



IPPG NEWSLETTER

march 2005

Editorial

IPPG is now eight years old and 2004 has been another year where we saw changes happening in the porter world, with a global awakening of people to the importance of ethical tourism. Here are a few events I would like to mention:

I have been contacted by an Australian who runs trips in Papua New Guinea/Irian Jaya pointing out that while the number of porters in Papua New Guinea is small, the steady growth of trekking and local operators is reproducing all the woes seen elsewhere. We need to enlist a rep for that area.

I have received a copy of a letter sent to a Spanish trekker by Rupa Maya Jirel, the wife of his porter friend. She is distraught after her husband died coming back from a carry into the Meera peak area. How he died is unknown but the odds are he is yet another victim of altitude illness, trying to make his way back alone having been paid off. What is clear though is the profound effect his death has had on his wife, children and relatives. Without support and often with no insurance, a bereaved family is plunged into a precarious existence when the breadwinner dies.



Porter crossing bridge
(photo by Bernhard Fassl, IPPG-USA Rep)

In the Karakoram (Pakistan) five porters drowned while carrying loads across a river. Also in this region there is increasing friction over the definition of the daily stages on which payment is based.

On a brighter note, in Tanzania the Kilimanjaro Guides and Porter Union are operating its own treks, and in Peru Porteadores Inka Nan are now well established.

Kul Bahadur, who lost his feet to frostbite while working as a porter (Kul featured in the BBC documentary Carrying the Burden), has now bought a teashop near Pashupatinath (Kathmandu) with the help of a sponsor, and is slowly gathering his family back around him.

Last for not least, the Machermo porter rescue post is now running each trekking season and the porter shelter construction is under way, courtesy of CAN (Community Action Nepal – UK) and the generous support of our donors.

More than ever I am convinced that ethical tourism that puts a reasonable percentage of profits back into the host country is a powerful way to make a difference to developing nations and avoid aid dependency.

Dr Jim Duff **INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR**

PS. Since I wrote this the situation in Nepal has changed dramatically with the King's coup. While the political situation is unstable, the poor will suffer the most. IPPG hopes that all parties will come to a peaceful settlement where the government reflects the will of the people.

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K2 Celebrations Continue a History of Neglect

2004 marked 50 years since the first climb of K2. This is an edited version of a story written by Dr. Kenneth Iain MacDonald, Professor of Geography and International Development Studies at the University of Toronto in Canada.

For the past few weeks the papers of Pakistan have heralded the "conquerors" of K2. "Golden Jubilee" celebrations have been held. "Dignitaries", most of whom have likely never set foot on the glaciers leading up to K2, were treated to a fine couple of days in Skardu. Mountaineers and trekkers were honoured in Skardu and Islamabad. The tourism authorities have, yet again, promised significant investment for tourism promotion and infrastructure development in the Northern Areas. Through all of this, the most important component of mountain travel in Pakistan – porters – have been ignored: their voice unheard; their achievements unrecognized; their concerns unheeded.

There is a story to be told. It is the story of the Balti men, still alive, who travelled to K2 with Ardito Desio's expedition in 1954. The fact that, according to my sources, there are only two left, of the hundreds who carried khansamah up the Baltoro glacier, says much about life expectancy in Baltistan.

But my more immediate concern is that neither of these men was invited to participate in the K2 golden jubilee celebrations. This was not simply an organizational oversight. It's reflective of a consistent pattern of neglect that characterizes the condition of men who work as mountaineering and trekking porters.

We don't have to look far for more striking examples of this lack of consideration. In July of this year an unprecedented number of trekkers and climbers have landed at K2 base camp, spurred on by the Italian Alpine Club, the Government of Pakistan and local travel companies desperate for business after the wholly unwarranted decline in tourism over the past 3 years.

There's a general agreement in the town of Skardu that this is all for the good. Hotel walas are happy, transporters are happy, shopkeepers are happy. Even the maulvis seem happy. No doubt, porters are happy. Because of the number of foreigners up on the ice, there is work galore. In fact, there is so much work that there have been periods when porters have been in short supply. This has forced local travel companies, responsible for logistics, to scour local villages for men willing to take on porter work and reports have come in of companies offering men double wages in an effort to secure enough porters to maintain the service and schedule they have promised to their foreign clients.

Men are pulled away from domestic and agricultural responsibilities, increasing the labour burden on

women and the elderly or forcing children out of school to shoulder the labour burdens of their absent fathers. But the benefits are clear. The opportunity to earn some quick cash, even if the work is physically draining is particularly attractive and useful for households that find themselves in marginal economic circumstances. Unless of course, you don't come back.

So far this year, six men that we know of have not come back. Most of them had not worked as porters before and were inexperienced in the techniques of mountain travel. Five of them drowned while trying to take a short cut across a fast flowing and freezing glacial stream. The other, a teacher eager to earn some extra money during the summer, fell, unroped, through a snow bridge and into a crevasse. He was surrounded by people without the knowledge or capacity to rescue him.

To add insult to their death, two of the bodies of the drowned porters lay snagged on a rock in the middle

of the Braldu River with no one making an effort or taking responsibility for their recovery. Presumably it would cut into profit margins.

These deaths, as with most of the deaths of porters that I know of, were avoidable. With some advance co-ordination it would have been relatively easy to calculate the number of trekkers and climbers visiting the Karakoram this

summer and to estimate the amount of labour needed to carry their loads, and to arrange for experienced porters or to provide sufficient training to meet the demand for experienced labour. Yet no one seems to have done this. Not the Italians promoting the 50th anniversary, not the government of Pakistan, keen to attract more tourists and promote the image of a safe Pakistan, not the local travel companies, keen to make some money after a couple of dry years. In a way, this reminds me of the recent conclusion of the recent Butler report. No individual is culpable; it's the system that's to blame.

In my years of working in the central Karakoram I have met men whose bodies have been ravaged by the effects of portering. Men with corneal ulcers, chronic lacerations, hernia, high altitude pulmonary and cerebral edema, hypothermia, frostbite, respiratory ailments. And, of course, there are the deaths. While porters are supposed to be insured by the companies they work for, I have spoken with families who have actually had to struggle for years to collect the meager insurance money that is supposed to take the place of a husband and father.

Wanted!

Someone to design and set up our T-shirts and patches/badges that will be for sale at the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post.

**Please contact Rejane at
info@ippg.net**

What bothers me most about this situation is that it's so openly visible to those doing the travelling. While we may turn a blind eye to those who work in the sweatshops that produce much of our clothes, they are invisible to us. It is easier to deny their reality. This is impossible on the trail, walking beside a man who is carrying the equipment that allows you to trek or climb in the central Karakoram.

So what allows these conditions to persist? Certainly part of the fault here lies in very vague government regulations regarding the nature of the equipment that should be given to porters. But the biggest fault must lie with the labour contractors – those companies arranging logistics, who can choose to treat porters well or poorly, and the people doing the travelling, who can advocate for improved conditions for porters. This is happening to some extent. Organizations like the International Porter Protection Group (www.ippg.org) and Tourism Concern in Britain have undertaken education campaigns to encourage trekkers and climbers to use firms that treat porters well and adhere to the agreements they make with porters. Porters themselves say they would be

satisfied to some extent if travellers would pay closer attention to the distribution of loads and equipment and take direct responsibility for overseeing the payment of wages.

Of course, this story of porters is not unique. It is the tale of so many who toil to serve the rich and to make others richer. But in a world that claims to respect human rights; in a circle of travellers who claim to promote social justice, it is a story that needs to be addressed. The occasion of the 50th anniversary of K2 would have been an apt time to begin to address this, by thinking in advance about the demands that would be placed on labour and trying to reduce the risk, by extracting the bodies of two dead men from the Braldu river and showing them the dignity that we all deserve, by recognizing old men who, 50 years ago, helped an Italian ascend to fame while they languished in obscurity.

All hail the conquerors! ... All forgotten the footmen.



Kul cooking in his tea shop

Images of his blackened feet continue to shock audiences around the world as they are featured on the BBC documentary *Carrying the Burden*. Eventually his (Kul Bahadur's) fore feet and toes had to be amputated and he was unable to walk back to his village, 10 days walk from the road, to be reunited with his family.

Kul Bahadur's story

by Wanda Vivequin and Dr Jim Duff

Kul Bahadur is a farmer from a village in Eastern Nepal. He started working as a porter for trekkers to raise some extra cash for his family. All went well till, in 1999, he was paid off by a trekking group when he was too ill to carry his load. He was unconscious when another group found him by the side of the Everest base camp trail and arranged for him to be carried to Pheriche rescue post. When he woke up 9 days later he found he had severely frostbitten feet.



Kul's frostbitten feet



Kul's sister helping with cooking in the tea shop

Kul spent 2 years in the Lepers colony at Pashputinath where he worked in their craft workshop but after further reconstructive surgery he was able to walk more comfortably and he finally made the trip home to his village to see his family again. His youngest daughter was born while he had been away!

Over the years Kul Bahadur has made excellent progress, culminating this year in his purchase of a small tea shop in Kathmandu. For everyone concerned this is good news indeed. Not only has financial assistance enabled most of his family to move to Kathmandu, he is now able to support them on the small income from the tea shop he purchased last year.

Photos by Tara Nath Ghimire (IMEC Nepal) and Dr Urs Hefti (IPPG Switzerland)



Kul and two of his daughters

his tea shop. This is great news for Kul, his family and all his supporters. We wish him well and hope you might drop in for a chai if you are near Pashupatinath.

The teashop is located near the Til Ganga Eye Hospital and his clientele includes staff that comes to drink tea and eat noodles and momos. Kul Bahadur has told people who have helped him that he feels good about himself and is pleased that there is an opportunity for him to support his family and live an independent life.

As Kul's situation has gradually improved, he has been able to bring all three of his daughters from the village to attend school in Kathmandu. His sister has also joined him to help care for the girls and help in the Tea Shop. His wife remains in their village cultivating their small piece of land.

They hope to sell this soon so that the whole family can be reunited in Kathmandu.

Over the years the IPPG and Porters Progress have helped Kul to create a self sufficient life in the city. IMEC located a generous sponsor, Mike Soloman, that helped the purchase of



Kul and all three daughters reunited in Kathmandu

Sponsorship Acknowledgements

In 2004 IPPG embarked on an ambitious sponsorship campaign to help funding of the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post. By the end of the year a number of companies and individuals had generously signed up.

Sponsorship Levels

annual contributions for a minimum of 3 years

base camp

contribution of between US\$50 and US\$99 (or the equivalent)

camp 1

contribution of between US\$100 and US\$249 (or the equivalent)

camp 2

contribution of between US\$250 and US\$499 (or the equivalent)

camp 3

contribution of between US\$500 and US\$999 (or the equivalent)

summit success

contribution of over US\$1000 (or the equivalent)

Signed-up Companies

summit success

DCXP Mountain Journeys (Australia)
World Expeditions (Australia)

camp 3

Himalayan Adventure Company/Gurkha Encounters (UK)

camp 2

Classic Journeys (UK)

Signed-up Individuals

summit success

Toorak College (Australia)
C Elsworth (UK)

camp 1

Chamberlain family (Australia)
J & J Blackwood (Australia)
R Tomaszewski (Australia)
Carlisle Contemporary Health Practice (Australia)

base camp

C Priest (Australia)
H Maccana (Australia)

Porters Progress Report

by Ben Ayres

Porters' Progress (PP) is continuing to grow and better serve the needs of porters across Nepal thanks in a large part to support from the IPPG. We are now quite busy establishing programs that address the needs of children working as porters in Nepal in coordination with the International Labour Organization. Our work includes the reconstruction and revitalization of 7 rural schools, and the formation of 23 women's savings groups in porter villages in Eastern Nepal, as well as providing non-formal education to hundreds of children actively working in Lukla.

We also teamed up with World Expeditions and ran a porter-focused trek to Everest base camp that simultaneously raised funds for our office and set an example for the trekking industry to follow. The trek integrated the skills and personalities of our porters into the very fabric of the journey. Many stories were shared, and many nights were spent dancing and drumming the Himalayas to sleep. This was a totally new concept and raised \$3,000 for PP. We are planning on running a similar trek next year. For more information about this or any of our programs please contact us via email at info@portersprogress.org



भरिया बिकास नेपाल
porters' progress, nepal

For more info on PP visit their website www.portersprogress.org



Wanda Vivequin helping with the distribution of warm clothing to porters before a trek to Kangchenjunga, Taplejung Eastern Nepal

Machermo Porter Shelter & Rescue Post: 2004 report

by Dr Jim Duff

At 4400m, Machermo is ideally suited to serve porters and trekkers descending from the upper reaches of the valley (Gokyo-Ri 5483m) and the passes leading into it (Renzo La 5600m and Cho La 5420m). Since the spring season 2003, the post has opened each trekking season, for variable lengths of time.

Two major events occurred in 2004. First, Namgyal Sherpa started the building process by bringing in a team of 10 stone breakers paid for by CAN (Community Action Nepal).

www.canepal.org.uk

Second, IPPG has engaged Chhewang Sherpa as full-time salaried manager for Machermo with an extensive job description. The salary has been guaranteed for the next three years by doctors who were on my trek last October.

In October I was able to visit Machermo briefly. I talked to Namgyal, observed the huge quarry of building stone and met Dr Louise Cook, the resident volunteer doc, and Chhewang. On the way down I met Tenzing Tashi Sherpa, chairman of the Kumbila Buffer Zone Committee (KBZC) for discussions including supervision of the construction costs and ownership/management of the project as a whole.

The management of the project:

Ian Wall has been up to Machermo in November to check out building progress, along with Chhewang and Govinda (CAN's building supervisor). Building proper should start in March 2005 and it may be ready in October!

Meanwhile, the post still runs from a room in Namgyal's lodge and we are grateful to him for his support. It is equipped with a Portable Altitude Chamber (donated by the manufacturer CE Bartlett, Australia), an oxygen generator (donation IMEC, USA), oxygen cylinders (seasonal rental, donor sought), a pulse oximeter (donation Bernhard Fassel, USA), a stretcher (donation Skipton CRO, UK), solar powered batteries (Jim's Kili sponsors), a satellite phone (donation Island School, Hong Kong) and heaps of medication including

Pentrox inhalers (donation Medical Developments International, Australia).

In 2004 the rescue post was staffed for four weeks in the pre-monsoon season and six weeks post-monsoon, with a steady flow of consultations punctuated by some serious problems needing prompt action and evacuation.

It is always hard to say if lives were saved or not, but reading through the doctors' log it makes me think that there must have been some close calls even with the doctor present. The entire Machermo report can be accessed on the IPPG website (www.ippg.net – follow 'what we do').

All this takes money and we need about £20,000 (US\$ 40,000) to complete the buildings. It costs around £3,000 (US\$ 6,000) p.a. to run the rescue post, some of which is generated by charges for treatment (porters free, locals 20 NRs, trekkers US\$), the balance being donated.

All donors who gave directly to IPPG are listed on the IPPG website. Those who gave directly to CAN will be acknowledged by CAN. We are very grateful to all the donors on behalf of the porters.

Inka Porter Project

by Ann Noon



The Cusco-based Inka Porter Project (IPP), founded two years ago, continues to go from strength to strength. Next January sees the opening of a new training and drop-in centre for the porters and muleteers in Ollantaytambo at the foot of the historic Inka trail up to the UNESCO World Heritage site of

Machu Picchu. The centre aims to equip the local communities with skills such as first aid, waste management and best environmental practice in order to help preserve the trail which welcomes thousands of visitors each year. It will also act as a place for the porters to express any concerns that they might have about their conditions of employment such as salary and provision of equipment.

This year, IPP has focused its efforts on raising awareness among tourists of responsible trekking in and around the Sacred Valley, including advice on good porter practice and environmentally friendly tips such as using biodegradable soap while on the Inka trail. The team's creative initiatives have included organising pub quizzes and days out to Quechua-speaking villages where tourists give English lessons to the porters in return for a greater cultural understanding of their way of life. The porters also teach participants a few words of Quechua.

Raising funds for the new training centre is high on IPP's current agenda and, in conjunction with Tourism Concern, the not-for-profit organisation, has held a raffle early in the New Year. First prize was a trip for two to Peru courtesy of Explore Worldwide and Iberia Airlines which was won by Saima Aziz. Saima Aziz lives in Tooting, London, and has never been to South America before. She only bought one ticket and was delighted to win!



For more information on the Inka Porter Project, visit www.peruweb.org/porters

Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project Update

by Karen Valenti, Program Director

The Kilimanjaro Porters Assistance Project (KPAP), an initiative of the International Mountain Explorers Connection (IMEC), celebrated its 2nd anniversary as a Tanzanian NGO on the 9th of January. KPAP's activities include providing donated equipment to the porters of the Kilimanjaro region, teaching English and first aid classes to the porter population, as well as educating tourists about proper porter treatment.

KPAP has just revised its clothing lending program and 14 tour companies in the Moshi area are keen to take part in an initiative to meet the clothing needs of their porters. We are in great need of couriers willing to bring over one of our duffels filled with donated equipment from the USA. Please contact IMEC (info@mountainexplorers.org) if you can help.

In November we completed our first ever English and first aid education series for the porters in association Zara Tanzanian Adventures who hosted this 6-week program in which there was a total of 504 porter visits during the session. KPAP expects to be busy with these classes in future low seasons here and Keys Hotel and Marangu Hotel have also offered space



Photo by Donovan Pacholl

to provide this necessary instruction for the porters.

KPAP has recently been granted access to the gates of Kilimanjaro by the Kilimanjaro National Parks Association (KINAPA). This will enable us to educate tourists as they begin their climb as well as monitor the starting conditions of porters. By having a regular presence on the mountain we hope to be able to reach an even greater audience regarding proper porter treatment.

If climbing Kili, 'Karibu' (welcome) to our office located at Hotel Da Costa in Moshi. You can help our efforts by

completing a post trek survey which will give crucial feedback to the tour operators. We also have affordable maps of Kili for sale and the earnings are put towards the project.

For those individuals wanting to catch a glimpse of the porters' life, we have an Off the Beaten Path Day Trip. Taking part in this means you can

spend the day with a porter in the village of Machame located at the start of the Machame route on Kili. The proceeds benefit the Porters' Network of Machame.

'Asante sana' (many thanks) to

everyone who has taken the time to help us better the situation here.



Photo by Karen Valenti

IMEC, Kathmandu Office

by Tara Nath Ghimire

Over 600 porters were outfitted during the busy trekking season. In one day alone 30 porters were outfitted, 15 from Sherpa Society and 15 from Boudha Himal Trekking & Expedition. Mountain Madness also outfitted 13 of their porters on one trek. There are advertisements of our clothing bank and our other activities in two tourism newspapers (Sunrise Nepal and Tourism News Nepal). Posters have been hung all around Thamel and on the way of trekking trails of Annapurna, Everest and Langtang. I am also distributing posters and brochures to those visitors who come to visit the Kathmandu Environmental Education Project (KEEP) and IMEC.

www.hec.org

Tourism Concern

Tourism Concern is a UK lobby group dedicated to promoting ethical tourism around the world. They have put together guidelines based on ten frequently asked questions on best practice and fair treatment of porters.

Introduction



Photo by Rejane Belanger

Since our campaign Trekking Wrongs: Porters' Rights, Tourism Concern has maintained dialogue on porters' working conditions with UK-based trekking operators and porter protection groups on the ground. As part of the campaign, Tourism Concern published a set of guidelines for UK operators and

highlighted the important role they play in ensuring appropriate working conditions for porters. Since then, these guidelines have been incorporated into many trekking operators' wider responsible tourism policies.

Tourism Concern believes there is still a lot of work to be done to ensure that policies have translated into positive action benefiting the porters. We sent out a questionnaire to porters'

groups and some UK-based trekking operators to get an update of current good practice in the treatment of porters in Nepal, Peru and Tanzania.

Tourism Concern hopes to encourage better practice among UK-based trekking operators by providing this practical overview of examples of good practice and recommendations from porter protection groups based in the destinations.

General recommendations

This practical overview is part of a larger and ongoing constructive dialogue. Listed below is the resulting set of general recommendations and actions to ensure fairer treatment of porters.

The guidelines and commonly asked questions can be found on the website:

www.tourismconcern.org.uk

As this is an ongoing collaborative process to share experiences of good practice on the working conditions of porters, Tourism Concern welcomes feedback and additional comments. Contact: campaigns@tourismconcern.org.uk.

Excellent opportunity available!

An amazing opportunity is available to help with the construction of the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post. Doug Scott, renowned British mountaineer and photographer, has managed to get Sir Ed Hillary's ORIGINAL signature on a limited number of his photos (or posters) of Dougal Haston climbing the Hillary step near the summit of Mt Everest. They are available at £250 (or more if you like). They have been changing hands for up to £1200, so this is a potential investment not just a donation. The full range available is

ALL SIGNATURES ARE ORIGINAL ie not copied but signed directly.

**Contact CAN (www.canepal.org.uk) on
info@catreks.com.**

Jo Arnold, co-director of Australian expedition and trekking company DCXP, explains their motivation to donate US\$1,000 to IPPG for the next three years.



Duncan Chessell's first impression of the vital role of porters in Himalayan trekking and mountaineering was forged on his very first visit to the country. He participated as a junior member of a mountaineering expedition to a remote corner of Nepal, and the team employed many porters to carry piles of food, fuel and equipment on the long trek to base camp.

That these men carried loads up to 30kg on a tump line around their forehead was amazing enough. That they proceeded to walk through falling snow, and camped above the snow line with so little gear was extremely sobering for a young man on his first major expedition. Australians tend to be an egalitarian bunch and found it shocking that the locals who managed the porters cared little for the porter's welfare and kept the 'members' unaware of problems. We have since employed porters on many expeditions in Nepal, and also in

One of the most important learnings from that first expedition was the realisation that we, who have the privilege to journey to the mountains of the world, also have a responsibility to insist on the safety of those who assist us.

Tanzania. These people have made and continue to make possible our relatively comfortable, safe and successful journeys into the mountains.

My own favourite was a trek up the Hinku Valley to Mera Peak – for just two westerners, when we were accompanied by a team of seven strong, capable and kind young men, mainly from the southern parts of the Solu Khumbu, as well as our cook and sherpa. In such a small group we all ate together and we 'members' soon began to know 'our' porters a little, we all tried to communicate – mainly with smiles and gestures, as I recall!

As a company operating international expeditions we keep that responsibility in mind. We aim to be

fair and reasonable in our employment conditions, and to ensure adequate food, fuel, clothing and equipment. Porters, cooks and sherpas have insurance when they accompany us and our clients, and we actively care for their wellbeing and insist that our sirdars do the same. We are sincerely grateful to the IPPG for their efforts to educate trekking companies and to assist and educate porters to take care of themselves, and are proud to assist in their efforts.



**Duncan Chessell and Jo Arnold operate DCXP Mountain Journeys from a base in South Australia.*

Photos by Duncan Chessell and Jo Arnold

From the reps around the world

AUSTRALIA *Lyn Taylor*

On the Australian home front it has been very quiet although the mail and cheques have been coming in thick and fast. Many many thanks to all of those donors who kindly delivered clothes, boots, sleeping bags, etc. to my front door. Thai Airways is still supporting IPPG by allowing an extra 10kgs of donations per person. A big thank you to those clients of Lyn Taylor's Adventure Travel who took clothes to Nepal throughout 2004.

Thanks to Peregrine for taking over 3 bags of clothing in October. While these were not clothes for the porters to use while trekking, they did go to the families of porters who appreciated them very much.

Coralie Hicks (IPPG Rep) has been busy getting support from Kathmandu stores. They have donated many new fleece tops, thermals and trekking shirts. Thanks to the staff at the Sydney Kathmandu store.

After once again trekking the Inca Trail in 2004, I called in to see the staff at the Inca Nan office in Cuzco to drop off 50 kg of clothing donations. Unlike the porters in Nepal, the porters in Peru are well equipped for trekking. I was told, however, that the Inca Nan office was desperate for cash rather than clothing, but what I took over was very much appreciated.

In Australia we have received many donations of cash this year and I would like to say a special thank you to all of those people who donated; a lot of donations were due to Jim's medical trek to Gokyo. Thanks you all!

In 2005 I hope to continue my work for IPPG with the help of Coralie Hicks (Sydney), Kirsty Robertson (Central Coast) and Ken Chamberlain (Melbourne).

CANADA

Elsie James and Wanda Vivequin

One of the big efforts in 2004 was organizing a fundraiser in Vancouver with internationally acclaimed climber Doug Scott (CBE) from Community Action Nepal (CAN). Wanda had already helped him in New Zealand with his presentations there and seeing as he was passing through Vancouver we decided to make the most of the opportunity.

On August 6 a near capacity crowd gathered at the HR MacMillan Space Centre to hear Scott speak about his mountain adventures illustrated by breathtaking photographs. The audience was on the edge of their seats and mentally on the mountains with Doug throughout the presentation.

The evening was co-sponsored by the Vancouver Branch of Mountain Equipment Co-op (MEC) and IPPG – Canada. Elsie James, Canadian Coordinator for IPPG, was MC for the event. Dr Trish Batchelor attended and added to the evening with a very interesting report and slides of her work from the previous season at Machermo.

Ticket sales and a raffle of Nepal books and memorabilia donated by Elsie James plus a daypack given by MEC, netted a total of Can\$1909. The proceeds were shared equally between Doug's organization, Community Action Nepal (CAN) and IPPG for the sole benefit of the Porter Rescue Post at Machermo. In addition, Doug auctioned several posters and prints of his photographs, including one of the Hillary Step, autographed by Sir Edmund Hillary. The auction raised another \$1100 for CAN projects.

Many thanks to Kate Schultz and MEC who provided invaluable support by supplying posters and advertising through local media, as well as networking with outdoor clubs in the Lower Mainland area of BC.

A professor in the Faculty of Physical Education and Recreation at the University of Alberta, Dr Pearla Reichwein included the issue of portering as a case study in her third year Philosophy of Leisure Class. Dr Reichwein had attended an IPPG presentation given by Wanda at the University last year and decided to follow this up by including the issue in one of her classes. She showed the video Carrying the Burden and then discussed the matter with her students, dividing them into three groups...tourists, porters and tour operators. Dr Reichwein said the debate was spirited and meaningful and she is keen to use the material when she teaches the class again possibly later in 2005.

In Edmonton Wanda spoke about IPPG to a capacity crowd at the local MEC store as well as a full house at the Grant MacEwan Mountain Club. Both of these events included draw prizes and raised not just awareness but several hundred dollars.



Clothing and boots for porters were collected from generous Edmontonians and transported to Nepal by people trekking with Wanda in October/November 2004. Thanks!

NEPAL Prakash Adhikari

In 2004 a porter training workshop was held in Kathmandu where 250 participants took part. There was an excellent talk and multimedia presentation on safety and welfare of the porter which was important from both the aspect of promoting IPPG and covering the issues.

A mountain safety training workshop was also held with 58 porters taking part for two days of intensive work. Major trekking agencies, senior government officials took part as well and the event was inaugurated by the Honorable Mrs Yankila Sherpa.

NEW ZEALAND

Cheska Hadleigh and Wanda Vivequin

This last year IPPG work has involved emptying the bins set up in the Bivouac stores, packaging the good packs, boots, tents, etc. and linking in with World Expeditions travellers and organizing

for the stuff to get to Kathmandu (there is a negotiated deal with Thai Airlines re 10kg free excess). The bags were picked up by the Porter's Progress representative and added to the clothing bank.

In June Wanda Vivequin (IPPG rep for Canada) was in NZ and helped Doug Scott with his presentations in Christchurch. Money from these presentations went towards the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post. She managed to get a substantial feature about portering issues published in the Christchurch Press as well as the New Zealand Alpine Club annual journal. Payment for the newspaper article was donated to the Machermo project.

Thank you Cheska for all your hard work with IPPG. Cheska has decided to step down from her position as NZ IPPG representative.

Dear all ... it is with great pleasure that we welcome Chris Henderson as the new official New Zealand IPPG rep. Chris will be assisted by two of his close friends, Iona and Dave. This is great news indeed and we are looking forward to a long term working relationship!

Dr Jim

USA and AUSTRIA Bernhard Fassl

I am the Utah representative and have ties to Austria, so let me combine both reports:

Activities and achievements

...

Bernhard paid for all his printing expenses etc himself (over US\$200) Ed

My goals for 2005/06

...

COUNTRY REPS NEEDED

**In Norway, Holland and Papua New Guinea.
And also, in any country where there is none.
Please contact IPPG: info@ippg.net**

Financial Reports 2004

If a country does not appear in this report, it means that no financial activity occurred. Reports are in the country's own currency, unless otherwise specified.

AUSTRALIA

Balance as at 31.12.03 A\$1630
INCOME

Sponsorships from Jim's Kili climb

L Cook	50.00
S Tang	115.00
G Mendis	110.00
S Browne	284.05
A Ayrton	56.81
I & R Gawler	100.00
Gibbings & Cadman	56.81
P Lake	60.00
S Bray	60.00
C Patch	56.81
P MacDonald	284.05
R Darken	115.00
B Cassimatis	113.62
J McDonnell	100.00
IS & PK Norrie	200.00
Safety Network	568.10
N Wearne	60.00
Peregrine	60.00
Aurora Expeditions	56.81
World Expeditions	200.00
Lyn Taylor Adventure Travels	60.00
A Brennan	568.10
RM Stanton	113.62
LP Taylor	54.00
S Fear	56.81

Donations

Hong Kong Island School	7300.00
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3-year sponsorship program

Toorak College	1500.00
DCXP Mountain Journeys	1380.00
C Priest	100.00
J & J Blackwood	300.00
I Tomaszewski	300.00
Chamberlain Family	250.00
H Maccana	100.00

Carlisle Contemporary	
Health Practice	300.00

TOTAL INCOME 15089.59

EXPENSES

Dynamic Solution (Website)	2650.00
Office expenses	67.17

TOTAL EXPENSES 2717.17

Funds Transferred To IPPG - Nepal

Spring 2004	3381.97
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TOTAL TRANSFERS 3381.97

SUMMARY

Bal 31.12.03	\$1630.00
Plus 2004 Income	15089.59
Less Expenses	(2717.17)
Less Trf to Nepal	(3381.97)

Bal as at 31.12.04 A\$10620.45

UK

Balance as at 31.12.03 £3997.51
INCOME

Sponsorships from Jim's Kili climb

Pereze & Spinaze	24.00
C Bonington	113.62
SM Gilani	58.95
PR Deegan	10.00
J Arty	20.00
Kendal Mountain Film Festival	100.00
DK Hillebrandt	50.00
D Kamming	56.81
R Anderson	56.81

Donations

Hillebrandt	180.00
P Adams	200.00
High Places	300.00
M Bloomfield	300.00
S Gilani	50.00
Himalayan Kingdoms	350.00
Prescott & White	25.00
D Harper	50.00
JH Willis	20.00
I Wall	8.50
J & G Armitage	50.00
R Holloway	10.00
B Evans	15.00

3-year sponsorship program

Classic Journeys	250.00
Himalayan Adventure Co	500.00

Fundraisers

J Pearson fundraiser	500.00
Webb fundraiser	100.00
Everest Marathon Fd	1000.00
International Challenge Ltd	335.00

Others

Books & posters sales	
Manchester	89.00
Money received for PP(€)	2299.89
Geographical Society	
(use of pic)	50.00
money unaccounted for	10.00

TOTAL INCOME 7182.58

EXPENSES

RGS Hall hire (Nov 03)	1281.75
Hopeful Homes donation (Nov 03)	300.00
Bank charges	13.00
Money sent to Kilimanjaro Union	134.03
Bank charges	19.00
Excess book carriage	110.81
Office	50.00
Himalayan Festival Manchester	40.00
Donation to CAN	2000.00
Donation Porters Progress	2000.00
Cost CAN for exchange Euros	299.89
Donation to CAN	2400.00
Kendal MFF pic mounts	40.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 8688.48

SUMMARY

Bal Dec 31/03	£3997.51
Plus 2004 Income	7182.58
Less Expenses	(8688.48)

Balance as at 31.12.04 £2491.61

NEPAL

Balance as at 31.12.03 80,748.71
INCOME

ICIMOD donation	8,180.00
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Other income - Machermo post

Spring season	202,225.00
Autumn season	259,930.00

TOTAL INCOME 470,335.00

EXPENSES

Office expenses	17,433.89
Machermo post	17,660.00
Chhewang Sherpa	12,798.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 47,891.89

Bal as at 31.12.04 503,191.82

CANADA

Balance as at 31.12.03 C\$42.90
INCOME

Sponsorships from Jim's Kili climb

F Belanger	284.05
Fillion & Metivier	125
B Fortin	113.62
E James	50
W Vivequin	85.21
(returned ch)	56.81

Fundraisers

MEC Slide Show - 23 Feb 04	125.00
Grant McEwen Mountain Club	
May 04	150.00
Doug Scott presentation	
August 04	957.30

Donations

K Manry	50.00
Bank interest	0.13

TOTAL INCOME 1997.64

EXPENSES

Rental share - Vancouver	
Auditorium	200.00
Returned chq re Jim's climb	
sponsorship	56.81
Bank charges	4.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 260.81

Funds Transferred To IPPG - Nepal

Spring 2004	675.00
Fall 2004	1000.00

TOTAL TRANSFERS 1,675.00

SUMMARY

Bal 31.12.03	42.90
Plus 2004 Income	1997.64
Less Expenses	(260.81)
Less Trf to Nepal	(1675.00)

Balance as at 31.12.04 C\$104.73

USA

Balance as at 31.12.03 nil
INCOME

Donation

B Fassl	224.00
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TOTAL INCOME 224.00

EXPENSES

Office expenses	200.00
Post	24.00

TOTAL EXPENSES 224.00

Balance as at 31.12.04 nil

How Do I Contact IPPG?

Anyone may contact IPPG representatives to obtain more information, send personal accounts of trekking porters' misadventures, make suggestions, send articles, or make a donation.

email info@ippg.net

web www.ippg.net

International Coordinator

Dr Jim Duff
53 Dale Street, Ulverston, LA129AR
Cumbria, UK
Ph +44 (0)12295 86225
info@ippg.net

Dr Jim Duff is available for talks, interviews and articles on porters

Secretary

Rejane Belanger
53 Dale Street, Ulverston, LA129AR
Cumbria, UK.
Ph +44 (0)12295 86225
info@ippg.net

Australia

Lyn Taylor (Australia coordinator and reps coordinator)
P O Box 947
Mona Vale NSW 1660
Ph: +61 (0)29997 7442
IPPG-Australia is operating under the wing of AFAP, a registered charitable organization.

Kirsty Robertson
3/30 Campbell Cres
Terrigal NSW 2260
Ph: +61 (0)425 206 931

Rachel Stanton
35 Wakehurst Parkway
Seaforth NSW 2092
Mob: +61 (0)411 193 464

Coralie Hicks
coralie.hicks@bigpond.com

Ken Chamberlain
48 Carnarvon Rd
Strathmore VIC 3041
Ph/fax: +61(0) 39379 4105
Mob: 0418 794 105

Austria

Oskar Skuk (& Bernhard Fassl)
c/o Dunkelsteinerstrasse 1
2630 Ternitz
Ph: +43 2630 30735

Bernhard Fassl
600 E. Street, Salt Lake City
UT 84105 USA
Ph: +1 (801) 466 4556

Canada

Elsie James (Canada coordinator)
10 Sierra Morena Mews S.W.,
Apt.#321, Calgary, Alberta,
Canada, T3H 3K5
Ph: +1 (403) 246 0256

Sylvia Lau
620 The Del, North Vancouver
BC V7N 2Y1
Ph: +1 (604) 837 9995

Wanda Vivequin
9653 78th avenue
Edmonton, Alberta T6C 0P2
Ph: +1 (780) 989 6025

France

Dr Nicolas Peschanski
2, rue Emile Zola, 76380
CANTELEU Normandy

Ireland

Gillian Ryan
32 The Crescent
Broaddale
Maryborough Hill
Cork
Ph: +353 87 2798992

Italy

Massimo Pastorelli
Via C. Ferrini 99
Broni (PV) 27046

Nepal

Prakash Adhikari
c/o HRA (Himalayan Rescue Association)
PO Box 4944, Thamel Kathmandu
Mob: 9810 33046
IPPG-Nepal is operating under the wing of the Himalayan Foundation, a registered charitable organisation.

Norway

Lena Fauske
Tuvsbakken, N-3560 Hemsedal,
Norway
Ph: +47 32060019

Pakistan

Ken MacDonald
42 Seymour Ave
Toronto, Ont.
Canada M4J 3T4
Ph: +1 (416) 466 2651
Ph: +1 (416) 287 7294 (work)
Fax: +1 (416) 287 7283

Peru

Louise Norton
c/o South American Explorers Club
Apartado 500, Cusco, Peru
Ph: +51 (0) 84 246 829
Mob: +51 (0) 84 9746 546

Sweden

Per Nyberg
Boktryckarvägen 18, 1tr.
129 33 Hägersten
Ph: +46 (0)732 484019
ippg@pangeaexploration.net

Switzerland

Dr. Urs Hefti
Limmattalstrasse 161
8049 Zürich
Ph /Fax: +41(0)1342 4559

UK

Ian Wall
87 Birchwood Drive
Ulverston, Cumbria, LA12 9NZ
Ph: +44 (0)1229 583214
Mob: 07813 90 84 85

Scotland

Jeff Frew
25 Elmwood Terrace
Edinburgh EH6 8DF
Ph: +44 (0)131554 3846

USA

Peter Herrick-Stare (USA
Coordinator)
Box 257 Bates College, Lewiston,
ME 04240, USA
Ph: + 1 (207) 777 7630

Brad Atwal
580 Market St, Suite 525
San Francisco, CA 94104

USA (continued)

Ben Ayers
117 Hunkins Pond Road,
Sanbornton, NH 03269, USA

Bernhard Fassl
600 E. Street, Salt Lake City
UT 84105
Ph: +1 (801) 466 4556

Dr Jim Litch (James A. Litch)
6026 36th Ave NE, Seattle
WA 98115-7402

Hillary Liss
Seattle, WA, USA
Ph: 1 (206) 399 4590

**IPPG ENCOURAGES PEOPLE TO GO TREKKING
AND TO DO SO IN A NON-EXPLOITATIVE, SUSTAINABLE WAY**

Website information

The IPPG website **www.ippg.net** has been revamped and looks great! It gets an average of 70 visits a day. Total visits for the year: 25,500 (223,154 hits).



BBC Photo Diary

by Ann Noon

The Inka Porter Project succeeded in getting a photo journal of a day in the life of an Inka trail porter posted on the BBC news website.

Accompanied by 8 photographs, the journal recounts how Feliciano Leon Tito has worked as a porter on the trail for 18 years. As well as background information on his life as a subsistence farmer, it includes details of the load that he carries and the wage that he earns.

To read the full journal, visit:

http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/shared/spl/hi/picture_gallery/04/americas_inca_trail_porter/html/1.stm

How you can help

Here are ways you can help porters.

Become part of IPPG

IPPG has no membership. You join by donating time, effort, skills or cash! Contact your country representative or the secretary if you can help.

Make a donation or become a sponsor

One-off donations are always welcome, contact your country representative or the secretary. Or better still, join our sponsorship scheme. In some countries, donations are tax-deductible.

Should you wish to contribute in the form of supplies (eg. medical supplies, medical equipment, sleeping bags, stoves, mattresses, etc), this would also be appreciated!

Organise a fundraiser

Are you about to embark on some 'adventure of a lifetime'? Why not ask all your friends and family to sponsor you for it and raise a donation for IPPG? For example you could ask them to sponsor you for 1¢ / 1p a meter climbed if you're going up, or 10¢ / 10p a kilometer if going along!

Spread the word

Print off and disseminate any of the information on the website, www.ippg.net, in particular the guidelines for ethical trekking. Anyone can be an activist and lobby government and media. All we ask is that you check in with your country representative or the secretary before using IPPG's name.

Volunteering

Any doctors who are interested in working as volunteers at the Machermo Porter Shelter and Rescue Post, please contact Dr Jim Duff via info@ippg.net.



WWW.IPPG.NET

**More information on IPPG can be
found at www.ippg.net**

Thank you