



# Loreto Friends *Networker*

## Loreto Friends Networker

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*Dear friends,*

2008 has been a significant year for the Loreto sisters and our wider network of companions, partners, and colleagues.

**Mid year we enjoyed World Youth Day and Magis'08.** Many sisters, school principals and staffs were outstanding in the time, energy, insight and attention to detail which meant that pilgrims were welcomed and accompanied throughout July. Our sisters from Africa and India who joined us made a great impact in the schools where they spoke of real life in their home country.

**In recent weeks we have had our Institute leader, Marian Moriarty and a General Council member, Carmen Diston,** with us. They have criss-crossed Australia meeting sisters and school principals, listening to stories, and visiting some places of work. They have left with a much stronger sense of Loreto in Australia, and many of us gained more insight into the international dimension of our Institute.

**This year our Futures Team** (IBVM sisters and laity) began their work to support our schools and our colleagues in sharing the Mary Ward charism.

**On December 13th, 2008, we celebrate a very special event: our Sr. Trinh Duong** will make her perpetual vows as a member of the IBVM. Trinh came here from Vietnam in 1986 and joined us in 1999. Trinh has become a much loved member of the province, and has studied counselling and spiritual direction. She has worked in parishes and in a school, and has shown herself a true daughter of Mary Ward. Religious professions are rare in the Australian church these days, and we hope a number of our friends can join Trinh at the Eucharist at St Ignatius Richmond, at 4.00pm. Please keep Trinh in your prayers as she makes this serious commitment of her life and shows that Mary Ward's charism still makes its appeal to women today.

**Next year we celebrate 400 years of Mary Ward's Institute.** In our "Celebrating 400 years" network, people from every state are exploring how to celebrate this event in ways that capture Mary Ward's spirit. While a few will go on pilgrimage to Rome in October, local events will seek to capture the significance of this anniversary: through music, prayer groups, lectures, and other creative possibilities. Please keep your eyes on local school newsletters and on our website where these will be revealed! We do hope as many as possible will celebrate with us. Mary Ward's hope that "women in time to come will do much" is fulfilled in amazing ways as we look at how she has inspired people in our schools, in our wider network and in our Institute itself to make their contributions in our church and world.

**This Christmas will be an anxious time for many Australian families.** As jobs are lost, securities undermined and perhaps houses reclaimed, the story of a young couple whose child was born in a barn, in a country under foreign domination, continues to point to the fact that God chooses unlikely places and unlikely people and promises to be 'right there'.

**Let us not allow the call to spend, spend and spend again,** dull us to the fact that we live in a world of limited resources, and of very unequal distribution of wealth. Can we in our families find ways to 'ensmall' rather than enlarge our spending, and make our presence rather than presents a sign of our interest and love? Love and joy can be in every gathering, especially if we make the effort to include the stranger, and to think of those in rural areas, shelters or any need at this time. Our thanks to all who have supported us this year and our prayers for a truly Happy Christmas.

**Chris Burke ibvm**



Loreto Celebrating  
Mary Ward – 400 years

## 400 years of Mary Ward

Mary Ward, founder of the Loreto Sisters, was a progressive and visionary woman who saw that women and men were of equal intellect - a brave assertion at the time - and that they should be educated equally. She pioneered a new form of religious life for women (without the constraints of the traditional cloister and not under the rule of men).

Together with her followers she set up schools across England and Europe and despite persecution and scandals about her way of religious life her vision and values live on today – in Australia and around the world.

She was a progressive woman of her time who believed “women in time to come would do much”. Her spirit, values and influence live on today. Many well known Australian women have remained committed to public life and service, having been inspired by her vision, either through their education at school and university or by their association with Loreto as friends and colleagues.

From 2009 to 2011 the two branches of Mary’s Ward’s institute (Loreto Sisters and members of the Congregation of Jesus) will be celebrating 400 since Mary Ward set out on her work. They will rejoice in and honour the vision, courage and commitment of their founder and her legacy of sisters and schools on

every continent, hundreds of thousands of students past and present, countless volunteers, colleagues and friends across the globe; and social justice and education missions that serve the vulnerable, disadvantaged and voiceless around the world.

In Australia Loreto schools and communities will be holding events to celebrate and acknowledge Mary Ward.

Pilgrimages to Mary Ward sites and a Mary Ward Jubilee Event in Rome are being held. See below:

### Join the Australian pilgrimage for the celebration!

#### Organise your own group pilgrimage and come and join the celebration.

To register, visit [www.ibvm.org](http://www.ibvm.org) and select ‘400<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Institute’ from the Main Menu. Click ‘English’ and then select ‘Application form’.

#### Or join a guided pilgrimage to significant Mary Ward sites:

##### Ex-Sydney (2 weeks)

*Departs 1 October 2009 and includes:*

- 2 nights in Assisi plus a day tour to Loreto
- 6 nights in Rome for the Jubilee Event program
- 3 nights in Altötting visiting Augsburg, Munich, Burghausen, Salzbur
- 3 nights in York visiting

Mary Ward’s birthplace and gravesite

- Coach tour, flights and transfer fares
- 14 nights’ accommodation on bed, breakfast and dinner basis
- Flight itinerary: Sydney/Rome; London/Sydney.

##### Ex-Melbourne (3 weeks)

*Departs 2 October 2009 and includes:*

- 8 nights in Rome for the Jubilee Event program plus a trip to Loreto
- 5 nights in Garmish Partenkirchen visiting Augsburg, Munich, Altötting, Burghausen
- 3 nights in London visiting Mary Ward sites
- 4 nights in York visiting Mary Ward sites in Yorkshire
- Coach tour, train, flights and transfer fares
- 20 nights’ accommodation on bed and breakfast basis
- Flight itinerary: Melbourne/Rome; Manchester/Melbourne.

Visit [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au)

**for further information and to contact your state co-ordinator.**

“She was a progressive woman of her time who believed “women in time to come would do much”.

## *‘Nuns in parliament’ on human trafficking issues*

In September several members of Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans (ACRATH), including eleven women religious and colleagues, spent a week in Canberra lobbying Parliament on human trafficking issues.

ACRATH represents 180 religious orders in Australia working to eliminate human trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific and internationally. Their aim was to lobby for changes to the visa regulations applied to people who are trafficked and to ensure adequate services are provided once a person has been recognised as trafficked.

The issues included allocation of visas to people traf-

ficked into Australia on the basis of their human rights and not on the basis of their willingness to assist with prosecutions.

The group also called for an amnesty for people trafficked into Australia who are now living here illegally and is seeking assurances that the Federal Government tender for services for people who have been trafficked is administered to offer a holistic approach to each person's needs.

Sr Janet Palafox was actively involved in the lobbying, meeting with 61 members of parliament. She said that they were very welcoming, hospitable and listened to their concerns. She said, "I thought that most were concerned

with the issue of human trafficking and realised the issue of poverty as very much linked to people's vulnerability to being trafficked".

Human trafficking was debated in the Australian Parliament, House of Representatives, on 22 September 2008 following a motion by Kerry Rea (ALP Qld). Speakers in support of the motion included members from the ALP, Nationals, and Liberal parties with some speakers referring specifically to ACRATH.

**More information:** <http://www.loreto.org.au/news>

**"...most were concerned with the issue of human trafficking and realised the issue of poverty..."**

## *Weeks later... funding success!*

ACRATH was left speechless after a funding announcement made just weeks later by the Minister for Home Affairs Bob Debus. Up to \$1 million in funding was allocated to help four Australian non-government organisations (NGOs) in their efforts to combat people trafficking.

The Anti-Slavery Project, Project Respect, the Scarlet Alliance and ACRATH will each be granted \$250,000 to provide vital outreach for trafficking victims and conduct education and awareness initiatives on people trafficking.

The government said in

their media release "It's time to recognise the tireless efforts of these NGOs in the protection of victims of people trafficking and in raising awareness of the crime in the broader community.

"It's fortunate that the number of trafficking victims in Australia remains low, but we must remain vigilant.

"NGOs have been making a valuable contribution and have lobbied hard for victims.

"This funding recognises the important work they do along with a number of government agencies in

developing Australia's anti-trafficking strategy."

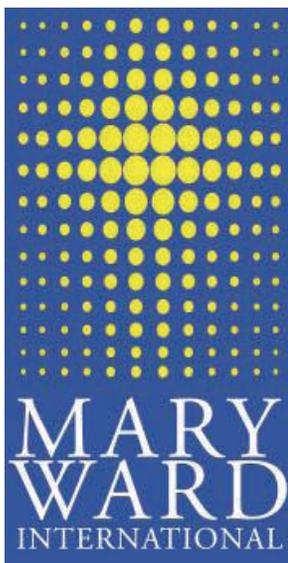
The funding is being provided from confiscated criminal assets under the Proceeds of Crime Act.

In June 2008, Mr Debus convened the first National Roundtable on People Trafficking, which brought together for the first time more than 20 Government agencies and NGOs.

The Government will also approach legal education and training bodies, such as the National Judicial College, for assistance in developing resources to assist judges, prosecutors and jurors.



Above: ACRATH members with Federal Government Department staff in Canberra



## *MWI Australia - Reading Recovery Program*

“Reading Recovery” is an early intervention literacy support program that has helped improve the literacy of Indigenous and non-Indigenous students in the Kimberley.

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA), in partnership with a number of organisations, including the Western Australia Catholic Education Office and the Kimberley Land Council, will approach government and corporations to extend this program to all schools in the Kimberley.

The Loreto Sisters began their work in the Kimberley in 1973 in response to an invitation from Bishop John Jobst to administer and staff St Mary’s School.

The sisters taught in the Kimberley for 25 years, first in Broome and then in the more remote communities of Lombadina and Kalumburu. The Loreto Sisters left the Kimberley in 1998.

While the Loreto Sisters are no longer able to work in the Kimberley, they continue to carry the needs of the children in their hearts. A relative of one of the sisters who spent many years in the Kimberley sought the help of the Loreto Sisters to shape a response which would continue the work begun by her aunt and develop the Loreto connection in a vital way.

The Reading Recovery Program uses a systematic approach to overcoming literacy issues with proven outcomes in countries such



as New Zealand, Brazil, Britain and Australia.

It provides one-on-one tutoring for each student identified as having difficulty with reading and writing. The program requires a tutor to mentor and train teachers in Reading Recovery principles.

Reading Recovery has been operating in some Catholic schools in the Kimberley since 2006. Currently the Reading Recovery Program is funded by six schools in the Kimberley, (Broome, Lombadina, Kununarra, Derby, Wyndham and Beagle Bay).

Their financial contribution provides them with the opportunity to access Reading Recovery training for their teachers. Each school is also expected to cover the cost of travel, accommodation and salary of each teacher attending the training in Broome. St Mary’s School Broome has also constructed a special room with the necessary equipment. These costs are substantial.

The Reading Recovery program has proved over a two year period to be successful for Aboriginal and

non-Aboriginal Kimberley children who have struggled with literacy. Based on a 2007 report by Janet Scull and Trish Bremner (Reading Recovery in the Kimberley), the program has shown to have a positive impact in literacy teaching.

The Loreto Sisters, through MWI and with the generous support of Julianne Maxwell (Roarty ’76) and the Roarty family are able to provide funds to support the continuation of Reading Recovery in the six schools for three years.

MWIA, in partnership with a number of organisations, hope to extend this program to all schools in the Kimberley. Various government agencies and corporations have been approached for funding to achieve this. MWIA hopes that with the support of other Loreto network partners, students in the Kimberley in need of support will be able to access the Reading Recovery Program.

**For further information about MWIA please visit [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au) and click on Mary Ward International or click on: [http://www.loreto.org.au/works/mary\\_ward\\_int.html](http://www.loreto.org.au/works/mary_ward_int.html)**

**We need your support!**

**To help us extend this program to more children in the Kimberley, please contact Janet Palafox on:**

**03 8832 0406 or email:**

**[mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au](mailto:mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au)**

## *Future Projects - Together we can make them happen*

### **MARY WARD PRIMARY EDUCATION CENTRE UMPHYRNAI KOLKATTA, INDIA**

Umphyrnai is a small village on the outskirts of Shillong. The facilities for education in Umphyrnai are inadequate and the people are economically poor.

The children are intelligent, hard working and capable of achieving much; however coming from large families, their opportunities for education are minimal.

Loreto established the Mary Ward Primary School from two small rooms and it now runs classes from nursery to grade four. Most of the children attending Mary Ward Primary School are first generation learners.

The local people have requested an English Medium School knowing that this will procure better jobs for them in the long-run. It is now necessary to built three more classrooms to up-grade the school.

### **COLLECTIVE VOICES – TOWARDS WOMAN, CHILD AND YOUTH FRIENDLY COMMUNITIES DARJEELING INDIA**

*This project is to be jointly supported by MWI Australia and MWI Ireland.*

This project aims to provide women, youth and children with the skills and capacity to participate and lead the way in developing a better future for themselves. One major component of the project is to hold workshops with women to educate them about social issues and their rights.

### **FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE IN EMERGENCIES TIMOR LESTE**

Financial assistance is required for staff of the Instituto Catolico para Formacao de Professores in Baucau (Marist Teacher's College). Some workers on low wages sometimes require emergency assistance due to financial difficulties. A small reserve of funds would help individuals cope with basic living and other expenses.

### **CONNECTING REMOTE COMMUNITY TO MEDICAL, COMMUNICATIONS AND MARKET OPPORTUNITIES LOLAY, INDIA**

Located at the foothills of the Himalayas, Lolay is a remote area consisting of a group of scattered villages about eighteen kilometres from the nearest town of Kalimpong.

Until about five years ago, there was no road to connect Lolay to Kalimpong and one had to take a long trek downhill to the Relli riverbed. All necessary supplies bought from town had to be carried up to the village on the backs of the people. There is now a road but the accessibility remains limited because there are only a few local jeeps as a means of transport.

Having a vehicle will enable the Loreto Sisters to connect with other ministries and have easier access to the local market to buy provisions for the school and village programs. This will also build the capacity of the village's Income Generations Project to sell products at the local market. In times of emergency, the vehicle could assist with transporting sick people to the hospital which takes about one and a half hours to reach because of the mountainous terrain.



**To help us support these projects, please contact Janet Palafox on 03 8832 0406 or email: [mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au](mailto:mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au)**

**Further information: [http://www.loreto.org.au/works/mary\\_ward\\_int.html](http://www.loreto.org.au/works/mary_ward_int.html)**

## Loreto in the spotlight

### *Loreto sister accepts Vatican invitation*



Above: Sr Mary Wright

**Sr Mary Wright, former leader IBVM Loreto Sisters worldwide, has accepted an invitation from the Vatican to join the team of canon lawyers in the Congregation for Institutes of Consecrated Life and Societies of Apostolic Life.**

Mary, who has a doctorate in Canon Law from St Paul University, Ottawa, as well as degrees in Science, Education and Theology, is now working in the Vatican department which is responsible for religious orders and institutes worldwide.

This isn't the first time her special gifts have called her to Rome. She spent eight

years there as Loreto Sisters General Superior, returning to Australia only last year.

Mary said, "I am looking forward to working with religious institutes from all over the world, and especially in developing countries. I am also excited about returning to Rome, which is such a fascinating and beautiful city."

Mary is based in the English-speaking section, which serves most of Africa and Asia, the Pacific region, North America, as well as the United Kingdom and Ireland. The Congregation deals mostly with

legal questions, including Constitutions and property, to assist religious leaders in ensuring that the structures and assets of their institutes are well maintained and used for the benefit of the Church's ministry.

The Congregation is one of the main departments of the Vatican administration and the offices are located just outside St. Peter's Square.

Christine Burke, Provincial Leader, Loreto Sisters, said, "We will miss her greatly and we pray that this work calls on her many talents and provides a life-giving context."

### *Generous friends help fund projects in Zambia*



Above: Sr Elizabeth Donnan in Lukulu with students in the science lab.

Sr Elizabeth Donnan, an Australian born Loreto Sister, currently works in Zambia, focusing on assisting schools and communities to be sustainable and self sufficient. In a country where resources are scarce and communities must pull together to survive, she is constantly challenged and humbled by her experiences.

As part of the Courage to Move mission in South Africa, Sr Elizabeth volunteered along with Sr Pat Harvey to undertake a new post in South Africa in 2004. She soon found herself in Lukulu in the western province of Zambia, a very poor and remote township, but a town where she could see endless opportunities to assist.

She began teaching at two high schools 400 km from each other – one with two unequipped science labs and the other with two news labs being built – both with no furniture or equipment. Sr Elizabeth has always firmly believed that whatever you set out to do must be sustainable.

Now with the help of donations through Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) and the generous support of Kirribilli Parents and Friends Wishing Well Project, Aloysius Social Circle and other individuals she has purchased non-consumable science equipment for the two labs. This includes pulleys, slotted weights, trucks, copies of experiment sheets and answer sheets. Bunsen burners, a staple in Australian schools, remain an elusive dream for the two schools as the roads are so poor – well non existent – that gas cannot be delivered.

With the new equipment teachers will be provided with resources to conduct meaningful science practical classes. The facilities will also be used to train science teachers – particularly in finding practical and creative ways of teaching science using the limited resources available.

## Loreto scoops ASA awards

**Loreto archiving expertise was highlighted recently with the presentation of two national awards at the 2008 Australian Society of Archivists' Conference in Perth 2008.**

Sr Theresa Elliott, Archivist John XXIII and Robin Scott, Loreto Province Archivist both received awards for their outstanding work, Tess for her publication 'Resting beneath the Rainbow' and Robin for the 'Selected Guide to Loreto Collections'.

'Resting beneath the Rainbow' tells the stories of the 45 Sisters who are buried at Loreto Normanhurst. The publication was assisted by the Loreto Sisters, WN Bull

Funerals, Loreto Normanhurst and Kim Eberhard.

The 'Selected Guide to Loreto Collections' evolved from a 'Complete Guide to Loreto Archives' which was an internal document produced as a response to the increasing fragmentation of the archival collection and attempted to provide an intellectual link between the parts. It is limited to the historic records and is designed as a gateway to the Loreto Archives to encourage the use of the collection by internal and external researchers. Our collection is an archival resource which can combine the topics of religion, education and women.

The Guide, which is available on the Loreto Sisters



L-R; Steve Stefanopoulos, Sr Theresa Elliot, Robin Scott.

website, encourages a holistic view of a diverse collection and, hopefully, will encourage research use and, into the future, a more complete understanding and documentation of the story of Loreto.

Robin thanked the Loreto Archivists for their contribution to the Guide and Sr Jane Kelly for her contribution to the Glossary of Loreto Terms.

As part of the Conference program, Steve Stefanopoulos Heritage & Records Manager Loreto Mandeville Hall, presented in a panel discussion on 'Discovering Capabilities in Small Archives'.

**For further information please visit [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au) and go to News.**

## Reflections from a new principal

The last six months since taking up the role of Principal of Loreto Normanhurst has moved incredibly quickly. I have certainly been blessed to have been appointed to this very special position.

The Loreto Normanhurst community, one I knew well as Deputy Principal of the school for the last seven years, has been so supportive and welcoming. The whole community has assisted me to settle into the role and to share with me their love of our wonderful school.

Two significant moments in my time as new Principal which highlight the power of a Loreto education have

been the graduation of our Class of 2008 in September, and the launch of the new leadership of the Class of 09. On both occasions the students clearly demonstrated that they have gained much from their Loreto education. Their ability to articulate and live out the Loreto values was most obvious by the grace with which they left the school and by the way our new leaders hunger to make the story of Mary Ward and her wonderful legacy a living story for our community. At Normanhurst, just like our other Loreto schools around Australia our students draw great joy and

strength from our deep connection with the Mary Ward charism.

Next year we are all very excited to be part of the 400 year celebration. Loreto schools in Australia will be taking part in *Mary Ward Connect* in March 09 where students from all of our schools will do an interstate exchange. Later in the year Sr Louise Ritchard and I will join with Loreto and CJ sisters from around the world in Rome for the worldwide gathering. As a student of Loreto Kirribilli in the 70s I never dreamt that I would be part of such an historical event. I know that the memories we build in 2009 will remain with us forever.



Above: Barbara Watkins  
Principal  
Loreto Normanhurst

## Loreto Futures Team Conference

Further information or to  
contribute a story:

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Loreto Centre

Level 2

257 Auburn Road

Hawthorn East 3123

Anderledy Lodge North Sydney 16-17 October 2008

Fifteen participants from Loreto schools and John XIII College gathered, with the members of the Loreto Futures Team to *share ideas and help plan how we can take forward the tradition, heritage and spirituality of Mary Ward to Loreto schools and ministries.*

The participants came with 15 minute presentations on Mary Ward's virtues, on school-based induction programmes and on Ignatian spirituality. James and Wendy Muir (Marryatville) produced, at our request, a wonderful power point presentation on Mother Gonzaga Barry. It was evident from the presentations that much valuable work is being done in schools to imbue staff and students with our heritage and spirituality.

The members of the Loreto Futures Team prepared the morning prayer, an evening reflection/examen (Maureen Burke) and presentations on *The Catholic Story* (Marg Finlay) and *the International IBVM* (Libby Rogerson). Maureen produced a very helpful evaluation sheet.

Leoni Degenhardt was responsible for the opening and closing sessions - outlining the aims and goals of the LFT and the goals of the conference.

Mary Magnus, with her usual panache, organised the accommodation, the "show bags", and generally oversaw the smooth running of the conference. Susan Daily came with an array of beautiful things, set up the room, provided cards for the "show bags," ran errands and held a stall in the breaks.

The evaluations of the conference were very positive and the Loreto Futures Team was left with a range of positive suggestions for improved communication, ways of sharing material and further gatherings.

By Libby Rogerson ibvm

*The Loreto Futures team was established in 2007 to work collaboratively with others to share the Loreto charism and mission while rethinking the Loreto formation program.*

## Praise for editor of *New Norcia Studies* - Sr Anne Carter

In recent years, Loreto has had a close connection with the Benedictine Community of New Norcia, through the work of Sr Anne Carter ibvm, who wrote the book *"A Rich Harvest - A History of St Gertrude's College New Norcia"*. The Josephite Sisters staffed St Gertrude's College from its beginning in February 1908 until May 1978.

More recently Anne edited the prestigious *New Norcia Studies*, an annual publication documenting New Norcia and its surrounds.

At the recent launch of the 15th edition of the *New Norcia Studies*, great appreciation was expressed for Anne's care and professionalism in this task of editing.

Speaking at the November launch, Heather Henderson, Lord Mayor of

Subiaco, reminded the audience of the strong links between Subiaco and New Norcia: both were named after towns in Italy where St Benedict lived. Bishop Serra, who came to Australia with Salvado to found the mission at New Norcia in the mid-1800s, eventually severed ties with New Norcia and founded his own monastery in Perth, calling it New Subiaco. When the Perth to Fremantle railway opened in 1881, the name Subiaco was adopted for a railway station near the monastery and later for the cluster of houses and businesses which became the present city of Subiaco.

The Benedictine Community of New Norcia was established in 1846 and in the years since has played a significant role in various aspects of

Western Australian life. The purpose of a Benedictine monastery is to develop and maintain a community of prayer – liturgical prayer celebrated in common - nourished by personal study and piety and balanced by some kind of work which serves partly as recreation and partly to make the community self-supporting.

Some information sourced from:

<http://www.newnorcia.wa.edu.au/chimesfriendsnov07.pdf>

*The Loreto Sisters across Australia join with the Benedictine Community of New Norcia in thanking God for the life of Abbot Placid Spearritt, OSB, who died suddenly and unexpectedly on 4th October 2008.*