

Shimshal Trust Newsletter

January 2013

1. First, news about Shenaz, whom we funded to



go to Karachi for an operation on her leg. She had a successful operation and is now



staying with some relatives of Hussn in Karachi so that she can continue her treatment. Our Facebook page (the Shimshal Trust) has a gruesome photo of Shenaz's leg in a complex metal brace after the operation. She looks more beautiful in this lovely photo of her taken by a visitor.

2. We have completed another round of scholarships,

awarding 10 grants to students. Despite some difficulties with the transfer of funds, all the students have now received their awards, thanks to Liz Thomas's tireless efforts. We've decided to change the timing of the scholarship round to make it shorter and to fit in better with the academic year. To that end we started a new scholarship round immediately after we completed the old one. We've also managed to contact the education committee in Shimshal. Part of our intended best practice is to work with the village but up to now communication has proved too difficult. Happily we now have recommendations for scholarships from the village education committee representatives, which is satisfying.

3. We have again succeeded in getting a stall at WOMAD. If anyone is planning to go to WOMAD (Friday 15th March to Sunday 17th, in the beautiful park at New Plymouth) and would like to help with the stall, we can offer a half price ticket for the 3 day concert in exchange for 6 hours work staffing the stall. It is enormous fun and we raise about \$1000. This is not a bad financial return for the work, and it also forwards our other aim of promoting friendship and understanding between New Zealand and Pakistan, because people are very interested in our stall.

<http://www.taft.co.nz/womad/womad-home.html>

4. The women's craft centre has opened in Shimshal. This was funded through the Trust by Rotary organisations in Wellington and the Wairarapa but the construction was delayed by the Hunza lake formation and subsequent transport problems(see the photo and explanation on <http://earthobservatory.nasa.gov/IOTD/view.php?id=51983>)



But now the Centre is open and to prove it here is the sign! We provided the lovely blue carpet and the village has funded the sewing machines. We hope to get more news about how the centre progresses eventually.

5.Both Pam's books, *Shimshal* (\$30) and *Women of Shimshal* (\$15) are now in print. Sales details are on our website, or you can email pam: contact@shimshaltrust.org.nz for information. Sets of cards, \$7.50 for 5, also available by contacting Pam. They are winter scenes of the Shimshal area.

Thanks as ever to all our supporters and donors. APs now amount to about half of our annual donations and fund raising. If you are thinking of supporting the Shimshal Trust, our bank account number is 38-9001-0596230-01 in Kiwibank.

Liz Thomas (pictured) is the new Trust treasurer. Matt Grant is the chair this year.

