

NOVEMBER 2008 PROJECT UPDATE FOR FRIENDS AND SUPPORTERS OF MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

When you support MWIA, you join a global network of like-minded individuals, families, groups and businesses who value social justice and education for all. This Project Update outlines the numerous initiatives we are funding through 2008. In the 2007/2008 financial year, MWIA received \$253,975* and distributed \$216,912 – both within Australia and overseas. Our major focus in Australia has been on Indigenous projects, particularly in the areas of early intervention, capacity building, community development and empowerment. Your support has also helped MWIA make a valued, long-lasting and practical difference overseas. To find out how you can continue to support both local and overseas projects please visit www.loreto.org.au or email mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au.

AUSTRALIA



Young mothers attending TAFE Clothing Production Certificate 1

Empowering young mothers

MWIA has provided part-funding for “Strong Young Mums” at Centacare Wilcannia-Forbes. This award-winning program provides young Aboriginal mothers in Bourke with the opportunity to achieve Year 10 accreditation (some Year 11 or 12). The program also encourages the utilisation of early childhood services such as playgroups and childcare; and the development of vocational skills.

The Loreto Toorak Past-Pupils Association has pledged its support for this program. We hope other partners will join us in supporting this much-needed and very effective program.

Improving literacy

In 2009 MWIA is launching “Mary Ward in the Kimberley – Supporting Reading Recovery in the Kimberley”. “Reading Recovery” is an early intervention literacy support program that has helped improve the literacy of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the Kimberley. MWIA, in partnership with a number of organisations, including the Western Australia Catholic Education Office and the Kimberley Land Council, will approach government and corporations to extend this program to all schools in the Kimberley.



Funding for this program over three years was made possible through the generous support of Julianne Maxwell (Roarty '76) and the Roarty family. We hope that the program can be extended with the help of other partners.

Providing dignity

MWIA is providing funding for essential toiletries required by the “Sisters’ Place” in Fremantle - a night shelter for homeless and marginalised women. The centre aims to provide dignified and safe night accommodation with the hope that the women will be empowered by the knowledge that “someone cares.”

**Some of this amount has been earmarked for particular projects over a number of years and will be distributed at an appropriate date*

* The term 'barefoot' follows the principle that "we only need our feet to walk and the shoes are additional". It is intensely practical (foot) and omits all excessive and unnecessary theories (shoe). The training in teaching aids is linked to the person's environment, enabling the trainees to create their teaching aids from whatever is available in their local surroundings and depending on the children's learning needs. They can still teach even if under a tree or in the slums and with limited resources.

MWIA is able to assist these projects in partnership with Loreto Family International and other generous individuals. Entally and Sealdah also received support from Loreto Marryatville, Loreto Ballarat and the Parents Association of Loreto Normanhurst, as well as from international non-government and philanthropic organisations.

SOUTH AFRICA – ZAMBIA

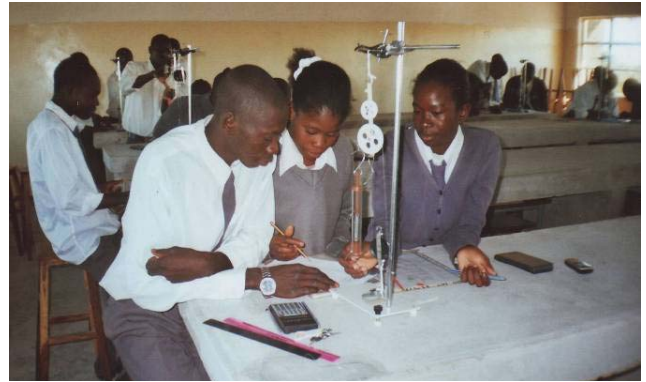
Enabling student participation



In Lukula, Zambia, we are funding activity materials, resources and refreshments for UN Children's Day and the promotion of IRI (Interactive Radio Instruction). As well as enabling village children to participate and enjoy UN Children's Day; this grant will raise the profile of IRI in the village and encourage greater support from village elders and parents.

Equipping science laboratories

MWIA purchased non-consumable science equipment for two secondary school laboratories in Lukulu that were not being used due to lack of equipment. Students were unable to engage in any science practical work. Now teachers will be provided with resources to conduct meaningful science practical classes. The facilities will also be used to train science teachers – particularly in finding practical and creative ways of teaching science using the limited resources available.



Enabling Christian rites to occur

MWIA has assisted in the purchase of resources such as stationery and materials that will be utilised to prepare the local Christian community for Christian Rites of Initiation – Baptism, Eucharist and Confirmation.

Funding for these activities in Zambia have been possible with the generous support of Kirribilli Parents and Friends Wishing Well Project, Aloysius Social Circle and generous individuals.

EAST AFRICA – KENYA

Supporting the National Holistic Growth and Research Centre for FGM Campaign

MWIA is supporting an established and ongoing Eradication of Female Genital Mutilation Education Program in schools (among students and teachers) and communities (elders and parents). Awareness-raising, especially among young girls and their parents, is a major part of this program.

MWIA hopes to provide them with financial support for resources (trainers and materials) to ensure that this important education program continues and reaches more rural and remote communities.

One major requirement of this program is a National Holistic Growth and Research Centre to serve as a community meeting place; training space for project workers; space for education programs; central location for documentation and dissemination of information and research; and accommodation/retreat space for women affected by FGM.

This project has been supported in partnership with the students and staff of Loreto Normanhurst, the Rotary Club of Clayton and generous individuals. This project also receives valuable support from the Loreto network, in particular Loreto Mandeville Hall in Australia and Loreto schools overseas, as well as from international non-government and philanthropic organisation