tracy will be visiting Prema Vasam this week as part of our support for everyone at Prema Vasam.



(above) Ambika and Amalia at their home in Chennai.



(above) Children at Parijat Academy living in the new hostel.

The dream for Parijat is to make the school self-sufficient and not reliant on monetary donations. For this to happen several initiatives have commenced and more to follow. Parijat has a sewing room where 3 highly skilled employees make garments and items and sell them in support of the school. Of note is their production of sanitary pads and the school now has several local and interstate contracts to produce these. The School is now also producing woven eri silk garments and it is hoped this venture will expand. Australind's support is vital in the support of the 25 teachers' salaries.

WHERE: Yilki Uniting Church
30 Giles St, Encounter Bay

WHEN: October 12th, 2019
AGM from 4pm - **Dinner to follow at 6pm**

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2019 + Dinner at Yilki Uniting Church

Please join Australind Children's Fund for our 2018/19 AGM at Yilki Uniting Church! All members and friends of ACF are invited to come along for the AGM, and stay for a shared meal*. We hope you can make it and look forward to seeing you there!



(above) Harvest of the organic rice paddy fields near Prem Illam in August 2019! We will share more updates on projects at the AGM.

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\$

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