



# ANNUAL REPORT

June 2006 - July 2007

[www.mackillopfoundation.org.au](http://www.mackillopfoundation.org.au)



I am pleased to present the Annual Report of The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited for the year ended 30 June 2007.

The principal purpose of the Foundation is to "provide relief with respect to poverty, suffering, misfortune, destitution and helplessness in accord with the spirit, traditions and practices of the Congregation of the Sisters of St Joseph".

The Vision the Sisters of St Joseph espouse in the 21st century is to "seek first the poorest, most neglected parts of God's vineyard".

The Foundation is challenged to respond to people who are without real choices, excluded or destitute in some way. This year the Foundation is continuing to respond to the following areas of contemporary need:

- Meeting the needs of people in rural and isolated areas.
- Providing support to people with mental illness or disabilities.
- Responding to the needs of people coming to our country without support.
- Relieving the effects of physical, emotional and spiritual distress.
- Working in partnership with Aboriginal Australians.

**Board Meetings**

There have been five meetings of the Board of Directors during the period. Board meetings are a mixture of assemblies at Mount Street, North Sydney and teleconferences. Board members are resident across Australia (Queensland, New South Wales, Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia) and teleconferences are a practical and economical form of meetings of directors.

Sr Mary Sheridan resigned from the Board of Directors in February 2007 to take a position in another Josephite Ministry. Members of the Board of Directors expressed their appreciation of the wonderful contribution Sr Mary Sheridan had given to the Foundation. Mr John Lee was appointed to the Board of Directors in August 2006.

Directors also thank the many people who quietly and humbly donate to The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited. Their prayers and support enables the Foundation to run projects that help the needy in issues of poverty, helplessness, isolation, destitution and disability.

I personally thank each Director for their contribution to The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited. I appreciate your guidance, support and charity. You are committed to the Foundation's Mission and it is a wonderful and humbling experience to work with you.

I also thank the support and trust the Congregational Leadership Team has given to Directors.

The charism and spirit that Mary MacKillop gave to us all is one of Compassion. It is in that spirit we Directors will act.

**R. P Caesar  
(Chair)**

**Vision Statement**

*Mary MacKillop responded to the needs of her time in ways that respected the human dignity of all.*

*The Mary MacKillop Foundation is responding to the needs of our time to relieve suffering and bring hope.*

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## Aboriginal Projects 2006/2007

In August 2006 and March 2007 the following projects were funded:

### Western Australia

- **Presentation of the Background History of Aboriginal Australians in East Kimberley. \$575**  
This presentation traces the various impacts since the 1850s on the lives of Aboriginal people in the East Kimberley.
- **Funding for Aboriginal Catholic Youth Ministry, Perth WA attendance of indigenous and non-indigenous students at NATSIC Conference in Alice Springs, October 2006. \$2,200**
- **Aboriginal Education Bidadanga Remote Community. \$3,000**  
Support for students traveling from Broome to Perthville NSW for Boarding school.
- **Seasons for Growth Ngalangangpum School Warmun. \$3,500**  
Training for local teachers and women in dealing with grief and trauma young people are experiencing.

### Northern Territory

- **Emergency Nutrition Programs - Nganampa Health Council. \$10,000**  
Providing financial resources for remote area health clinics to identify and help children under 5 in need of emergency nutrition.
- **Shade cloth for Homemaker Project -Amata Community. \$5,000**  
A shade cloth was erected at the Homemaker Services over the outdoor cooking and eating area. This service provides support and modeling for mothers and fathers in nutrition, nurturing and care for their children.

### South Australia

- **Funding to St Joseph's Family Care Centre to provide educational and recreational resources to children of homeless Aboriginal families. \$3410**
- **Parenting skills Program for Aboriginal Families with special needs children. Some of these families live in remote communities in the APY Lands. St Joseph's Family Care Centre will co-ordinate this program with the Department of Family and Communities SA and other agencies. \$4,950**
- **The Arabunna Going Home project with Arabunna Nulla Kari-Ku Wanga Association. \$3,000**  
This project seeks to address the poverty, dispossession and loss of identity in the regard to the Arabunna people of central and northern eastern South Australia. There is a particular focus on the loss of male pride and self respect.

### Victoria

- **Funding for a feasibility study to set up a sister-school relationship between secondary schools in Werribee, Victoria and Warnum, Western Australia.** The project aims to use technology to connect students and encourage them towards an understanding of each others culture and traditions. \$1,000

### New South Wales

- **Aboriginal Family Weekend Meetings -Kuri-ngai Partners. \$2,500**  
Disadvantaged families from Western Sydney gather for a weekend away to heal and have some relief from the everyday pressures of life.
- **Aboriginal Health Research Exchange 2007. \$5,000**  
In co-operation with The Sax Institute the Foundation is funding first hand Aboriginal participation at conferences researching distress in Aboriginal communities.

### Four Students graduated in December 2006 from:

- Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery at University of Sydney
- Bachelor of Education at ACU Brisbane
- Bachelor of your Bachelor of Laws / Commerce (Politics) at Griffith University
- Bachelor of Forensic Science at Griffith University

Funding amounted to \$56,500 for this project. This work of **The Mary MacKillop Foundation** has very great significance for the future of Aboriginal Australians and their communities. The Foundation has been greatly assisted in its Mission of The Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarships with significant funding from **The Bill and Patricia Ritchie Foundation**. This has been a long term and very rewarding partnership.

## General Projects funded in 2006

### Relieving the Effects of Physical, Emotional and Spiritual Distress

- Rallying for Ronny. Sisters of St Joseph & Peter & Carmel Kavanagh. \$4,500
- Retreat/respite for People Living with HIV/AIDS Catholic HIV/AIDS Ministry. \$1,000
- Counselling/providing life skills for very needy and distressed people. The Centre for Counselling Education & Research. \$11,000
- Girls at Risk - Breaking the Cycle & Building Resilience Mary MacKillop College. \$8,000
- Response to people in Emotional & Spiritual Distress Mary MacKillop Place. \$5,000
- Mulawa Prison Women's Support Program Sydney Centre for Religious Development. \$5,000
- Trauma Training - Josephite Community Aid Inc. \$4,000
- Equal Footing program - Corpus Christi College. \$4,100

### Meeting the Needs of People in Rural and Isolated Areas

- Managing Loss - Reaching out to distressed children undergoing loss & change in Swan Hill and Geelong - Good Grief. \$2,375
- Managing Loss - Reaching out to distressed children undergoing loss & change in Broome - Good Grief. \$2,375
- Managing Loss - Reaching out to distressed children undergoing loss & change in Hunter Valley • Good Grief. \$2,375
- Managing Loss - Reaching out to distressed children undergoing loss & change in Rockhampton Diocese - Good Grief. \$2,375

### Providing Support to People with Mental Illness of Disabilities

- Resources for Children's Support Program at St Joseph's Family Care Centre. \$2,022
- 'Caring For Linda' supporting a terminally ill woman - Sisters of St Joseph SA Inc. \$2,000
- Resources for Education for the Disabled Para Meadows S. Religious Group. \$1,500
- Relief Staffing for Mentally Ill Community Gethsemane Community Inc. \$5,000
- Providing Creative Therapies for abused children & supporting parents/carers - MacKwood Life. \$6,000

### Responding to the Needs of People Coming to Our Country without Support

- Resources to Enable Inclusion of refugee children at St Peter Chanel School. \$2,500
- More Food for Life - Asylum Seeker Welcome Centre. \$3,300
- Support & Empowerment for Sudanese Families in Sunshine at Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception Primary School. \$5,000
- English Conversation classes for Refugees - The Salvation Army. \$6,210

## Seasons for Growth Trains Companions for East Kimberley

When children are given an understanding of the reasons for grief and loss they are better able to deal with life situations in a healthier manner. Those equipped to provide such guidance are Companions trained by Seasons for Growth.

Seasons for Growth is a program reaching out to young people and adults in remote and rural areas who are isolated and often helpless in dealing with their experience of grief. The Warmun Community in the Kimberley region of WA is the latest recipient of funding from the Mary MacKillop Foundation to implement the program. Seasons for Growth held a workshop in September to train nine Companions, five of whom were Aboriginal women working in the schools of Wyndham, Kununurra and Warmun.

The workshop was led by Sr Dora Maguire rsj who found the contribution of the Aboriginal women very helpful in understanding the culture and ways of implementing the program for Aboriginal children. The participants were fully cooperative and wanted to find a way to help those suffering loss and grief.

Through Sr Dora's enthusiasm and the positive attitudes gained in the effectiveness of the program, participants are equipped with the skills to lead groups of children in the understanding of grief and loss. One school is beginning group work with students in term four. Others are planning to begin early in 2008.

*Sr Alma Cabassi rsj  
Ngalangangpum School*



## Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarships

There were five recipients of scholarships this year from the newly established Mary MacKillop Foundation scholarships. Our Foundation mentors the tertiary students and distributes funds for their education and living expenses.

### The courses that the current recipients of scholarships are studying are:

- Bachelor of Education at ACU Brisbane & ACU Strathfield
- Bachelor of Community Management at Macquarie University
- Bachelor of Law/ Bachelor of Arts in Criminology and Criminal Justice at Griffith University
- Bachelor of Medicine/ Bachelor of Surgery at University of Sydney (two students)
- Diploma of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Education at ACU Brisbane



## 'Dreaming from the Heart' - An Indigenous Youth Experience

In October 2006, twelve young people traveled from Perth to Alice Springs to attend a gathering that would have far-reaching effects, not only on their lives but on the lives of their fellow Australians.

Aged 15-17 years, the young people came from a variety of schools to attend 'Dreaming from the Heart' - the NATSIC 7th National Assembly, held in conjunction with the 20th anniversary celebrations of Pope John Paul II's visit to Alice Springs and address in 1986. The group was mainly indigenous but also comprised non-indigenous participants in the belief that Reconciliation would come about through a shared journey. Four of the students came from Irene McCormack Catholic College and some were sponsored by grants from the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

For Phil Smith, the College's Campus Ministry Coordinator, the aim of the project was to address the indigenous youth sense of displacement and loss of identity in society. The opportunity to take students

to the Alice Springs experience was invaluable in fostering community awareness of the bigger picture of indigenous, justice and Church issues.

Phil Smith was assisted by Kylie Agale from the Aboriginal Catholic Youth Ministry. Together, they accompanied the students on a journey of traditional Aboriginal and Christian ceremonies, led by Elders and religious leaders from all over Australia - music and singing forming a powerful part of the proceedings.

'Dreaming from the Heart', was a unique opportunity for all participants to experience the spiritual symbolism and reality of the gathering; the sacredness of its location, its people and its purpose. It is hoped the experience gained by the young people that was shared on their return will keep alive the spirit and vision of the Holy Father in 1986.

**Aboriginal Catholic Youth Ministry  
Perth Archdiocese**

## Refugee Soccer Development Program

The Mary MacKillop Foundation supported the UNSW Refugee Soccer Development Program (RSDP) by enabling the program to run its first coaching certification course in December 2006.

The RSDP is an innovative program seeking to assist young refugees in their immigration and integration to Australia by providing a supporting and enjoyable environment through a soccer development program. While the focus is particularly on youth, the program will contain elements designed to contribute to building community cohesion among the different refugee communities, but will also explore potential for bridging across different Australian communities.

The coaching clinic was designed specifically for youth from the refugee communities, and corresponds to two of the overall program objectives of contributing to capacity building and providing empowering activities for participants. Enabling young people to become certified coaches enables them to access new opportunities and build leadership and mentoring skills.

The Coaching clinic builds on other activities which started in the Liverpool, Parramatta, Auburn, Fairfield and Blacktown areas last year.

"Sport is increasingly being looked to as an effective way of bringing people together, to promote not only health, but social cohesion and even peace-building," said Anne Bunde-Birouste, from the School of Public Health and Community Medicine at UNSW, who started the program.

"We are thrilled with the successes the program has already achieved and are very grateful to the Mary MacKillop Foundation for its support," she said.

## Working with Aboriginal Families

In working with disadvantaged families, St Joseph's Family Care Centre in South Australia have found that Aboriginal children who are provided with material assistance to equip themselves for school are more likely to attend and participate in school life.

A project initiated by the Centre and funded by the Mary MacKillop Foundation provided educational and recreational resources to Indigenous children of homeless families. These children are often poverty stricken and arrive with few possessions. The project equipped them with a school pack consisting of school bag, stationary and hat. They were also provided with creche and after school programmes and, if needed, a compulsory uniform for high school.

The project worked in conjunction with other services and supports at the Centre. The combined impact was aimed at improving family functioning and relationship, resulting in improved feelings of self worth, breaking the cycle of welfare dependency and allowing participation in the local and wider community.

In a State where Indigenous homelessness is almost ten times higher than the overall rate, St Joseph's Family Care Centre - in the spirit of Mary MacKillop - is providing material assistance and supportive programmes to enable families to take control of their lives and make informed decisions. Their children's participation at school strengthens the family by providing structure to daily living.

**Naomi Knight  
Senior Social Worker.**



## Supporters and Workers of the Foundation

The Bill and Patricia Ritchie Foundation's great generosity has enabled The Mary MacKillop Foundation to continue the awarding and mentoring of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tertiary Scholarships Scheme. We sincerely thank the members of the Ritchie family. Their philanthropy is a humbling and rewarding experience for us all.

Directors of the Foundation, and particularly all members of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, are very grateful to the family of the late Sr Irene McCormack who was killed in Peru while faithfully living her Mission to help the needy and overcome injustice. Her brothers Alan and John McCormack are establishing and funding a Social Justice Award that will continue the spirit and ongoing benefit of their sister's life. The McCormack family has asked the Foundation to facilitate the Social Justice Award into selected secondary high schools.

Directors also thank the Victorian and Western Australian State Branches of the Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited; particularly we appreciate the role of Sister Anne Porter rsj of the Victorian Branch and Mr Laurie Mayne of the Western Australian Branch. They and their supporters are involved in organising fundraising events and ensuring that the spirit of Mary MacKillop is alive and relevant in our community.

Our annual Christmas in July event in Sydney raises substantial funds for the Foundation. The dinner and entertainment each July is eagerly anticipated by Foundation supporters. Such a great event does not happen without the very hard work of the people on the organising committee and the Directors are thankful for their wonderful efforts.

The Rocking Horse Committee has been a dedicated supporter of St Anthony's Special Pre-School at Croydon. Shirley Hay and the Committee members organise regular social functions to raise funds for this Foundation project. Directors appreciate their enthusiasm and are thankful for their assistance in raising funds.

Particularly Directors thank the Foundations Executive Secretary Mrs Jacqui Garber. Jacqui's professional commitment and loving care of the day to day operations of the Foundation is greatly appreciated and respected by Directors and the Congregational Leaders.

During the year we welcomed to our Executive Management team Mrs Pip Denhart who has eagerly and wonderfully entered the role of Marketing Manager. Pip has brought great energy and expertise to this important role. The Foundation's Marketing Strategy and Outcomes will determine the future projects we can fund.

In July 2006 we appointed Mr Sam Hardjono to the new position of part time Chief Executive Officer for the Foundation. Mr Hardjono is also the Company Secretary. Mr Hardjono's expertise in the complex financial and legislative compliance issues affecting the Foundation is appreciated and greatly benefits the Foundation.

Directors also thank the many people who quietly and generously donate to the Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited. Their prayers and support enables the Foundation to run projects that help the needy in issues of poverty, helplessness, isolation, destitution and disability.

## Financial Position and Operations

The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited is a financially viable company. The independent audit of the Foundation's financial accounts and operations reported that the Foundation met Australian Accounting Standards and Corporations' Regulations.

Directors of The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited receive in-service training to be acquainted with the role and responsibilities of directors of charities and governance issues for charities. The Mary MacKillop Foundation Limited is a Public Benevolent Institution and has Deductible Gift Recipient Status. Directors are at all times aware that the purposes and operations of the Foundation comply with Government regulations for Public Benevolent Institutions.

The investments of the Foundation are professionally managed by Goldman Sachs JBWere. For the financial year 2006-2007, the earnings and growth rate of the Foundation's managed funds were greater than both the

inflation rate and the movement of the Australian Stock Exchange "All Ordinaries Index". Goldman Sachs JBWere has assisted the Foundation in developing its Strategic Investment Plan.

The Foundation has a mature and professional process of financial operations. A formal annual budget is presented to the Board of Directors for approval. The current financial performance to budget is reviewed at each board meeting.

A Risk Management Plan has been reviewed by the Board of Directors and its implementation is managed by the Part-Time Chief Executive Officer.

The Board has also introduced a regular Self-Evaluation Review of its performance and effectiveness. This critical analysis will assist in maintaining professional standards.

**Sam Hardjono**  
CEO

## Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre Support Program

Inmates of the Silverwater Women's Correctional Centre in NSW are among the most isolated, excluded, destitute and distressed women in our society. Women of all ages and backgrounds live in total isolation with no visitors and no family communication. Self esteem is low in many women; depression is rife and basic human needs often lacking.

The Sydney Centre for Religious Development over the years has adopted the Silverwater Women's Project as its charity, run by a group of dedicated volunteers. Now, a project funded by the Mary MacKillop Foundation will actively assist the volunteers working with Silverwater's Chaplain to provide spiritual support in the form of liturgical items, music and books to assist in their ministry.

The focus of the group is to help the women get in touch with a deepening sense of God in their time of distress.

The project also provides for their basic personal needs and support of family relationships. It allows for travel and accommodation expenses for visits and court appearances, Christmas gifts for their children and birthday cards. Women who are unable to help themselves have been helped to retain and observe their customary values, traditions and cultures, addressing their social and spiritual welfare. Thanks to the Foundation's grant we have been able to relieve some of their suffering and increase their dignity.

**Pauline Ferguson rsj**  
Director.



### Summary Income and Expenses - 1 July 2006 - 30 June 2007

ITEM	AMOUNT (\$)
<b>Income</b>	
Donations Received	\$ 296,045.00
Bequests	nil
Government Grants Received	nil
Fundraising & Merchandise Income	\$ 27,786.26
Interest & Other	\$ 188,482.76
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$ 512,314.02</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Distribution to General Projects	\$ 121,005.50
Special Aboriginal Projects	\$ 33,185.00
Aboriginal & Torres Straight Islander Scholarship	\$ 58,485.60
Fundraising Expenses	\$ 21,722.98
Employment & Office Costs	\$ 65,945.57
Accounting, Insurance, Legal, Office & Other Costs	\$ 65,597.37
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$ 365,942.02</b>
<b>Surplus</b>	<b>\$ 146,372.00</b>
<b>Gain on Sale of Investment</b>	<b>\$ 400,792.00</b>
<b>TOTAL SURPLUS</b>	<b>\$ 547,164.00</b>

### What does it mean to be challenged and respond?

The Directors of the Foundation Board attended a Board Formation Day in August 2006 to deepen our understanding of what it means to serve on a Josephite Board.

The Mary MacKillop Foundation is grounded in reality. It's Mission and Challenges respect the dignity of all people and its responses move to where the needs are. This Foundation is "a fire", "an engine room", "an agent" facilitating people who want to give, and who are compassionate.

The circumstance of being poor and of being in need is not one of living in self interest.

The Mary MacKillop Foundation will break boundaries and it is the Directors' aim to bring together those who want to give and those who need.

Directors invite lay people and organisations to join with the Foundation to identify the gaps between the Mission of Christ and the reality around us. We need people with prophetic gifts who have the imagination and courage to find ways to bridge those gaps.



### ***Future Direction***

***In our roles as Directors and supporters of The Mary MacKillop Foundation we are forever challenged to espouse the Vision of the Sisters of St Joseph in the 21st Century.***

***The Foundation is blessed with a team of capable, determined and energetic Directors. We are committed to:***

- Our attention to Governance.***
- Our duty to live up to the Trust placed in us by the Congregational Leadership Team, our benefactors and those whose suffering must be relieved.***
  - Informing the wider community of what we do and how we need their assistance to live our Mission.***
- Spreading the Charism and Spirit of Mary MacKillop into the community because we will be a better community if we are successful.***