

SOLIDARITY MATTERS



Autumn 2022

2022

Schools Campaign Update



Who we are

Australian Marist Solidarity (AMS) works to ensure that all young people have access to educational opportunities.

We believe education has the power to eradicate poverty. With your help, we support grassroots movements run by local people, by empowering them to make a change in their community.

Working across Asia and the Pacific, our projects focus on providing access to education for vulnerable young people, building facilities for the future to ensure safe spaces for learning, and investing in resilience and readiness to help young people who need a little extra support to thrive in learning environments.

Together, we transform the lives of young people by raising awareness of the power of education, and the funds that make it possible. Together, we bring hope.



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Got a story?

We'd love to share it with our supporters! Please send it to us at ams@marists.org.au



Thanks to Conor Ashleigh for all the wonderful images of his that we use throughout each issue.



From the CEO



Dear friends

Welcome to our first issue of 2022 – and happy 150 years of Marist education in Australia! We hope it's a fantastic one for you all.

We've been off to a flying start in our office – I've returned from parental leave (huge thanks to our Business Manager Deirdre Looney for acting in the role during my absence); we've secured funding for new projects; and we officially launched our 2022 Schools Campaign Kit.

Our Schools campaign will again focus on supporting education in Timor-Leste, one of Australia's closest neighbours. Timor-Leste was also the focus of last year's campaign, but there is so much work to do there we are sticking with it for another year!

There's loads of new material within this kit – inspiring spiritual resources; stimulating learning activities; creative fundraising ideas; and delicious recipes (see page 4). For the first time, we've also included a School Ambassador Program. This issue contains all the details, as well as a new fundraising initiative designed around Champagnat Day celebrations.

I'd also like to extend a huge thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal – Give the gift of care. Because of your generosity, we raised \$31,000 for AMS projects. We'll be in touch with everyone who contributed soon with updates on the impact of their support.

Yours in solidarity.

Bec



Staff profile



This issue we'd like to introduce you to our Communications & Marketing Manager, Debra Hudson.

Deb's been in the team for more than a year now. She's new to the charity sector and joined AMS after working in publishing and corporate communications for more than 20 years in Australia, Asia, and Europe.

In her AMS role, Deb coordinates the development and implementation of the AMS communication strategy, with a focus on telling the story of projects and our community partners. This includes preparing Solidarity Matters, the Annual Report, school materials, website content and community engagement resources.

Deb loves building connections with our community – please reach out to her if you need assistance with content for your networks: ams.communication@marists.org.au

Deb is married with three amazing sons, a sweet Spoodle called Bertie Beetle, and two lazy cats. On days off, the whole family (minus the cats – told you they were lazy) enjoy hiking around the Maleny area in the Sunshine Coast hinterland.

A keen maker, Deb recently help set up a charity craft group in her local area in Brisbane that creates and buys blankets, quilts, clothing, and books for young people in need and children in foster care.



2022 School Campaign: Dignity for All

One of our favourite tasks of the year comes early – putting together our annual schools campaign. So, you can imagine how satisfying it felt for us when we officially launched it in the first week of Term 1.

It felt even more rewarding knowing that our campaign will contribute to Marist education in Timor-Leste, one of our closest neighbours.

Timor-Leste was also the focus of last year's school campaign, but there is such a high level of need and so much work to be done that we are staying with a spotlight on Timor-Leste for another year.

There are loads of fresh materials within this kit – inspiring spiritual resources; stimulating learning activities; creative fundraising ideas; and delicious recipes. It can all be found on our website at www.australianmarist.org.au





Exciting new school fundraising



One of the new aspects of this year's kit is the launch of an exciting new digital fundraising campaign for schools for Champagnat Day activities.

The virtual "Day in the Life" campaign will challenge Australian students to immerse themselves in a typical school day in Timor-Leste.

As part of the celebration of 150 years of Marist Education, we are hoping to raise \$150,000 to transform the education of students in Timor-Leste.

Focused around Champagnat Day, 6 June 2022, students and teachers are invited to jump online and take part in AMS's Virtual Day in Life of a student in Timor-Leste.

We may not be able to travel overseas to visit and learn from students in Timor-Leste, but we are challenging Australian students to transport themselves to Timor virtually. Using the fun and personalised fundraising page, students will be able to raise funds while experiencing a usual school day in Timor-Leste.

Students and teachers will need to complete one or all of these activities:

- Walk to and from school (where possible) as many students in Timor-Leste often live in rural areas and have to walk to access education
- Learn the local language, Tetum. This can be done by using our prepared worksheets created in collaboration with students in Timor-Leste
- Bake a delicious Timorese custard tart or try a traditional chicken curry, following the instructions using our recipe sheet.
- Attend a virtual interactive assembly with students in Timor-

Leste, which offers an opportunity to talk with student peers in Timor-Leste, share experiences, and learn.

We will share more information during our upcoming teacher and student briefing events, as well as sending details to schools directly from April.



AROUND THE SCHOOLS

Student Ambassador Program



Another new feature of our school campaign this year is the launch of our School Ambassador Kit. Student ambassadors will be AMS representatives at schools: they will educate their peers about AMS and our work and take the lead in organising fundraising activities.

This is something new from AMS and could be used alongside schools' existing strategies, such as having your school leaders, MYM groups and/or social justice clubs championing our AMS activities. However, schools might also wish to explicitly identify two students who can lead AMS engagement and whom we can provide more exciting content and support to over the year. Please note we'll always include the identified school staff member on any direct communication with these students.

With our ambassadors' help, we will continue to raise funds and awareness for AMS and the incredible projects we support.

There are many benefits to signing up for this program, including meeting and working with other Marist school students, gaining new skills in event planning, fundraising and the charity sector, growing leadership skills, and most importantly, knowing that your support is helping vulnerable young people to achieve their education dreams.

Please contact us at ams.communication@marists.org.au for more information.



AROUND THE SCHOOLS

2021 Christmas Appeal



Thank you to everyone who supported our Christmas Appeal – Give the gift of care. Because of your generosity, we raised \$31,000 for AMS projects. You have helped us change lives.

We'd like to give a special shout out to our school supporters! We are hugely appreciative of the schools who generously donated to our Christmas campaign: Marist College Emerald, Mount Carmel College, John Therry Catholic High School, Marist College Bulleen, Mount Maria College Mitchelton and Trinity College Beenleigh. Thank you so much.



You have helped us change lives!

AUTUMN RECIPE

Suman nga Karland

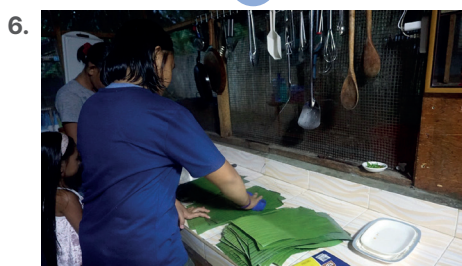
We are delighted to share this traditional recipe with you, as made by our project partners at Balay Banaag, Philippines.

Ingredients

- 1 1/2 cups grated karland (taro)
- 3/4 cup brown sugar
- 1 cup grated fresh coconut mixed with a little water OR 1 cup coconut milk
- Banana leaves. Note: If banana leaves are not available, use foil.

Method

1. Grate the karlang (taro).
2. Add brown sugar.
3. Pour the coconut milk on the grated karlang. Mix it thoroughly.
4. Boil for 5 minutes.
5. Set aside for 30 minutes to let it dry and cool down.
6. Cut banana leaves into paper size and wipe clean.
7. Put 1 or 2 tablespoons of mixed karlang into the banana leaves and make it into suman wraps
8. Steam for 1 hour.



PROJECT UPDATES

Balay Banaag | Philippines

Play-based learning - we love this strategy Sister Lilibeth and her team at the Balay Banaag project in the Philippines have put in place to combat the effects of the pandemic. Some students haven't seen their parents and guardians in person for almost two years - these play-based activities have certainly helped to put a smile on their faces.

Other learning initiatives used by Balay Banaag include cooking classes. Please see page 8 for their delicious recipe for Suman, along with photos of the students cooking.



Operation Rainbow | India

Our Operation Rainbow project was able to celebrate the Pongal Harvest Festival in January with a simple ceremony, despite COVID lockdowns. This included distributing free clothes and food supplies to all the families. Details and a photograph even made the local newspaper! Well done to Br Suresh and team.



St Teresinhas, Quelicai | Timor-Leste



Despite some challenging weather, building work is progressing well at St Teresinha's in Quelicai, Timor-Leste. We can't wait to see the local students in their new school soon!

Special thanks to Assumption College, Kilmore, Marist College Ashgrove, Galen Catholic College, Catholic College Sale, FMSI (Marist International Solidarity Foundation) and KMW (Kindermissionwerk) for their key support.

KATILOSA | Timor-Leste

KATILOSA is kicking goals! The project's community-based rehabilitation and inclusive education program for children and young adults with a disability in Baucau, just started offering computer classes. Already, there are 29 participants.



Ponta Leste | Timor-Leste



Huge congratulations to the students of the Children and Youth Centre, Ponta Leste, Timor-Leste upon their recent graduation.

The AMS-supported centre provides services and extra-curriculum classes in the Baucau area. Due to lockdowns, ceremonies haven't been held for two years, so it was a very happy day indeed when graduates from 2020 and 2021 were presented with their certificates.

A bonus was that families were also able to attend.

Chetana Tribal Boy's Hostel | India

Thank You! We just received this lovely message from Br Jiji in India, who has asked us to share with AMS supporters: *"On behalf of the Brothers, staff and students at Chetana Tribal Boy's Hostel at Talit, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the AMS staff, benefactors and well wishers for your support and partnership with us. The invaluable support of the Australian Marist Solidarity for Chetana Tribal Boys' Hostel came as a blessing and a light shining brightly amid darkness of pandemic. We were able to reach out to our children and their families and express our solidarity with them through our presence and necessary assistance."*



PROJECT UPDATES

St Raphael Elementary School | Bougainville

We were so happy to receive these images from St Raphael Elementary school, Bougainville. New classrooms have just been completed and were blessed and opened by Fr Thomasi Sili SM Superior of Marist Community in Buin. This is wonderful news for primary education in that part of Bougainville, making it available for more children.



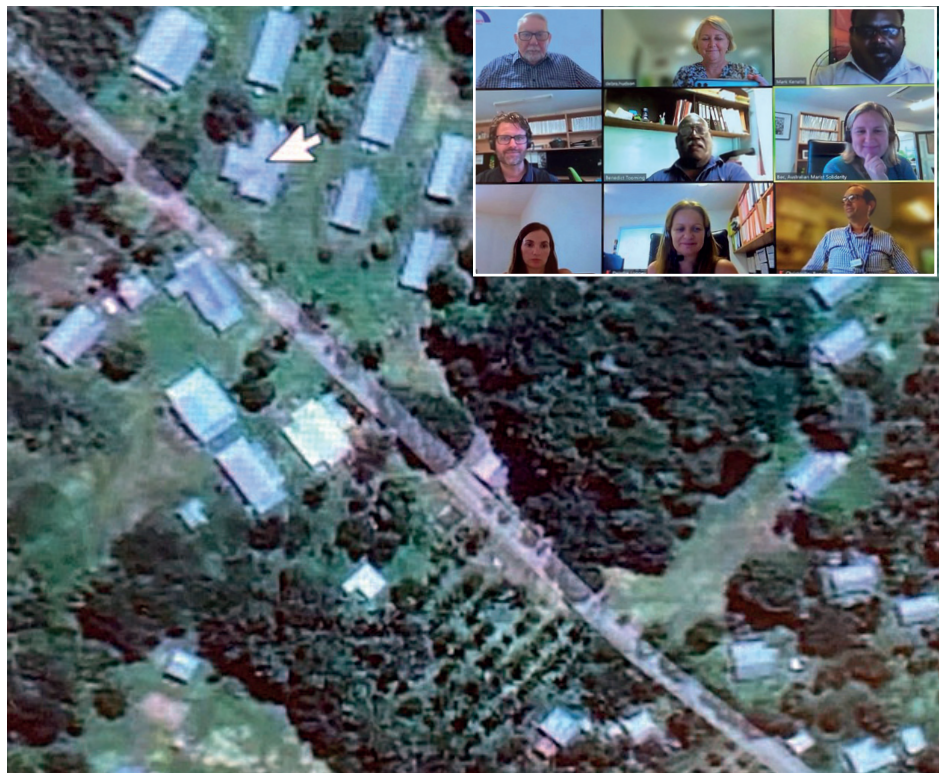
St Josephs College | Bougainville

The AMS team recently enjoyed a virtual tour of the planned building site of the extension of St Joseph's College, Mabiri. The informative online event featured details from Br Chris Wills in Sydney and Br Mark Kenatsi and Benedict Tooming from Mabiri.

The extension of St Joseph's College to provide full high school education was the focus of our successful Let Children Learn Appeal last year.

Thanks to our generous supporters, building will soon start on senior school facilities and accommodation.

This is much needed in Bougainville, where just one in four students has access to a complete high school education due to lack of infrastructure.



GOVERNANCE

Board update

The **AMS Board and its Sub Committees** met for an inaugural meeting on Friday 11th March at the Marist Centre Brisbane. The group discussed the new AMS Strategic Plan 2022-2024, progressed a full agenda of business in Committee meetings and then spent some time together in formation, reflecting on our shared Marist identity and the 2022 theme 'Known and Loved: Dignity for All'. AMS Directors then also met with our **company members**, the Provincial Council of the Marist Brothers in Australia for a positive and constructive discussion about the new strategic plan. The highlight however was hearing from and speaking with five of our project partners in a shared session at the end of the day and everyone left

inspired and energised for the work ahead.

The Board then continued together for their **annual retreat**, progressing their regular business but also taking time for longer strategic discussions. There were fruitful conversations about strengthening diversity and inclusion representation in the organisation, checking in with best-practice governance standards and some wonderful sessions on Marist Leadership, led by Brother Tony Leon.

The Board has approved 2021 Management Accounts which are now with the auditor for the annual **audit** and will be shared when AMS publishes its Annual Report in May. It monitored progress against the **2022 budget**, which remains on

track, with a potential increase in funds raised and sent to projects due to unanticipated project proposals and funding. Work has been done to make the **AMS Risk Register** more concise and this was welcomed as effective and more efficient. AMS Directors **welcomed back the CEO, Bec Bromhead**, from her parental leave and **thanked Deirdre Looney** for her work during this period. They also **noted their thanks to Dr Frank Malloy** for his significant contribution as an AMS Director over a number of years. Dr Malloy retired from the Board in December but will remain a key AMS partner in his role as the Executive Director of Marist Schools Australia and the Executive Officer for the Marist Association.

Operations update

Our annual **Teacher and Student Briefings** are just around the corner - see page 4 for more details and [register now](#) so you don't miss out!

Two large projects are currently in the final stages with construction at St Tereziha's in Timor-Leste and Our Lady Queen of Martyrs in the Solomon Islands due to be completed in March/April 2022.

The AMS team is preparing its **inaugural Partner Forum** for late March. While AMS engages regularly with project partners on a 1:1 basis, the team is looking forward to bringing partners together to share key updates and provide the opportunity for networking and collaboration between similar organisations.

The **2022 Schools Campaign** will retain a focus on learning about Timor-Leste and supporting the work of the Marist Foundation Timor-Leste in providing access to education for vulnerable young people in the country. This aligns with the Marist Schools Australia (MSA) fundraising focus on this project for the 150

year celebrations. A 2022 Schools Campaign Kit has been shared with all our schools and a dedicated digital fundraising platform is being established to engage students and school communities with these themes in exciting new ways for Champagnat Day and 150 years celebrations in June.

A **School Ambassador Kit** has been soft-launched for use in partner schools. Work will continue on this initiative with a goal for high take up in our schools in 2023, creating a strong and connected group of advocates for AMS work and partners in our school communities.

Plans are underway for **AMS Community Events** mid year in Sydney (1 June) and Adelaide (15 June). **Keep an eye on our events page** to register and join us!

Anna Mosbauer, our Partnerships and Fundraising Manager, will be taking parental leave from mid April. We wish Anna and her family all the best for this exciting period. AMS is currently finalising recruitment of a part-time Fundraising Officer to

continue coordinating fundraising appeals, events and activities during Anna's leave.

Work continues for our regular **policy reviews** and compliance work. In particular AMS is in the midst of its three-yearly accreditation assessment with the **Australian Council for International Development (ACFID)**, which is like our peak body. This is a major piece of work but ensures that we are demonstrating best practice in our standards and operations and that our supporters can be sure of the quality of our organisation and work.

A special shout out to our wonderful **volunteers** Kate, Leanne, Rachael, Hannah and Lorraine who contribute so much to our team and work. We are also looking forward to welcoming a new database volunteer and finance volunteer soon. If anyone out there has fantastic graphic design or communication skills and would like to volunteer with AMS, please let us know as there is always lots of work to do in these areas too!

60 SECONDS WITH Br Paul Kane, AMS Board



Q. How did you come to know about/connect with AMS?

A. Having worked for many years in Marist schools, I was exposed to the Marist commitment to being at the service of, and in solidarity with, young people – those around me and those in far-off places. Initially it was MAPS (Marist Asia Pacific Solidarity) that enabled our school communities to develop a consciousness and a means to respond to young people in developing countries. Later, AMS was established with a broader mandate in facilitating development and relief.

As a regular visitor to Timor-Leste for a number of years, I came to see first-hand the amazing work, especially in education infrastructure and resources, being done with significant support from AMS.

Q. What aspect of work of AMS are you most passionate about?

A. I admire the efforts of the AMS Team to source funders and connect with partners throughout Asia and the Pacific. Connecting generous donors with communities in our region is giving expression to Marist solidarity.

Q. What is your role with AMS?

A. I am an AMS Board Director. It is a privilege to collaborate with a dedicated and focussed group of people. In recent time, we have worked, in liaison with others, to

sharpen our vision and mission and have developed some priority areas and key strategies.

Q. Why do you support AMS?

A. I support AMS because I believe in what it aims to achieve, namely, to give young people, particularly those who tend to get overlooked or are on the margins of their communities, hope and opportunities. AMS does this through partnerships with communities across the Asia-Pacific region.

Q. What is your wish for 2022?

A. To continue to see AMS facilitate the development of communities in the region who will take responsibility for their own development through the capacity that is built by AMS programmes.

WAYS TO HELP



Together, we can make a difference. Our work is only possible because of our generous donors and supporters. You can help us in whatever way is best for you.

Make a monthly donation

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Call **07 3354 0600** or donate securely at

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au

Get your school involved

Donations of \$2 or more are tax deductible.

Head to www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/learn

on how your school can help.

Keep up-to-date

Sign up to the AMS newsletter

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/sign-up-for-the-latest-news

Leave a gift in your will

If you are able, we encourage you to consider leaving a legacy that will live on.

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/partnerships/gifts-in-your-will

Workplace giving

One of the most cost effective and simple ways of making a donation.

Head to www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/partnerships/workplace-giving for more.

Get active

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, LinkedIn and Youtube, and read our updates at

www.australianmaristsolidarity.net.au/news-2

\$25 could help to contribute to a teachers salary



Your gift can transform a child's education

Your monthly gift to AMS can empower vulnerable children through education. By donating monthly, you will be helping to build sustainable facilities to ensure safe places for learning.

PLEASE DONATE TODAY

To make a cash, cheque or credit card donation, fill in this form and mail to:
Australian Marist Solidarity,
PO Box 273, Ashgrove West
QLD 4060

Make direct deposit donations to:
Australian Marist Solidarity
BSB 062 000 Account No 1628 5262
Please email the details of your donation to:
ams.accounts@marists.org.au

Donate online at:
australianmaristsolidarity.org.au
or scan the QR code to donate.



Name: _____ Address: _____

Suburb: _____ State: _____ Postcode: _____ Email: _____

Give once: ☐ Give monthly: ☐ Amount: _____

Credit card number Expiry date /

Name on card: _____ CCV

All donations over \$2 are tax deductible.

A gift in your will can leave a legacy to transform the education of future generations of young children.

Once you have remembered your loved ones, would you please consider leaving a gift in your will?

☐ **Please send me information about leaving a gift in my will to AMS.**

Connect with us to find out more.



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