

# **The LBW Trust**

## **Annual Report 2021**

As for so many organisations and people around the world, the 12 months to 30 June 2021, and the all-embracing impact of COVID-19, was a year like no other for The LBW Trust. However, whilst fundraising was challenging, the Trust was able to maintain a similar amount of grants to our partners albeit with the aid of our cash reserves. Our partners and their students have shown extraordinary resilience and commitment to their studies. We continue to be inspired by their determination to Learn and make a Better World. Higher education is needed more than ever to help developing countries recover from the impact of Covid-19.

### **Education Partners and Students**

In the 2021 financial year, The LBW Trust supported students at the following institutions:

- SoTheyCan, Tanzania
- Kakenya's Centre for Excellence, Kenya
- VECT/AIDTC, India
- CandleAid, Sri Lanka
- Prerana College, India
- CLCR, Nepal
- Sports Skills for Live Skills, South Africa
- Mahboba's Promise, Afghanistan
- Yuva Parivartan, India
- UTS – LBW Trust Refugee Teacher Training Program, Indonesia

This cohort was unchanged from the previous year. Since year end the chaotic situation in Afghanistan has resulted in obvious difficulties for students, particularly the young women. However, they have all recently returned to their studies.

### **Annual Dinner - Major Fundraising Event**

As in 2020, we were again fortunate to dodge the Covid bullet and held our Annual Dinner for 2021 on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> February at Le Montage in Lilyfield. As it turned out, the window for such events in Sydney closed soon after.

Le Montage is a terrific venue and with around 300 people, the atmosphere in the room and sense of joy at being back out amongst a large group of friends, was palpable. Another element that contributed to this was a general Indian theme to the evening including the musical entertainment.

Our much loved, longstanding friend Henry Olonga did a wonderful job as MC and yes, he did sing. The LBW Trust's living treasure, Mike Coward, had a very relaxed sit down chat with cricket legend Brett Lee. Brett has become a great friend of the Trust and is the face of our current National Backyard Cricket program. Other entertainment was provided by way of young actors from diverse cultural backgrounds sharing stories of a number of the students we support. Delivering them from all parts of the dining room underscored the range of perspectives they highlighted for us all.

## Cricket Events

Our Corporate Cricket Challenge was contested between eight teams at St. Joseph's College in Hunters Hill in December 2020. It was another terrific day and we thank the College, the many volunteers who help to make this day a success and of course, the players and their employers for their time, enthusiasm and sponsorship!

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 pandemic we were forced to cancel our inaugural Corporate Cricket Challenge in Melbourne in March 2021 at Haileybury College. Hopefully it can be held next summer.

Fortunately, the pandemic did not affect our inaugural National Backyard Cricket campaign (NBYC). The aim of NBYC is to bring families and communities together by playing a game of cricket to help educate disadvantaged youth. It's fun, it's inclusive and everyone can play. In our first year, we achieved great participation and with the support of Harvey Norman raised over \$100,000. The campaign concluded with a wonderful game of backyard cricket hosted by the Governor-General and attended by Ambassadors and High Commissioners from our project countries and representatives from Australian Libraries. The funds raised by NBYC were shared equally between 52 country libraries and LBW Trust projects.



*Cricket in The Governor-General's Backyard*

For the year ahead, our attention is focusing heavily on our National Backyard Cricket Day scheduled for 6<sup>th</sup> February 2022.

## Women for Change

Women for Change (WFC) undertook a range of activities during the year, including:

- A breakfast event hosted by PWC and attended by around 200 people
- A cinema evening held at the Paramount Theatre
- A phone recycling initiative hosted by various work places
- Established a permanent online store through which anyone can purchase Kenyan items and inspirational books at <https://shop.womenforchange.org.au>

As at 30 June 2021, our initial cohort of three students from Kakenya's Centre for Excellence (KCE); Sharon, Peyian and Linet, were all close to completing their under-graduate studies in Sydney. Each

of them is actively considering their next step. A more recent student from KCE, Cynthia, is also due to be attending the University of Technology Sydney (UTS) but COVID-related visa issues have delayed that and she has commenced her nursing degree studying remotely from Kenya. She is expected to arrive in Sydney for the start of the 2022 academic year.

Inevitably, a number of other WFC events that were planned for the year had to be postponed or cancelled including an intended Graduation Celebration for Sharon, Peyian and Linet. We are hopeful that we will still be able to publicly recognise and celebrate their trailblazing achievements at some point in 2022.

## **People – Board & team**

**Ted Alexander** left the Board and stood down as Batting For Change Chair during the year. The Board thanked Ted for his contribution especially in the development of NBYC.

**Marek Ristej** took on the role of Chair for all Cricket Events and brings tremendous energy and focus as we expand and extend NBYC.

**Euan Callister** took on the role of Treasurer during the year taking over from Malcolm Alder who was in the role for more than a decade. Malcolm remains on the Board so there is plenty of continuity in this area. Many thanks to Malcolm for his long innings.

## **Finance**

Income for the year ended 30 June 2021 was \$875,601 which was an increase of 21% on 2020. There was an overall surplus in the year of \$85,807. We distributed \$571,425 directly and indirectly to our student beneficiaries during the year. As at 30 June 2021, we were holding \$456,785 in our various bank accounts which represents The LBW Trust's total net assets at that date.

## **Future Outlook**

As we reached the end of FY21, the ongoing COVID situation made it extremely hard to plan and predict the future. (Bear in mind, this was before the arrival of the Omicron variant and the impact it has had across the world). Ongoing uncertainty about our ability to hold major, in-person events, together with financial strain on potential donors over job and income insecurity, has made the future outlook uncertain for all charities.

Even more challenging has been the direct impact on most of the students we support around the world. If they cannot attend university, they are not being taught. The notion of online education over the internet is simply not a possibility for some of them. Furthermore, if their parents cannot work, the financial and emotional strain on households is compounded. We are staying in close contact with all the partners we provide funding to and are supporting them in whatever practical ways we can in these extremely challenging times.

The LBW Trust has always taken a conservative approach to our project commitments, which are always subject to fundraising. However, we aim to have sufficient funds on hand for our students such that, at any given point in time, if our fundraising activities stopped totally for any reason, we would not leave our students immediately unfunded. Nonetheless, the forward outlook is uncertain and the Board is continually reviewing the situation and preparing various contingencies under different future scenarios.