

Mary Ward International Australia *Volunteer Story*

“I hope to return soon to Dharan to see Sabith and Sabitra and the hostel girls and sisters who were so kind and generous.” *Suzi McKenzie*

I arrived in Siliguri, India to meet Kate and Maddie who were also volunteering with Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA). Kate and I were told that we would be going to Dharan, Nepal for our time. I would be assisting with a small childcare centre that was supported by Loreto Sisters and Kate would do day trips with the paramedic, to small outer communities.



Kate and I were on a bus within a few days to cross the border between India and Nepal and then on to Dharan. I had never heard of Dharan and was a little unsure of what to expect, but knew we were in safe hands while staying with Loreto Sisters. After an interesting and slightly hair raising bus trip, we arrived in our new home. Kate and I were to share a room and also had the company of the 'hostel girls'. The hostel girls were 13-18 year old girls who were being supported by the Loreto Sisters to attend school in Dharan because their families lived too far away.

I spent two weeks in Dharan working within the childcare centre with children aged 2-4 years. The two staff members Sabith and Sabitra were the most welcoming and kind people I have met on my travels. Their passion and love of their work was amazing and tireless. I worked with these two great carers and tried to show them new activities, other ways to assist and play with the children and just spoke to them about their daily life in Dharan. The children did not mind that I could not speak Nepali; somehow we managed to communicate. I hope to return soon to Dharan to see Sabith and Sabitra, and the hostel girls and sisters who were so kind and generous.



Volunteering with MWIA provides an opportunity to gain a rich insight into the work of Loreto Sisters in Australia and abroad. Both long and short term placements are fully self-funded and involve working with a specific project in a Loreto program in Australia or overseas. To find out more about MWIA, our projects, and how you can support us through volunteering or donations, please visit www.loreto.org.au or email mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au