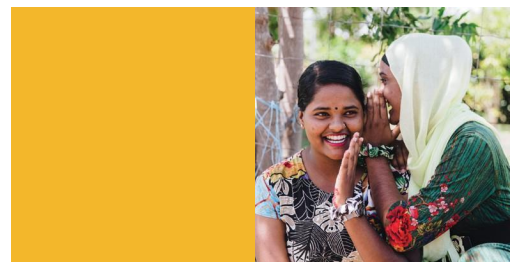


# 2020-21 Annual Report



# From The Team

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Hi Friends,

I remember writing this summary for our 2019-20 annual report last year in lockdown, not for a minute expecting to be doing it again in 2021. Last year I wrote that Fiji had been largely untouched by COVID-19 but had been struggling with an increase in food insecurity due to high unemployment and the collapse of the tourist economy. Sadly this year, with the new Delta strain making its way around the world, nearly 50,000 cases\* have been reported in Fiji's small population and nearly 600 deaths. This has had a massive impact on education and Girls' access to learning. We have done what we can to support the community to adapt.

We have forged new partnerships this year, with Island Encounters Photography, William Angliss Institute and the University of Western Sydney. Three interns Jostina, Sarah and Alex worked on fundraising and social media resources for us and injected their young energy into our volunteer team! Another team of students from Western Sydney University (WSU) worked on a completely new website and rebranding project for us and we are so grateful for their contribution and to the Uni for supporting us in this way. One of these students, Kayla, had so much fun she joined our team!



Photo: Our interns in action

\* COVID-19 data sourced from Worldometer (Sept 2021) - <https://www.worldometers.info/coronavirus/country/fiji/>

Our friends at the German International School Sydney continued to generously fundraise for us as their key charity despite not being able to take a group of students to Fiji for their annual immersion trip. Other friends have made and sold masks and donated the proceeds to us, or given faithfully to our \$5 Friday fundraising campaign, some a little, others a lot – it all counts and makes a real difference.

On October 11th 2020 – International Day of the Girl, we partnered with CISCO's Mentor Me program and presented to over 170 young women across Australia and New Zealand about the value of Girls' education and shared our story.



Barbara Harvey Presenting on International Day of the Girl.



We also started an exciting new partnership with William Angliss Institute who loaned us their student kitchens in December and supported us (with such patience for our lack of skills!) to bake nearly 200 cakes to sell to you in COVID-19 safe conditions. They have offered to do it again this year, but their students will be making them this time and we couldn't be happier.

As always, our Fiji Co-Ordinator Urmila Prasad has outdone herself with pastoral care and support for the Girls, with her family and local team she has gone above and beyond in really difficult circumstances.

And lastly, we are so thankful for an engaged community of people who support us to make a difference to Girls' education in rural Fiji, including local school staff and the Ministry of Social Welfare in Fiji. In such uncertain times, it means so much.

Warmly,

Jane Kennedy

Co-Founder, (for team a Girl & her world)

[www.agirlandherworld.org](http://www.agirlandherworld.org)

\* Also, we are turning 10 very soon so watch out for some ways you can help us celebrate!

# 2020-21 Year in Review

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We have worked with the Girls we support to adapt as they faced the challenges of COVID-19. Our Coordinator Urmila assisted them by picking up worksheets from their schools and setting up drop off points, getting access to data and devices so they can study from home while also providing emergency food and other supplies during lockdowns.

We supported:

- 56 Girls back to school at the start of 2021.
- 4 Girls on their path to Uni.
- 3 families with emergency food and other needs after Category 4 Cyclone Yasa in December.
- 15 families with emergency relief during COVID-19 lockdowns in May and June.
- 16 girls with data for their phones so they could better access online learning.
- The family of one of the Girls we support lost their home in a fire in July 2020 and we were able to provide her with new school uniforms, supplies and help the family with immediate needs.

The 4 Uni Girls were able to pay rent, access data and pay enrollment fees. Some of them have struggled to submit assignments on time during lockdown and we have supported them with an increased data allowance, two of them have also been able to share a computer and help each other with their workload.

All of this was achieved thanks to the generosity of our supporters.



Happily, 2 of the Uni Girls we have supported in previous years graduated – this is huge news as they are both the first in their family to complete a University degree. One is now working as a teacher and the other a quality controller at a leading food company in Fiji. We are so proud of them and share in their excitement about their future. This is what we're all about and it's a great example of how Girls' education has the potential to break the cycle of generational poverty.



The school Girls were able to purchase uniforms, shoes, books, bags and ad hoc expenses like sanitary pads, printing and internet costs for assignments and travel passes when they live too far away from school to be able to travel for free.

In a day of much laughter and joy, 10 of the Girls we support met at Urmila's home and played with makeup and henna patterns on their arms, wearing fun outfits and then changing into school uniforms to pose for a photo shoot! The lovely Laura from Fiji-based Island Encounters Photography partnered with us to travel to our community for the day and captured the most beautiful images of the Girls.

We wanted to be able to take photos in a safe and dignified way to give you a glimpse of their day to day lives and they and their families were very excited to be part of the process. Laura did a wonderful job and we're grateful to be able to share the fun had by these resilient young women who also got behind the camera to take some images of their own.



*"Towards the end of 2020 we thought things were getting better, the Girls' home visits were done, I had been shopping to buy new uniforms and we held the photo shoot at my home which the Girls all really enjoyed. It was nice to all be together after a long time apart. But there were big challenges ahead - COVID-19 hit us badly and I found out that many of our Girls were starving because of the pandemic.*

*So we had to change our focus away from supporting education and towards providing food for families. The police gave me permission to visit people so I could deliver food to the containment zones. I also delivered school printouts so the Girls could continue their education, as their travel was restricted and they couldn't visit school.*

*I started working with the community to help test for COVID-19 and encouraged many people to get vaccinated. Our two largest hospitals were converted into COVID-19 facilities and field hospitals were set up to treat people without COVID-19.*

*Online classes are continuing and this will probably continue until the end of 2021 - thanks to your generous support we have been able to provide 16 Girls with internet data, which means they won't fall behind.*

*Vinaka vakalevu to everyone who has supported a Girl & her world this year, it has been challenging for many families, and your support has made a big difference."*

*Urmilla Prasad, Fiji Program Coordinator*

# Key Activities in 2020-21

This year we focused on providing COVID-19 emergency relief and supported 56 Girls back to school and university.

## Between 2020-2021

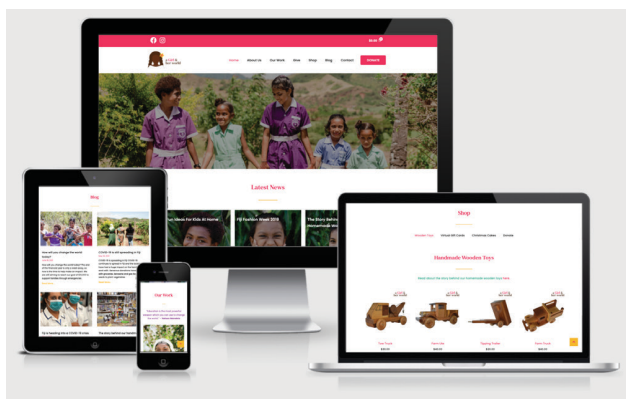
- 56 Girls back to school and uni.
- Supporting 4 uni Girls so they could finish the year strong

## \$5 Friday Fundraising Campaign Raised Funds for:

- COVID-19 relief
- Emergency support (groceries, kerosene gas for cooking, seeds to plant vegetables, paying some water and electricity bills)
- Girls who need some extra support to stay in school (bus passes, uniforms, books, toiletries etc)

## Other Major Initiatives:

- Refresh of the brand, and launch of a new website
- New photography with Girls in Rakiraki
- Urmila helped test for COVID and was instrumental in encouraging the community to get vaccinated



New Website



New Branding by WSU Students







Urmila helping with COVID-19 testing



Christmas Cakes



Handmade Wooden Toys

### Christmas Cakes:

- Almost 200 cakes sold

### Handmade Wooden Toys:

- Created by one of our generous volunteers Andrew
- 16 toys sold

### Partnerships:

- William Angliss Institute
- Western Sydney University
- German International School
- Laura Pittman of Island Encounters Photography

# Finances

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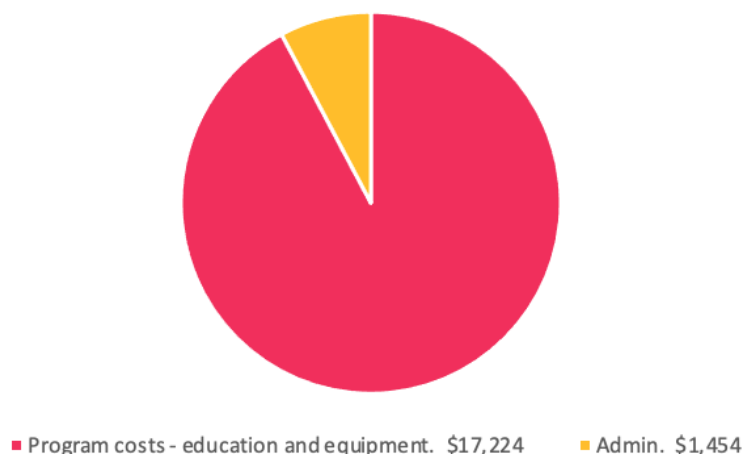
Our Australian team is made up of volunteers with a range of professional skills. Costs incurred in Australia are minimal and include fundraising and web-based expenses, charity registration and governance. Our generous team often use their own funds on these things too, to keep the costs to the organisation low.

Our Fiji Coordinator Urmila Prasad is paid a monthly per diem and a Girl & her world covers the costs of her communication and travel to be able to serve the Girls and their families. Other Fiji volunteers are paid daily per diems to assist Urmila at busy times such as during back-to-school season or after emergencies.

Project costs include uniforms, books and bags, data and costs associated with homework and assessments, travel passes, enrolment fees, emergency relief packages, sanitary pads and other ad-hoc expenses that help overcome barriers to Girls' education in a rural setting.

|   |          |
|---|----------|
| Income - donations/cakes sales/ toy sales | \$19,390 |
| Expenses - program costs and admin        | \$18,678 |

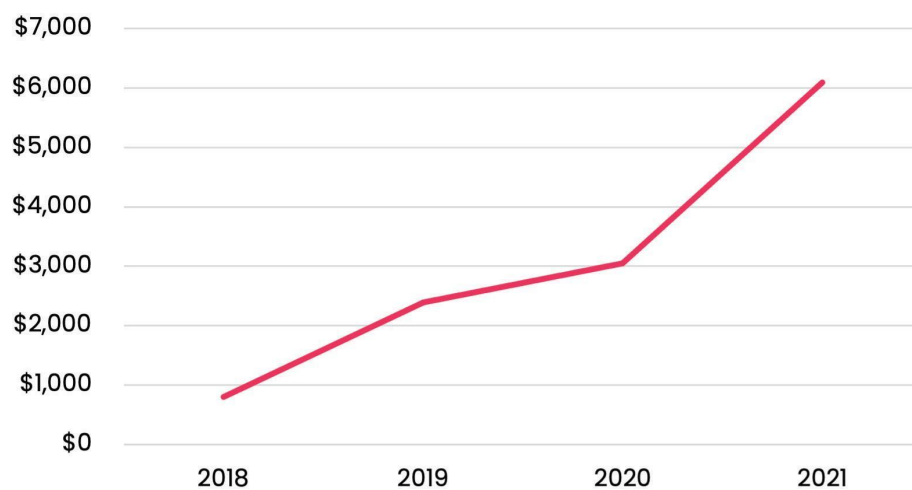
Total expenses



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**Christmas Cake Sales (Year by Year)    \$**

|      |       |
|------|-------|
| 2018 | 800   |
| 2019 | 2,393 |
| 2020 | 3,053 |
| 2021 | 6,096 |



# How To Get Involved

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We are always open to creative ideas for support and encourage our community to reach out to us.

We have several new partners, as well as existing support networks such as the German International School who use GoFundraise as a tool to help them raise funds via events - and others can do this too! We are registered with GoFundraise and it's easy to log in and set up an event, even a virtual one like a walk around a park, a read-a-thon or whatever you like. We value everyone's contribution.

We will continue to run our \$5 Friday fundraising campaign and the funds raised this year have supported a range of activities, every donation makes a difference.

Thank you also for buying our cakes and toys at Christmas, they raise significant funds to get Girls back to school each year.

