

Salesian Missions

NEWSLETTER 2018



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.

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OUR THANKS

Our Newsletter keeps 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.

FIJI

NEW BEGINNINGS

The Islands of Fiji are seen by many as a beautiful holiday destination surrounded by pristine beaches, coral reefs, a layback atmosphere and welcoming locals. However, Fiji is also a nation experiencing many challenges. It has a youthful population with 44 per cent under the age of 25 of which a significant proportion of the young adults are unemployed and 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.

Currently, the Salesians are in the process of constructing a large multi-purpose Community and Youth Centre, the first of its type. An update on the progress was given by Fr Mikaele Leilua, Parish Priest;

"The foundations for the newly established parish and multipurpose Youth and Educational Centre in Nasinu have been completed. The steel frames are soon to be erected for the walls and the roof. We are hopeful the centre will be completed well before Christmas this year.

This is such a large space that many can benefit from the centre, which is also situated next door to a shopping mall!

The multipurpose hall will draw youth off the street, offer them quality time with their friends in an environment where life skills, teamwork, games, sporting facilities and educational programs will keep them away from disruptive and unlawful behaviour. A positive environment helps to build confidence and assist in employment opportunities for a variety of pathways; volunteer work, vegetable growing projects or receive support and encouragement to pursue full or part time training.

It has been noted that when families from the country relocate into Suva, usually only one member finds work, whilst the others are left idle. Our aim is to draw these youthful members into a constructive and happy environment where they can make use of the facilities and programs on offer."

The Centre still requires substantial funding to complete and equip. Your consideration and support would be most helpful, so that this outcome can be achieved.



FRONT COVER

Salesian Seminarian Sitagisilao Moeloa, turns the first sods of soil for the laying of the foundation stone after the inaugural Mass for the new Community hall and Youth Centre in Nasinu, Fiji.



SAMOA

Embracing Culture, Community and Education

Both the Don Bosco Technical Centre in Alafua and the Don Bosco Co-educational High School and Vocational Centre in Salelologa continue to provide education and training to the local youth.

Now in its 30th year the **TECHNICAL CENTRE IN ALAFUA** caters for young men (aged 16-22), who have not been able to complete mainstream schooling, due to poverty, prior drop-outs or other serious family and social problems.

Recently, the centre extended the duration of work experience from two weeks to four weeks. This has already seen success; four students who have been studying plumbing and sheet metal so impressed the Samoan Water Authority with their know-how and dedication that they were offered work immediately! This trend has been backed by a study conducted by the Samoan Qualification



Authority, which also found that the Technical School has the highest number of graduates that go on to be enrolled in the private sector!

The Technical Centre places an emphasis on building confidence, self-esteem, teamwork as well as a love of culture through singing and dancing; two means of expression and storytelling that are deeply ingrained into the Samoan psyche. The school has gained such a reputation for the quality and depth in these fields that the Samoan Prime Minister Tuilaepa Malielegaoi went so far as to say "the staff and students have breathed new life into the traditional dance of Samoa!"



THE HIGH SCHOOL AND VOCATIONAL SCHOOL IN SALELOLOGA

offer co-educational placements to over 300 students, many of which live in remote villages and can only attend by catching the school bus. The school boasts some excellent facilities, which are also used by the community and as a sporting venue for competitions held against other schools in the area.

Recently, the Samoa Observer newspaper held its Samoan Schools Short Story competition, which has prize divisions for each level of high school in both Samoan and English languages. In their article about this event, it was said that "it was evident from a massive block of yellow and green uniforms that students from Don Bosco dominated in numbers at the prize giving."

The teachers were pleased with the results and pointed out that last year 9 students were placed (in the standings) and this year they had 13 – indicating a good sign of improvement. Two students even finished in first place of their respective brackets!

MAULUULUU'S STORY

Mauluuluu graduated from the Technical Centre Alafua 20 years ago. Prior to this he had been raised by his unemployed grandparents, alongside his 6 other siblings – money was scarce. However, with the necessary skills attained, he managed to secure a job in the building industry and later worked his way up to where he is now - the Operations Manager of Silva Constructions!



TIMOR-LESTE

LOSPALOS

Don Bosco Orphanage

This year's priority was given to renovating the kitchen, replacement of the water pump and the external painting of the dormitories and other buildings. As the boys assist in the vegetable garden they have homegrown produce for most of the year and are feeling the improvement in their learning environment, as well growing healthier and happier as they settle in. Lospalos is a long way from Dili, prices for goods are higher, therefore budgeting is always a challenge. Other expenses include the purchase of firewood for cooking, transport and generator fuel.



FUILORO

Don Bosco Agricultural School

The School has 1000 students from Elementary to Senior Secondary. It is a major centre of education in the Lospalos district. School buildings, however, are in urgent need of renovations; some are more than 50 years old with roof and ceiling needing replacement. In the past year work was done on up-grading the dormitories; there is still work to be done in the bathrooms. Donations have been directed to the running costs of the school, namely for student fees, scholarships, and transport costs as well as vehicle maintenance. The agricultural programme is proceeding well; goods produced on the farm are consumed in the boarding house.

MALIANA

Don Bosco Co-educational Technical School

With the generous support of the Montagner-Zembruzuski Family Foundation, the Don Bosco Technical School had a basketball court built and covered – "a hall without walls" and the roof replaced on the boy's dormitory. The hall is used for student group learning activities and sport. The local community and youth groups also benefit from this facility. A training seminar was held for the Electrical Trade teachers and participants from the Don Bosco schools in Comoro and Fatumaca; certificates were presented at the conclusion of the training.



VENILALE

Salesian Sisters' Medical Clinic

The provision of medical assistance to the poor in the remote villages of Venilale, is a lifesaving service for over 9300 patients, who otherwise would have no access to 21st century remedies. Milk powder was provided for undernourished babies as well as baby boxes given to new mothers. Counselling and health training was also offered. Medicines were provided to those with tuberculosis, malaria, skin conditions and other health issues. Poor patients who required hospitalisation were transported for further consultations.

Salesian Sisters' Orphanage

Over 100 girls, aged 6-16 live in the orphanage as they do not have the family support or encouragement that young people need. The Salesian Sister have established a caring environment, providing scheduled learning times which helps the girls study, acquire basis life skills as well as enjoy leisure with singing, dancing and art.



COMORO

Don Bosco Training Centre

Short-term courses in job related skills in motor mechanics, building, electrical wiring and IT are provided. Funds supported much needed maintenance; the installation of two new septic tanks and a girls' toilet block. Students commenced "on the job training" by fencing 200 metres around the workshops. Other work experience projects included the manufacture of 52 study tables, repairs to 20 existing tables and 22 chairs and repair of 50 chairs. As well as assisting with the school running costs, a number of scholarships were offered by generous Australian donor groups.

FATUMACA

Don Bosco Technical School

Carpentry, mechanical, electrical and electronics courses are well established at Don Bosco Fatumaca. Motherboard replacement and reprogramming for modern televisions training was provided by repairing local people's broken sets. This current new technology will prepare the students for future job opportunities. The workshop has had its 40 year old roof replaced with Headland Red Roofing material from Australia. Funding for training materials, school fees and scholarships for boys and girls were also provided by ASMOAF.



LAGA

Laura Vicuna Orphanage

New bedding, including 118 mattresses were purchased to combat the bedbug problem that had got out of control and produced inflamed skin conditions for the children. The rooms were stripped and fumigated. Beds were repainted and new methods used to control the problem. There are 110 orphans who live here and they are very grateful to our donor friends in Shepparton and Sydney who actively supported this project.

St John Bosco Parish

At the Lavateri Village School three extra classrooms were built to accommodate the 360 students from grade 1 to 9. The orphanage at Baguia was able to provide food for the children for the whole year. School fees and teacher salaries were met via the generous support of donors.

INDIA

Don Bosco is a refuge during Kerala Floods

Located on the Southern tip of India, the State of Kerala was hit in August by its worst monsoon in almost a century.



After several days of heavy rain, floodwaters, bursting dams and landslides combined to cause severe damage. The death toll reached almost 400, with another 800,000 people displaced, many forced to take up refuge in makeshift camps.

Local Salesians from Don Bosco Vaduthala opened a relief camp at Don Bosco School and Youth Centre for the people affected by floods. There were over 6000 people from more than 1400 families who registered in the camp within the first week.

Don Bosco, along with the government, locals and NGOs collected water, food, clothes, medicines and emergency articles and distributed them to the people. Medical check-ups were organised to prevent epidemics and for emergency health needs.

A further 9 Schools participated by providing shelter, counselling and sleeping kits.



In total the Don Bosco Schools and Community reached out to almost 40,000 displaced people. Salesian and locals arranged boats from fisherman to reach out to those affected, distributing items to over 4000 people in two days.

There have been at least 35 landslides, damaging or destroying over 35,000 homes. Among these are several Salesian Communities and schools, including the Don Bosco School in Angamaly, which dealt with waters as high as 2 metres. People associated with the school who were caught out by the floods were forced to take refuge in the second floor of the school as it had become quite isolated due to its proximity to a river.

The second phase of the relief and rehabilitation efforts have commenced with the cleaning of houses and providing essential household items. The rebuilding of Kerala will take many years.

REBUILDING NEPAL

The devastating earthquake of 2015 and subsequent political and economic turmoil continues to be a big roadblock to Nepal's development as a nation. However, the Salesian presence in Biratnagar (southern Nepal, close to the Indian border) serves as a beacon of hope!

Last year, they celebrated the inauguration of an education institution, providing schooling to 55 young people from surrounding areas. However, this has quickly increased to 120 students. Courses are offered in hotel management, electric, plumbing and welding, each lasting for three months. This is then followed by one month of "on the job training", which involves a placement program in the relevant field. It is hoped that engineering degrees will soon be added to this list.

Recently, the institute was able to finalise a couple of items from its wish list! Construction has been completed on the basketball court and multi-purpose hall; facilities that help serve its users both in their educational and recreational pursuits. Furthermore, young people from the area flock to use the Don Bosco Institute during holidays and evenings! As the winter is very dry, rain water collection systems have been built so that water all year round may be more reliably used for agriculture and other needs.





**CHILD HELP LINE KIOSK RECEIVED 3368 CALLS
2670 CHILDREN WERE RESCUED
66% OF CHILDREN INTERGRATED BACK
INTO THE FAMILY**

BANGALORE'S YOUNG RUNAWAYS

Don Bosco Bangalore's work for the street children's primary focus is the protection and rescuing of vulnerable young people from street-living and other such dangerous environments, defending their rights and working with them to establish pathways that lead to a brighter future.

Counselling services are provided by experienced professionals to all children who need such help. This service is offered to those living in shelter homes, hostels (that are associated with schools) or any one of the 2,600 children who were rescued from the streets or similar vulnerabilities during the past year.

It is through counselling that a child's problems can be identified, which is necessary to ensure that only the correct steps are taken to help remedy the situation. Once a child's problems have been assessed and they are ready to continue life in a family environment, they may be reintegrated with their families or placed in an environment conducive to personal development. Over 1700 children were successfully rehabilitated in this way last year. Counselling is also available to parents, so that they may care for their children in the best way possible.

Education of all children is a key focus and those who are from poor backgrounds and have expressed an interest in study are encouraged. Many of these children take up residency in hostels that are run alongside the schools, providing them with a safe place to study, eat and play, as well as aiding them during their educational journey. These schools also include Child Rights Clubs, which exist to help protect and defending them from exploitation. Child Protection Policies are in place and staff receive regular training.

The Bangalore projects reach the needs of thousands of children and various communities. The development that can be seen within families and entire neighbourhoods is a clear indicator of all the incredible work that has been undertaken!

GUWAHATI

Archbishop John Moolachira writes:

A school at Amsoi has been built and extended to accommodate extra rural tribal children of the surrounding areas. The locals have been very co-operative as they recognise that education will play a pivotal role in the future development of their children in taking up leadership roles in their communities. The inauguration of the new building occurred on the 15 August 2018. Donated funds from Australia have assisted this worthy project.

Fr V M Thomas Vattathara informed us that in another remote area of Assam, Malivita, additional classrooms for a primary school and toilet block have been completed. The parents were very grateful for the additional hygienic facilities for their boys and girls.



DON BOSCO MATUNGA, MUMBAI

Over 200 Children from shantytowns participated in 5 summer camps. The children were nourished, enjoyed group games and given an insight into fun holiday camps away from their poor neighbourhoods.

The Don Bosco Development Society organised a HIV and AIDS awareness program in which 65 young people from poor backgrounds took part. The young participants were informed of the importance of prevention, the impact of infection, medical treatment available and the stigma associated with these diseases.

In addition, a drug, alcohol and addiction awareness day for local youth was held; 81 participants were alerted to the dangers of substance abuse and assistance offered.

Earlier this year, in association with the traffic police, an interactive workshop entitled "Safe Roads" was organised for the children and young people living in the slums. This activity highlighted the basic road rules and advice on how to deal with personal safety, city and street awareness.

Don Bosco Matunga continues to provide education to disadvantaged children, supporting street children and orphans, as well as offering free medical visits and clinical examinations to women, men, children and young people in the poor eastern areas of Mumbai.

ECUADOR

The people of Manta, Ecuador are still going through the arduous process of rebuilding from the devastation wreaked by an earthquake two years ago. Whilst construction of replacement buildings has been mostly completed, many of the local populace still rely on food rations, medical provisions and school supplies to survive.

In Quito, the Don Bosco House works to care for children as young as 9 years old who have been forced into work or are living on the streets. 90 young people are provided with shelter, nutrition, health care, education and/or vocational training, as well as access to personal, family and scholastic psychological accompaniment, so that they may enjoy what is left of their childhood, and begin to plan for the future.



GUATEMALA

NURTURING EDUCATION IN REMOTE RAXRUHÁ, GUATEMALA

The Don Bosco Centre is located in Tzacanihá, Guatemala near San Pedro Carcha, and welcomes the children and young people of Raxruhá and the nearby city of Chamelco. Australian Salesian, Fr Antonio De Groot (Tony), SDB, is the founder and promoter of this great educational project which commenced 36 years ago.

Fr Tony lived and worked in Raxruhá, a remote area at the edge of the forest that was almost inaccessible and with no basic services. One day, a young Indian asked him if he could visit his home to learn how to read and write. Shortly thereafter, a second young man joined him, then a third, and soon a small group had formed.

As the group increased, elementary structures also began to emerge. Don Bosco Centre now features beautiful and functional buildings,



green areas, educating 1500 students over three locations.

The "Centro Don Bosco" project has been a true educational revolution within its geographical location. It has demonstrated the young Indians' intelligence and attentiveness, their great desire to learn and their boundless energy. Many students who have succeeded in graduating from the Don Bosco Centre to the University, now work as much-respected professionals.

MYANMAR

THE LIFE - CHANGING GIFT OF EDUCATION

Despite Myanmar's status as the second largest nation (geographically) in southeast Asia and rich in natural resources, it still is one of the most underdeveloped countries in the world. Big efforts are underway to help rectify this, most notably through an emphasis on a variety of education-based initiatives. The Salesians and Salesian Sisters are making a significant contribution by offering community programs which reach beyond education.

The Don Bosco Youth Centre in the city of Mandalay plays a major role in keeping the youth of the area away from paths that lead to juvenile penitentiary systems, by providing them with a safe haven of shelter, robust nutrition and education. Given how important this Centre is, the Salesians are aiming to increase its capacity from 30 to 75, as well as adding extra staff with more training.

In Hlaling Thar Yar, the Sisters provide education, food, water and health care for the young of local working families who are forced to spend very long hours in factories and camps in order to make ends meet. Without this support, these children would also be left by the wayside with little access to a brighter future.

In Anisakan and May Myo, approximately 100 widows and their children receive weekly food and educational support. Furthermore, at the Vocational Training Center in Myitkyina, summer camps are run that help support more than 1,200 children, educating them on social values, child protection, drug awareness and leadership. Finally, in the Wa State which borders China, education and healthcare support are provided for young people from more than 400 tribes.



VIETNAM



During the past year funds received from Australian donors earmarked for Vietnam were allocated to various relief projects,

- In the Nghe An Province, Central Vietnam, the disabled and elderly were assisted. When some old homes were repaired, the local community became energised, which in turn inspired the students to strive for a better life.
- Dilapidated houses of poor families were repaired at Go Vap and Binh Phuoc.
- In Thu Duc district, Ho Chi Minh City, full time and partial scholarships for disadvantages children were offered. Tutoring was given to enhance quality learning for those children who showed promise. Some teachers were employed to improve the task of coordination and supervision as there had been no previous personnel to do this.
- Patients in Thi Xa La Gi region received dialysis and anuria treatment. A number of leprosy patients were also given medical attention, whilst people who had suffered from occupational accidents were assisted with their individual requirements. Some bicycles for poor young people were purchased to enable them to travel to school or for jobs.

SOLOMON ISLANDS

DON BOSCO PROVIDES A SECOND CHANCE IN THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Don Bosco Training Centre in Tetere provides an alternative path to school dropouts from around the surrounding nine provinces. Seven indigenous teachers offer a professional approach to education in literacy and numeracy. They also conduct special catch-up lessons to those who fall behind.

The Training Centre also offers classes in agricultural and farming for a range of crops (rice, root, vegetable) and livestock (pigs, cows, chickens, fish), basic carpentry skills are also offered. Rotary generously supplied the centre with 90 chickens and training in poultry care, the eggs are now a sustainable source of protein for the students. The 4-hectare rice plantation has remained a constant source of income for the school producing 8 tonnes of rice annually.

Teachers offer youth groups with variable outlets for their energies and creative flair through a wide range of activities, such as sports, music, liturgy, cooking and arts. This serves to further educate

the children, equip them with life and social skills so they may become self-reliant, contributing members of society.

Graduates of the school have found success with companies throughout the Solomon Islands. On the job training placements and full-time employment have played a vital role in this, with all participants receiving glowing feedback from their managers.

The Don Bosco Training Centre and Ministry of Agriculture are looking to establish a partnership with a nearby cocoa and tree plantations for student placements, as well as with the Solomon Islands National University to increase the levels of training that the students and teachers receive.



The Don Bosco Technical Institute in Henderson

offers a wide range of training programs, in the fields of automotive, electrical, carpentry, machine fitting, IT, welding, hospitality and tourism. In 2018, a new course in business and office administration was introduced. Enrolments are up to 400 students, with 24 staff members. The Institute also places an emphasis on establishing the correct attitudes and work habits within their students. A wide range of scholarships are offered to the poorest students, equipping them with books, stationary and in some cases clothing and food.

Recently an industrial-strength photocopier machine for the office was provided which allows for the mass publishing of communication and educative materials. Now, the institute is looking to commence production on new classrooms, to help facilitate the demand of such a successful learning environment.

An emphasis on environmentally friendly initiatives, most notably the installation of solar panels to help cut electricity usage and costs, as well as providing training for the correct management of waste at the Ranadi Landfill Site has been implemented.



ETHIOPIA

The Bosco Children Project in Addis Abeba just celebrated its 10th anniversary of rescuing children from the dangers of the street, utilizing a three-step method to rehabilitation. The first step is to make contact with the children on the streets, to begin building a relationship in an informal manner.

Then, with respect to the preferences of the child, they are brought to Bosco Children where they are offered safe accommodation, warm, nutritious food and basic literacy and numeracy programs. Finally, the children begin to receive more personalized care through counselling and specialized skills training



(such as auto mechanics, carpentry, culinary arts, metallurgy, leather craft and more). Once training is complete, the project provides financial and career placement assistance supporting the young person as they move on to become independent.

SOUTH SUDAN

HOPE AND ASPIRATIONS FOR THE FUTURE.

South Sudan is still a country afflicted by civil war, and all the horrors that come from such an environment. However, according to Fr. David Tulimelli, SDB (parish priest at Gumbo) "*education is the most powerful weapon that we can use to change the world*" and so it comes as no surprise that the Salesians are at the forefront of education. Over 4000 children are receiving an education in a variety of settings; primary, secondary and vocational skills training. Due to recent famines, meals are also provided at schools and for many, this is the only meal they eat for the day.

The internally displaced person's camp (IDPC) in Juba has been consistently growing since the outbreak of war in 2013 and is currently home to over 10,000 people, mostly women and children. Without this camp, these people would be left destitute with nothing to eat, nowhere to go nor access to any form of education.

An agricultural project has been initiated to help address both education and nutrition shortages. An irrigation system was installed to aid the harvesting of onions, beans, watermelons and other vegetables, accompanied with skills training to maintain these crops. The corn harvested last September was enough to feed 3000 children with breakfast for 30 days!

IDPC hosted International Women's Day celebrations, including cultural dances and parades

staged by the women and children. Discussions aimed at education on domestic violence, sexual exploitation, forced marriage, displacement, lack of equality and access to healthcare were open and frank. This was particularly poignant, as many involved still bore the scars from such treatment.

The camp has also seen the addition of 10 solar-powered security lights that come on at night to help deter any intrusions or criminal activity targeted at the already vulnerable people of IDPC. These lights increase the general security of the camp, allowing people to feel safer, so they can have a better night's sleep.

Through these initiatives the Don Bosco community looks forward with hope to the future where people will rebuild their lives and work towards self-reliance in order to recover their hopes and aspirations for the future.



COMMUNITY

A Salesian Family Mass was well attended in August to celebrate St John Bosco's birthday at St Margaret Mary's Parish, Brunswick. Afterwards in the Hall a delicious dinner had been prepared by the Vietnamese Community to share with those invited to attend this event. A raffle was also held, raising enough funds to provide scholarships for two underprivileged students at the Don Bosco schools in Samoa. It was a memorable, uplifting and joyful gathering for all who attended. Thank you to all those involved in the successful running of the evening.



This year, Staff and Students of **Ave Maria College Aberfeldie** participated in an annual walk around the Maribyrnong river, as a part of Mission Action Day. Furthermore, with the support of local businesses and the Essendon North Rotary Club, the school also held a trivia night that was attended by approximately 200 people.

Through these two efforts, the school community managed to raise in excess of \$22,000 for schools in Timor Leste: Don Bosco Tech, Maliana, St Maria Mazzarello in Venilale. These funds will be used to maintain facilities and help cover the associated costs such as running expenses and teacher's salaries.

Ave Maria also sends an immersion group to its sister school every year and Br. Michael is part of the formative experience, detailing some of the conditions and experiences they will encounter.



Dominic College Glenorchy, Tasmania held its annual breakfast to celebrate International Women's Day. Girls from years five through to ten were invited, as well as their mothers, carers, aunts, grandmothers, elder sisters, ex-students and friends of the college. Approximately 240 people were present as special guest and old scholar Effie Pryer eloquently described her journey thus far as a young artist. She advised the students to strive for the highest of aspirations, assuring them that hard work and persistence are worth the effort!

As a part of the breakfast, funds were raised for the empowerment of women in less fortunate places. Over \$2,500 was put toward scholarships to support the cause of young girls in Salelologa, Samoa, ensuring they have access to their right of quality education.



St John Bosco College Engadine, New South Wales celebrated its Salesian community with Founder's Day celebrations. There was a gala day in which all students and staff participated in a fun-run/walk and a variety of other activities. Lunch was provided by the year nine and ten commerce classes, in conjunction with the social justice committee. The day culminated in a much anticipated "battle of the bands".

The focus of all these events was on raising funds for the Salesian Schools in Samoa. In fact, over \$3,000 was raised, better equipping the young of Samoa to gain the skills they need to be able to care and provide for themselves and their loved ones.

Rotary Club North Balwyn, in partnership with Salesian Missions Australia transported a container of much needed goods to the Solomon Islands to assist the Don Bosco Technical and Rural Training colleges, Salesian Sisters Hostel, Good Samaritan Hospital in Tetera and a variety of other groups.



The container included an array of medical and hospital supplies; 12 resuscitation trolleys from St Vincent's Hospital in Melbourne, books, sporting equipment, clothing, sewing machines and materials to continue the "Days for Girls" project to make and distribute sanitary kits for girls. The container will remain in the Solomon Islands where it provides a sturdy and secure building for storage.



GIFTS-IN-KIND FOR TIMOR LESTE

Since 2002 Salesian Missions has been sending relief goods, school furniture and school materials in containers to Timor Leste with at least five being sent each year. The containers are loaded at Salesian College Chadstone and St Thomas More Parish, Mt Eliza.

At Chadstone, the co-ordinating and packing of the goods and furniture is carried out by Fr Oreste Cantamessa and Br Joe Ellul, whilst at Mt Eliza it is organised by Les Harper and a group of loyal parishioners.

L. Arthur Transport and O'Brien Customs and Forwarding offer their logistic support and assistance in freighting the containers from Melbourne to Dili, for which we are very grateful.

Donations of furniture for the schools in Timor have come from many sources including Salesian College Chadstone, John Paul College Frankston, St Leonard's School Mt Waverley and most recently, Mt St Joseph College Altona.

Special thanks to McLure Removals, Werribee for transporting the Mt St Joseph furniture to Chadstone.



CAGLIERO PROJECT

The Cagliero Project offers 6-12 months volunteer-abroad experiences to people across Australia and New Zealand.

The volunteers work 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 Cagliero Project has sent more than sixty volunteers to Salesian communities in Thailand, Cambodia, Samoa, Zambia and the Solomon Islands.

For further information: www.cagliero.org.au.

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.

Every year, **Salesian College Chadstone, Victoria** holds "Don Bosco Oratory Week", a period in which the school focuses on the importance of being a part of and contributing to the global Salesian Family. It is a weeklong celebration of everything community reflecting on how we can help others less fortunate than ourselves. Students are encouraged to develop an understanding and commitment to the need for consideration of the greater good.

As part of the week, through the "Walk For Nasinu" walk-a-thon, the school managed to raise in excess of \$25,000, a special contribution to the ongoing project of constructing a Youth and Educational Centre in Nasinu, Fiji.

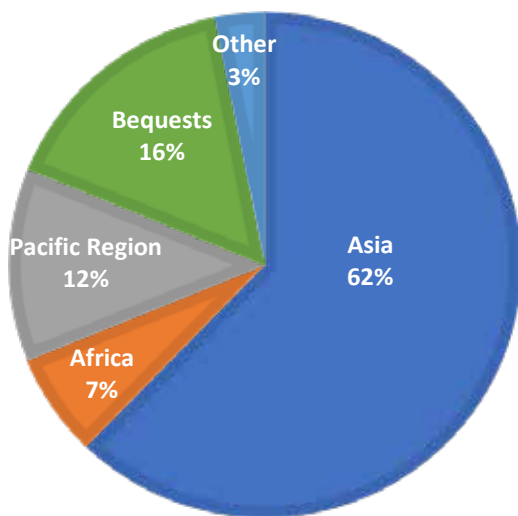


In May, **St Joseph's College Ferntree Gully, Victoria** held its annual Salesian Action Day. A variety of activities were held, most notable of these were a cross country run, food sales and a fair. All efforts combined, the staff, students and families managed to raise over \$10,000, in what was a very worthy contribution to the Salesian missions in Fiji and Samoa.

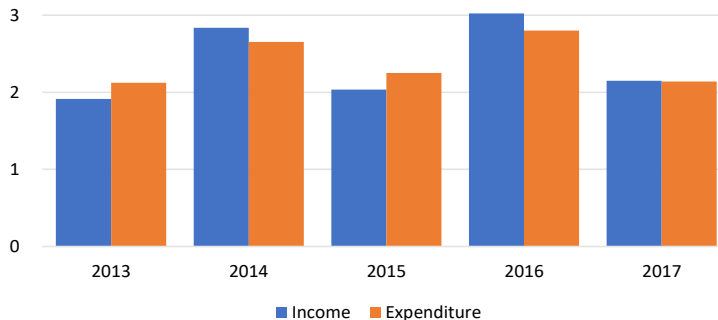


FINANCIAL SNAPSHOT

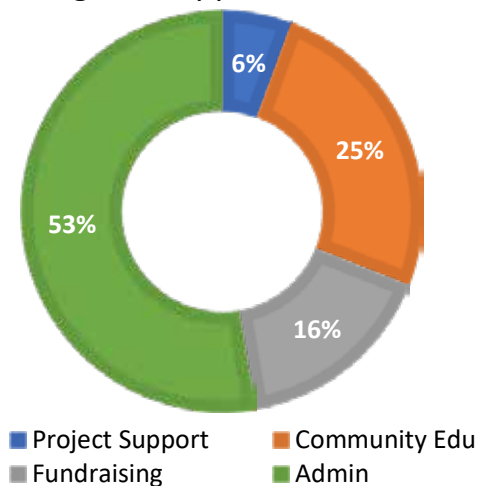
Income by Region



Income vs Expenditure (\$'m)



Program Support Ratio %



Expenditure on Programs %



A copy of the Audited Annual Report can be found on our website or obtained from the Salesian Missions Office.

During 2017 ASMOAF distributed over 1.7 million to Fund International Relief & Education Projects

Our Commitment to donors is to ensure every effort is made to maximise the value of their contribution. More than 90% of donations received by ASMOAF are earmarked for destinations specified by donors. Donors wishes are respected whilst making sure administration costs are kept low.

FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

ASMOAF is a Trust Fund owned and operated by Salesian Society (Vic) Inc. ASMOAF attracts support from donors all over Australia. Total revenue raised in 2017 for overseas development work was \$2,149,444, a decrease of \$873,091 on donations received in the previous year. This is mainly due to a decrease in bequests from the previous year combined with a decline in donations. Total expenditure was \$2,140,962 which consisted of transfers to overseas partners and various administrative costs. There was \$1,201,652 available for distribution in 2018.



ASMOAF is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID), an association of non-government organisations in Australia working in the field of international aid and development.

ASMOAF is a signatory to the ACFID Code of Conduct which specifies standards in organisational integrity, governance, communication with the public, finances, personnel and management practice. Our financial reports comply with the standards set by the ACFID Code of Conduct. For further information, the ACFID Code can be found at www.acfid.asn.au

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 most 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

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 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.

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

Dear Friends,

A Christian is defined by how they show their love for God by loving others. Loving God and loving neighbours are equally important for anyone who call themselves Christians. I am also amazed that there are thousands of people who are not baptised as Christians but are living life as Christ would. I take my hat off to them.

A Christian is simply a person who shows care and concern for others in their life.

Our founder St. John Bosco always looked for opportunities to help those in need. He has asked his followers, the Salesians, to do likewise. The Australian Salesian Mission Overseas Aid Fund [ASMOAF] coordinates your generosity to reach to the young ones who are most in need regardless of their religion, culture or nationalities. I have enjoyed and witnessed the hard work of ASMOAF under the direction of Br Michael Lynch SDB.

This Newsletter testifies your generosity reaching out to countless number of children around the world who are enjoying a better education and vying for a brighter future.

I thank you sincerely for your Christian spirit of loving God to love those in need, particularly the little ones.

I can only pray for God's choicest blessing upon you and your loved ones for your generosity.

Fr William Matthews SDB
Provincial



Fr Ángel Fernández Artime
(Salesian Rector Major)
with Fr William Matthews

A MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR

I am often asked why I do what I do?

I have been a Salesian Brother for more than 50 years. I was attracted to the Salesians by the spirituality of the founder St John Bosco, his work for social justice and needy youth.

Don Bosco appreciated the necessity of education and training; today more than 14,000 Salesian priests and brothers and 12,000 sisters are working for youth in 132 countries who, in the main, are from economically deprived backgrounds.

My training is in education. For the past 22 years I have been in the Missions Office co-ordinating assistance and support from Australian donors to Salesians "in the field." Our Australian focus is mainly in the Pacific and Asia and I am in regular contact not only with partners in several countries but also with donors and friends in Australia.

The major Salesian thrust is in education: *helping youth acquire the skills for a career and employment and to use their talents for the benefit of others.* In so many parts of the world I have observed the Salesians giving real hope to large numbers of young people.

The work I do is both meaningful and rewarding. From our Christian heritage I appreciate that God created all of us for a purpose; and that our talents are to be used to assist others. **On our own we can only do so much, but together we can do much more.**

It is a great privilege to have been given the opportunity to assist with overseas aid and development: to play a part in providing resources to help those in need to help themselves.

In response to the question *why I do what I do* – My answer is fourfold:

- I was asked to be involved in the Missions Office, I felt that my background and experience were a good preparation for this special work;
- I feel I have a contribution to make in supporting Don Bosco's vision for youth;
- It is gratifying to be involved with relief and development projects that help people live better lives;
- Meeting those who, having courageously coped with great difficulties, enjoy some success is always satisfying.

Yours sincerely in St John Bosco,

Br Michael Lynch SDB

ASMOAF's Governing Board meet monthly, serving in a voluntary capacity. They are:



Fr William Matthews
Chairman



Fr Bernard Graham
Deputy Chairman



Fr Anthony Nguyen
Provincial Economist



Fr Phillip Gleeson



Br Michael Harris



Fr Petelo Vito



Staff - from left, Mrs Olga Elliott, Br Michael Lynch
and Ms Tina Newton

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



Follow us on Salesian Missions Australia



"In the tradition of Saint John Bosco, the Salesian objective is to help young people acquire the skills to help themselves."

- Br Michael Lynch SDB, Director

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

Salesian Missions:
www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au

Donations can be made through our website www.salesianmissionsaustralia.org.au. This is a secure website and a tax deductible receipt will be issued to your email address.

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

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