

ANNUAL REPORT 2021/22



Samunnat

Jewellery. Creativity. Changing Lives.

Samunnat Incorporated

ABN 83 476 538 863

samunnat.co

hello@samunnat.co

President's report

The members of Samunnat Inc. are privileged to work with Samunnat Nepal to help Nepalese women who find themselves in challenging circumstances because of violence or abuse. The most obvious assistance is by facilitating the sale of the wonderful polymer jewellery that the Samunnat women have made. However, members of our organisation also work with Samunnat Nepal in support, mentoring and training roles. Our networks and collaborations have been expanding, I will highlight some of these successes below. The last year has been a time of great achievements and challenges!

Committee and membership

We are a small group but our committee and members have been a great source of help and advice throughout the year. Members organised a beautiful 2022 calendar, featuring photos from eastern Nepal, Samunnat in particular. This raised much-needed funds and went out to many faithful supporters as a thank-you for their support over the years. Wendy continues to talk with Kopila and with the polymer team several times a week, giving advice, mentoring and problem-solving. She is planning a visit in October-November for a concentrated period of training and planning.

Other friends of Samunnat Inc. are also doing great things. Janice Laurent has provided vocational training in sewing and tailoring, both face-to-face and by Zoom. She is mentoring several ladies to become trainers, themselves, and is seriously considering more visits to Nepal to develop this work further. We are also very grateful to our wholesale partners for supporting the Samunnat project: particularly Sarah Bartram, Rochelle Thorpe and Sandy Hadley. We feel so fortunate that Samunnat Nepal can operate almost entirely on the sale of products that they have made themselves.

Samunnat Nepal board support

Samunnat Nepal held a strategic planning meeting in February this year, chaired by Kopila Basnet. Wendy and Malcolm joined by Zoom to help facilitate and to give advice where needed. This was a very productive meeting. There is a blog post on the samunnat.co website that gives a good summary, [here](#). There were exciting plans to build local relationships and develop new programs to help affected women. The Nepali board has some great members!

International collaborations

The last year has witnessed the growth of a collaboration between the Samunnat polymer artists and the renowned American polymer artist, Kathleen Dustin. Kathleen, Wendy Moore and Samunnat Nepal have been holding weekly Zoom meetings. Kathleen brought some new designs and, together, they have refined them and planned their manufacture. This new range sold strongly through our online shop, helping to turn around the COVID downturn. Kathleen applied for this collaboration to be included in the Smithsonian Institution's prestigious Craft2wear show in October. The Smithsonian agreed! The women are now flat out making pieces to send to the US for this show. Who would have thought?

Another well-known jewellery artist has been collaborating with Samunnat, the European polymer artist, Christine Dumont. Christine has joined with Wendy and Kathleen to plan a series of online classes with Samunnat to help the Nepalese women build their creativity and design prowess. These meetings have been times of discovery and growth – for everyone involved! They are part of the process of the women gaining independence, not just as manufacturers but as designers.

Website

In 2021 we launched our Samunnat Inc. website at samunnat.co. There was an existing website for Samunnat Nepal but we needed to have a better online shop and a great site for supporter news and information. This has turned out very well. The shop has provided a good platform for international sales and we have had a steady stream of blog posts covering news and events as well as discussions of challenging issues.

Tax status

The Australian Taxation Office granted Samunnat Inc. 'Deductible Gift Recipient' status this year. This hasn't been a priority for us, previously, because the work of Samunnat Nepal has been funded by polymer sales, augmented by a small number of donations. The COVID pandemic focussed our minds, though, and we see this tax-deductibility as giving us more options for future fund-raising in economically uncertain times.

Books

The sex-education books that Wendy developed with Samunnat Nepal are still being sold to schools. These have become a very useful local resource. The story of these books can be found on the samunnat.co website [here](#).

What lies ahead?

Samunnat Inc. will continue to provide support and advice to Samunnat Nepal. We will work on issues around data collection and record-keeping on our visit to Birtamod later this year. We will also have more discussions about how Samunnat might develop more delineated roles within the organisation. Excitement is growing as the event at the Smithsonian Institution gets closer!

Malcolm Moore (President) 3/8/2022

SAMUNNAT INC.

INCOME AND EXPENDITURE STATEMENT July 1, 2021 – June 30, 2022

| | | | |
|----------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|-----------------|
| Opening balance 1.7.21 | 5776.04* | | |
| Income | | Expenditure | |
| Donations | 5540.00 | Purchases (clay, equipment) | 5120.11 |
| Sales | 38735.54 | Donations to Samunnat Nepal | 43218.00 |
| Other (interest) | 100.39 | Other (bank fees and charges) | 115.40 |
| Total income | 44375.93 | Total expenditure | 48453.51 |
| Closing balance 30.6.22 | 1698.46 | | |

*amounts in \$AUD

Les Higgins (Treasurer) 1/7/2022

Samunnat Inc. Committee

Malcolm Moore (President/Secretary)

Cathy Bucolo (Vice-President)

Les Higgins (Treasurer)

Wendy Moore (Program Coordinator)

Kate Rotherham

Christina Vett

Objects of Samunnat Incorporated

The purpose of Samunnat Incorporated is to relieve the benevolent needs or distress of women in Nepal who are victims of violence or abuse. This support empowers women to rebuild their lives.

We achieve this purpose through the following activities

- (a) To raise funds for Samunnat Nepal, assisting their work with affected women.
- (b) To provide support and advice to the board and women of Samunnat Nepal.
- (c) To assist with Samunnat Nepal's training of women who are acquiring income-generation skills.
- (d) To facilitate collaboration with organisations and individuals who share our objectives.