

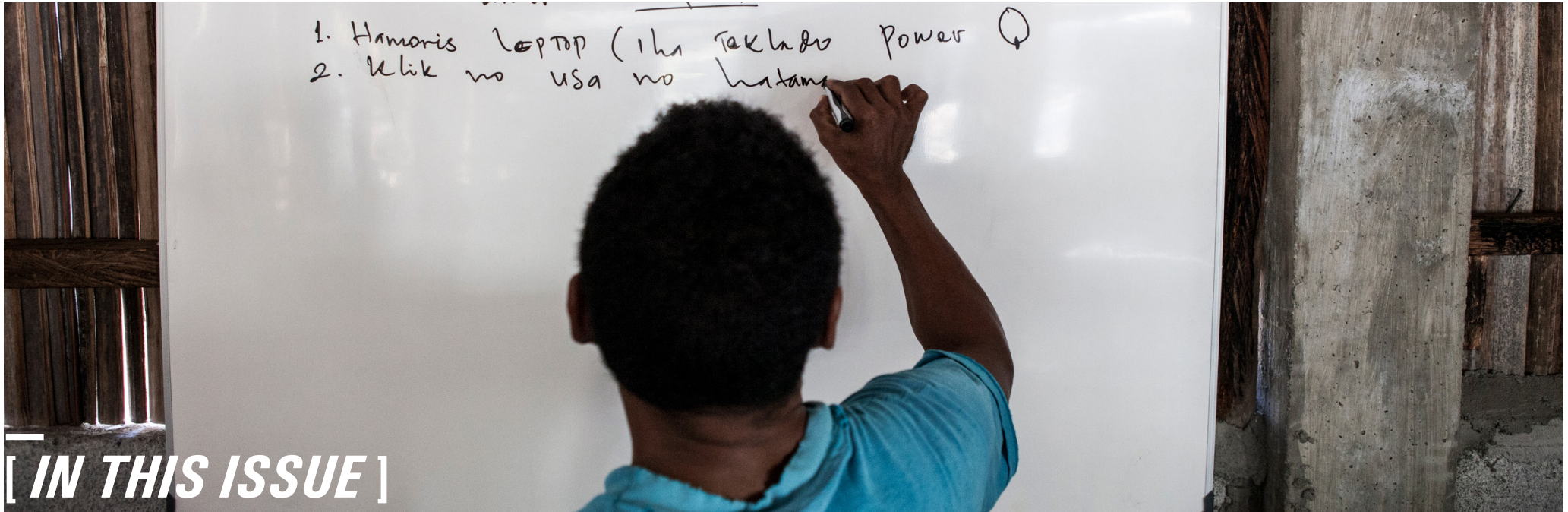
# [ SOLIDARITY MATTERS 2018 THIRD QUARTER ]



AUSTRALIAN  
**Marist**  
SOLIDARITY  
working in partnership for change

[ Senior high school students studying outside the Marist Brothers school in P. Udayapatti ] Photo credits: Conor Ashleigh





## [ IN THIS ISSUE ]

**Welcome to the third quarter edition of Solidarity Matters for 2018 which reflects on our midyear appeal as well as horizons for the rest of 2018.**

In this edition:

**1. From the CEO's Desk**

Acting CEO Ashley Bulgarelli discusses our growth over the past eight years.

**2. Feature Story - Balay Banaag, a supported Marist Sisters Project**

Balay Banaag is a home for the female children of women in prostitution.

**3. The future of St Joseph's Tenaru**

St Joseph's School Tenaru is embarking on an ambitious plan to renew school infrastructure, some of which has remained untouched since the late 1940's when the school was opened.

**4. AMS midyear appeal wrap-up**

Thanks to all our generous supporters and partners who got behind our 2018 midyear appeal to support St Marcellin School in Bangladesh and KATILOSA in the Baucau District of Timor-Leste.

**5. Meet Maria from Timor-Leste**

Maria is 14 years old and a beneficiary of KATILOSA and their community-based rehabilitation program.

**6. Events**

Keep up to date with AMS's upcoming events.



***Acting CEO Ashley Bulgarelli discusses our growth over the past eight years.***

Australian Marist Solidarity has grown remarkably over the past eight years. From our humble beginnings operating out of a repurposed garage, we are now engaged with projects in 24 countries across Asia, the Pacific and Africa, and distributed over \$2.1 million in funding in 2017. Br Allen Sherry has been the driving force as CEO over this period and is now taking a much-deserved period of professional enrichment leave.

A hallmark of our work in 2018 is our array of project partners. This was showcased at our recent Mid-Year Gatherings where in Adelaide and Melbourne, we discussed the work of KATILOSA – a local NGO providing disability support services in the Baucau District of Timor-Leste. KATILOSA has been partnered with AMS for over ten years and through your generosity, we will be able to extend our support of their life-changing projects.

These partnerships are also branching out into the wider Marist family. AMS manages the Marist Fathers international development projects, and we are now engaged with a number of projects of the Marist Sisters and Marist Missionary Sisters across the

region. One such project is Balay Banaag, a home for the female children of women in prostitution in the Philippines, administered by the Marist Sisters. This edition of Solidarity Matters touches more on this transformational project.

On the horizon we are already looking towards our annual Christmas Gatherings to be held in Brisbane and Melbourne in November. Date claimers are provided in the events section, and we look forward to welcoming new and familiar faces as we showcase our impact in the Pacific.

Yours gratefully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Bulgarelli".

Ashley Bulgarelli  
Projects & Partnerships Coordinator  
Acting Chief Executive Officer  
Australian Marist Solidarity



***A residential centre that provides care and support for the female children of women in prostitution.***

Balay Banaag is a Marist Sisters project. AMS works in partnership with all the Marist congregations throughout Asia and the Pacific as we aim to walk together as a global family to eradicate poverty.

Balay Banaag is located in Davao City and has been in operation since 2010. Balay Banaag is a residential centre that provides care and support for the female children of women in prostitution. There are currently ten girls in the care of Balay Banaag aged between 6 and 18 years old. Balay Banaag creates a nurturing environment so that these children can reach their potential and not fall prey to human traffickers.

Balay Banaag undertakes four key activities that contribute to strengthen the rights and future of these children:

1. Facilitate formal elementary and high school education;
2. Provide psychosocial counselling and values formation;
3. Conduct skills training for the Balay Banaag children and those in the community; and

4. Conduct parenting classrooms in the community.

The Marist Sisters and lay staff implementing this program are qualified social workers and counsellors and have vast experience working with vulnerable children. Through the support of the project, Balay Banaag hopes to also engage with the mothers of the children to build their capacity so that they can one day offer quality care to their child.





**[ THE FUTURE OF ST JOSEPH'S SCHOOL TENARU ]**  
 PICTURE OF A STAFF HOUSE MID BUILD

***Access to education for the youth of the Solomon Islands can be problematic due to most of the country's population of over 600,000 being widely dispersed in small villages.***

St Joseph's School Tenaru is located outside of the capital city of Honiara. St Joseph's School Tenaru was established in the late 1940s as a boys' school, becoming co- educational in 1972 and supports more than 522 students, 33 Staff (teaching and non- teaching) and the surrounding community. St Joseph's is one of only seven co-educational catholic schools in the country.

The school is situated in a low-lying area which frequently floods after heavy rain. As a result, during extreme wet seasons, schooling is interrupted as the flooding endangers the students, staff and members of the local community.

A severe flood in 2014 damaged all the staff houses on site. In the Solomon Islands it is necessary to offer accommodation for staff to attract quality teachers to schools located outside of the main cities. AMS has been working in partnership with St Joseph's school to design and construct new staff houses over a period of time, which each house being raised on stilts to future proof the buildings. The first two houses are now under construction and will provide vital accommodation to teachers.

In another exciting development the school has also nearly completed the development of a new administration building for teachers and staff. The new administration building means that the school can nurture and produce high quality teachers which is then translated to an enhanced educational experience for the students. This is part of a larger redevelopment plan for St Joseph's which includes new classrooms, upgraded dormitories and improved water storage and supply.





***Thanks to all our generous supporters and partners who got behind our 2018 midyear appeal.***

The 2018 midyear appeal focused on our key projects such as the first Marist School in Bangladesh and our partnership with a local Timorese NGO, Klibur Aleizadus Timor Loro Sa'e (KATILOSA) working with young people with disabilities.

St Marcellin School in Giasnogor, Bangladesh opened in January 2017 and is providing secondary education to 192 grade six and seven children. Each year until 2021, the school will add a new year level until grade 10 and a maximum capacity of 480 students is achieved. This will include boarding facilities for 90 girls and 90 boys. The purpose of St Marcellin School is to provide free education and boarding to tea garden children that enables them to break the cycle of poverty and rise above the bonded life that they were born into. Funds raised from the midyear appeal allocated to St Marcellin School will help to continue infrastructure improvements on the site

Since 2000, a local organisation known as KATILOSA has worked to improve the lives of children, youth and adults with disabilities. Activities include early detection and intervention, community-based rehabilitation, physiotherapy, skills training and inclusive education in village schools. More than 131 families are currently being supported by KATILOSA and midyear appeal funds allocated to this project will enable KATILOSA to continue providing their crucial services to young people with a disability.

Gatherings across Melbourne, Sydney, Adelaide and Brisbane saw over 200 people come together in solidarity for these projects, reinforcing the critical need for education and educational services, particularly for vulnerable young people. St Marcellin School and KATILOSA each impact hundreds of young lives every year.

AMS is committed to supporting these types of programs because they are crucial to improving community capacity for change in developing countries through Asia and the Pacific Islands.



**[ MEET MARIA FROM TIMOR-LESTE ]**  
PICTURE OF MARIA AND HER CLASS

***Support for the mid-year appeal is helping children like Maria gain access to education.***

“Maria” is 14 and is the seventh of nine children. Her parents were farmers and died while she was very young and they came from a small village in Buibau.

Maria was not born with a disability. At age three she became ill with a very high fever. She was treated at the local hospital and discharged while still unable to walk. KATILOSA staff discovered her situation nine months later. Until then, Maria was confined to her family home due to the stigma that disability brings in East Timorese culture.

KATILOSA provided rehabilitation services, a community of friends and a support network to both Maria and her family. While Maria still struggles she continues to increase her independence. She is now able to walk, bathe, dress herself and go to school. Maria is now in fifth grade and enjoys the opportunity to learn and play with her peers.

The change in Maria’s circumstances would not have been possible without the crucial work of KATILOSA and the support of Australian donors. Maria and her family are forever grateful.



# [ UPCOMING EVENTS ]



**AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY**  
*Christmas Gathering*



**Save the date**

**Marist Centre Brisbane**  
Monday November 5th, 5:30-7:30PM

[www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au)

## **AMS 2018 CHRISTMAS GATHERING BRISBANE**

**Location: Marist Centre Brisbane**

**Date: Monday November 5th, 2018**

**Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**



**AUSTRALIAN MARIST SOLIDARITY**  
*Christmas Gathering*



**Save the date**

**Marcellin College Bulleen**  
Sunday November 18th, 5:30-7:30PM

**NEW  
VENUE**

[www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au](http://www.australianmaristsolidarity.com.au)

## **AMS 2018 CHRISTMAS GATHERING MELBOURNE**

**Location: Marcellin College Bulleen**

**Date: Sunday November 18th, 2018**

**Time: 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm**