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Sustain



MARY
WARD
INTERNATIONAL



LORETO

Australia & South East Asia

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Uplift women from poverty to economic independence.

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Images: Camera Story, Enterprise Partnerships WA, Wanawake Kwa Wanawake, Loreto Sisters, Loreto Schools Australia, HAFUCO, Mary Ward International Australia.

Action for Ecological Justice

The Loreto commitment to working for ecological justice is reflected in the theme of Loreto Federation 2024 - *Environmental Justice: People, Places, and Our Shared Future*. It is further evidenced by the Loreto Justice Network's Laudato Si' Action Plan. This plan is available on the Laudato Si Action Platform, a platform that encourages organisations, schools and religious groups to further their journey towards total sustainability in the spirit of integral ecology. We hope our action plan will encourage Loreto communities to continue to reflect on how we answer the call 'to live sustainably, discerning what is enough.' (IBVM General Congregation Call 2014; reiterated at 2022 Congregation).

The Loreto Justice Network's plan intends to support all Loreto communities to consider what they can do to respond to the cry of the Earth; to ask what practical steps we can all take, as Mary Ward people, to develop sustainable practices in our daily lives. When we remember that "everything in creation is interconnected" (Laudato Si' 138), we are prompted to ask ourselves: what do we do, and what can we do to protect our common home for the wellbeing of all? This action plan identifies concrete actions we can take individually and as communities to work for ecological justice. You can access it and hopefully be inspired to implement your own actions to care for creation on the Loreto Justice Network's Ecological Justice page of the loreto.org.au website.

Carolyn Young

Director, Mission & Identity, Loreto Ministries



COVER*

Kathryn Njamme, Monica Njamme and Mary Njamme, Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub, Balgo, Australia © Sarah Landro, Camera Story

**Consent for all imagery of children and young people used in this publication has been received.*

ABOUT US

Mary Ward International Australia is a registered charity and is the Australian and global development organisation of the Loreto Sisters. Our Mission is to support the Loreto Sisters and the broader Mary Ward International network as we work with women and communities to transform unjust structures and reduce poverty and oppression, primarily through formal and non-formal education.



Mary Ward International respectfully acknowledges

all Traditional Custodians of the land and waters of Australia. We pay respect to their Elders, past and present, and young leaders of today and the future. Mary Ward International commits itself to the ongoing work of reconciliation with our First Nations families and communities.



MESSAGE FROM THE EO

Building Strong Communities for a Sustainable Future

As we look to the future, we are reminded of the enduring legacy of Mary Ward and her belief in the transformative power of women. By investing in the education and economic empowerment of women and girls, we are not just lifting individuals out of poverty; we are strengthening entire communities. This is at the heart of our mission at Mary Ward International and is as relevant as ever.

In every corner of the globe, women and girls are leading the way toward a more just and fair society. Yet, their fundamental rights continue to be denied. That's why we, alongside our partners and local communities, work tirelessly to create opportunities for education and employment. We believe that when women have access to opportunities, they achieve their personal goals and contribute meaningfully to the decisions that shape their futures.

Because strong women equal strong communities.

This month, the Loreto community gathers at Federation 2024 to engage in critical discussions on climate justice, specifically how climate change disproportionately affects women and girls. As the theme, *Environmental Justice: People, Places, and Our Shared Future* suggests, we cannot address the future of our planet without confronting these inequities. Women are often the hardest hit by the effects of climate change, yet they have the least access to resources and support when disaster strikes. Our conversations will focus on how we can support women in leading sustainable and resilient communities in the face of these challenges.

In this edition of *Sustain*, you'll read stories of women worldwide who are using their knowledge, skills, and aspirations to drive positive change in their communities. As a valued supporter, you are an integral part of this movement. Together, we can continue to build a more just and sustainable world.

Hannah George
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ACCOUNTABILITY & ACCREDITATION

Mary Ward International Australia is a member of the Australian Council for International Development (ACFID). We are committed and fully adhere to the ACFID Code of Conduct, managing our work with transparency, accountability and integrity. Mary Ward International Australia is an approved organisation under the Overseas Aid Gift Deduction Scheme (OAGDS) and endorsed by the Australian Taxation Office as a Deductible Gift Recipient.



Cultural Threads; Sustainable Fashion in Balgo

Since its establishment in 2020, the Piriwa Enterprise Hub has made significant strides in transforming the lives of women in Balgo. By providing a platform for social enterprise exploration and essential small business skill development, Piriwa promotes economic growth while enhancing the wellbeing of its members and deepening their connection to the land and community.

UPCYCLED FASHION

Piriwa's latest ambition is to expand its product range and create new revenue streams by producing and selling items made from upcycled clothing sourced from the Piriwa Op Shop. Profits generated from these creations will be reinvested into cultural activities to preserve traditional practices and keep language strong.

The idea emerged during Piriwa's strategic planning sessions in 2023 and is set to be led by the Piriwa leadership team and Enterprise Partnerships WA. Once full funding is secured, they plan to conduct a series of intensive workshops in Balgo, focusing on fashion, design, and creative entrepreneurship for women. These workshops, facilitated by mentors Bianca Long from Jaru Girl, Sarah Landro from Camera Story, and Clare Wood from Enterprise Partnerships WA, aim to engage young women interested in fashion and textiles, offering career pathways into design, photography, and modelling.

Participants will explore fashion as an art form, learn how to market products, and build a social media presence through photography. They will also take part in on-country trips, using photography to document culture, bush plants, and community activities. These trips will teach young women about the importance of connection and protection of country.

PIRIWA AT KAFTA

A key milestone in this journey will be Piriwa's participation in the 2025 Kimberley Aboriginal Textile and Fashion Art (KAFTA) program in Broome. The program supports Kimberley-based artists and designers in accessing employment and training opportunities, developing business capacity, and sharing diverse creative cultural expressions of the region. At the event, the women of Piriwa plan to debut a new fashion collection

crafted from upcycled clothing, featuring artwork that reflects their unique stories and cultural heritage.

Following KAFTA, and pending full funding, the women intend to broaden their design work to include fabric printing. This expansion aims to create larger market opportunities, boosting their revenue and visibility.

This initiative builds on Piriwa's previous achievements and aims to access national and international markets, increase sales and showcase Piriwa's social enterprise model for First Nations women. It has the potential to inspire similar initiatives in other communities, extending Piriwa's influence beyond its local context.

LEADING THE WAY IN SUSTAINABILITY

Importantly, the initiative is closely tied to Piriwa Op Shop's social enterprise goals, particularly in addressing clothing and textile waste and enabling Piriwa to participate in the circular economy. Over the past year, the Op Shop has received approximately 1,300 kilograms of donated clothing. However, not all items are suitable for sale in a remote setting, prompting the women to explore creative ways to repurpose these materials, reflecting their commitment to environmental stewardship.

Piriwa is also an active participant in the Remote Op Shop Project, which has significantly promoted sustainability in remote areas. The project supplies recycled clothes to remote Indigenous communities across Australia, greatly reducing overheads by removing the need for large-scale infrastructure, transportation, and administration incurred by a traditional op shop model. The project is expanding its impact with the development of a reuse hub in Darwin and exploring ways to convert clothing waste into couches and mattresses for remote communities.

INNOVATIVE CULTURAL IMPACT

The Piriwa Enterprise Hub's innovative approach to revenue diversification and sustainability sets a powerful example for communities worldwide. By merging cultural preservation with economic growth and environmental care, Piriwa is securing its future and inspiring others to follow its lead.

The Piriwa Partnership *Timeline*

Mary Ward International began a partnership with Enterprise Partnerships WA (EPWA), led by two ex-John XXIII College students, to support the Piriwa Op Shop and Enterprise Hub. The project provided First Nations women in Balgo with economic opportunities and employment pathways by establishing a permanent home for the Op Shop, utilising two refurbished shipping containers. The initiative included seven enterprise workshops, with 32 women participating, and a mural painted by the women on the containers. Profits from the Op Shop were reinvested into additional enterprise learning and cultural trips, empowering women with skills, confidence, and leadership.

2022



Monica Njamme, Mary Njamme and Kathryn Njamme

2023



Allison Gill



Kathryn Njamme

With continued support from Mary Ward International, the Piriwa Enterprise Hub focused on capacity building in governance for the Piriwa leadership team. This enabled them to independently manage operations, strengthen governance procedures, and develop a comprehensive strategic plan. Completed in December, the plan laid the groundwork for Piriwa's long-term sustainability, outlining immediate objectives and pathways for engaging young women in enterprise development.

Mary Ward International currently supports the Piriwa Enterprise Hub's sustainability by enhancing women's understanding of revenue diversification. Creative workshops are held to develop and market-test upcycled products like tote bags and earrings. The Piriwa leadership team continues to receive mentoring to implement these skills and collaborate with local partners. This initiative also focuses on re-engaging younger women and building the leadership team's confidence in running community development projects.

2024



Mary Njamme

Teaching First Nations Women It's Okay To Stand Up & Be Leaders

"The first time I visited Balgo, the local women cried," says Bianca Long. "It made me realise how welcome I was. It really warmed my heart."

There's little in Balgo. It's a town of red dirt. The football field is gravel. The population of 500 people includes over eight First Nations language groups.

With limited job opportunities, people must make their own.

That's why, thanks to you, Mary Ward International supports Bianca's work at Piriwa.

Bianca, also known as 'Jaru girl' on her fashion label, frequently visits the Piriwa Enterprise Hub as a business development mentor. She works with local First Nations women to develop financial literacy, create products and businesses, and acquire the skills they need to succeed.

"I work with the local women to teach them about printing and designing clothes," says Bianca. "The goal is for Piriwa to develop their own fashion label and for the women to learn about fabric printing and design and making clothing via upcycling, as well as business and selling."

The goal is to have a range of locally produced or upcycled clothing products for the Kimberley Showcase in 2025.

"We hope to have young women model and be photographers. We'll have a market at the showcase, which will help raise funds and also help young women learn financial literacy. We sell through the Piriwa op shop and aim to sell online as well."

Their plans are modest – photography, retail, fabric design, soap making, and clothing upcycling.

"But," says Bianca, "It's not just about skills, it's about leadership development too. I'm teaching them to be stronger women who can speak up and lead the change in economic development. We need to empower more women to become leaders in their communities for their families and generations to come. It has a multi-generational effect."

"It's good for the community because everything they do through the Piriwa Op Shop comes back to the community," continued Bianca. "Selling clothes and the fashion label gives them money to take young people out on country as well as older people and keep people strong and promote wellbeing."

"And it teaches them that it's OK for women to stand up and be leaders."



Securing the Future Through Sustainable Food

Mary Ward International and the Loreto Sisters are committed to supporting the rural community of Lukulu in Western Zambia. A key initiative is the development of a sustainable food production enterprise at the Sancta Maria College of Nursing and Midwifery, addressing the critical needs of food security and education.

SANCTA MARIA COLLEGE FOOD PRODUCTION ENTERPRISE

The Sancta Maria College, a vital institution for training healthcare professionals, faces the challenge of providing three meals a day to its students. To meet this need sustainably, the college has developed a farm on underutilised land. Already equipped with essential machinery like a tractor and plough thanks to a generous donor, the farm helps provide nutritious meals for students while reducing catering costs.

Looking ahead, the college aims to expand its farm operations. This includes installing a solar-powered irrigation system, enhancing maize production through specialised equipment, and establishing a chicken run and piggery. These steps will ensure the college becomes self-sufficient in food production, while also offering valuable agricultural training and employment to local youth.



A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR LUKULU

The initiative goes beyond feeding students - it's about creating long-term sustainability for the college and the community. By reducing reliance on external food sources, the college can focus more on education and skills development, empowering the next generation of healthcare professionals in this disadvantaged region of Zambia.

The project also introduces environmentally sustainable practices, such as the use of solar energy and advanced irrigation techniques. Involving local youth in farm operations provides them with critical skills in agriculture and renewable energy, helping to break the cycle of poverty and build stronger, more self-sufficient communities.

Through this initiative, Mary Ward International is not only addressing immediate food security challenges but also laying the groundwork for a brighter, more sustainable future for the people of Lukulu.



Ecological Justice - Everyone's Responsibility

Gratitude for God's gifts is at the heart of Mary Ward's Ignatian spirituality. Our appreciation of the beauty of nature and our interconnectedness with all creation calls us to a focused care for all living things. This call, also informed by a Biblical understanding of justice and relationships and the tenets of Catholic Social Teaching, focuses our heads, hearts and hands on careful stewardship of creation.

The Loreto commitment to Ecological Justice encourages us to listen carefully to the cry of the Earth. Projects throughout the Loreto schools network reflect that much is being done to support our young people to appreciate the key role these leaders of tomorrow must play to ensure that caring for our common home is an imperative in our lives, not an optional extra. Our response to the fragile planet is a spiritual imperative, not simply a form of social activism.

The Season of Creation annually draws our attention to the cry of the Earth. As we enter Spring here in the Southern Hemisphere, it is an encouraging time to give thanks for the gifts of creation and to find new ways in our daily lives to support the health of our natural world. The World Council of Churches, instrumental in embedding this season in our annual calendars, provides many resources to help us explore how we can work for ecological justice.

In support of the Loreto commitment to ecological justice, our schools provide many programs, events and opportunities for the students in our care to learn, advocate for, and act on environmental sustainability and renewal. In the lead-up to the Season of Creation, Loreto Normanhurst's focus on sustainability included a guest speaker addressing those in Years 5 and 6 on the topic, "Why should we care about waste?" This opportunity prompted the students to consider how we manage waste, as well as personal ways

to show respect for the environment. Junior students at Loreto Mandeville Hall Toorak have also explored these concepts by reflecting on the importance of environmental conservation and sustainable practices. These students have participated in 'Worm Farm Wednesdays', where food scraps are composted instead of being sent to landfill. This initiative benefits the gardens and teaches valuable lessons about environmental stewardship. At Loreto College Ballarat, Year 7 Geography classes immersed themselves in fieldwork to learn about water, its uses, interconnections and significance.

Students from Loreto College Marryatville have embraced immersion of a different kind; they braved the cold and went a day without light and heat, all while collecting beanies and blankets for the Vinnies Winter Appeal. With initiatives like transitioning to solar power and aiming for a 100% plastic-free campus, Loreto College Marryatville is on track to achieve its ambitious goal of net zero carbon emissions by 2030! Loreto College Coorparoo has partnered with the local community to assist animal habitats and combat erosion by planting 300 trees, and Loreto Kirribilli has joined with students from local colleges to participate in the SEED program, designed to grow youth-led ideas for a sustainable future.

We encourage each person to join with the global Mary Ward network in urgent action to protect our common home; to network and collaborate as stewards in the care of creation, each according to their own culture, experience and talents (LS 14). It is not envisioned that responses will be uniform; on the contrary, responses must reflect our diversity. May our actions to answer the cry of the Earth and the cry of the poor discern the signs of the times and creatively answer the needs around us.

There are such wonderful initiatives being practised in all our schools that illustrate the words of Pope Francis in Laudato Si' (LS 19): "there is a growing sensitivity to the environment and a need to protect nature... Our goal is to discover what each of us can do about it".



Transforming Lives, Tackling Climate Change:

*An Interview
With Maria Tilman*



In August, Mary Ward International Australia board member Alzira Reis sat down with Maria Idalina Tilman, the coordinator of HAFUCO, to discuss life, climate change, and its impact on women and their communities. The following is an insight into their conversation, exploring the origins of HAFUCO, its response to environmental challenges, and the collective's approach to empowerment and sustainability.

Maria Idalina Tilman, the coordinator of HAFUCO (Haburas Futuru Komunidade - 'Growing the Future with the Community'), shed light on the origins and evolution of this transformative collective. Founded in 2014, HAFUCO currently has eight dedicated members, five women and three men. The group's mission is to provide women with economic and leadership opportunities, guided by the core values of equality, empowerment through sharing, learning, and enacting change.

The collective's agricultural programs focus on growing chickpeas, taro, and other crops, coupled with training for women and youth on food processing and preservation. These efforts aim to diversify food sources, mitigate hunger during climate shifts, and improve nutrition through cooking demonstrations for pregnant and lactating mothers.

Economically, HAFUCO enhances family income by selling products at markets and fairs, while also providing leadership training and constructing a training room funded by Mary Ward International and our supporters. The room has proved a valuable resource for HAFUCO and other local organisations striving to advance their mission.

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT

Climate change poses significant challenges to the communities within HAFUCO's network. It disrupts agriculture, reducing daily food availability and household income and contributing to poverty. In response, HAFUCO implements strategies to counter these effects. They provide training on food preservation to ensure long-term sustainability, diversify local products, and manage seeds effectively for continued agricultural activities.

EMPOWERMENT AND COMMUNITY MODEL

Operating as a collective rather than a hierarchical organisation, HAFUCO fosters mutual contribution and decision-making, particularly benefiting women in the community. This structure offers flexibility in food processing and income generation. An example of empowerment is seen in how the collective supports idea-sharing and decision-making during meetings, rotates production schedules, and strengthens collaborations with neighbourhood groups. These practices bolster individual members and promote a resilient and collaborative community model.

SUSTAINABILITY AND FUTURE OUTLOOK

Sustainability is a core focus for HAFUCO, ensured through regular seed storage, enhanced marketing efforts via social media and local stores, and collaboration with agricultural fairs. The collective faces challenges, including the high cost of renting agricultural equipment. Looking ahead, HAFUCO aims to expand its membership and production, enhance training activities in more villages, and continue inspiring others with their approach. The government has recognised HAFUCO's success as best practice, setting an example for other groups in modern agricultural techniques.

INSPIRING COLLECTIVE CHANGE

For Maria, the most rewarding aspect of her role with HAFUCO is the ability to inspire and lead, particularly in public speaking and coordination. A standout story involves her colleague, also named Maria. Over time, Maria's improved skills in food processing and income generation have improved her confidence in leaps and bounds, as well as the respect and confidence of her family, illustrating the collective's impact on individual lives.

HAFUCO continues to drive positive change through dedication and collaboration, proving that a community-focused approach to agriculture and empowerment can yield extraordinary results.



Building Brighter Futures: Inside Vietnam's Vinh Loc Learning Program

In May, Kaithlyn McNab and Kirstin Del Beato from Mary Ward International had the privilege of travelling to Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, to meet with the Loreto Sister community and experience one of our newest supported projects, the Vinh Loc learning support program. Here, Kaithlyn shares her observations and insights from the visit.

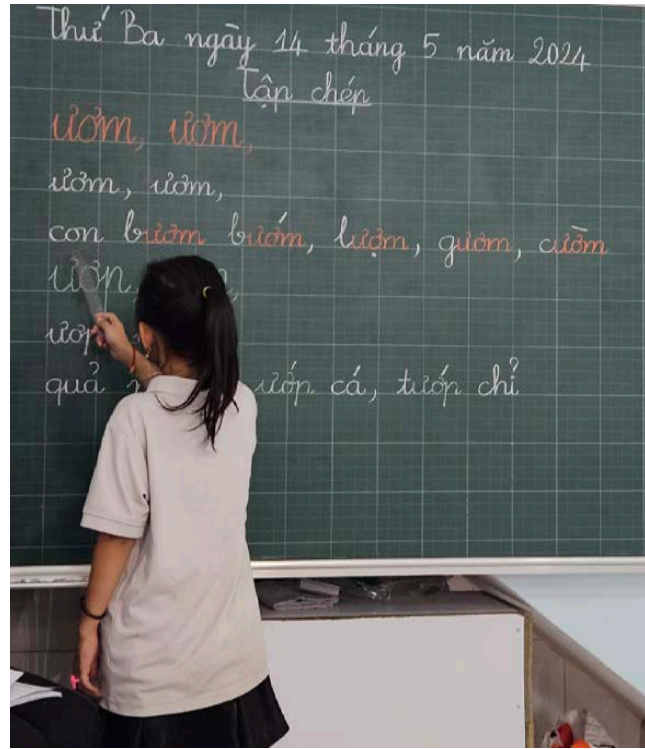
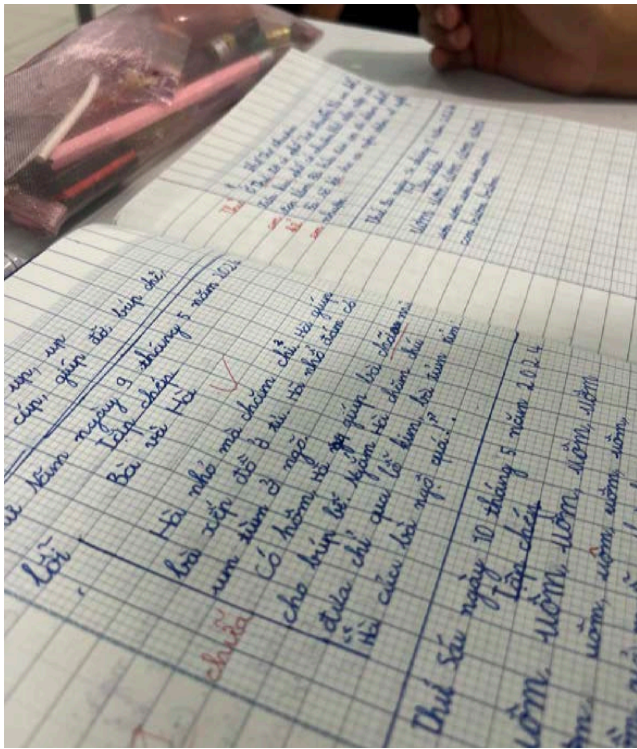
Over two days, we ventured to the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City to visit the Vinh Loc program, which offers foundational education to children, many from migrant families. Each morning, we were welcomed by the children's bright smiles as they began their day with songs and educational games.

Led by Sr Ai Thien and supported by Yen, both qualified teachers, the program aims to enhance the lives of children not enrolled in local government schools by providing them with access to basic education, personal development opportunities and nutritional support.

The need was identified by the Sisters more than four years ago after they started

volunteering in Vinh Loc. Informal tutoring commenced in 2020 but soon had to cease due to COVID-19. In 2023, the Sisters restarted the tutoring group, which had grown into what is now the learning support program by the start of the Vietnamese school year in September. The program has now expanded into two classes, with the children divided according to their ability.

The migrant families have come to Vinh Loc, on the outskirts of Ho Chi Minh City, from the north of Vietnam, the Mekong Delta and Khmer ethnic minorities. Once agricultural land, the main sources of income for families now living in Vinh Loc are factory work, construction, collecting street-side recyclables, driving moto-taxis and selling goods on the street.



Many parents don't consider education for their children as they never went to school themselves. They don't understand the value of education, and their children end up working on the streets to help support their families.

Many cannot afford school expenses or move frequently in search of work, making it difficult to obtain the right documentation for their children to attend local schools. Adding to this challenge, government schools have large class sizes, with some students falling behind and dropping out of school.

The Vinh Loc learning support program aims to enhance literacy and numeracy skills among children, setting them up for a better future. Meanwhile, Sr Kim Thoa actively engages with the community, rallying parents and community members to embrace the value of education and its life-long benefits.

During our visit, it was evident that teacher Yen is experienced and cares deeply for the children. She is very patient, tailoring lessons to meet the needs of individual students and providing one-to-one support. We learnt that Yen came out of retirement to teach at Vinh Loc due to her love of teaching. She has seen improvements in the children; they behave better in class, listen to their teachers and follow directions. She believes the community is now working together to encourage and support children's education.

Although the Vinh Loc Learning Support Program is still in its early stages, we had the opportunity to visit a well-established program that supports children who are unable to attend

government schools or who have fallen behind. We also visited a school for children with hearing impairments. These visits offered valuable insights into the growth and success of similar initiatives, providing the Sisters leading the Vinh Loc program with a strong foundation to learn from and build upon. Investing in the education of all children undeniably equips them with the confidence and aspirations needed for a brighter future.

This commitment to education was especially evident as we navigated the vibrant streets of Ho Chi Minh City, where the daily hustle and bustle reflects the rich tapestry of local life. From the early morning hum of bikes and horns to the bustling local markets divided into sections for fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, and a whole array of noodles and sauces, we gained insights into how education can transform lives in this dynamic environment.

We were fortunate to be guided by the Loreto Sisters in the Vietnamese community – Sisters Ai Thien, Vi and Kim Hoa – who introduced us to new and familiar flavours and dishes. They took us to their favourite spots to sample Vietnamese delicacies, much to their delight. We returned home with full bellies and lasting memories of women doing remarkable things to improve the lives of their communities.

Street MBA – Building Stronger Women & Community in Kibera

Street MBA is a socioeconomic empowerment program providing business and entrepreneurship training for women aged 18 to 40 living in informal settlements in Kibera, Kenya. Most of these women are Ugandan refugees or belong to the Maasai community and have had little formal education.

Thanks to our generous donors, Mary Ward International is proud to now support this initiative.

The Kibera settlements on the outskirts of Kenya's capital, Nairobi, comprise one of Africa's most densely populated and impoverished urban areas. An estimated 1.6 million people live in this sprawling neighbourhood in extreme poverty. Gender-based violence, malnutrition, crime, and a lack of access to medical support, education and clean water are prevalent.

The Street MBA program was initiated by our new partner, Wanawake Kwa Wanawake (meaning 'women for women' in Swahili). Participating women will gain practical business and entrepreneurship training, cooking and housekeeping skills, and accredited building and construction skills. These newfound skills will increase their employability and promote

entrepreneurship, leading to financial stability and improved wellbeing for themselves and their families.

The initiative stemmed from the women's deep desire for self-sufficiency through business skills training. Designed to be led and managed by the local community, the program features training sessions conducted by qualified local facilitators and experts, ensuring maximum participation and engagement. Women are actively encouraged to take on leadership and decision-making roles within their businesses and communities.

Through ongoing participation and discussion, the community takes a lead in providing feedback and input to continue improving the program to ensure its relevance and effectiveness in uplifting the lives of women in Kibera.

The transformation in the women in Kibera is compelling. They emerge from the training with newly acquired practical skills, newfound confidence and a strong drive to build brighter futures for themselves and their families. Strong women lead to strong communities, and the women in Kibera are on their way to breaking the cycle of poverty.



Raising Funds via Theatre Parties

What comes out of a dinner conversation can be amazing, can't it?

It was such a discussion in Crows Nest, Sydney, in 2009 between Ruth Tighe, the then President of Loreto Kirribilli Ex-Students Union, Patsy Shannon, former President of the Loreto Normanhurst Association and Sr Janet Palafox ibvm, that led to Ruth and Patsy volunteering to host a function each year to raise funds for the work and values of Mary Ward International.

That was the beginning of more than a decade of theatre parties. Contacts in the entertainment industry *"kindly helped us access great seats at a good discount rate,"* said Ruth and Patsy. *"Of course, if we mentioned 'it's for the nuns', the discount would be greater,"* they added.

So, they combined their talents, beginning with Jersey Boys in 2010, where they sold 405 tickets. They went on to great success with Mary Poppins, Come from Away, The Sound of Music, Mamma Mia and more. *"We love hosting these musicals,"* said Ruth and Patsy, *"It is a wonderful way to connect all generations of the Loreto communities around Australia."*

The shows are carefully selected. *"We try to choose musicals that suit all ages, are reasonably priced, and embrace our Loreto values of 'giving back'"*. To add value, they try to organise pre-theatre drinks for ticket holders, and if possible, Ruth and Patsy arrange a post-theatre talk by producers, theatre managers and cast.

The biggest challenge? Seating everyone with their friends. *"The theatre seating plan does not 'fit' the actual numbers for each group of friends booked together, so it is a jigsaw puzzle trying to fit them into seats in a row near each other."* They usually manage it though, but only after *"5 hours of long discussions and red biro!"*

Funds for Mary Ward International are raised through a margin on each ticket sold, and many participants add a donation. *"Most people do donate if they cannot join us on the night of the theatre party,"* said Ruth and Patsy.

What a joyful and engaging way to support Mary Ward International's mission!



Caption: Ruth Tighe (second from left), Patsy Shannon (right) and friend Cathy Hallman presenting former Mary Ward International Australia Executive Officer Kim Nass with the funds raised from their Strictly Ballroom event in 2014.

