



APRIL 2022

Sustain



LORETO

Australia & South East Asia

Reflection

~ by Carolyn Young

Director of Mission & Identity,
Loreto Ministries

The latest publication from the United Nation's Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change is a confronting read. It highlights the importance of changing our habits and choices in solidarity with all peoples and taking responsibility for what Pope Francis called "*care for our Common Home*" (Francis, 2015). At the launch of the Vatican's seven-year Laudato si' Action Plan to implement environmental sustainability in different sectors of the Church, Pope Francis implored: "*... let us take care of our mother Earth ... let us overcome the temptation of selfishness that makes us predators of resources, let us cultivate respect for the gifts of the Earth and creation, let us inaugurate a lifestyle and a society that is finally eco-sustainable.*"

Initiatives from MWIA and Loreto schools designed to educate, advocate for, and do what we can for sustainability and environmental justice give us hope. May they inspire you to reflect on the interconnectedness of all creation and explore how you can further develop the commitment and skills necessary to "*find fulfilment in harmony with all of creation*" (Mary Ward Schools' Compass).

CONTENTS

Message from the EO	3
Doing no Harm	4
By Kirstin Del Beato	
Water Sustains us, but are we Sustaining our Water?	6
By Hannah George	
Sustainability in our Loreto Schools	8
By Fiza Khosla	
Light for Livelihood	10
By Anna Turkington	
2022 New Projects	12
By Kaithlyn McNab	
Corporate Match Giving	14
By Michelle Gale	
2021 Impact	15
Made Possible with your Support	
Appeal	16
Help Light up a Life	



COVER*

Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre technician distributing solar lanterns to those most in need in the Sundarbans.

*Consent for all imagery of children and young people used in this publication has been received.

ABOUT US

Mary Ward International Australia (MWIA) is a registered charity and is the Australian and global development organisation of the Loreto Sisters. Our Mission is to support the Loreto Sisters and the broader MWIA network as we work with women and communities to transform unjust structures and reduce poverty and oppression, primarily through formal and non-formal education.



Mary Ward International Australia respectfully acknowledges all

Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and young leaders of today and the future. Mary Ward International Australia commits itself to the ongoing work of reconciliation with our First Nations families and communities.

Respecting Mother Earth



This morning, like every other morning, the first thing I did was have a long drink of water straight from the tap. From there, I moved to the bathroom, shower and fridge. My biggest challenge was to continue moving before my first coffee of the day.

I know I am one of the fortunate ones. I didn't have to walk to the nearest creek to fill up my glass, squat on the riverbank or carry litres of unclean water back to my family, yet millions do. They will continue to do so unless we step up to address the extreme inequity they face while ensuring we protect our precious natural resources. At MWIA, we're taking a good, long look at ourselves by reflecting on the Loreto value of 'freedom' – freedom to grow beyond self-interest with the aim of opening up creative possibilities to ensure we are addressing such inequities.

Headlining our strategic plan is our intent to partner in collaborative, diverse and exploratory projects that support women's leadership and community ownership. Underlying this is ensuring we actively listen, with open minds and hearts, to the women, children and wider communities we aim to serve.

We need to ensure local communities are involved every step of the way, from project identification to delivery and ongoing oversight. This is how we will build solid, meaningful partnerships where knowledge, ideas and resources are shared to deliver quality, sustainable services that transform lives for good.

This edition of Sustain aims to highlight the steps we are taking, hand-in-hand with Loreto Sisters around the world and our school communities here in Australia, to reach our Vision of *A just world where women share leadership, children thrive, and communities live in harmony with each other and the Earth.*

We draw on Pope Francis' call to respect and protect Mother Earth. We must #InvestInOurPlanet, as she is, after all, the only one we have.

Together, let's be the change we want to see.

Hannah George
Executive Officer

MARY WARD INTERNATIONAL AUSTRALIA

PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122

Ph: 03 9813 4023 **E:** mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au

www.mwia.org.au   

Executive Officer: Hannah George

Ph: 0448 393 479 **E:** hannah.george@loreto.org.au

ACCOUNTABILITY AND ACCREDITATION

MWIA is a full member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. MWIA is an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.





Doing no Harm

~ by Kirstin Del Beato

Projects and Partnerships Manager, MWIA

Protecting the Earth's natural resources and maintaining its ecosystems are fundamental to ensuring the sustainability of communities. Environmental degradation often increases the vulnerability of communities through displacement, loss of connection, risk of ecological disaster and climate change impact.

At MWIA, we acknowledge our responsibility to ensure our supported projects are conducted in a way that reduces harm to the environment and minimises unintended consequences on people and communities. This responsibility is underpinned by the principle to 'Do No Harm', that is, to ensure we protect the rights, health, safety, and livelihoods of people, including children, women, Indigenous peoples, and other vulnerable or disadvantaged groups, whilst maintaining the health, diversity and productivity of the natural environment.

SOLAR ENERGY AT THE MARY WARD RETREAT CENTRE IN KENYA

While all of our projects require us to identify and manage any environmental risks and engage and work with stakeholders and project partners, many of our projects also promote improved environmental outcomes by integrating ecologically sustainable development. One such example is the solar energy project at the Mary Ward Retreat Centre (MWRC) in Nairobi, Kenya, managed by Sr Hellen Oluoch IBVM.

The project builds on the success of previous work conducted in partnership with missio München, resulting in the increased sustainability of the MWRC through the conversion of the centre's unused land into a food production farm.

This new solar energy project was established after MWRC staff identified an opportunity to harness renewable solar power to create a more reliable water supply to the farm. Through solar technology, staff aim to scale up farm production, further supporting the MWRC to become a self-sufficient catering facility whilst generating an income stream through the sale of excess food production to neighbouring communities, guests, and other local businesses.

To date, the installation of a solar-operated water bore and drip irrigation system has allowed for an efficient and continual water supply to the various crops and greenhouses on the farm. The MWRC has already experienced a drastic reduction in electricity costs and a significant increase in farming output. It is anticipated that by the end of 2022, the MWRC will be self-sufficient in its food supply, further decreasing its operational costs and enabling it to focus on its core mission of conducting retreats and workshops.

This project delivers environmentally sustainable development for the MWRC and protects it against the effects of future power cuts, drought, and water scarcity, all very real issues experienced across Kenya today.

By promoting improved environmental outcomes through this project, we hope that it will serve as a model for other MWIA projects around the world.

Mary Ward International Australia thanks missio München for their generous support of this project.



Sr Hellen Oluoch ibvm

I am Hellen Oluoch, a Kenyan-born religious Sister belonging to the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary (IBVM). I joined the Institute in 2001. For the past 18 years, I have been assigned to various ministries, including education and project implementation. Currently, I am the administrator at the Mary Ward Retreat Centre in Kenya and the treasurer of the IBVM Eastern Africa Province.

This has been an opportunity for me to gain insights and utilise the wealth of knowledge gained from my professional qualification in education and my current studies in business administration. Moving forward, I see myself not only as a religious Sister but as a woman of Africa – a continent in which women and children are still largely voiceless against the extreme forms of injustice they experience, including discrimination, violence, and all forms of environmental degradation.

I consider the opportunities I have to contribute to the needs I encounter and fulfil the mission of the Church through the call of Pope Francis' Laudato Si, with a greater commitment to the care of the Earth. An example of this commitment is in the solarisation of the water bore and drip irrigation system at the centre.

As I continue serving in my roles, increasingly, I feel the ongoing call to respond to the global cry of unity, development of the downtrodden, and to represent the voice of women contributing to the Church and African society. I hope that my sharing will inspire other religious Sisters and women in Africa whose contribution is crucial to the sustainable development of the continent.

Images:

- 1: Mary Ward Retreat Centre, Kenya
- 2: Sr Hellen Oluoch ibvm

Water sustains us, but are we sustaining our water?

~ by Hannah George
Executive Officer, MWIA

In February, the United Nations released its latest *Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development* report. One of its key findings was that while the world's population will continue to grow and is expected to peak around 2100 at almost 11 billion, most of this growth will occur in low-income and lower-middle-income countries.

With this growing population comes an increasing need for fresh water. According to WaterAid¹, the withdrawals of fresh water from ground or surface water sources have increased six-fold since the beginning of the 20th century, and it is the developing countries that are impacted the most.

Agriculture is by far the thirstiest consumer of water globally, accounting for 70% of water withdrawals worldwide, although this varies across countries. Meanwhile, domestic water use accounts for 10 per cent. Yet worldwide, an estimated 748 million people remain without access to clean water.² This raises two key questions:

1. How do we ensure access for all?
2. How do we use the water we have sustainably?

ENSURING ACCESS FOR ALL

Despite it being a crucial necessity and fundamental right, millions of people worldwide do not have access to clean water – for drinking, cooking, and cleaning. For many communities, there is no water supply; it is not affordable, accessible or designed to last.

We must work with these communities to ensure clean water reaches those most in need. Universal access to clean drinking water is critical to reducing inequality, alleviating poverty, and supporting inclusive and sustainable growth, as is access to education, health care, food security, housing, and sanitation.

In Timor-Leste, MWIA and the Loreto Sisters are working with community members in Ostico to source underground water and establish the infrastructure needed to provide an ongoing, sustainable clean water source (*detailed further on page 13*).

SUSTAINABLE WATER

Sustainable water is reached when a nation or community can be water self-sufficient; there is enough water to meet domestic, agricultural, and industrial needs. It is when the water supply is consistent, despite natural or human-made disasters. Importantly, it is when we can meet the water needs of the present without sacrificing the needs of future generations.

To obtain sustainable water, several factors need to be in play – from optimising environmental, economic and social benefits by identifying and developing projects with the community to ensuring infrastructure investments are cost-effective and resource-efficient.

MWIA believes the sustainability of any project is in direct proportion to the level of ownership of the activity. Ownership can be measured by the size of the contribution that the community makes, that is, how much of their own assets and resources, including management, they use to design, construct and maintain the project. In the case of Timor-Leste, we are mindful we need to work with the committees set up in each village to manage the delivery of water, health, education, agriculture and electricity services.

Water sustainability can also mean energy neutrality by coupling traditional water technologies with renewable energies, such as in the case of the MWIA-supported Solar Energy project at the Mary Ward Retreat Centre in Kenya (*See pages 4-5 for more detail*).

On a global scale, having sustainable water means providing each person on the planet with affordable access to the minimum 20 to 50 litres of daily water required to sustain life.³ With water being one of the planet's most essential resources, we need to rise to the surmountable challenge of using it responsibly.

¹ WASH Facts and Stats, WaterAid

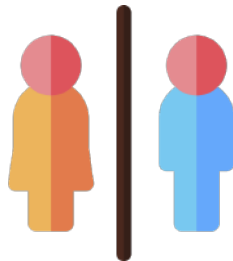
²⁻⁴ Sustainable water: Our essential guide to sustainable water resource management solutions & strategies, Fama Center

⁵ Global Population Growth and Sustainable Development report, United Nations, p. 72



By 2050, world agriculture will need to produce 60% more food globally and 100% more in developing countries.⁴

Population growth is a key driver of the increasing demand for food, as is the amount and type of food we consume. It is critical to adopt more sustainable approaches to food production and shift towards healthy diets rich in plant-based foods.⁵



Poverty and social exclusion are intertwined – those with the least are often the most socially excluded.

Tackling discrimination, poverty, and exclusion is key. MWIA believes that only through talking to these groups can we appreciate the issues at hand and support their involvement in decisions about what is needed.



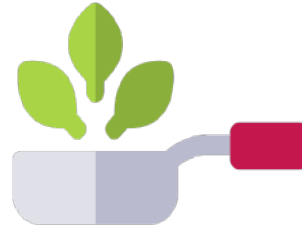
Global warming is making it harder for many to get clean water. Frequent, extreme flooding and bushfires are polluting fragile water sources; longer droughts are drying up springs.

MWIA supports the establishment of sustainable, reliable sources of clean water that keep flowing through flood, drought and natural disaster.

HEALTH

Dirty water leads to diseases such as diarrhoea and acute respiratory infections.

MWIA plans to take an integrated approach – access to clean water along with hygiene and sanitation services results in improved health for all.



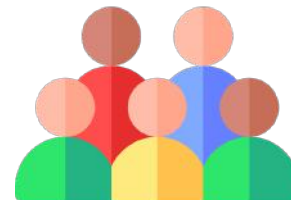
FOOD SECURITY

Pro-male biases in the allocation of resources and domestic work within households, including water collection, hinder progress toward gender equity in education and opportunity.

Access to clean water helps transform the lives of women and girls, supporting them to fulfil their potential. MWIA works to achieve gender equality, ensuring women are involved in the planning, roll-out and ongoing management of services.

GENDER EQUALITY

SOCIAL INCLUSION



Water services fail or fall into disrepair when there is not enough money or skill available to maintain them regularly.

MWIA takes a sustainability approach, ensuring that the right infrastructure is in place, and is supported by a strong, community-led system of knowledge, skills, and assets.

SERVICES THAT LAST

GLOBAL WARMING



Sustainability in our Loreto Schools

~ by Fiza Khosla

Community Engagement Coordinator, MWIA

It is wonderful to see how our Loreto Schools have embraced the invitation from Sr Noelle Corscadden, IBVM Generalate Institute Leader, *“to undertake an environmental project, something significant that will witness to our care of creation”* (Letter to all IBVM provinces, 2 October 2020). This invitation was issued as part of the Loreto Sisters Bicentenary Ecological Project. Living in a chaotic, disrupted world, where humankind has failed to harmoniously co-exist with the environment, has forced us all to reevaluate our choices. Loreto schools are committed to ensuring that our future leaders understand their responsibility to be agents of change and champion a sustainable tomorrow. United in spirit, thought, and action, they endeavour to promote the values, skills, and behaviours needed to live as global citizens in harmony with all of creation. Here, our schools share some of their initiatives:

LORETO KIRRIBILLI



Student leaders have inspired the school community toward practical, realistic and meaningful environmental sustainability goals. Their mission to find ways to reduce, regenerate, reuse and recycle on every corner of the campus is indicative of their deep commitment to the cause. Students have adopted several environmentally friendly practices, including the use of recycling bins, increasing accessibility of second-hand uniforms and textbooks, migration to paperless workflows and more.

The school has also embraced sustainability initiatives focused on efficient energy consumption by using LED lighting and installing solar panels and rainwater tanks.

Loreto Kirribilli's curriculum presents different sustainability projects; for example, Year 5 students recently collaborated with Origin Energy to construct solar power lights. These foci provide students with opportunities to understand the possibilities and positive impact of sustainable initiatives.

LORETO COORPAROO

Students have participated in remarkable ecology projects to create a more environmentally-friendly campus, including the 'Bottle for Beach' project. The project aims to reduce the school's ecological footprint and supports the work of the Australian Marine Conservation Society by collecting and recycling drink containers and bottles. Year 10 students Lara and Isabella, who participated in the Brisbane Lord Mayor's Youth Environmental Leadership Network, developed a plan of action and motivated their peers to join in, collecting 700 containers in one term! They hosted several competitions and community-building activities to spike interest and commitment to reducing the college's ecological footprint.

LORETO NORMANHURST

Normanhurst's "Bush Tucker Garden" project signifies the profound commitment of students and staff to living in harmony with nature and symbolises their connection to the Indigenous community. It raises awareness of traditional Indigenous food practices and culture and presents an opportunity for students and staff to research, plan and develop a traditional bush food and medicine garden. Indigenous students are empowered to lead and work with younger students to cultivate the garden and impart knowledge about traditional diets and culture. They aspire to develop a specialised cookbook and integrate the produce from the garden into the boarding house menu soon.

JOHN XXIII

In a bid to be more environmentally conscious and encourage fellow students to dispose of their waste correctly, students from an inspired art class designed and painted native animals and environmental messages on the school waste bins in bright, bold colours.

These bins have been placed throughout the school campus at convenient locations to remind students that not disposing of their rubbish properly can negatively impact the native animals and flora. A simple reminder highlights that *“With over 1,000 students on campus, if each student correctly disposes of one item a day, then within a week, we would have prevented 5,000 items of rubbish from finding their way into the natural environment.”*



LORETO TOORAK

Members of Toorak's Student Representative Council are designated 'Eco Warriors' who assume the responsibilities of monitoring the school's Environment Portfolio. They are entrusted with conducting an audit of rubbish and recycling across the school and further developing viable projects. With the assistance and collaboration of the student body, they also work with the local council to achieve Victorian Government ResourceSmart School accreditation.

“In 2022, the Loreto Year of Freedom, our goal is for our students to be ‘free to grow as leaders in harmony with the Earth and all of creation.’”

LORETO MARRYATVILLE

At Loreto Marryatville, clear and ambitious goals towards becoming a pioneering innovator of sustainability in schools have been established. The overall target is to reach net-zero carbon emissions by 2030, reflecting the urgent need for developed countries to drastically reduce greenhouse gas emissions. As part of the net-zero emissions by 2030 goal, the school will focus on three key areas: (i) energy generation and consumption (including 60% of energy needs generated on-site by 2025 and solely LED lighting across the college), (ii) waste and plastic reduction (with the goal of a plastic-free campus and a 50% reduction in waste by the end

of 2023), and (iii) local environment improvement (planting 200 trees in 2021-2022 as part of the Teresa Ball bicentenary ecological project).

LORETO BALLARAT

In recent years Loreto College Ballarat has installed 100kw of solar panels on its historic roof to improve its environmental footprint. Sustainability initiatives form a core part of the school's vision, evident through the development of its recently-acquired *St Therese Church of the Little Flower* into the school VCE Vocational Specialisation space. The space will include a solar battery with a visual interface for education, which will enable students to monitor and actively learn about environmental practices and sustainability. The school avoided gas fossil fuels when sourcing the energy for the space and chose electricity as the primary source to ensure the transitional benefits of wind and solar-powered energy.

LORETO NEDLANDS

Students and staff are committed to sustainability and are actively involved in implementing and promoting environmentally-friendly initiatives such as Waste-free Wednesdays, 10c refunds and solar cars.

On Waste-free Wednesdays, bins are removed to discourage the use of plastic in lunch boxes. This creates awareness of the harmful effects of plastic and motivates students to make a difference. 10c refund bins around the school encourage students to place their plastic drink bottles from school lunch orders inside. These bottles then go to the 10c refund centre, and the money returns to Loreto. Solar cars at the school encourage students to learn how to operate solar panels and visualise a solar-powered future.



The dedication and commitment of Loreto schools to being environmentally-responsible is commendable. Students have truly embraced this year's Loreto theme of Freedom to grow as leaders and be agents of change, leading their school communities towards a harmonious existence with nature.

Images:

- 1: Loreto Kirribilli Year 5 solar power lights
- 2: John XXIII school waste bins
- 3: Loreto Nedlands solar car



Image:
1: KMWSC technician, Debabrata Mondal, distributing a solar lantern to Bijali Munda, a Sundarbans local

Light for Livelihood

~ by Anna Turkington

Manager, Communications & Marketing,
Loreto Ministries

The Sundarbans region in West Bengal, India, is one of the most remote and underdeveloped parts of the country, comprising mainly islands and forests. A diverse, complex, and volatile ecosystem rules the region. Each village is an island surrounded by rivers that are affected by the high and low tides of the Bay of Bengal. Natural disasters such as cyclones and floods are inevitable due to biodegradation and global warming. The families of the Sundarbans are some of the most marginalised in the world, living well below the poverty line.

India faced a severe blow from the COVID-19 pandemic, lacking the infrastructure, hospital equipment, health kits, medicine and oxygen required for such a large population. The situation rapidly became a monumental humanitarian crisis. Overcome by fear, death and despair, the entire nation was in turmoil. For those living in the Sundarbans, high salinity levels, regular flooding, poor soil conditions, and high temperatures meant survival was already a struggle. The COVID-19 pandemic saw widespread job loss in the region and many families on the verge of starvation. Super Cyclonic Storm Amphan in mid-2020 caused widespread damage and destruction, hitting the remote Sundarbans particularly hard. If that wasn't enough, in May 2021, Cyclone Yaas saw water levels rise to break the banks of the rivers and enter villages, destroying homes, ruining crops, and killing livestock. Families were forced to migrate to high places to survive, with only tents to house them. Hundreds of families currently live in tents covered with plastic and tarpaulins.

Together, the pandemic and cyclones have severely impacted the already minimal delivery of electricity to the area. Thousands of families are still without electricity; many have to use kerosene lanterns as their only source of light, which are a severe fire hazard. Furthermore, the toxic nature of the kerosene causes chronic disease, breathing problems, asthma, and cataracts.

MWIA, together with the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre (KMWSC), has been delivering solar lanterns to remote Sundarbans villages and cyclone-affected families living in tents without electricity. The light has enabled children to safely study at home and provided light to cook meals and weave fishing nets. The solar light offers income-generating opportunities to the villagers – women can sew, and men can fish in the evenings to trade at the local market. The solar lanterns further protect villagers at night when they need to use the outdoor toilet – tigers and poisonous snakes are prevalent in the Sundarbans due to the lack of streetlights in the villages.

Unfortunately, the Sundarbans will continue to be affected by its volatile environment, making solar power even more critical to local communities. Solar energy is the best solution for light in the region. It is clean, environmentally friendly, and long-lasting. This project also supports women to access their legal rights and entitlements through self-help groups (SHGs). Over 130 women are part of a SHG that provides training on the use of solar lights and ensures that women can obtain the legal documents required to access government support services such as food schemes, pensions and health care. Small local groups in the villages keep a record of each family and provide data to the local administration, helping distribute these government schemes. They play a significant role in mobilising members of the local community and raising awareness of their rights and entitlements. They further play a vital role in reaching out to the neediest families in the villages.

During this time of crisis and natural disaster, the solar lanterns are a ray of hope for families. Throughout 2021, 80 solar lanterns were assembled by locals trained by the KMWSC staff in a solar growth centre. KMWMC field associates distributed the solar lanterns to 80 cyclone-affected families in the Sundarbans, providing an independent and reliable light source. These families were living in the dark and only had

kerosene lamps and candles for light as they shifted to open and higher places for safety and survival.

Minati Sardar is a 64 year old widow in the village of Manmathnagar. She cried with tears while telling her story...

“I am a widow since 1990. My husband died while he was collecting honey from the forest, the man-eating tiger attacked him and he was eaten away along with Surjo Debnath, my neighbour. I am all alone at an old age. Yaas was the first silent killer cyclone I have ever seen in my life. The livelihood stocks of my family have been destroyed. I have nothing to eat. My daughter and I are starving for food. I thank you from the bottom of my heart for giving us one month of groceries. Millions of thanks to KMWSC for standing beside me during this starvation of my family and providing me the solar lantern to light the house. I am grateful to MWIA team for giving us solar lanterns”. - Minati Sardar

Many more families are still in desperate need of solar light. COVID-19 has delayed training and the purchase of raw materials required for production. Together with the KMWSC and our valued supporters, we strive to overcome these challenges in 2022 and light up the homes and lives of struggling Sundarbans families.

2022

~ by Kaithlyn McNab
Administration Officer, MWIA

New Projects

PERU

In Huaycán, on the western outskirts of the Peruvian capital of Lima, issues of violence against children are exacerbated as many live in slum-like conditions, facing daily hunger and economic hardship.

The Child Rights Community Education project run by the Loreto Sisters is a vital project calling for the elimination of abuse, exploitation, trafficking, and any other forms of violence against children. The project aspires for children to be happy, enjoy a safe environment and reach their full potential.

The project aims to work with children, adults, community leaders, and national organisations to prevent violence and its developmental impacts, reduce the social tolerance for mistreatment, and promote community-wide awareness of the issues. Detailed educational modules will address the individual and social characteristics of the community. Additionally, workshops will be conducted to share knowledge, including the prevention of violence in children and adolescents, while promoting self-care and active, playful, and participatory learning.

SOUTH SUDAN

ZAMBIA



TIMOR-LESTE

The Water Access project focuses on providing the Ostico community with an accessible source of clean water, firmly aligning it with United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 6 – to ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all.

The people of Ostico recently identified the need for improved water access. In late 2021, the local community assisted in locating an underground stream and constructing a bore. The village is now turning its attention to setting up a series of tanks and pipes to distribute the water throughout the community.

This project will significantly impact women and girls who currently access water from a contaminated stream about two kilometres from home. Each day, these women and girls cart approximately two dozen plastic bottles to the stream, fill each bottle, and carry them home along a dirt road. Once home, they must boil the water before it can be used. This process alone can take hours per day. Through this initiative, approximately 500 families living in Ostico will have clean water near their homes.

AUSTRALIA

Partnering with Enterprise Partnerships, the Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub is a community-led social enterprise operating in Balgo, one of Australia's most remote Indigenous communities.

The project will establish a permanent home for the Op Shop in two refurbished shipping containers. It aims to support Indigenous women with economic opportunities and employment pathways through training and on-the-job experience.

A hands-on learning experience allows for the exploration of new microenterprise ideas and work opportunities. The project supports individuals to develop skills, confidence, and leadership, thereby increasing involvement in the workforce.

Profits support the women to seed-fund additional enterprise learning, including experimenting with bush products such as balms and soaps. Furthermore, earnings enable monthly cultural trips to spend a Sunday in the country, hunting, collecting bush tucker and sharing cultural stories across generations.



Corporate match giving Your impact doubled!

~ by Michelle Gale
Philanthropy Manager, MWIA

Gift matching programs are a type of corporate philanthropy that allow donors to maximise the impact of their gift to a charitable cause of their choice. Gifts can range in size, and the employer's ratio can vary, but many companies will match an employee's donation 1:1.

MWIA donor Gates Moss and his family generously contribute to our projects yearly. His company, Alliance Bernstein, match their MWIA donation each year. Subsequently, this has resulted in more global support for where it is needed the most.

“Our family has a long association with the Loreto community. My wife Meg Morrison and her sister Marie Morrison attended Loreto Kirribilli from Kindergarten to Year 12, and their five brothers all attended the junior school. Our daughter, Alexa, continued the family tradition. Loreto's commitment to high-quality education is a cornerstone of the organisation. However, this is only the beginning, as this education is amplified by the community's commitment to social justice through the empowerment of women. We believe that an investment in education and empowerment has a compounding effect on the community it serves, as those helped will go on to help the families and communities they are a part of.

“As someone who grew up in a Protestant tradition, when I support a Catholic organisation, I want to fund people that are agents of change. The Loreto Sisters are a courageous example of this. Following in Mary Ward's footsteps, they are dynamic and progressive.

“We feel our social impact is again further leveraged as we partner with MWIA and my employer via match giving. We are thrilled to be associated with Mary Ward International Australia because of its shared commitment to social justice and the empowerment of the neediest among us. We are confident that our financial support will go to a worthy cause and, importantly, that every dollar will go a long way. **To then have my employer match my donation doubles the impact we are making.** A company's actions can go a long way to make a positive change in the community and impact how employees and the community perceive that company.

It is important that my values align with my workplace. It is wonderful to work for a corporate organisation that inspires employees and other companies to follow suit by way of action.

“We encourage other donors to ask their companies to match their donations, where possible, and leverage their impact to create global change.

“We, in the Loreto community in Sydney, are among the most fortunate families in a lucky and beautiful country. For our own sake, we must take a global view in sharing some of our good fortune with those for whom it means so much. Additionally, I would suggest it is essential to do so openly and visibly, to serve as an inspiration and example to our friends, colleagues, children, and their children.” - Gates Moss



Image:
Donor Gates Moss and family

2021 Impact

70,728

**PEOPLE
SUPPORTED**

76

**COMMUNITIES
IMPACTED**

23

**PROJECTS
FUNDED**

INDIA

BRICKFIELDS SCHOOL PROGRAM

- 611 students from 402 families educated and fed.
- 1,000 workers and their children educated on general health, hygiene, COVID-safe practices and how to access government support and facilities.

LANDING PADS

- 8,200 sanitary pads distributed to 328 beneficiaries.

ZAMBIA

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE OF NURSING AND MIDWIFERY

- First 60 students admitted to the new MWIA-supported Sancta Maria Nursing and Midwifery College.

BABY MILK PROGRAM

- 58 babies received milk and nutrition support.

PERU

COVID-19 RESPONSE

- 1689 people assisted with oxygen, medicine, food and bedding.

SOUTH SUDAN

HEALTHY FOUNDATIONS

- Medical care provided for 33,888 patients (predominantly women and children with malaria), the highest number ever to be attended to by the Mary Ward Primary Health Care Clinic.

Help light up a life



Light is no luxury in the Sundarbans region of West Bengal, India. Of an evening, the region is plunged into darkness as delivery of electricity to the area is acutely unstable due to its remote and volatile location. Damage and destruction caused by recent cyclones have left hundreds of families living on the margins without any light source. Livelihoods, day to day life and education have been severely disrupted.

The need for assistance in the area is alarming. Rising water levels resulting from global warming and the recent cyclones have forced families to migrate to higher ground to survive, with only tents to house them. Families either have no light or use toxic kerosene lanterns, which cause chronic disease and respiratory infections. Lives are further at risk due to the increased chance of domestic fire. Children either stop studying at dusk or compromise their health by inhaling the fumes of kerosene.

One solar lantern can bring an entire family out of darkness.

MWIA and the Kolkata Mary Ward Social Centre have been working to deliver solar lanterns to remote Sundarbans villages and cyclone-affected families living in tents without electricity. The lanterns enable children to safely study at home, provide light to weave fishing nets and cook meals, and their portability enables men to fish in nearby waters. They further protect villagers at night when tigers and poisonous snakes are most prevalent. However, hundreds of families still remain in the dark.

During this time of crisis and natural disaster, solar lanterns provide those most marginalised with hope. People living without electricity don't just want to see in the dark, they want to live in the light as others do. **Help us continue to light up the homes and lives of struggling Sundarbans families.**

BY MAIL:
complete this form
Mail to the address below

ONLINE:
www.mwia.org.au
The quickest & easiest way

BY PHONE:
03 9813 4023
Pay via Credit Card

What your gift could provide:



will produce and deliver one
SOLAR LANTERN

\$150



will train 20 women **SOLAR EDUCATORS**

\$500



will lease the **SOLAR PRODUCTION CENTRE** for one year

\$750



will bring light to **10 FAMILIES**

\$1500

Title	Full Name		
Address		State	Postcode
Phone	Mobile	Email	
☐ I wish to receive future correspondence by email. If selecting this option please remember to add us to your address book!			
I wish to donate ☐ \$150 ☐ \$500 ☐ \$750 ☐ \$1500 ☐ Other \$ _____			
I would like to make a recurring monthly gift of \$ _____		Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible	
CHEQUE: ☐ My cheque/money is enclosed - Please make payable to MWIA			
CREDIT CARD: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard			
		Expiry date	/
Cardholder's name		Signature	Date: /

SEND TO: Mary Ward International Australia, PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122

- ☐ I don't require a receipt and would like to receive an Annual Tax Statement instead
- ☐ I would like to receive information about leaving a gift in my Will
- ☐ I would like my gift to remain anonymous
- ☐ I would like to meet with an MWIA representative

2022_SS_MAG_04

Should the total number of donations exceed our Indian project financial goal, donations will be redirected to support the ongoing development work of other project partners.

Privacy: The information you provide is confidential and will be used to process donations, issue tax receipts, acknowledge your support and provide you with news and information. Our privacy policy is available at www.mwia.org.au/privacy-policy and contains information on how you can correct your personal information and who we disclose your personal information to and how to lodge a complaint. If you wish to limit the amount of communication material you receive from MWIA please call us:

03 9813 4023 or write to us: PO Box 4082, Auburn South, VIC 3122. Thank you.

ABN: 66 701 240 336

**Thank you
for your
generous
donation!**