

# Salesian Missions NEWSLETTER 2017



## Helping youth build a better future

**The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) is a charitable work of the Salesians of Don Bosco in Australia.**

### **Salesian Missions Office**

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### **OUR THANKS**

Our Newsletter is one way we stay in touch and keep you informed of our activities.

In the following pages you will find news from our Salesian partners around the world, as well as details of some fundraising activities that have occurred in Australia.

The need for support continues to grow with requests for new projects.

All donations have the power to make a difference.



Last January, I participated in a meeting of Directors of Salesian Mission Offices, Rome where ideas and practices were shared in the light of contemporary challenges in a world plagued by uncertainty.

That the poor are still with us is an underlying reality. There are about 450 million children living in poverty. Many children are deprived of their childhood because they must take care of siblings, carry water for the family, work to bring money home, live on the streets or suffer from war and violence. It has been estimated that about 40,000 children die every day from lack of food, clean water, disease, malnutrition and inadequate sanitation.

Don Bosco's Salesians are in 132 countries which include many of the world's "trouble spots." They are endeavouring to help people better their lives. Their focus is on youth, assisting them through education to enjoy productive lives and to acquire the skills to secure an occupation.

While the Salesians cannot solve all the problems in the developing and often troubled world, they are making a contribution.

Both the Rector Major (Fr Angel Fernandez-Artime) and Ecomer General (Br Jean Paul Muller) addressed the meeting and stressed that a key ingredient in the mission to poor and abandoned youth, is the presence of trained personnel. They underlined the importance, for the sustainability of the work by securing assistance for the training of Salesian personnel in various countries.

As a Friend of Salesian Missions, you may wish to consider the above when making your Will.

Your assistance and continued patronage of the many relief, development and education programs that the Salesians are involved with throughout the world, is very much appreciated.

On a personal level, I was invited to Pope Francis' early morning Mass a few days before the meeting. I was pleased to have the opportunity of speaking to the Pope about the work of Salesian Missions in Australia.

Br Michael Lynch  
Director

#### FRONT COVER

Fr Mosese Tui, Principal Don Bosco High School and Vocational Centre, Salelologa, Samoa with two students learning basic carpentry skills.

### The Governing Board of ASMOAF



Fr Gregory Chambers  
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Fr Bernard Graham  
Deputy Chairman



Fr Anthony Nguyen  
Provincial Ecomer



Br Michael Harris



Fr Philip Gleeson



Fr Petelo Vito Pau

### Staff Members



Br Michael Lynch,



Mrs Olga Elliott



Ms Tina Newton

Salesian Province Centre PO Box 264 Ascot Vale Vic 3032

## SALESIAN BULLETIN

*The Salesian Bulletin*, a quarterly magazine of news, information and a range of articles, is available free of charge. If you would like to be added to the mailing list, please inform the Salesian Missions Office.



## CAGLIERO PROJECT

The Cagliari Project offers 6-12 months volunteer-abroad experiences to people across Australia.

The volunteers in Salesian centres as teachers in schools, carers in orphanages and mentors in youth centres, using their skills and talents to assist disadvantaged youth.

Since 2008 the Cagliari Project has sent more than thirty volunteers to Salesian communities in Thailand, Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia and the Solomon Islands.

For further information: [www.cagliero.org.au](http://www.cagliero.org.au).

# Salesian Missions



## 'BLESSED ARE THE OPEN HANDS'

In my final months as Provincial of the Australia-Pacific Province of Australia, Samoa, Fiji and New Zealand, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the Salesian Missions Newsletter for 2017.

The launch of this excellent annual publication also gives me an opportunity to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of Br Michael Lynch, Director of the Salesian Missions Office, Mrs Olga Elliott, Ms Tina Newton and the generous contribution of their many helpers, supporters and benefactors during my six years in office. Thanks and congratulations to you all!

Recently Pope Francis, in announcing the first World Day of the Poor on 19 November this year, reminded us all that the poor "are not a problem, they are a resource which is rich in dignity and God-given gifts that can help Christians better understand the essential truth of the Gospel".

He then went on to issue a call to arms to people of good will the world over:

**"Blessed, therefore, are the open hands that embrace the poor and help them: They are hands that bring hope. Blessed are the hands that reach beyond every barrier of culture, religion and nationality and pour the balm of consolation over the wounds of humanity. Blessed are the open hands that ask nothing in exchange, with no 'ifs' or 'buts' or 'maybes': They are hands that call down God's blessing upon their brothers and sisters."**

My dear Salesian Family Members, my dear friends and supporters of the Australia-Pacific Salesian Missions Office and ASMOAF, I have no doubt at all that the Pope's message is directed to us, the followers and heirs of Don Bosco, in a special way. For we have committed our lives to the poor and abandoned, particularly those who are young, and have been called to open our hands and our hearts in order to give them hope and happiness and their best possible chance for a purposeful and productive life on this earth.

Let us not fail in this noble task because, as the Jewish Talmud reminds us:

'He who saves one life saves the world entire.'

Fr Greg Chambers SDB Provincial,  
Chair of the ASMOAF Board



## Visitors to ASMOAF

ASMOAF hosts a number of overseas visitors and in the past year they have included:



Fr Vaclav Klement,  
Regional,  
East Asia – Oceania



Fr Martin Coyle,  
Former Provincial  
Great Britain Province



Fr Edwin D'Souza, Don  
Bosco Matunga,  
Mumbai, India



Fr Antony Vailatt,  
Don Bosco Missions,  
Bangalore, India



Fr Justin Torres & Mr Ron Natoli, Bethlehem  
Community Project, Philippines



Graciana Goncalves and Dulcita Pinto, Office Staff,  
Don Bosco Maliana, Timor Leste



# Fiji

## Community Centre for Nasinu (Suva) Fiji

Fiji is a nation with many challenges. It has a youthful population with 44 per cent under the age of 25. A significant proportion of the young adults, however, are unemployed and many are homeless.

The Salesians have been in Fiji since 1999. They have a House of Studies for students mainly from the Pacific who attend the local seminary and teachers' college.

For these Salesians the "outreach" to date has been focused on local primary schools, an orphanage and nearby villages.

Since January 2017 the Salesians have had responsibility for the newly established parish of Nasinu. Part of the overall development plan is to build a large multi-purpose Community and Youth Centre. This structure will be the first of its type in Fiji.

The Centre will be used for community meetings, youth gatherings, liturgy, sport, formal and informal education activities which include music, dance, choir, craft, table tennis and other indoor games. Facilities for outdoor sports such as volley ball, rugby and soccer are also on the agenda.

This Youth Centre will be in the new Parish of St John Bosco, Nasinu. Fr Mikaele Leilua (Parish Priest) and Br Stan Rossato will oversee its construction.





# Samoa

The two Don Bosco schools in Samoa: the Technical Centre at Alafua and the High School/Vocational Centre at Salelologa cater for students whose parents, in the main, struggle financially. The costs involved in technical education and running the two schools requires financial assistance from outside sources.

## Don Bosco Technical Centre Alafua.

*I am the new Principal of the Centre that was established in 1988. Current enrolments are 245 young men from Samoa and Tokelau.*

*Our students have the opportunity to choose either general or specialized trade training. The technical training is complemented by courses in Samoan, English, Mathematics, Technical Drawing, Computer Studies and Religion. In addition, the Centre promotes personal, moral and spiritual growth, skills leadership development and teamwork through cultural and sporting activities.*

*Maintaining and improving the facilities such as up-grading workshop tools, a library and computer laboratory with internet access is a major objective.*

*The students at Don Bosco learn skills that are in demand in Samoa. Upon graduation, many secure work promptly, which is a significant achievement in a country with high unemployment.*

**Mr Isitolo Stanley, Principal**

## Don Bosco Co-educational High School and Vocational School, Salelologa.

*The school now in its eighth year, has more than 300 students. Many come from remote villages on the school bus.*

*We have an integrated curriculum with academic and technical subjects designed to provide students with employment and human relations skills as well as self-reliance. Currently we are looking at how we can better incorporate outdoor education, including games and sport into the overall program.*

*A number of female students from poor families will be selected for sponsorship to enable them to complete the last two years of their course. We hope that this patronage will continue.*

*In November 2016 the new Fr Elio Proietto's Hall was officially opened after receiving funds from the Rector Major, Don Bosco Mission in Turin, Italy and Salesian Mission, Madrid, Spain. Our local school community undertook another fundraising walk around the island of Savai'i and Salesians in Australia provided the balance. With this additional facility, Don Bosco Salelologa continues to be an important centre of education, meetings, conferences, youth gatherings and sport on the island of Savai'i. We are very grateful for the generosity of so many supporters.*

**Fr Mosese Tui, Principal**





## COMORO

*Don Bosco Training Centre*

There is a high demand for places at Don Bosco Technical Training Centre, Comoro. Total enrolments exceed 200, of which 40% are female. The students are from all of the nation's 13 districts. A number of students received welcomed support from the Australian Ron Archer Trust and the John Herbert Foundation to complete their studies.

Courses are offered in general construction, automotive and office administration. After graduation a substantial percentage secure employment in Dili; others return to their home village.

**Fr Joao Costa, Rector**



## MALIANA

*Don Bosco Co-educational Technical School*

Whilst relatively new, Don Bosco Co-educational Technical School is already an important centre of education in Maliana with high expectations for the students. In 2016, 28 students graduated with 18 accepted into further studies at University. Improving overall facilities including the kitchen, dormitory accommodation and provision of filtered drinking water are on the agenda. ASMOAF's help for in-service training of teachers, office staff, school furniture and equipment has been welcomed.

**Br Marcal Lopes, Principal**



## VENILALE

*Salesian Sisters' Orphanage*

The Orphanage accommodates 116 girls, aged 6 – 16. The girls are given an education and are encouraged to participate in recreational activities.

Through the generosity of donors two new rain water tanks have been purchased and installed, thereby saving the girls a daily 2km walk with buckets to collect water. The water is used for drinking, washing clothes and showering.

**Sr Cecilia Del Mundo**



*Salesian Sisters' Medical Clinic*

The Maria Auxiliadora Medical Clinic continues to provide essential medical care for the poor in Venilale and 13 surrounding villages. There were more than 9,700 patients in 2016 who were treated for common ailments such as malaria, tuberculosis, asthma and pneumonia.

The Clinic's priority is care for mothers and children. As a high proportion of the local population live in poverty and experience food shortages, access to our Clinic is an important alternative to a costly hospital visit. Health education programs in local schools and villages are also conducted.

**Sr Yasintha Hoar, Co-ordinator**



# Leste

## FUILORO

*Don Bosco Agricultural School*

With more than 75 per cent of the population deriving their livelihood from farming, Don Bosco Agricultural College, Fuiloro plays an important role in promoting better care of livestock and increasing the yield from crops.

In 2017, with an increase in applications, enrolments now exceed 200. Our aim is to be more self-sustainable by increasing farm production of corn, animal feed, varied horticulture, coconut oil and improved livestock intake.

Work on the dormitory has been completed with new beds, lockers and furniture installed. Our next project is to renovate school buildings and upgrade classroom furniture (desks, chairs etc.) when we obtain the funds.

**Fr Antonio Trans Pinto, Rector**

## *Madalena Morano Centre*

The Madalena Morano Centre for women offers courses in computing, basic office management and sewing. We offer 54 places to students mainly from rural poverty-stricken families. We hope to upgrade our computers in order to teach additional office programs. A high proportion of our graduates secure work in Dili or Baucau.

**Sr Sebastiana Soares**



## LAGA

*Laura Vicuna Orphanage*

Our mission is to provide 98 girls, aged 6 – 16 with a home, education and a secure environment. Through 'integral education' incorporating studies such as theatre, dance, music, sewing and sport we encourage the development of their skills and talents. Nutritional meals are provided five times a day with donors support.

**Sr Evangelina Xavier**

Laga is an extensive parish with more than 40 villages, 24 schools and 38 pastoral centres, of which many are difficult to access. Parents are keen for their children to receive an education that will help them acquire work and participate in the wider community. Thank you for contributing to the teacher salaries and the running of the orphanage in Baguia.

**Fr Manuel Ximenes, Parish Priest**

## LOSPALOS

*Don Bosco Orphanage*

Don Bosco Orphanage accommodates in excess of 100 boys, aged 6 – 16, who attend local schools. Our aim is to help the boys develop survival skills including those that come from 'after school' to work in the vegetable garden. Many of our buildings are old and require renovation. Resources in the past year have been used to repair the dormitories and cover the cost of food, toiletries and electricity.

**Fr Tomas de Carvalho, Rector**



## FATUMACA

*Don Bosco Technical School*

At Don Bosco Technical School Fatumaca, 250 students have the opportunity to specialise in building construction, mechanical, electrical installation and electronic communications. Each year there are more than 400 applications for 84 places. Of the enrolments, 10% are female. We are continuing to review and improve the curriculum by providing programs that encourage students to be creative and innovative. Final year students are required to design and produce a product that embraces much of what they have learned over the previous three years. Funding for scholarships, desks, workshop materials, equipment for the radio and television stations is appreciated. The renovation of the dormitories is our next key priority.

**Br Adriano de Jesus, Principal**

## BAUCAU

*St Anthony's Co-educational High School*

Our students at St Anthony's are achieving good results and have performed well in national examinations. Substantial progress has been made with the renovation of the school buildings. The science laboratory, library and repairing the roof are our next priority. The Luncheon Program, sponsored by the Bairnsdale group, is going well. Over 7,400 lunches are provided to students over one trimester. As many students walk relatively long distances to school without breakfast, lunch is much valued.

**Fr David Savio, Rector & Principal**



# India

## BANGALORE

Programs undertaken in 2016 included the continued 'rescue' of street children and child labourers, operating Child Help Line Kiosks, counselling for families, formal and informal education, skills training, overseeing hostels and shelter homes for boys and girls, womens' self-confidence courses and micro financing advice.

A career guidance project prepared candidates for competitive exams, interviews and job placements. The 'Community Involvement' outreach continued; a major thrust was the empowerment of women and a better understanding of the rights of children. A Child Help line is accessible to seek advice on the violation of child's rights, which includes being forced into marriage at a young age. Progress is being made in all of the above areas.

Fr Shalbin Kalanchery

## MUMBAI – Don Bosco Matunga

Our priorities at present are assisting school dropouts, providing education to poor children, offering scholarships, supporting orphans and street children and establishing "self-help groups" especially for women. Through community participation in villages many are becoming more aware of fair working rights.

An International Women's Day at the Don Bosco Campus in Matunga (March 2017) was attended by more than 1400 women from the slums in Mumbai, a number of whom were victims of discrimination and violence. Policies and programs to help women become community leaders and agents of change were presented and discussed.

A free medical awareness program for poor parents has been set up in several village schools and centres to provide information on nutrition, good hygiene, physical examinations, dietary counselling and free eye check-ups. Additional medical procedures are also offered.

Fr Edwin D'Souza



## GUWAHATI

The north east of India contains the nation's least developed regions. Many children from impoverished rural families struggle to receive an education. ASMOAF's support has been used to assist schools and hostels in remote villages including:

**Ouguri:** Don Bosco School at Ouguri in Chirang Dt, Assam has been upgraded and is functioning well. Its opening was celebrated by the students and adjoining rural villages in May 2017.

**Amguri:** Students and parents are delighted that the renovations to the Don Bosco School and Hostel in Amguri, Assam, are now completed. The school is seen to be an oasis in a remote village affected by conflicts.

**Kakki:** A girls' hostel was constructed amongst the poor rural farms in the centre of Kakki. This is a vast area largely undeveloped. The hostel will enable girls from local tribes to attend school. It is hoped that with the presence of Salesians in the area and the opportunity for children to receive an education, literacy will be promoted amongst the tribal communities.

Fr V.M.Thomas





## ECUADOR, QUITO

In the past year ASMOAF has assisted Ecuador with:

- Emergency relief for Victims of the April 2016 Earthquake
- Support for a street children program in Quito

In the aftermath of the Earthquake, Australian donors responded generously assisting 3,500 families in the Province of Manabi with basic necessities and medical care. Aid was also provided for the San Jose High School in Manta, where there was extensive damage. The reconstruction of the school has begun, bringing hope for the future to many young people and their families.

Fondo Vocacional Salesiano initiated the *Chicos de la Calle* projects for 80 street children in Quito to provide them with an alternative to drifting into gangs, drug use, trafficking, teenage pregnancies and stealing. The project team included Salesian seminarians who offered a personal development program, support to return to main stream education and the opportunity to participate in a range of recreational and social activities.

## NEPAL

In 2015, Nepal was ravaged by a massive 7.8 magnitude earthquake that killed nearly 9,000 people and left 4 million homeless. It has been a defining moment in the life and history of Nepal.

The Salesians in Kathmandu provided immediate help by supplying food, medicines, tents and water to various communities and schools. They also carried out emergency and rescue work which involved the reconstruction of homes, shelters and schools. Temporary shelters were constructed for the residents in Lisankhu, Wafal and Sindhupalchowk.

Whilst slow, progress has been made. In Dharan (East Nepal) a Centre for Children was opened offering free tuition and activities such as entertainment and dance programs, youth workshops and counselling. Over two hundred children attend tuition coaching classes to achieve better results. Nepal Don Bosco Society (NDBS) distributed school uniforms and materials to the leaders during a short ceremony in the Ramechhap and Makwanpur district.

The building of a Technical School in Biratnagar is progressing. It will run short courses offering basic training in building trades, food and beverage skills to the unemployed.

Re-construction of collapsed school buildings in Ramechhap and Lalitpur districts have commenced.



## GUATEMALA

*Fr Tony De Groot writes:*

*This year we are celebrating the 35th anniversary of our first education centre which began in Raxruha in August 1982. During these years many indigenous students have been educated in our three Don Bosco Centres. A significant number of our trainees have found employment because of the various workshops that have been supported by generous benefactors from Australia, for which we are extremely grateful.*

*A community centre, built in Carcha during 2016 has been of great benefit to the neighbouring five villages.*





## ETHIOPIA

Ethiopia is a country with many challenges. The nation is experiencing its worst drought and famine in 60 years. Funds from Salesian Missions Australia were used to purchase food and medicine for the poor and vulnerable, including destitute children.

Education is important for children if they are to acquire basic skills including those associated with 'survival'. We actively encourage marginalised youngsters to participate in schooling.

Recently a landslide of rubbish at a "slum site" near one of our schools killed more than 100 people including women and children. A group of Salesians and volunteers helped alleviate the suffering of those affected and assisted several with relocation to other parts of the city.

### Br Cesare Bullo



## SWAZILAND

Fr Tim Wrenn and the Project Coordinator at Manzini Youth Care reported that funding from ASMOAF was used to support 46 young people living at residential care homes, 10 salaries for house parents and assisting more than 270 children studying at Enjabulweni Primary School. Food items and school stationery were provided and electricity to the homes, which enabled the children to study in the evenings.

Sporting equipment for the Youth centre activities at Telunjia was purchased as more than 300 children attend every Sunday. Programmes of games, talent quests, leadership training and moral classes are offered. Special care is taken by the leaders, who are themselves young people from the School, to guide the smaller children. This is excellent 'hands-on' experience for the older students to become leaders and guides.



## SOUTH SUDAN

South Sudan, the world's newest country, is afflicted by war and widespread disruptions. During the past three years, conflict, lootings and famine have severely affected more than one million children suffering from malnourishment throughout South Sudan.

The Salesians are based in Gumbo (Juba) and also Maridi, Tonj and Wau; their work is centred on education, emergency relief and building structures to overcome poverty. This includes teaching better farming and agricultural cultivation as 80% of vegetables, fruit and cereals are imported.

At Gumbo two grinding mills have been purchased enabling 80 local women to crush cassava, maize and wheat to make flour. This is used both in the home and to sell at the local market, thus providing some income for their families. The mills are worked in shifts to allow many to make use of them.

Two Salesian colleges in Tonj and Wau have remained opened despite the civil war, with students from several tribes living and training together to be teachers, nurses and midwives. It is hoped that the next generation of leaders will be promoters of peace and goodwill.

The Don Bosco Centres continue to provide emergency accommodation for 15,000 people in need of food and shelter. In addition, several Salesians work with the homeless in refugee camps welcoming and supporting those in need. The overall goal is to promote peace, justice, forgiveness, reconciliation, law enforcement and good governance. The Missionary Sisters of Mary Help of Christians are also collaborating with the Salesians in offering food, shelter and health aid.

The height of the dry season is severe as harvests are considerably diminished and the food crisis peaks. Donations to provide for the purchase of much needed food and necessities are required.





## MYANMAR

Myanmar is enjoying an overall economic growth, however, not all are enjoying the benefits of this expansion as they are still living in poverty. ASMOAF has helped the local Salesians through their ten centres to assist the poor and marginalised.

- In Anisakan and May Myo, approximately 100 widows received weekly food supplies and educational support for their children.
- Summer Camps for more than 1200 children are held at the Vocational Training Centre Myitkyina. Courses are provided on social values, child protection, drug awareness and leadership.
- Education and Health Care support for youth in the Wa State Region; more than 400 tribal people benefit from the services provided by Don Bosco.

The Don Bosco Youth Centre in Mandalay is part of an Outreach Program and provides shelter, food, health care and education for street children who are commonly found around the bus and railway terminals. The boys come from different backgrounds; some are runaways while others are from broken homes, live in poverty, from HIV patients who cannot afford to support their children or send them to school.

The Outreach Program is the first step in helping these children live a better life beyond the streets, acquire job skills and become part of mainstream society.

Fr Charles Saw, May Myo, Mandalay



## VIETNAM

Australian donors, through a committee headed by Fr Anthony Quang Nguyen, continue to support relief and educational projects in Vietnam.

- Emergency relief was given to flood victims in the Bo Son Parish of the Nghe An Province (Central Vietnam) and to fishermen who suffered loss of their livelihood. Food packs, water and repair to houses were supplied.
- A kindergarten was constructed in Go Vap district, Saigon City.
- A vegetable garden at an orphanage at Vinh Province, Central Vietnam, was established to help provide long term food sustainability.
- Scholarships were given to girls and boys at the DRD (Disability Research & Capacity Development Centre, Saigon) to enable them to secure employment. In addition, three powered wheelchairs were purchased for people with severe disabilities.
- Three houses for families in Kon Tum Province, Central Vietnam, were built and five bicycles supplied for poor pupils aged between 12 and 16.
- Tutoring, education classes and scholarship programs for poor students were offered to those in difficult circumstances in Phan Rang Province, Central/South Vietnam.





# Solomon Islands

## HENDERSON

*Don Bosco Technical Institute*

There are a total of 357 students, of which 78 are female. Certificate courses in Automotive, Construction, Electrical, Machine Fitting and Maintenance, Life Skills, Information Computer Technology and Fabrication-Welding are offered. Renovating facilities is a priority: improving three classrooms, building a workshop, additional toilet facilities and a tank for drinking water. Many of these projects are on hold awaiting funding.

Earthquake and tsunami relief funds provided those affected with food, first-aid supplies, clean water and blankets.

**Fr. Srimal Priyanga Silva, Rector**



## TETERE

*Don Bosco Rural Training Centre*

In January 2017, we received a container of goods for our students and Don Bosco Henderson, FMA Sisters, Tetere hospital and the Health Ministry. The Rural Training Centre focuses on the students' agricultural education helping them better understand the care of livestock and how to improve the yield from crops. Students receive a wide ranging formation with sports, cultural dances, singing, psycho-emotional growth through respect, self-discipline, friendships and spiritual growth.

**Fr Albert Lenon, Principal**



## GIZO

In January 2017 an earthquake shook the western region of the Solomon Islands. Bishop Luciano Capelli informed us that 63 village houses were destroyed. In Nila the Kindergarten, Primary School classrooms, Staff house and local water supply were damaged. Emergency funds were used to supply tents, tarpaulins, water purification tablets and other essentials.



## *The Salesian Sisters*

Funds received for the Laura Vicuna Hostel were used to assist with the educational and accommodation costs. Short courses in literacy, numeracy, small business management, textile skills, dressmaking, food technology and health awareness are offered to mothers who live nearby.

**Sr Anna Maria Gervasoni**



## AVE MARIA COLLEGE VISITS TIMOR LESTE

### My Impressions

The Trip to Venilale in 2016 was no doubt the most amazing experience I have ever had the privilege of partaking in. It's strange to think that this amazing and beautiful country is in such close proximity to Australia, yet the lifestyle there is completely different. St Maria Mazzarello is such an incredible school that I absolutely loved helping out at, and I'm so glad that we support them. The people of East Timor are the happiest and most welcoming people I have ever met and I am very grateful to have witnessed how simple yet incredible their lives are.

**Julia Ellul.** Student, Ave Maria College

Ave Maria College Aberfeldie has a sister relationship with St Mary Mazzarello school, Venilale, Timor Leste.

Since 2014, Ave Maria College has fundraised much needed funds for the St Maria Mazzarello School in Venilale, Timor-Leste. My decision to involve myself in my College's Timor-Leste Fundraising Committee last year was a personal one.

The College provides our 805 students with an education that in many parts of the world, is considered privileged. It was time to give back. By organising a school-wide walkathon, the annual Ave Maria Benefit Ball, numerous raffles with prizes donated by many Essendon community organisations, book sales and a Cultural Week, the funds from these events have helped to pay for teacher salaries, purchase a much needed photocopier as well as assisting Agueda, a local Venilale student to complete her teaching degree in Dili. Our connection with the school was strengthened in 2016 year with Sr Virgilia, Principal of the school and

Sr Floriana visiting Ave Maria College as our guests.

An invitation from my Principal, Elizabeth Hanney to visit Venilale in September 2016 with five of our students and two teachers was an exciting moment as I would see firsthand what I had been hearing from past visiting teachers and students and the impact our fundraising efforts were making.

Our visit to the school and the Salesian Sisters Orphanage in Venilale was a truly humbling experience. As a teacher of Mathematics, I was warmly welcomed to observe several Maths and IT classes. While I was unable to understand the explanations in the local language Tetum, with Maths being a truly universal language, the examples looked very familiar to me. In the classroom, students were focused, engaged, happy to learn and their mental computational skills were amazing. Their smiling faces, eagerness to always say thank you and willingness to want to practise their English greetings were wonderful to hear.

In the evening the students sang with our students and showed off their favourite dances and again eagerly practised their English speaking and writing skills with us. Watching the local soccer matches, participating in the John Paul II procession, a visit to Laga and seeing the wonderment on the faces of the local children when receiving toy koalas or kangaroos were heart-warming moments.

I feel extraordinarily privileged to have visited Venilale and the St Maria Mazzarello School on behalf of my College. Thank you to Br Michael Lynch for supporting our visit and to our students, parents, staff and local businesses for supporting our efforts to maintain a valued connection.

**Debra Coyne.** Teacher, Ave Maria College

## ROTARY SUPPORT DON BOSCO IN THE SOLOMONS



Unloading the container at Don Bosco Tetere

North Balwyn Rotary, in partnership with ASMOAF, have been supporting Don Bosco schools and the Salesian Sisters in the Solomon Islands for the past 14 years.

A container was shipped to Honiara loaded with school materials and relief goods in December 2016. It contained 100 school desks and chairs, books, 25 wheelchairs, sewing machines, bicycles, mattresses and other goods for the Rural Training Centre, Tetere, the Technical School Henderson, and the Sisters' Hostel, Henderson.



Bob Bott and Bill Oakley of North Balwyn Rotary.

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID) the peak body for Australian non-government organisations involved in international development and humanitarian action.

ACFID unites non-government aid and development agencies to strengthen their collective impact against poverty.

ACFID's vision is for:

- a world where all people are free from extreme poverty, injustice and inequality;
- a world where finite resources are managed sustainably;
- a compassionate Australia acting for a just and sustainable world.

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct – a voluntary, self-regulatory code of good practice.

The Code aims to improve international development and humanitarian action outcomes and increase stakeholder trust by enhancing the transparency, accountability and effectiveness of ACFID members.

The Code sets standards for practice rather than standards for results. It goes beyond the minimum standards required by government regulation and focuses on good practice.

Further information:  
[www.acfid.asn.au](http://www.acfid.asn.au)

A copy of the audited financial statements may be obtained from:  
The Office Manager,  
Salesian Missions Office

# Financials

## Expenditure for the Year ended December 31, 2016

| Payments to Overseas Partners | Administration | Development & Education | Relief & Rehabilitation | Religious Purposes | Total \$         |
|-------------------------------|----------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--------------------|------------------|
| <b>Asia</b>                   |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| India                         | 0              | 176,333                 | 117,550                 | 57,271             | 351,154          |
| Timor Leste                   | 0              | 484,422                 | 283,811                 | 23,667             | 791,900          |
| Vietnam                       | 0              | 0                       | 204,170                 | 0                  | 204,170          |
| Nepal                         | 0              | 0                       | 41,973                  | 0                  | 41,973           |
| Philippines                   | 0              | 5,811                   | 10,480                  | 0                  | 16,291           |
| Pakistan                      | 0              | 8,138                   | 189                     | 0                  | 8,327            |
| Myanmar                       | 0              | 14,646                  | 20,804                  | 0                  | 35,450           |
| Sri Lanka                     | 0              | 5,698                   | 623                     | 0                  | 6,321            |
| Thailand                      | 0              | 20                      | 0                       | 0                  | 20               |
| Cambodia                      | 0              | 11,711                  | 272                     | 0                  | 11,983           |
| Mongolia                      | 0              | 9,515                   | 221                     | 0                  | 9,736            |
| Bangladesh                    | 0              | 2,000                   | 46                      | 0                  | 2,046            |
| <b>Africa</b>                 |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| Ethiopia                      | 0              | 5,000                   | 65,494                  | 0                  | 70,494           |
| Mozambique/Congo              | 0              | 24,630                  | 572                     | 0                  | 25,202           |
| Kenya & Matercare             | 0              | 7,380                   | 714                     | 0                  | 8,094            |
| Sudan/South Sudan             | 0              | 105,271                 | 11,655                  | 950                | 117,876          |
| Swaziland                     | 0              | 16,751                  | 389                     | 0                  | 17,140           |
| Egypt                         | 0              | 3,008                   | 533                     | 0                  | 3,541            |
| Zambia                        | 0              | 1,019                   | 24                      | 0                  | 1,043            |
| <b>Central America</b>        |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| Guatemala                     | 0              | 18,826                  | 437                     | 0                  | 19,263           |
| <b>South America</b>          |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| Ecuador                       | 0              | 5,020                   | 28,265                  | 0                  | 33,285           |
| <b>Pacific</b>                |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| Samoa                         | 0              | 292,483                 | 12,200                  | 1,650              | 306,333          |
| Papua New Guinea              | 0              | 19,870                  | 605                     | 0                  | 20,475           |
| Solomon Islands               | 0              | 17,993                  | 7,090                   | 0                  | 25,083           |
| Fiji                          | 0              | 11,632                  | 17,325                  | 283,250            | 312,207          |
| <b>Payments in Australia</b>  |                |                         |                         |                    |                  |
| Cagliari Project              | 0              | 7,627                   | 0                       | 0                  | 7,627            |
| Community Education           | 88,844         | 0                       | 0                       | 0                  | 88,844           |
| Fundraising                   | 51,541         | 0                       | 0                       | 0                  | 51,541           |
| Administration                | 167,202        | 0                       | 13,941                  | 6,342              | 187,485          |
| Project Support Costs         | 25,865         | 0                       | 0                       | 0                  | 25,865           |
| <b>Total Payments</b>         | <b>333,452</b> | <b>1,254,804</b>        | <b>839,383</b>          | <b>373,130</b>     | <b>2,800,769</b> |

## Audit Opinion

In my opinion the Financial Report represents a true and fair view of the financial position of the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund as at the 31 December 2016 and complies with the format required by the ACFID Code of Conduct.

Yours faithfully

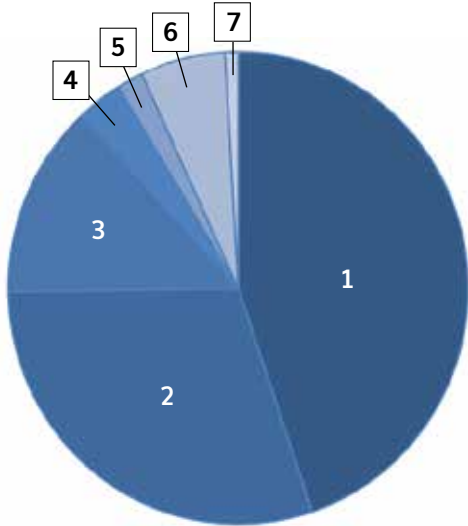


Kevin F Jones, FCA Chartered Accountant  
April 19, 2017

## INCOME

|                                  |                  |
|----------------------------------|------------------|
|                                  | A\$              |
| General Donations and Bequests   | 2,954,436        |
| Donations for Religious Purposes | 49,717           |
| Interest                         | 18,382           |
|                                  | <b>3,022,535</b> |

## EXPENDITURE



|   |                         |                  |
|---|-------------------------|------------------|
| 1 | Development & Education | 1,254,804        |
| 2 | Relief & Rehabilitation | 839,383          |
| 3 | Religious Projects      | 373,130          |
| 4 | Community Education     | 88,844           |
| 5 | Fundraising             | 51,541           |
| 6 | Administration          | 167,202          |
| 7 | Other Project Costs     | 25,865           |
|   |                         | <b>2,800,769</b> |

## FUNDS AVAILABLE

|                   |           |
|-------------------|-----------|
| January 1, 2016   | 971,404   |
| December 31, 2016 | 1,193,170 |



## WORKPLACE GIVING

– Donations have the power to make a difference

### What is Workplace Giving?

Giving through your pay is one of the most cost effective and simple ways of making a donation to Salesian Missions Australia. Your donation is deducted automatically from your pre-tax salary. This reduces your salary for taxation purposes but doesn't affect the amount you are giving. As the donation is pre-tax, there is no need to keep or present receipts at tax time.

You can choose how much and how often you would like to donate and in some cases your donation is gift matched by your employer.

Salesian Missions use the Good2Give organisation to facilitate workplace giving/company matching donations.

To know whether your organisation participates, please contact your employer.



**STAMPS** – Salesian Missions, PO Box 264, Ascot Vale Vic 3032 collects used stamps for fundraising purposes. Income raised is dispersed for education and relief purposes in Samoa, Guatemala and Timor Leste.

## SALESIAN MISSIONS AUSTRALIA

The Australian Salesian Missions Office is owned by Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. to support those working in the frontline to alleviate poverty and provide assistance during emergencies such as natural disasters, war or violence.

The Salesians, with a presence in many countries of the developing world, are well placed to make responses that are quick, compassionate, generous and help local people to be involved in their own sustainable growth.

The Governing Board of Salesian Missions Australia is the Provincial Council of the Australian – Pacific Province.

The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund [ASMOAF], which receives and disperses funds, respects the wishes of donors in determining the direction of their gift.

Donations to ASMOAF for the relief of poverty through development or emergency relief qualify for tax-deductibility under Australian law. Donations for religious purposes however, including the training of clergy and the building of churches, are classed as 'non-development' and are not tax deductible.

Salesian Missions Australia is committed to protecting the privacy of donors and correspondents. All information provided remains private and confidential. The donor data base is not rented, sold or exchanged.

Salesian Missions Australia is a Code of Conduct compliant member of the Australian Council for International Development [ACFID], the umbrella organization for Australia's major overseas aid agencies.



# From the Director

Dear Friends,

## "Helping youth build a better future"

In the tradition of St John Bosco, a central theme of Salesian work throughout the world is the education of youth, especially those from economically deprived backgrounds.

Don Bosco (1815 – 1888) was a very practical man who was well ahead of his times. He understood the value of education and training.

He was aware of the importance of acquiring knowledge and the mastering of skills to secure employment to begin a career; he emphasised the cultivation of values such as hard work, honesty, integrity, trust and co-operation.

The young were encouraged to develop their God-given talents not only for their own benefit but also for their family and the wider society.

The value of self-discipline, the courage to do what is right, especially in the consideration of the needs of others was stressed. His was a truly holistic appreciation of education.

We are very grateful to ASMOAF donors who support Don Bosco's work in the less developed countries. They are helping to sustain schools and ensure education will be available to youth from poverty stricken backgrounds. Their donations are truly making a difference.

I thank you again for your support.

Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Br Michael Lynch SDB



## BEQUESTS

### Continue to make a difference

A bequest or legacy is a gift included in your Will.

Bequests, both large and small, have over the years, been an important source of support for Don Bosco's Mission for youth from poverty stricken backgrounds. It is an act of generosity that can continue into future generations.

Such a gift enables you to continue your care of poor people in less developed countries, help educate many needy children and touch the lives of many young persons.

By naming the Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund (ASMOAF) as the beneficiary of a fixed cash amount or a percentage of the estate, will ensure that the funds are dispersed to the project of your choice.

A solicitor can help you with the wording of the Will to accurately reflect your wishes.

For further information, please contact the Salesian Missions Office 03 0377 6060 or by e-mail salmiss@salesians.org.au

Donations can be made through our website [www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au)

This is a secure website and a tax deductible receipt will be issued to your email address.

Please send your donation to:

# Salesian Missions

PO Box 264 Ascot Vale  
Victoria 3032 Australia  
Ph: 03 9377 6060  
Fax: 03 9377 6066

Email:  
[salmiss@salesians.org.au](mailto:salmiss@salesians.org.au)

Salesian Missions:  
[www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au](http://www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au)

Salesian Society (Vic) Inc.  
ABN 43 206 946 086  
Endorsed as a deductible gift recipient  
(Subdiv. 30-BA ITAS 1997, item 1)

**ASMOAF – SALESIAN MISSIONS**  
PO Box 264 ASCOT VALE Vic 3032

Please insert your Donor Number  
(Please refer to covering letter)

Enclosed please find my donation \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for the support of \_\_\_\_\_  
(name of mission project)

OR: Please debit my - (tick one)  Visa  Mastercard **Amount \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Card Number:

Cardholder's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ P/code: \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Donations for the alleviation of poverty through development projects are tax-deductible. Funds contributed for religious purposes such as the building of churches and the education of seminarians, though welcome, do not qualify for a tax-deductible receipt.

This donation is for (tick one)  Alleviation of poverty  Religious purposes