

# ST VERONICA WELFARE COMMITTEE

## EMAIL NEWSLETTER NO 39 - OCTOBER 2019

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**G**reetings dear Supporters and, early though it seems, very best wishes for a Christmas and holiday period which is all you desire. I hope 2019 was not too unkind, although with the extended drought, fires, economic and personal challenges, I know for many it has been an extremely difficult, painful or sad year.

**On behalf of the Committee's beneficiaries, a sincere and hearty thank you both for your kind-hearted, generous financial support and faithful volunteering.**

**2019** also caused additional pain and suffering to many of the communities supported by the Committee. Once again, August brought torrential rain and landslides to Kerala, India – an area that has endured similar hardship in past years. In addition to the resulting loss of life and destruction of homes and infrastructure, a landslide completely washed away an entire village with many bodies never recovered. St Veronica's has allocated shop profit to two centres in this area who appealed for assistance to help their communities.



*August flooding and subsequent landslide in Kerala, India, photo provided by Sister Leona  
(Sister Leona is a St Veronica sponsorship coordinator and contact in the Kerala area)*

### **St Veronica's 2019 Christmas Cards:**

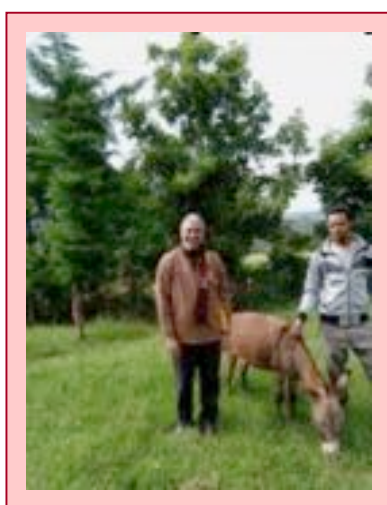
The **Committee's Christmas cards** will again raise funds for the work of the Bethany Fathers in **Ethiopia** who are working with a poor community in Sire, Nekemte, in the Oromia region of the country. Father Augustine, the Committee's contact, currently helps almost 1900 podoconiosis patients who attend his clinic seeking medical assistance for this disabling condition, endemic in the country as a result of contact with the red volcanic soil.

In addition to providing support to podoconiosis patients, Father has worked with the local community to construct a 17,000 litre water tank. Access to potable water is a huge issue in the area as less than nineteen percent of Ethiopia enjoys ready access to drinking water. During 2019, St Veronica's provided funds to Father for the purchase of donkeys to transport water from this tank to local dwellings.

As well as raising funds to provide solar lighting to assist school students to study in the evening where homes don't have electricity, Christmas cards this year will continue to seek funds for the treatment of podoconiosis and for the purchase of donkeys and jerry cans for transporting water. **Card particulars are at the back of this newsletter.**



**One day's patients seeking treatment for podoconiosis at Sire  
(Numbers continue to grow)**



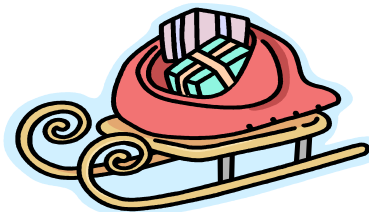
**Father Augustine (left) with a local  
beneficiary receiving his donkey**

### Closing date for final disbursement for 2019:

Dear donors, if you wish your subscription or donation to be forwarded to beneficiaries before the end of this year, please ensure your payment is in the Committee's bank account by **Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> December**.

Note: it can take two or three days for an internet bank transfer to reach the Committee's account and postal deliveries can be slow at that time of the year.

This date will allow John, our hardworking finance officer, to process all the payments in time for the disbursement to be finalised and reach beneficiaries before Christmas.



### Extract from Correspondence:

Portion of letter received from Kevinson Khongjee, sponsored student, **Shillong, India:**

*Dear St Veronica Committee, I am so very glad ... to get a chance to write this letter to you. I hope this letter will make you happy by the grace of God and I hope that you are in good health and all the family as I am here...*

*Now I am grown up and now I will study in B.A. 1<sup>ST</sup> Semester and I want to say thank you to you because of your help and I just already pass my class XII.*

Kevinson's achievement is very pleasing to the Committee. Despite his family poverty after the death of his father, the family bread-winner, Kevinson was a regular, well-presented school student whose situation became apparent only after a teacher's visit to the family home. Well done Kevinson, we wish you success in your studies and good fortune in your future life.



Kevinson - 2019 ( B.A. Student)  
Well done



Kevinson with his family and Principal of Mary Our Help Training College, Sister Selinda, outside his family home in 2018.

Although St Veronica's provided some emergency assistance for basic repairs to the above dwelling, the house lacks the basics that Australians take for granted and makes Kevinson's Year 12 pass and entry to college especially creditable.

Portion of a letter received from Sister Mary Edattukaran, Troncatti Vocational Training Centre for young girls and youths in **Guwahati, North-East India**:

*I, along with the entire Community, would like to thank you for your generous financial assistance to our Centre Auxilium Troncatti Home. One of the most essential blessings we have received during last year is lightning conductor. ... Your generosity meant a lot to the Community and now we can say that we live without any anxiety and fear during lightning and thundering. Thanks for being such a good benefactor we will ever remain grateful.*



Installation of Lightning Arrester at Troncatti Home

### Student available for Sponsorship:



#### **ALPHONSA:**

Alphonsa is studying in Standard 1 in the Indian academic year 2019 / 2020. Her birthday is 16 March and she is 6. Her father, Joseph, is a daily labourer earning about Rs 3000 (Au \$60) per month; her mother, Paulina, is a housewife. The family lives in a rented shed. Joseph's father-in-law has given the family 0.3 acres of land on which he is hoping to build a small house with assistance from the government and local well wishers.

Alphonsa is a quite but well-behaved and active student. She has a sister and a baby brother. Alphonsa's details were forwarded to St Veronica's by Father Mani at **St Mary's Parish**, Siddapura, in the Indian Diocese of Belthangady.



#### **MELVIN ANTO C.S**

Melvin is studying in Grade 8. His birthday is 20 March and he is 13. He has one sister in Grade 11 who studies Mathematics, Biology, Chemistry and Physics. Melvin also is very smart and doing well in his studies. In addition, he is a talented chess player and footballer. His father, Selva Raj, is a driver on a very low income. He is the family breadwinner, endeavouring to provide for his wife, Gladys Josephine, his two children, and his elderly mother-in-law, who is ill and requires medication.

The family struggles financially as the father has taken out a loan to build the family home. He finds it difficult to repay the loan as well as to provide for all the family's living expenses, educational needs of his children and medication for his mother-in-law. Sister Maria Goretti from **Nava Jeevan Illam** Sisters of St Ann of Providence, Kottar Diocese, India, provided Melvin's details to the Committee.



## CHRISTMAS GIFT CARDS' PARTICULARS 2019:



Dear Supporters, please assist St Veronica's to provide support for the poor community of Sire, **Ethiopia**, in their struggle to access potable water, prevent and treat podoconiosis and to educate their children. This year:

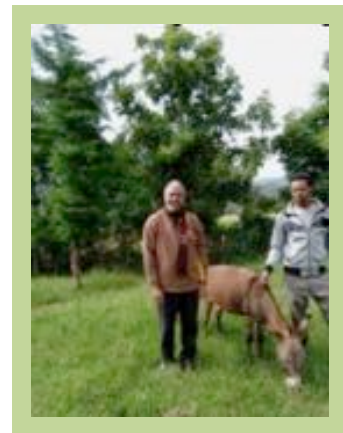
**\$10 Gift Cards will provide funds for Jerry Cans for transporting drinking water from the 17,000 litre tank to the family home**

**\$15 Gift Cards will provide funds for texts for primary students studying language (Afan Oromo and English), Environmental Science, Maths and Drawing**

**\$25 Gift Cards will provide funds for basins, bleach, soap, herbal remedy, socks and shoes for podoconiosis patients**

**\$40 Gift Cards will provide funds for solar lights (torches, bulbs and solar panels) for students without electricity to study at home**

**\$50 Gift Cards will provide funds for purchasing a donkey for the transport of water to family homes.**



**PLEASE FOLLOW THE STEPS OVER THE PAGE**

**Step 1. I am interested in purchasing (please tick)**

- € \$10 - a gift card for JERRY CANS for transporting water
- € \$15 - a gift card for TEXT BOOKS
- € \$25 - a gift card to treat podoconiosis and provide protective FOOTWEAR
- € \$40 - a gift card for SOLAR LIGHTING for students
- € \$50 - a gift card for a DONKEY for water transport

**Step 2. Fill out your details:**

<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Street Address:</b>	
	<b>Total Amount:</b>
<b>Email Address:</b>	

**Step 3. Mail your order to St Veronica Welfare Committee, P.O. Box 5098 WEST END 4101 OR email your order to [stveronica@gil.com.au](mailto:stveronica@gil.com.au) OR telephone your order through to 07 3844 7423.**

**Step 4. Payment methods available:**

- a. Visa or Master card (please circle):

Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder's Name:

\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date:

\_\_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_

- b. INTERNET TRANSFER or DIRECT DEPOSIT (Please contact the office for further details)

- c. CHEQUE or MONEY ORDER payable to St Veronica Welfare Committee

**Dear Supporters, thank you for your generosity!**

**We wish you a**

**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS FROM ST. VERONICA'S**  
**A JOYOUS CHRISTMAS FROM ST. VERONICA'S**