

COMMUNITY CONNECTIONS PROGRAM



Improving Wellness in Launceston's ageing Bhutanese Community

Community Connections Monthly Excursion Day 17 May 2016

May Itinerary

Tasmania Zoo: Tasmania's only fully accredited zoo, exhibiting the largest collection of native and exotic animals throughout the region.

- 10.00am Feeding of Little Blue Penguin
- 10.30am Feeding of Tasmanian Devils
- 11.30am Feeding of Meerkats
- 12.15pm Picnic lunch

Duck Reach Interpretation Centre:

- 2.00pm Tour led by Shane Dennington, Chairman of the Duck Reach Historical Association.

Participants

Ganga Ram Acharya
Uma Devi Acharya
Pashupati Acharya
Lok Nath Subedi
Tek Maya Subedi
Pokchi Maya Chhetri
Krishna Prashad Chhetri
Lachhi Maya Rai
Sha Bahadur Rai
Karna Bdr Rai
Gopal Rai
Mon Rupa Rai
Purna Rai
Mangali Rai
Nir Mala Kuikel

Bal Bir Bishwa
Harka Bishwa
Sancha Man Rai
Ravi Maya Rai
Nir Maya Chuwan
Amber Singh Kalikotey
Goma Devi Kalikotey
Nar Gurung
Suk Maya Gurung
Lila Ram Basnet
Ganga Subba
Bir Maya Subba
Rup Koirala (Program Leader)
Bikash Acharya (Staff)
Malati Chhetri (Staff)
Susan Aykut (CC Coordinator)
Breanna Hancock (Volunteer)



A COMMUNITY CARE TASMANIA INITIATIVE

**Supported by Tasmania Community Fund &
Dept of Health and Human Services Gambling Support Program**

Tasmania Zoo

Great enthusiasm greeted the excursion to Tasmania Zoo. Previously, when Community Connections group members were asked what they would like to do on our excursion days, interest in seeing native Australian animals was high on their list. Ironically, apart from the dingo, few comments were made about other Australian native animals; the animals most group members commented on and enjoyed seeing were the different types of monkeys they had not seen in Bhutan and Nepal.

The alpacas, mini donkey, sheep and the yak, seen in the farm yard enclosure, also aroused enthusiastic interest, as did the crocodiles, alligators and snakes. The animal that everyone enjoyed meeting, however, was the friendly, talking cockatoo that joined the group toward the end of our visit. As this was when the group had their picnic lunch, the cockatoo's attentive interest was not surprising!



Lachhi Maya Rai, Mon Rupa Rai, Mangali Maya Rai, Goma Devi Kalikotey Suk Maya Gurung, Malati Chettri & Pokchi Maya Chettri



Lila Ram Basnet

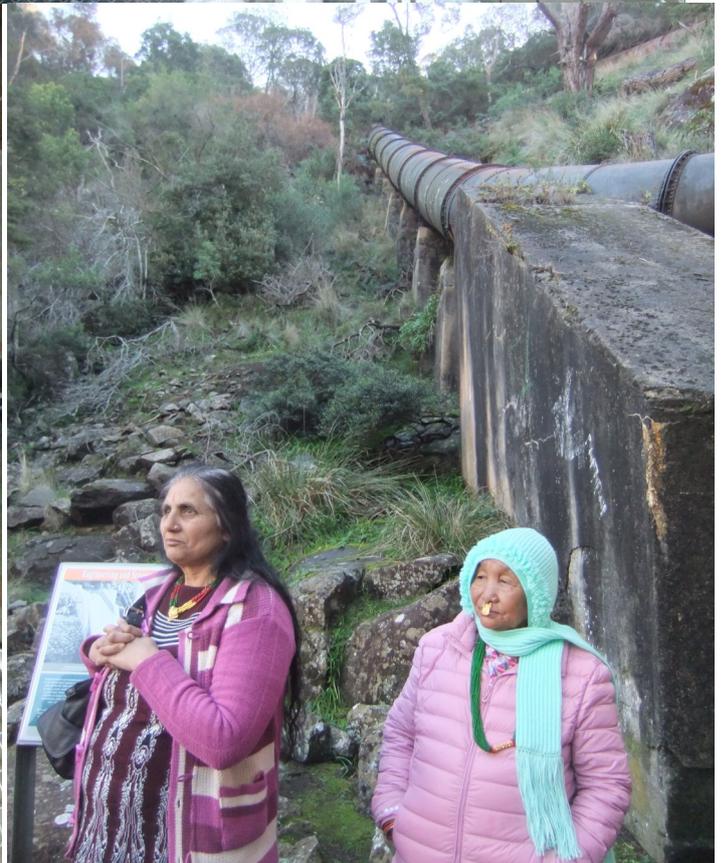


Goma Devi Kalikotey

Duck Reach Interpretation Centre & Museum

Our second site visit was the Duck Reach Interpretation Centre & Museum. On arrival the group was greeted by Shane Dennington, Chairman of the Duck Reach Historical Association, who had volunteered to conduct a tour of the site to explain the history of the Duck Reach Power station. Shane explained that when the power station was built in 1895, it marked the birth of hydro power and generated power in Launceston for 60 years until it was closed in 1955. In 1995, after being closed and derelict for 40 years, the site was re-opened on the centenary of its first opening as a museum.

Access to the Interpretation Centre entails a short, but steep walk down to a suspension bridge that crosses the South Esk river to the centre. Some members of the group with mobility issues declined to make the trek and viewed the site from the carpark. For those who did make the trek, Shane was on hand to point out the site's key features and explain how it had operated. Inside the interpretation shed the group had an opportunity to see historical photographs and an eight-minute film about the site showing how the site was constructed, and by whom, and what industries flourished in Launceston because of the power it generated. (This film can be viewed online @ <http://duckreach.com.au>)



Pokchi Maya Chettri

Uma Devi Acharya & Tek Maya Subedi

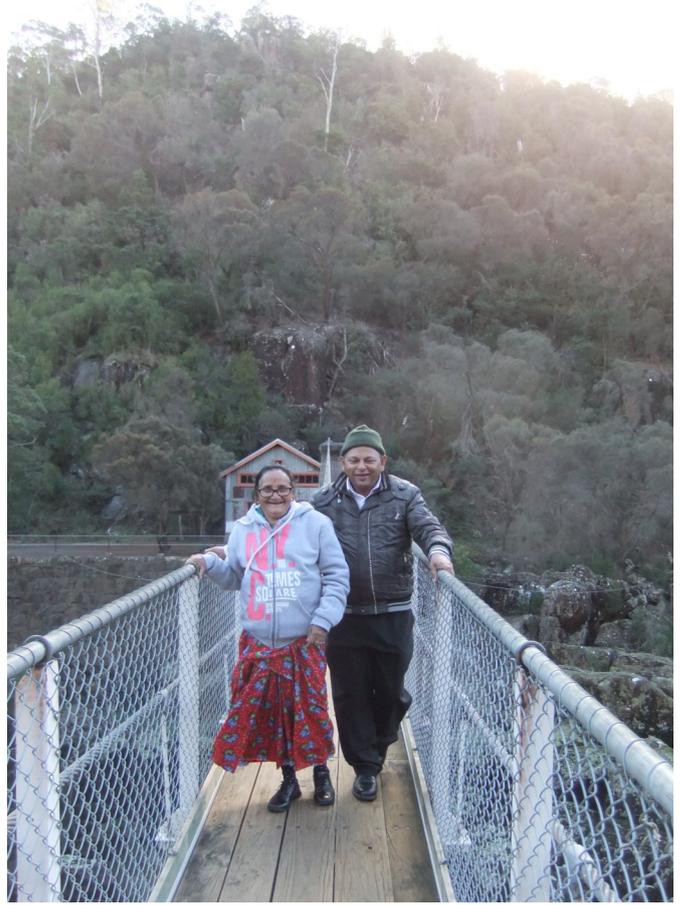
Duck Reach Interpretation Centre

Of all the features at the site, the suspension bridge was a particular favourite. For many group members it reminded them of those in Bhutan and Nepal where numerous suspension bridges exist to help traverse these countries mountainous terrains.

The group greatly admired the site and were delighted to have the expert guidance of Shane Dennington who generously shared his knowledge and enthusiasm. None were surprised to learn that two days after our visit, the great work done by the Duck Reach Historical group was recognised when the Duck Reach Interpretation Centre received a Heritage Award from Launceston's City Council for its 'promotion of Launceston's significant history in the production of hydro-electricity and the unique infrastructure that remains as part of the Cataract Gorge Reserve.' (www.launceston.tas.gov.au/lcc/index.php?c=877)



Amber Singh Kalikotey & Shane Dennington



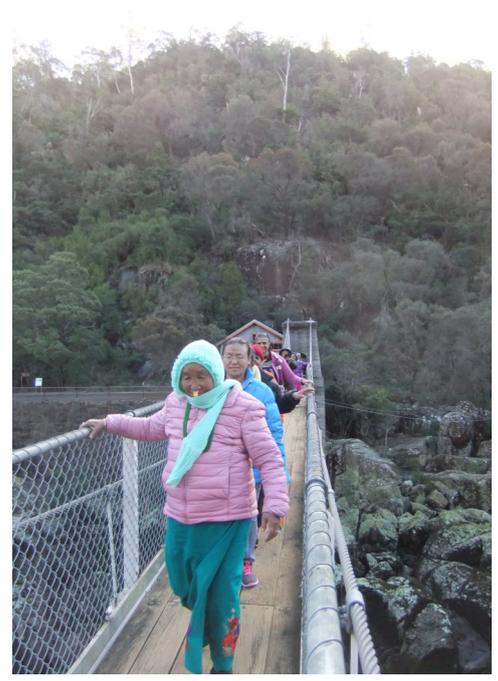
Tek Maya Subedi & Pashupati Acharya



Mangali Maya Rai



Pokchi Maya Chettri



Lachhi Maya Rai