

Highways and Byways

A COMMUNITY OF SERVICE

PO Box 2075 Rangeview Vic 3132



Greetings everyone,

We are delighted to enclose with this newsletter the list of wonderful projects that have been funded through the 2019 Small Grants Program – thanks to your ongoing generosity! All funds contributing to these grants have been raised in the past year. We do not receive any government support.

This year, to mark the 75 year of the Missionary Sisters of Service, we focused our grants program in areas where the MSS have lived and worked at some stage since 1944. The 26 projects funded are across four states – 13 in Tasmania, five in New South Wales, five in South Australia and three in Queensland. It is most fitting that 13 of the projects are occurring in Tasmania, where it all began for the MSS, and where all the Sisters have lived and worked at some point in their lives.

Addressing disadvantage and marginalization through the sharing of skills across generations was the theme this year. As you can see from the list, this has resonated with small grass roots organisations who are tackling their unique problems with great community capacity, aiming to make limited funds go a long way.

We mentioned in the last newsletter that we are looking at ways to partner with organisations in longer term programs which assist marginalised people, families and communities, particularly in rural Australia. We are working with a small group from in and around Roma and will meet again on the 2nd August in Roma to progress this.

We are excited about our two John Wallis Memorial lectures coming up in Melbourne with Geraldine Doogue and Hobart with Deb Kent during the next few weeks – see opposite.

Thank you again for your support.
Liz McAloon, Executive Director



Above: Students from the Walgett Community College at the three-day Gerroa adventure celebrating their success in school retention and application.

Melbourne –
Tuesday 13th
August 2019
7.00pm at
Genazzano FCJ
College, Kew.
Contact
mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au
for further info & flyer.

COMING UP SOON!



Renowned Australian journalist and broadcaster
GERALDINE DOOGUE

will explore the unique and enduring leadership contributions by women of faith with Stancea Vichie mss, Congregational Leader of the Missionary Sisters of Service, and Zuleyha Keskin, from the Centre for Islamic Studies and Civilization

COMING UP SOON!

Hobart – Thursday 12th
Sept 2019 7.00pm at
Guilford Young
College, Hobart
Campus Chapel, 94
Barrack Street,
Contact
eva.dunn@gmail.com
for further info & flyer.

**CONTINUING THE
JOURNEY -
Charitable
engagement with
new frontiers**



DEBORAH KENT

Deborah is CEO and Principal of Jesuit College of Spirituality, Melbourne - a dedicated and experienced educational leader with a passion for education, spirituality and creative leadership.

PO Box 2075 Rangeview Vic 3132

Highways and Byways – A Community of Service continues the spirit and mission of the Missionary Sisters of Service and Fr John Wallis



Community benefits... school allows students to learn important life lessons



Students at Brauer College in Warrnambool, Victoria, are learning in a creative and inspiring environment. Bruce Miller's students get the sort of learning most adults wish they had experienced at school. The Year 7, 8 and 9 students from the Hands On Learning class at Brauer College in Warrnambool learn how to plant, build, garden, cook, manage aspects of their lives and look after the world around them.

"When we talk about jobs it's about more than the work involved. We discuss behavior, appropriate ways to speak and how to strengthen relationships with the people we work with. These things are really important in our lives," Bruce said.

Recent projects include tree planting with the local Landcare group and planting 720 blue gum trees with tree guards as part of a local timber company's regeneration plan. All this work requires safety equipment and the students are now decked out with safety glasses, ear muffs, gloves and high-viz jackets with their Hands On Learning emblem, using a grant from Highways and Byways.

"While they are in our class they have to take care of their gear and then they can keep the jacket when they leave," said Bruce the HOL coordinator. The HOL program is for students who have disengaged from mainstream school. Many go back to 'normal' classes after a two or three-year stint with HOL and others remain in the class, which is on a Wednesday and Friday.



The group of up to 20 students, mostly boys, agrees on projects together. They also maintain their 'classroom facilities', a two-story shed on the school grounds equipped with a workroom, lounge and kitchen area.

Students have also transformed the rubble around their shed into a garden with a pergola and a pizza oven. Garden beds are producing broccoli, cauliflower, berries, herbs, potatoes, peas, garlic and flowers. Excess produce is shared with the school's home economics class and the students take some home to share with their families.

"A lot of these kids have low self-esteem and have difficulty developing relationships and making decisions. But they do a fair bit of what happens here and I just guide and help them," Bruce said.

Garden heralds new beginnings for small community **Gnowangerup, Western Australia**

Gnowangerup is a small town in southern Western Australia where the tennis courts had fallen into disrepair and over the years, had become covered in rubble and a bit of an eyesore for locals. However, a series of fortunate events and a grant from Highways and Byways has changed all that.

The area has had a major five stage makeover and the rubble has been replaced with gardens creating a park-like environment in the centre of the town of less than 800 people. One part of the make-over, the Gnowangerup Vegie Patch Project, which received the Highways and Byways grant and is coordinated by Gnowangerup Community Church, grew into something more than Church secretary Cassandra Beeck thought was possible.

Continued page 3



Garden heralds new beginnings for small community ... cont.



"We managed to 'value add' because another part of the space required a landscaper to run water supply sleeves to the public walkway space. During this process our landscaper agreed to bring all the water supply pipelines to each garden bed as part of the project – for free!" Cassandra said.

Another benefit in this low rainfall area is being able to use water collected from the roofs of the nearby Church, manse, town hall and local Community Resource Centre for the vegie garden, which is now underway.

The garden beds are now ready for the second stage of the project that involves getting volunteers to form a committee and set up a structure around running the community garden.

"We had several volunteers helping to establish the space. They erected all the beds and worked to clear and prepare the site. These people are keen to work together for our community," Cassandra said.



Cassandra hopes that produce can be shared amongst volunteers and also go into meals served at the local school's breakfast club.

"This community garden has the potential to allow people with a love of gardening to come together and to build relationships with different groups, including the local Indigenous Women's Group. We want people to see this as their little patch," Cassandra said.

Walgett's class of 2018 celebrates New South Wales

Walgett Community College's class of 2018 had plenty to celebrate during a three-day adventure to the NSW coastal town of Gerroa, south of Sydney. They learned how to surf and swam in the ocean, some for the first time. Mostly, they celebrated a job well done at school.

The trip to Gerroa, nine hours from the inland town of Walgett, was part of a program by the Walgett PCYC (Police Citizens Youth Club) to encourage students to attend school. It was supported by Highways and Byways, Walgett Community College, NSW Police and Walgett Shire Council.

It was a good news story for the school that has been under the spotlight in recent years for all the wrong reasons, and the students were determined to enjoy their trip and the new experiences it offered, including the ocean waves.

The trip was part of the PCYC's REAL Anti-Truancy & School Engagement Program. In REAL students between 11 and 18 are picked up from their homes three mornings a week to participate in the fitness program run by PCYC staff and volunteers and community leaders. After a healthy breakfast all the participants are taken to school or an educational/employment program. The project addresses education disengagement and crime related issues for Indigenous youth at risk and works to develop positive relationships between the NSW Police Force and Walgett's young people.

Continued on page 4



Walgett's class of 2018 celebrates... continued



The Gerroa excursion was offered to young people, who consistently attended the REAL breakfast program throughout the year, improved and maintained attendance at school and who contributed positively to the community.

And it proved a popular reward with students.

The Gerroa accommodation featured a swimming pool, camp kitchen, jumping pillow, children's playground and a fishing spot nearby. Students also pushed way of their comfort zone at a waterpark slide called, The Perfect Storm, which claims to be the tallest, longest, fastest water ride ever built.

Sewing seeds of hope for employees **Kerang, Victoria**

Participants in the Seed to Plate project were excited before the first seedling was even sewn. The Highways and Byways grant to help get the Seed to Plate project started made the participants, all with an intellectual disability, feel the wider community supported them and believed in the project.

Now they have something concrete to celebrate. They have six large planter boxes filled with soil and are tending a thriving fruit and vegie garden. They have a propagation table for growing their plants from seeds and a work place to call their own. As well they purchased an iPad to record their activities, research plants and find recipes to use their produce.

The project in Kerang, a small town in country Victoria, is run by Vivid, a disability Service Provider, with nine sites across northern Victoria. Vivid's Emily Umbers said the Kerang project includes work such as car cleaning, painting surveyor pegs and the nursery.

"The grant allowed us to give the nursery a big make over! It is now the base of the Seed to Plate area, growing fresh produce that are used in a variety of ways at the site," Emily said. "There were benefits beyond Kerang because the planter boxes were made by Vivid Work Crew (pictured) in Swan Hill, providing a secondary benefit of employment to adults with disability in that town."

Bernadette Rich, one of Vivid's supported employees, loves the new nursery. "We've got a new vegie garden. It's organic, with no chemicals. We get to plant what we want. The plants are coming up. The new boxes mean we don't have to bend down. And the customers don't have to bend down either.

Emily said the next stage of the project would be cooking in facilities currently under development.

"This project helps the participants develop really important life skills and self esteem." When asked how has this changed the work she does at Kerang and what she is learning, Vivid employee Bernadette said:

"It's more exciting, more fun. Because we actually learn about what we're doing in the nursery. The way we plant different plants – and learn about particular plants, and how it grows.

And we're learning about new designs and plants that we've never done before which was interesting."



Highways & Byways



Volume 52 no. 2 *Missionary Sisters of Service Newsletter*
August 2019

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Dear Mother, Dear Father launched – the letters of Fr John Wallis, founder of the MSS

We're excited to announce that only one week after our 75-year anniversary celebrations on 8 July, *Dear Mother Dear Father Letters Home from John Corcoran Wallis 1927 - 1949* by Bernadette Wallis MSS was published! This inspiring book contains a series of letters written by Fr John Wallis to his parents and family, which give us a rare and precious insight into his life as a seminarian and young priest. They also reflect a growing development of his piety and spirituality, where seeds were sown that would develop into his deep concern for people, especially the poor and the marginalised in rural and outback areas of Australia. The letters have been arranged into 10 chapters, with a general introduction about that period in Fr John's life. Each letter is contextualized by commentary by Bernadette and then each chapter features a reflection written by an eminent Australian who considers John's character and spiritual growth as well as applying his insights into contemporary Church life in Australia. Cost: \$44.95 plus \$12 postage for one book (profits from MSS sales go to Highways and Byways). To order your copy, email mssadmin@missionarysisters.org.au

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR 2019

Tuesday 13 August: John Wallis Memorial Lecture: Women of Faith Leading the Way with Geraldine Doogue, Stancea Vichie and Zuleyha Keskin; and Commemorative Cookbook Launch, Genazzano FCJ College, 301 Cotham Road, Kew, Victoria, at 7pm.

Thursday 22 August: MSS Consultations, Melbourne, 9am-3.15pm

(a gathering of MSS with invited colleagues and friends to reflect on the direction of the mission in context of today's world).

Thursday 12 September: John Wallis Memorial Lecture with guest speaker Deb Kent; and Commemorative Cookbook Launch, Guilford Young College, 94 Barrack St, Hobart, Tasmania, at 7pm.

Saturday 14 September: MSS Consultations, Hobart.

Wednesday 23 to Sunday 27 October: MSS Chapter /Assembly, Holy Cross, Templestowe, Victoria. This is a four-yearly gathering of MSS with colleagues and friends, to set directions in mission and governance.

Saturday 12 October: Yarck To Yea Walk, Ride or Run, Victoria.

Saturday 26 October: Graveside rituals, Springvale Botanical Cemetery, Victoria, 3pm (families and friends of Sisters buried in the cemetery are welcome).

Thurs 21 November–Sun 24 November: Walking Pilgrimage, Bruny Island Tasmania (bookings closed).

Monday 25 November: Graveside rituals, Cornelian Bay Cemetery, Hobart, 11am (families and friends of Sisters buried in the cemetery are welcome to attend).

DEAR MOTHER, DEAR FATHER BOOK LAUNCHES

Wednesday 2nd October 2019: Yarra Theological Union Study Centre, 100 Albion Road (enter from Bedford Street), Box Hill, Victoria, 6.00pm.

Sunday 17 November 2019: Church of Apostles Pastoral Centre, Launceston. Launched by Fr David Ranson after 10.30am Mass.

Tuesday 19 November 2019: St Mary's Cathedral (Dome Room), Hobart, 7pm. To be launched by Archbishop Adrian Doyle.

Wednesday 11 March 2020: Holy Spirit Seminary, Banyo, Brisbane. To be launched by Fr Orm Rush.

Toowoomba, Sydney, Adelaide and Yea, Victoria: 2020 (stay tuned!)

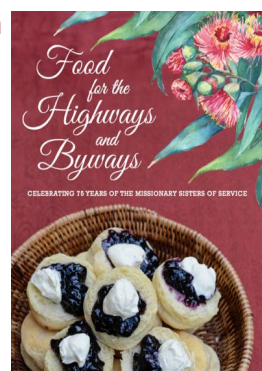
Cookbook launches in Toolangi, Victoria

A large gathering of young and old embraced the cool, mountain climate of Toolangi in country Victoria (not far from Fr John's home in Yea), to join us in launching our 75-year commemorative cookbook, *Food for the Highways and Byways*.

We're grateful to Marcus Godinho, CEO of FareShare Australia, our special guest who officially launched the book. FareShare, is an organization that annually provides two million freshly cooked meals to homeless people in Melbourne and Brisbane. It also sent truckloads of meals to the Townsville area during their flood disaster earlier this year.

Our cookbook photographer and project manager, Fiona Basile, conducted an entertaining Q and A with Marcus, which revealed Marcus has a special connection with the Pea and Coriander Soup recipe. We've organised a second print run of the cookbook having already gone through our original 500 copies! This is wonderful, so thank you to everyone who has purchased a copy. Read the full launch story and view photos on our website:

www.missionarysisters.org.au/news



Celebrations abound for our 75-year Anniversary

2019 has been such a joyful time for the Missionary Sisters of Service and our friends and colleagues. We've really been making the most of our 75-year anniversary celebrations with a range of special events marking this wonderful milestone across the various locations where we live.

In Melbourne, Stancea Vichie and our cookbook project manager and photographer, Fiona Basile, have conducted a number of interviews on community radio, as well as presenting at the local Knox Rotary Club in Melbourne.

We've also enjoyed sharing our news, events and photos on our Facebook site, on Twitter and on our website (see details below). We're grateful for all the coverage and support we've been getting from *CathNews*, which distributes news across the country and from Catholic Social Services Victoria.



Most recently, we celebrated our 75-year anniversary on the actual date, 8 July 2019. Joy and gratitude truly marked our anniversary celebrations. In Melbourne we celebrated a special mass with Archbishop Peter Comensoli together with parish priest Fr Terry Bowman MSC at St Thomas the Apostle church in Blackburn, Victoria. A big thank you to Fr Terry and the parish for hosting our special event. More than 100 people gathered in the parish hall for refreshments following the mass.

We were so heartened by the words of Archbishop Peter during his homily (applause broke out among the congregation following the words of thanks that he spoke). He said, "Certainly this work of bringing Christ into the lives of all people, by going out to them, has been at the heart of the apostolic charism of the Missionary Sisters of Service over the past 75 years. In quite unique ways, using dare I say quite unique modes of transport, you Missionary Sisters of Service have been the travelling presence of Jesus into some of the most far flung and challenging locations in our country. You women of God have gone where others would not, and have brought the joy and the care of the gospel to people who would otherwise have never known of their dignity and worth in Jesus Christ. So thank you. Thank you."

Twelve of our Sisters were able to attend the celebrations in Melbourne, including Cheryle Thomson who travelled from Whyalla, South Australia. Anniversary celebrations took place in other locations where the sisters live – Toowoomba, Mackay and Bribie Island in Queensland and Hobart, Tasmania on 8 July.

Reflecting on our 75-year milestone, Congregational Leader, Stancea Vichie, marveled at the foresight of our order's young founder, Fr John Wallis, and the courageous women who said yes. At the anniversary celebrations, Stancea said:

I wondered what was going through the mind of the young John Wallis, the Diocesan priest, who was still young in his 30s when the order commenced in 1944. It was his dream and vision, through a woman on Bruny island, Kit Hawkins, who had challenged him in 1933 saying, 'Father, why can't we have sisters coming here in the bush? That got John thinking and 11 years later we came into being. The first four women who came together in Launceston were very mature, wise women, who left very responsible jobs in order to reach out into the deep, even at a time when World War II was still raging. They had very little in the way of economic resources, but what they did have was a great strength in the inner resources of faith, trust and courage. I'm sure there were moments of doubt on this very day, 75 years ago, wondering if they were doing the right thing or not. But they did go out into the deep, in their boats, and within six months there were two other women who had joined them.

It has been a special gift for the MSS to know our founder and also the pioneering women; to be part of this continuing story of reaching out to people on the margins. Sometimes when we were working in those rural and outback areas some people would say, 'Why on earth are you traveling 150km to see one family or two people?' But the whole essence of our spirit has always been that each and every person is important no matter who they are or where they are.

We've also been very much shaped by the land. We are extremely fortunate and grateful that we have lived and worked on the lands of so many of our First Nation's peoples in this land, across this country, from Cape York to Hobart, all down the eastern part of Australia, across three quarters of South Australia, right up to the southern part of the Northern Territory.

We are grateful to our God and to the Spirit for gifting us with this charism. It's not ours. It's been gifted to us. Our gratitude also extends to our Stewardship Council, to all who are part of Highways and Byways: A Community of Service, our new entity which will continue the work of the Sisters well into the future, and to all our wonderful staff.

There are many tens of thousands of people that we really need to thank across this country and outside of Australia as well because we have been gifted with so much hospitality on the part of so many people. So a very big thank you, from all of the MSS, for everything. Let's continue to celebrate!

Read the full story and view the photo gallery (and a special photo slideshow with narration) on our website www.missionarysisters.org.au/news. For those of you on Facebook and Twitter, we also encourage you to 'like' our Page and posts at www.facebook.com/missionarysistersserviceaus and www.twitter.com/missionarysrsau

Our 75-year Anniversary Celebrations in Melbourne



Photos from top: The Missionary Sisters, members of the Stewardship Council, MSS staff members and Highways and Byways: A Community of Service staff; Liz McAloon, Executive Officer of Highways and Byways: A Community of Service with her daughters Grace and Caitlin and husband Andrew selling our cookbook and merchandise; Cheryl Thomson MSS with the Kennedy family; Therese Healy MSS and her cousin, Kathy Cameron; Margaret Kenny MSS with her sister, Joan Kenny.

All photos courtesy Fiona Basile, www.fionabasile.com

Celebrations abound for our 75-year Anniversary



Photos rotating from top left: Stancea Vichie, Marcia McMahon, Bernadette Wallis, Therese Healy, Pat Kelly, Pat Brain and Corrie van den Bosch MSS at the launch of *Dear Mother, Dear Father* in Melbourne; MSS staff Andrea Butler and Amanda Freeman at the cookbook launch; Stancea Vichie and Fiona Basile (far right) with members of the Knox Rotary Club; Stancea Vichie being interviewed live on community radio; Bernadette Madden and Cheryl Thomson MSS and; Betty McManus MSS at the 75-year anniversary celebrations.





Highways and Byways *A Community of Service*

In the spirit of the Missionary Sisters of Service and Fr John Wallis

Small Grants Program 2019

1. Free2b Girls Group – Sewing the Seeds Neighbourhood House, Fingal, TAS, \$3,000

A weekly group for up to 20 at risk teenage girls. Run by a pool of up to six women volunteers from the local community, the program will be trialled over a year to build and improve community, social and educational engagement between teenage girls, local women and the St. Mary's community as a whole.

St Mary's is a geographically isolated and socially disadvantaged area. There are limited opportunities for intergenerational activities – girls experience boredom and lack of inclusion in community life other than sport. This is a region with high levels of youth unemployment and disengagement, and a higher than average suicide rate amongst young people. Funds will be used to engage a program co-ordinator for 30 weeks.

2. Genuine Community and Parish inclusion of Longford District Berry Farms' Overseas Workers, Kings Meadows Parish, Longford, TAS \$2,950

Members of the King Meadows Parish and the local community of Longford are seeking to provide support and hospitality to itinerant workers from Timor Leste, Vanuatu and Tonga, who comprise the Longford District Berry Farms workforce from November to May each year. The overseas workers work a six-day week, have limited opportunity to engage in any community life, and are isolated in backpacker accommodation on the farms where they work. The Kings Meadow Parish will engage the workers and their families in social and Parish activities, including them in the church's liturgical services.

Funds will be used for 150 workers to enjoy picnic meals, volunteer petrol costs and hire of porta loos for community picnics.

3. Growing Together – Thallon Community Garden Thallon Progress Association Inc, Thallon, QLD \$3,000

"Growing Together" aims to establish a community garden in Thallon that is tended by the students of Thallon State School with the assistance of older members of the Thallon Community – including members of the QCWA Branch. The Balonne Shire has been 100% drought declared since 2013. This has meant that many people on farms in the district have had to watch their vegetable gardens die.

The poor-quality bore water of the town has also precluded town residents from having their own veggie patch. The school has access to river water and the combined benefits for school and community will be fresh produce for the community to share and a general boost in community morale. Volunteer labour co-ordinated by QCWA Branch will install the raised garden beds and the green house. Funds will be used for materials, plants and some garden equipment. The project will be managed by volunteers in partnership with the school.

4. Western Plains and Mitchell Small Schools Super Camp. Girilambone Public School NSW \$3,000

Funds are sought to assist in the transport costs of a camp for small, rural schools. All the students live in remote isolated communities in western NSW effected by drought conditions. Many identify as Aboriginal and all are from schools with less than four students in any year level. This camp has been going for a number of years. Schools benefitting are in remote Western NSW experiencing the ongoing effects of drought. Children as young as five are experiencing mental health issues relating to the severe drought that has gripped the region, and families are unable to participate in leisure activities due to feeding, carting water and financial concerns. 131 students from 11 different communities will travel up to 450 km to attend. Funds will be used to provide transport from outlying school communities to the camp.

5. Peak Hill Sisterhood Peak Hill Sisterhood, Peak Hill NSW, \$2,000

Peak Hill is a small community in western NSW with a population of approximately 1,000. Residents often have to travel to larger towns in the council area for services, especially social services and are generally quite isolated, with little cross generational contact. This project will reach out to all ages of women in the area. A series of four "Sisterhood" evenings will be held to increase knowledge and networks, and to build capacity and confidence especially amongst the younger women. The evenings would include music, food and guest speakers. Funds will be used to cover catering, hire of musicians and gift bags.

6. Wise Women – Out and About Program Dorset Community Association, Scottsdale, TAS, \$3,000

A community outreach program led by two qualified volunteer facilitators to connect with young women and girls in an area with no specific youth services, and where young people are disengaged and lacking opportunities. The municipality hasn't had a youth worker since 2017. The programme aims to build connections with at risk young girls and women, and to create avenues in the local neighbourhood where they can go for support and advice. Once a fortnight facilitators will travel to alternate towns in the Dorset Region. Funds will be used to contribute to fuel costs of volunteers, catering and art supplies.

7. Yoga – Bringing women Together Port Neil Progress Assoc. SA. \$2,000

Pt. Neill is a small community of less than 200 people which is suffering the long-term impacts of on-going drought in the region. This has been particularly identified as a rise in stress and anxiety amongst residents, and a lack of opportunity for people of different ages to support each other.

The Port Neill Progress Association wish to give residents strategies to manage stress and anxiety and to build resilience. A 10-week Yoga Program for women across all generations will be provided in a local community hall with creche. Funds will be used for instructors, childcare care providers and catering.

8. Re-loved Sewing Sessions Okines Community House, Dodges Ferry TAS \$3,000

Dodges Ferry is a small coastal town in south-east Tasmania. It has a population of approximately 2,500. This is a program to assist those with limited or low incomes to develop sewing skills. Through a series of six workshops with three tutors each, women and girls will learn how to upcycle their old worn items into new wearable pieces. These workshops will give participants the potential to update wardrobes, and to sell at local markets. The project also aims to educate young women in regard to the global footprint of "fast fashion" and cheap clothing. Funds will be used for sewing supplies, an overlocker machine and tutor fees.

9. Toowoomba Community Forced Marriage Project

ACRATH Project will be in Toowoomba Region, QLD, \$1,500

A program to raise awareness of forced marriage in the migrant and refugee communities of Toowoomba. This practice is illegal and can manifest in 'slave-like' practices that often include severe forms of abuse and violence, potentially putting girls and women at risk.

The focus of the project will be on identifying and using strategies to assist the women (mothers and grandmothers) and young girls impacted by this familial tradition. The program will engage a local community member who has good links in the relevant communities – a series of dialogue and learning sessions will be held during 2019. Funds will contribute to ACRATH national co-ordinator's cost to run sessions – travel, accommodation and catering.

10. Buttons and Bows. New Mornings, Christian Volunteer Mental Health Support Service, Ulverstone, TAS, \$2,921.56

This program will be part of a larger family-focussed trauma recovery program for families affected by family violence, child abuse and neglect who are living or attending school in West Ulverstone and surrounding areas - northwest Tas. This is a highly disadvantaged area of Tas according to the SEIFA index – with high levels of low income, low educational attainment, high unemployment, and jobs in relatively unskilled occupations.

A program of eight weekly after-school craft sessions will be held, to increase community capacity and connections through the sharing of traditional crafts and life skills across three generations of women. The project will address the four areas shown to increase resilience and personal capacity of young people – secure family relationships, feeling accepted by peers, feeling connected at school and having an adult outside the family to take a positive interest in them. Volunteer tutors will be engaged. Funds will contribute to project co-ordinator salary, childcare staff and project supplies.

11. Girls BREW (Belonging, Resilience, Empowerment, Well-Being)

PCYC Walgett NSW, \$3,000

A program to equip young Aboriginal women with coping strategies for many of life's situations, using culturally appropriate approaches together with the support of service providers in the region.

Walgett is a remote area of NSW with a relatively high population of Aboriginal residents, limited employment prospects and generational welfare dependency. This program aims to be a circuit breaker.

The program will encompass storytelling, songs and circle work, using both traditional and modern-day concepts. Elders and adult women will mentor the young girls. Funds will contribute to transport, catering and resources.

12. Chefs at Home. Jordan River Service Inc. Bridgewater, TAS \$2,750

A 40-week learn to cook program for disadvantaged community members to educate families regards nutritious foods, and to build work readiness skills.

Brighton municipality has the highest level of socio-economic disadvantage in Tasmania, including a high number of community members on disability / sickness support, long term unemployment, limited access to or use of enabling technologies and low family wages which impact food choices.

The program will run during school terms and will be open to community members to attend as many sessions as they are able or want to. Participants will complete an online Food Safety Training Certificate. The aim is also to improve community connectedness.

Funds will cover ingredients for 40 weeks and contribute to power costs of the centre.

13. Bridge 54 – Stepping Stones to life goals. Men's Shed Nubeena (Tasman) White Beach, TAS \$3,000

A women-led group, in collaboration with services focussing on supporting the challenging steps of life and achieving better living outcomes for vulnerable and isolated community members. This program wants to directly address mental health issues in the community through locally led activity. Too many services drive in – deliver - and drive out with no follow up, and no connection or authentic engagement with local people.

Four programs to be held through the year using the Bridge 54 program – a stepping stone program to achieve goals. Funds will be used for activity equipment, materials, catering and Bridge 54 pre and post program booklets.

14. Building Strong Young Women in our Community to have a VOICE Dusty Feet Mob – Dance Group Port Augusta, SA \$3,000

Dusty Feet Mob is an Aboriginal dance group from Port Augusta, South Australia aged between six and thirty-one years that exists to nurture strength, confidence and dignity amongst Aboriginal people. A further aim is to ensure the story of the stolen generations is not forgotten for both current and future generations.

This is a program to address high rates of Aboriginal suicides - for female Aboriginal adolescents from the Port Augusta region. Ten art and writing workshops will be held over ten weeks in a culturally relevant and safe environment. There will also be a retreat for 5 – 10 members of the Dusty Feet Mob and their mothers to build better relationships across generations and help the girls stand proud. Funds will be used to assist in fuel costs, catering, resources for sessions, and a final celebration event.

15. Build Up Tassie, Community Project Centacare Evolve Housing, Bridgewater TAS, \$2,600

A program for local young people at risk of long-term unemployment to volunteer on a community building initiative. Build Up Tassie is a targeted employment and training program for young people in the Bridgewater region. This program will support a crew of local young people to voluntarily develop and deliver a specific community project related to enhancing pride in the local community. The young people will receive specific mentoring and support from Build Up Tassie and local volunteers with project management and delivery skills. 10 – 12 young people will be engaged aiming to develop employability skills, management skills and general life capabilities.

Funds will be used for materials and resources for the community project.

16. Free2b Time – Branching Out Project. Neighbourhood House St. Helens, TAS \$3,000

Free2b Time- Branching Out project aims to enable opportunities for 10-15 teenage girls who have been attending a St Helens Free2b girls' group for the past 18 months to begin having interactions within the Break O'Day community in the form of work experience, tutoring, excursions and mentoring.

The project will help provide a minimum of nine tailored, identified experiences to occur over a period of nine months. Funding will provide an essential pool for the women leaders who currently work with the girls voluntarily on a weekly basis.

This program is directly aiming to address mental health issues, whilst enriching the lives of both generations, and giving the volunteer women some financial recompense after years of volunteering, especially for travel costs over considerable distances.

17. The I Am Project. Circular Head Council, TAS \$2,400

The *I Am Project* aims to empower young women to reach their full potential by assisting them to develop a positive body image, increase confidence, resilience and a strong sense of self.

A further aim is to help these young women connect to an ongoing 'sisterhood' or support network in their local region. Participants attend 10 workshops, including sharing skills in art and culture, cooking and event planning, a celebration of diverse bodies photo shoot and fashion parade, as well as organising a community event.

The Circular Head region has many isolated and disadvantaged pockets and limited services.

Funds will contribute to event advertising, materials, art therapy facilitator and venue hire for fashion parade.

18. Sewing and Yarn Crafts for Beginners. Clarendon Vale Neighbourhood Centre, Hobart, TAS, \$1,000

Clarendon Vale is in the bottom 2% of suburbs across Australia, according to the SEIFA index of social disadvantage.

Managed by the local neighbourhood centre, this project involves teaching of basic sewing and knitting skills by an older generation to younger members of the community – to develop new skills and create a sense of capability and achievement. The program would run over a 10-week period, aiming to give the younger women skills to save money, generate income and build local relationships. For the older women it is an opportunity to engage in a positive mentoring role. Funds will be used for materials and resources.

19. Cooking Around the World Western Plains Regional Development Inc. Condobolin, NSW, \$1,680

In partnership with a local primary school, this project is a cooking program provided by members of the community from diverse cultures for students who are disadvantaged in the Condobolin region. The program's aims are two-fold.

(1) To increase the students understanding of diverse cultures and to gain some skills and appreciation for the food and culture of people within their region. (2) To give the women in the community who are from diverse cultures a greater sense of belonging and contribution. Funds will contribute to ingredients and recipe book.

20. Women of the Huon Geeveston Community Centre, Inc TAS \$1,500

Geeveston is a small town of around 700 people with a higher than average population of Aboriginal people – 12.3 %. It is in an area of relative isolation with few services and fluctuating economic conditions. The town has been reliant on the timber industry and has suffered severe economic downturns over the years through the closure of timber mills.

This program will be managed by the local community centre and will offer a series of creative workshops to engage women of all ages. The major aim is to increase the confidence of younger community members in order to access the workforce. The Centre wants to build relationships across the generations and access the growing population of retired

and older women with skills and experience to pass onto younger unemployed women. At present there is very little opportunity for the generations to get to know each other and network together. Funds will be used for learning materials, travel costs and any training expertise required.

21. Share Food. Share Culture. Share Skills. West Moonah Community House, TAS, \$2,100

This project will encourage community participation and connectedness through cooking sessions facilitated by local community members who originate from different cultural backgrounds. West Moonah has a high migrant population who already access the Community House for other services.

The program aims to address social and economic disadvantage by inviting those struggling in the community with isolation, low self-esteem and depressed circumstances to participate. The project will incorporate principles developed by the Family Food Patch and Move Well Eat Well programs. To date community members from Sri Lankan, Spanish, Mexican, Australian Aboriginal and Chinese backgrounds have volunteered to be involved in the program. Funds will be used for ingredients over the 16 sessions.

22. Writing Our Way Home; Beyond Barbed Wire

Barnados Australia and The Write Road. Project based in Wellington region NSW, \$2,000

A writing retreat for mothers recently released from prison. These women face a multiplicity of challenges, including social isolation, stigma and discrimination, lack of employment opportunities, financial stress, depression, anxiety and stress, rebuilding relationships with their children, families and communities, and establishing new pathways forward for their lives.

The weekend offers time out to write, reflect, be challenged, connect with other women in similar situations, build courage and confidence, rest and reset priorities.

23. Women Finding a space to HEAL

Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Congress Christian Church, Port Augusta, SA. \$2,000

Funds are sought to provide a series of yarning circles, and art and healing workshops to bring Aboriginal women together in a positive environment. Many Aboriginal women in the Port Augusta region experience difficult times through community dysfunction, violence and the effects of alcohol and drug use amongst the community. The project aims to build women's relationships with each other, pass on knowledge between generations, share women's business and provide women with a safe place where their voices are heard and respected.

24. Good Sam Inn Catholic Parish of Whyalla, SA \$1,200

Funds are sought to purchase an additional fridge and replacement of a BBQ grill for a free meal program run by volunteers of the Catholic Parish of Whyalla and other community members.

The Good Sam Inn provides a free, two course evening meal to anyone who needs it every Monday. Seven teams of volunteers take turns to cook, prepare and serve food, chat to guests and clean up afterwards. Most of the food is donated. The project is located in the former Good Samaritan Convent, Whyalla. The numbers continue to rise, with 10 – 20 at commencement of the program and now regularly hosting 50 – 60 people each week, the highest so far being 78.

25. Library Administration Set Up

Diocese of Toowoomba, QLD \$928

This application came through Clare Smith, who is Chairperson of the Toowoomba Highways and Byways Branch.

To purchase computer software and a printer to facilitate the administration of a spiritual library, with an online catalogue so that resources can be made available to all within the Toowoomba Diocese including those in remote areas. This project has a strong connection to earlier times of the MSS managing Spiritual Bookshops in various parts of Australia.

26. Blue/Pink Bags for Prisoners

Diocese of Port Pirie – Prison Ministry, SA. \$2,000

This application came through Cheryle Thomson MSS Whyalla.

The project aims to provide a bag of toiletries, phone card and supermarket vouchers to people leaving prison in the Port Pirie Diocese. Volunteers put the bags together, and Parishes contribute to the cost and the assembly of items. The volunteers aim to put together 100 bags in 2019.

TOTAL FUNDS APPROVED: \$60,530