



# Loreto Friends *Networker*



Christmas edition

Issue 3 - December 2006

“God loved the world so much, God sent the Son to be one of us...”

Christmas is a time of family, of thoughtfulness and gratitude. As we reflect that our God came into our broken world, and chose to be with the frail and fringe people, let us pray for a deepening of compassion in our lives, and an appreciation of the wonder of this world, where God continues to be present in nature and in frail human beings.

Thank you to each one who has contributed to and shared with us in the Loreto enterprise in this past year. May the break time bring renewal and refreshment to you and your families.

Sr Christine Burke, Province Leader

## News

### *Province Assembly*

The Loreto Sisters Province Assembly was recently held from Thursday 30th November to Tuesday 5th December. Eighty five sisters from around Australia came together for four days of reflection, discussion and team work. They were also joined by province office lay staff and various committee/board representatives in an energetic, reflective and productive series of presentations and workshops.

Delegates who attended the GC06 in Peru gave insightful, uplifting and at times entertaining accounts of their time and learnings from the congregation. Committee leaders including history, schools, communications, aged care and finance gave overviews of their committee work and achievements throughout 2006. The identified Institute Calls and Actions associated with each were discussed. The Calls are:

1. Our Institute is called to a deeper place to listen to the passion of God and wrestle with the meaning of religious life today.
2. Our Institute is called to more relevant expressions of ‘Communion’ which reflect a relational God generous in gift, equality, diversity and outreach.
3. Our Institute is called to sharpen our engagement with Church and world.



For more information on IBVM Institute Calls and Actions visit [Our Institute Calls](#) by Sr Christine Burke



## News cont...

### *Mary Ward Justice Lecture a Success*

The Mary Ward Justice Lecture is an initiative of the Justice, Peace and Integrity of Creation (JPIC) Committee, to promote public discussion of key social issues.

This year the Committee invited two outstanding speakers and a well-known journalist, as facilitator, to hold a conversation around *Making Indigenous Poverty History*: Linda Burney, the first Indigenous member of the NSW Parliament and a member of the Wiradjuri nation; Fred Chaney, former Federal Minister for Aboriginal Affairs and Deputy Director of the Native Title Tribunal and Jenny Brockie award winning journalist, presenter of SBS Insight series and past student of Loreto Normanhurst. Over 200 people attended this energetic and thought provoking "conversation".



**Above: Fred Chaney, Linda Burney and Jenny Brockie at the lecture.**

**For an overview of this event please visit [Mary Ward Justice Lecture](#).**

## School News

### *Farewell to Dawson Street*

A farewell ceremony was held on the 4th December for students (current and past), parents, teachers, Loreto sisters and the local community to say goodbye to the Dawson St campus.

Loreto Ballarat community leader Sr Margaret Scully said, "There was a tinge of sadness in Dawson St closing, but there's great excitement for the future of Loreto education in Ballarat. We do look forward with great enthusiasm to the continuation of the Loreto spirit."

The school was opened in November 1875 and currently holds Year 7 and Year 8 students. These students will now move to the Sturt Street campus.

Sr Cynthia Wright, a presenter at the farewell ceremony, said "Loreto is not just bricks and mortar, but faith and love and a very inspiring way of life."

Principal Judith Potter said that the move had been eight years in the making and that staff had worked very hard during this process. "We look forward to the coming together of our school community," she said.

Source: *Ballarat Courier*, 05/12/06.



**Above: Sr Margaret Scully and Yr 7 Student Holly-Rose Braybrook.  
Photo courtesy of Sr Susan Daily ibvm.**

**For the latest Loreto Sisters news and events visit [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au)**

## School News *cont...*

### *Maria Welch Justice Award*

Loreto College Coorparoo has awarded a new prize this year: the Maria Welch Justice Award. Helen Salter reported "Sister Maria Welch was a much loved past pupil, member of staff and community member of Loreto Coorparoo. Her friends wished to acknowledge her contribution and her strong values and so decided to institute this

award in her honour. The winner of this award is a student whose personal integrity is founded on a harmonious relationship with God, with other people and with the whole of creation. It is expressed in works of justice and in an active participation in the struggle to bring about such harmony. The inaugural winner of the Sister Maria Welch Justice Award is Ashleigh Cotton.

### New Year activities

#### *World Day of Peace - The Human Person, The Heart of Peace*

World Day of Peace is celebrated every year on New Year's Day. Access the Pope's speech at:

[The Human Person, The Heart of Peace](#)

#### *Year of Planet Earth Activities (2007 – 2009)*

The United Nations General Assembly, meeting in New York, has proclaimed the year 2008 to be the United Nations International Year of Planet Earth. The Year's activities will span the three years 2007-2009. The Year's purpose, encapsulated in its strap line "*Earth sciences for society*", is to:

- Reduce risks for society caused by natural and human-induced hazards

- Reduce health problems by improving understanding of the medical aspects of Earth science
- Discover new natural resources and make them available in a sustainable manner
- Build safer structures and expand urban areas, utilizing natural subsurface conditions
- Determine the non-human factor in climatic change
- Enhance understanding of the occurrence of natural resources so as to contribute to efforts to reduce political tension
- Detect deep and poorly accessible groundwater resources
- Improve understanding of the evolution of life
- Increase interest in the Earth sciences in society at large
- Encourage more young people to study Earth science in university

Source and further information:  
<http://www.yearofplanetearth.org>

### Information from the Province Office

#### *A message about copyright - images from the Painted Life*

Frances Orchard CJ, member of the General Council of Congregation of Jesus in Rome, has asked that when using images from the *Painted Life* in our presentations, websites or publications that we acknowledge their use with the phrase "Studio Tanner". The Congregation of Jesus house the original *Painted Life* paintings in Germany. This message has been passed on from Sr Sandra Perrett who recently relocated to Rome to take on the role of Vicar General. Sandra is currently learning Italian and all is going well. We look forward to bringing you an update on Sandra's impressions of life and work in Rome in the February edition of the Loreto Friends Networker.



## *Linking to the Loreto Sisters Website*

The number of visits to the Loreto Sisters website has more than tripled since July 2006. To assist in directing website traffic to the Loreto Sisters website we ask that you please provide a link on your organisation or school website to [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au) or to specific pages of interest on our website. Thank you to all who have already provided links to our website.



### *Office hours over the Christmas break*

The Province Office in Albert Park, Victoria, will shut on Friday 22 December and will re-open on Thursday 4 January.

## **Add a friend or a news item**

We hope you enjoyed this edition of **Loreto Friends Networker**. If you would like to make a contribution to a future edition or would like to add a friend or colleague to the mailing list please contact Sophia Ljaskevic, Communications Officer, at [communications@loreto.org.au](mailto:communications@loreto.org.au) or on (03) 9249 3208.

## **More news at [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au)**

For more information on the stories within this newsletter as well other news, information and calendar events please visit our website at [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au)

**Check out upcoming calendar dates at:**

<http://www.loreto.org.au/calendar/index.cfm>

**Access the latest news at:**

<http://www.loreto.org.au/news/index.cfm>



**Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all!**

