

Panasco VII - Sept 2010: Goa, India.

For five days in September along the holiday coast of India, Goa, Vincentians from all over the Asia-Pacific region gathered together to demonstrate that "Justice and peace will embrace". We shared in group discussions to brainstorm ideas for outcomes from the important topics that we had been inspired by in the six lectures that had been delivered by motivating speakers. The topics were: 1. Twinning—A path towards self reliance, 2. Social Responsibility—Partnership to Progress, 3. The New Poor—A trio of challenges (Education, Alienation & Homelessness), 4. Spirituality, A Force from within, 5. Youth & Experience—A positive coming together, 6. HIV/AIDS—Social Responsibility. One of the fruits of Panasco VII were the friendships & net-

works that were formed, enriching our Vincentian vocations. We are all Vincentians, whether in Australia, Fiji, Pakistan, or Tonga—we share in the



The colourful Opening Ceremony of Panasco VII - International Vincentians opened Panasco VII.

larger Vincentian family & are united by our faith and love for the poor. We were privileged to be hosted by our Indian Vincentian family, who displayed their diverse & beautiful culture in dance, performance & cos-

time, as well as the delicious & spicy cuisines! A great blessing to us non-locals, was celebrating mass in some of the most historic & beautiful Churches in Goa, including the BOM Cathedral, where the relics of St. Francis Xavier lie. Many Australian Vincentians travelled on afterwards to meet with our Indian twins in different parts of India; these encounters were very important to show our support & solidarity of working with our twins, as well as a great learning experience for us as Australian Vincentians. The resolutions of Panasco VII are now being reflected upon, by both the Indian National Council & a group of Australian Vincentians, in order to get actions & outcomes from this important gathering. The next Panasco will be in Malaysia in 2014, which will be Panasco VIII.

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Introducing the NOW group

The National Overseas Working (NOW) Group represents the National Overseas Partnerships & Development Committee, it consists of: Tony Muir (Tas) a Vice-president on National Council & is our National Twinning Officer; John O'Brien (Vic) is the Chairperson of the Panasco VII working group & State Overseas Chairperson; Bro. Doug Walsh, FMS (Vic) is

the Assist A Student Coordinator & the National Projects Officer; Danusia Kaska (Vic) is the Overseas Partnership Development Officer; & Kim Watson is our administration contact person for OPD (ACT). Through this OPD Newsletter we hope to keep in regular contact with you & to keep you up to date with the latest news on the OPD front. Please pass

on your ideas, thoughts, comments or feedback at any stage, so that we can establish open communication & sharing between the states. We would also like to receive your contributions for this newsletter so it represents the whole of Australia. Please send them through to: Danusiak@svdpnatcl.org.au. We are hear to support you & each other. Thank you!

Current Projects

These are the projects that have been requested in the last couple of months & have been approved by the National Projects Officer.

Holy Family Conference in Thmey Pich, Kompong Cham, Cambodia, twinned with St. Finbar Conference in Glenbrook, NSW.

To build 2 houses for poor families & provide a project to enable 4 families to become self-sufficient through growing veggies & raising chickens, pigs & fish.

Total Cost: USD \$1400.

St. Catherine Conference in Phnom Penh, Cambodia, twinned with Benalla Youth Conference in Victoria.

A Day Care Centre for children who are refuse collectors & are unable to attend school. The day care centre would provide meals & teach young children, as well as send primary aged children to school. Total Cost: USD \$6370.

Additional cost for teacher & tutor fees, stationary, uni-

forms & rice USD: \$1950.

Wewak Diocese in PNG: Food & Nutrition Project supported by QLD.



Children attending school through the Society's support.

"So let us be one heart full of love in the heart of God & so share the joy of loving by sharing, helping, loving & serving each other." Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta.

Induction Mass



Current projects

PNG: Provision of Typewriters, supported by QLD.

To provide 4 ribbons per serviced typewriter that will be sent to various Dioceses across PNG. Cost: \$720AUD.

The San Marcelino St. Ermita Conference in Manila, Philippines (supported by the Philippines National Council) has proposed a National Trainers Training program on: Disaster Management & organising

family disaster preparedness. Total Cost: Php. 83,000.

Our Lady of the Abandoned Conference in Santa Ana, Manila, Philippines has proposed a Feeding Program to address the undernourishment of indigent pre-school children. Cost \$1,925 AUD.

To provide ongoing assistance to the Sisters of Charity to provide regular health check ups for the people who live in

the remote Wewak area. Cost : \$2000 AUD.

Port Moresby Diocese in PNG: Food & Nutrition Project supported by QLD.

Support the ongoing project for the Sisters to provide health care & food. Cost: \$2700 AUD.

Fiji update

Recently, a highly successful election was held in Fiji, with 3 possible national presidents in the contest. The successful candidate was Ben Hazelman. Ben has proven already to be very capable & committed to undertake the national presidency role. 13 people were present at the election. Induction & Mass took place on the

same day, which was celebrated by their spiritual advisor, an Australian priest. It

was an excellent outcome & a wonderful day: young people sang during mass, Ben made his introductory speech & all welcomed him. Benefactors were invited to the Mass &



Induction & showed their support for the Society, particularly the Society's night shelter, (currently being built), & a building for the homeless. Next year there will be a

Pakistan update

In November John O'Brien and Tony Muir made a visit to Pakistan in assist their National Council with all aspects of their partnership with Australia, to monitor the progress of the flood relief efforts & to visit established Projects and Special Works. The outcomes were highly successful & suggestions made were, or are being implemented. The building program run by Fr. Robert McCulloch, Columban Father has been, & will continue to be, financially supported through his St. Vincent de Paul Conference. This

Child exploitation in the brick kilns. A SVDP educational project .

program is supporting many flood victims establish new houses & communities. Accurate records of active Conferences were established. The projects supported by the Society were

seen to be well run. Some of the Projects & Special Works visited included: the School of Academic Excellence, the Nurse Training program specializing in midwifery, the Housing rebuilding program,

the Aged care home in Drigh Karachi, the Literacy Project at Lemmens Home for special children, the Literacy Project at Don Bosco Orphanage, the Burial Project in Karachi, and the Orphanage for young girls. There will be an election held in March 2011 for a new National President.



"This shared joy of success of the projects is a spark of hope against the oppressive conditions that many Pakistani people endure."

Pakistan projects

The St. Vincent de Paul Societies of Australia and Pakistan share a strong bond with each other through the projects that are jointly run in Hyderabad, Pakistan. This shared joy of success of the projects is a spark of hope against the oppressive conditions that many Pakistani people endure.

The projects have positively impacted many young Pakistani people who have been assisted, the

Christian community, the wider community, and has improved & saved many lives. This is all as a result of these young people being given a 'hand up' at the stage of life that they need it most: These projects are: The St. Elizabeth School of Midwifery, the Catholic Centre of Academic Excellence, and the Catholic Youth Development Centre.



National Project Proposal

The National Council of Australia will financially support a large Project of a twinned country in order to assist its National Council to become self-sufficient. This would involve a business enterprise based on sound commercial standards & practices that has the potential to not only provide employment, but to ensure that a permanent income stream is derived from the investment in or-

der to fund the current & future development of the receiving National Council. The possible examples for a Business Project could be a retail business, agricultural products, fishing, manufacturing, social welfare funded activities. The receiving country will need to be selected based on their business proposal & will need to manage the project to the standard required. The letter of submission

is currently being compiled by the NOW group, in order to be ready for distribution early in January. This is a very exciting venture for one of our twinned countries & for the Australian Society to support. We will keep you posted!



Empowering our twins to have sustainable National Councils through projects.

Assist A Student update - 2010 figures

ASSIST A STUDENT 2010	(Students Sponsored)	Funds Sent
India	1100	\$ 77,000.00
East Timor	148	\$ 10,360.00
Indonesia	923	\$ 64,610.00
Myanmar	460	\$ 32,200.00
Pakistan	500	\$ 35,000.00
Philippines	900	\$ 63,000.00
Thailand	900	\$ 63,000.00
Vanuatu	34	\$ 2,380.00
Total Students Sponsored:	4965	\$ 347,550.00

Assist a Student funds raised by State in the Financial Year (Q4,09 - Q3,10) of 2010		
State	Funds Raised	Students Sponsored
ACT	\$ 3,417.00	49
NT	\$ 23,520.00	336
NSW	\$ 62,814.00	897
QLD	\$ 92,091.00	1,316
SA	\$ 24,841.00	355
TAS	\$ 26,597.00	380
VIC	\$ 84,083.00	1,201
WA	\$ 21,483.00	307

Assist A Student in East Timor

Some exciting news for the Assist a Student program is that we are now supporting students in the tiny country of East Timor. The Australian Society only donates funds to twins where we can ensure that the money will be safely delivered to the desired recipients. In the past we were not able to guarantee this in East Timor as the country does not have a National Council. However, this year, through the Marist Brothers from Australia who are working in East Timor, and through Religious Sisters, we have secured AAS funds to needy students. This meant that 40 students with disabilities from Katilosa can now attend school, who would otherwise not have been able to. The \$AUD70 AAS subsidies were used by the students for uniforms, shoes, school bags, school fees, transport and stationary in 2010.

Early this year I made a personal visit to East Timor & saw the poverty of so many Timorese children who were not able to attend school. So many of the children & their families asked me to help the children become educated in this new country that has been so devastated by war & oppression. East Timor is



Timorese children happy to have the opportunity to attend school

the poorest country in Asia, with mainly subsistence farmers, it is important that the East Timorese field workers of Katilosa are free to work in the way that they see is most effective for the students with disabilities & to protect the donors' funds. Accounts of all expenses, including receipts, have been provided.

Let us continue to spread the word about the life-giving benefits of the AAS program to all of our members, families, work colleagues, relatives, parishioners, club team mates etc. Let's hope for greater success of the program in 2011!

Please contact me for AAS promotional material, and/or if you would like assistance in supporting your promotion of it. Thanks, Danusia.

Wishing you all a very Blessed & Peaceful Christmas!