



ANNUAL REPORT

ST VERONICA WELFARE COMMITTEE

2022

St Veronica Welfare Committee founded by Mr and Mrs Colin Bennett 1956

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President/Trustee: Mrs Margaret Kerwin • Vice President: Mrs Jan Drake • Treasurer: Mrs Elizabeth Cole • Secretary Mr Michael Kerwin

Trustee: Mr John Kennett • Hon. Solicitor: Mr Paul Kerwin • ABN 74 044 171 838

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

“In 2022 St Veronica's provided almost half a million AU Dollars towards assisting centres overseas to educate poor students and help poverty-stricken communities”

Dear friends of St Veronica's, I am privileged to again present the St Veronica Committee's Annual Report – a pleasing acknowledgement of the inspirational generosity and commitment of St Veronica donors, together with the steadfast support of the Committee's small band of hardworking, dedicated volunteers. Thank you all for helping make 2022 another successful year.

As you will read in the details of the Committee's Financial Statement and Treasurer's Report on pages 6 and 7 of this report, in 2022 St Veronica's provided almost half a million Aussie dollars towards assisting centres overseas to educate poor students and help poverty-stricken communities - an impressive achievement for a group of unpaid volunteer workers continuing a mission begun almost seventy years ago.

Whilst education may not necessarily reduce global conflict, it can help improve the circumstances of individuals and communities. With access to current knowledge and the implementation of simple changes in hygiene, crop plantation and water use, populations have the opportunity to improve their lives and those of their community.

The education of children continues to be a vital need throughout the world. Covid disruptions have adversely affected the education of millions of children worldwide, with the poor particularly forced to forgo schooling in order to work to provide life's basic necessities.

Natural disasters in Australia and overseas, wars in Africa and Europe, intermittent and ongoing Covid outbreaks, religious discrimination and chauvinism, political and economic crises, inflation, rising interest rates, crop failures, malnutrition and hunger have contributed to human misery. Nevertheless, St Veronica's has improved the lives of many and we can look back with pride, and look forward with hope, to do even more in 2023. I hope you enjoy reading examples of some our achievements on this and the following pages of this report.

For me personally, the exhilaration and joy experienced through recounting these events and recalling the generosity of our supporters, has been tempered by an awareness of the need for both more sponsors and more volunteers. The tribulations of the poor and the incessant demands made on volunteers continue to be a cause for concern. Several volunteers have worked without a break for years, continuing throughout the national lockdown to ensure the Committee functioned as expected.

Dear supporters please do continue to spread the good news of Committee successes and our need for both more sponsors and volunteers.

Again, thank you all. May 2023 bring you joy and good fortune.

Margaret Kerwin
Hon. President

ST VERONICA EXTENDS A HELPING HAND!



Medical and developmental assistance to underprivileged Gumuz people
ETHIOPIA



Student sponsorship assistance Mother Theresa School
INDIA



Widows and disadvantaged women gain horticultural and small business skills
SRI LANKA

2022 OUR YEAR IN REVIEW

Prior to the April Annual General Meeting, the Committee Treasurer for the previous five years, Mrs Kathy Ducker, advised that her personal circumstances required her resignation. During her years as Treasurer, which also covered the years of the pandemic, Kathy maintained St Veronica's books in addition to working in a paid position and managing a busy home of husband and teenagers. Most impressively, at all times she maintained a cheerful, friendly demeanour and disposition. Kathy, we don't know how you managed it.

On behalf of all involved with the Committee, here in Australia and overseas, Kathy, a huge thank you! Don't forget, there will always be a position waiting for you at St Veronica's when you have free time available.

An enormous welcome and thank you to Mrs Elizabeth Cole! Elizabeth generously and competently assumed the role of Treasurer at the April AGM. She also is a busy person with many commitments apart from those she has so kindly agreed to undertake.

The resignation, due to family circumstances, of the Committee's Auditor of long years standing, Mr Denis Greathead, immediately prior to audit time, was unanticipated. It provided limited time to find and meet the expectations of an auditor new to the Committee and its operations. Thank you Elizabeth for the work you have done in this regard.

Thank you also to Denis Greathead for his many years of service to St Veronica's.



Kathy cutting her farewell cake in the office.

Ethiopia and Sri Lanka were especially affected by the natural and manmade disasters of 2022. The deprivations of many poor communities increased, with many suffering malnutrition and hunger. Thanks to media coverage, kind-hearted donors and shop workers, the Committee was able to respond and provide emergency financial help to several of its affected centres.



One of several community groups benefitting from Committee assistance during the economic crisis in Sri Lanka (Siri Nidhan -New Beginnings Program)



165 Gumuz families in Galya Rogda, Ethiopia benefitted from famine relief as crops failed due to the ongoing drought and inability to access water. Thank you donors.

The new Sister Superior at St Roch's, Thiruvananthapuram, India, distributes needed texts to sponsored students



Students at St Mary's Mariapuram, Trivandrum, India, enjoy their new technology thanks to Committee's donors

In November St Veronica's received a welcome letter from Sister Placida in Sri Lanka. For Sister's local community a big problem had been unemployment both for farmers whose crops had failed and for unemployed construction workers who could ill afford the cost of cement and iron, which had increased fourfold.

Sister used funds sent to Sri Lanka from a Committee donor to train workers in an alternative construction method using interlocking bricks, setting aside some funds to help purchase a brick-making machine.



Completion of the St Veronica-financed Safe House and other construction work recommences as construction workers use interlocking bricks to reduce the need for expensive cement (Siri Nidhan, Sri Lanka).

Growing chickens enables Goro school, Ethiopia, to provide the requisite midday meal for young students.



Left: Children enjoying their midday meal Goro



Right: Tree planting - environmental education (Ethiopia)



Seedlings for future food security, Galya Rogda, Ethiopia

APPEALS

There were four quarterly appeals in 2022. When funds allowed, St Veronica's contributed to other requests for assistance. Details of the quarterly appeals are shown below.

Additional Committee supported appeals included funds for food for malnourished mothers and families, for teachers' salaries, educational items including school bags, fees, uniforms, repair of technological equipment, as well as for micro-finance and agricultural programs, motivational programs, wells and tanks for water security, bathroom conveniences and furniture for housing for tribal girls. Photos of some of the above are shown in the pages of this report.

Thanks to generous donors, the Committee is seldom prevented from responding to worthy requests for assistance from its regular centres. We are greatly indebted to those generous people who send donations and advise the Committee to 'use as you think best'. Where possible, the Committee advises donors where their donations have been allocated. THANK YOU SO MUCH.

January / March Appeal

This appeal sought funds to assist the Salesian Sisters from Auxilium Troncatti Home Vocational Training Centre, Solabasti, Assam, India, provide additional toilet and bathroom facilities for approximately 100 female students living in the hostel. At the time there were only five toilets and bathrooms in poor condition to meet the needs of the tribal and non-tribal girls from low-paid, poverty-stricken families working on local tea plantations.

April / June Appeal

The Bethany Fathers in Ethiopia were the beneficiaries of this appeal which requested funds to assist the Fathers provide medical and developmental assistance to the under-privileged Gumuz people in Galiya Rogda. Galiya Rogda had neither road access, electricity nor a ready supply of water. Malnutrition, infant mortality, child marriage and polygamy are common. After an initial medical camp in February, there was a need for follow-up health care focusing on children and pregnant women.

July / September Appeal

The focus of this appeal was to provide funds to assist the Bethany Fathers and local community members at Bethany College, Nellyadi, Dakshina Kannada, India, to repair the old water-damaged, leaking school roof. The local population is unable to meet the full expenses of the repair work necessary to ensure the building is safe and laboratory facilities sufficient for approximately 1000 students from kindergarten to Year 12 level.

October / December Appeal

The current cohort of seventy disabled children and youth attending Bethany Jeevan Jyothy Special School are taught job-orientated skills including computer data entry and the production of joss sticks. With growing student numbers after Covid lockdowns, the school sought funds for the purchase of an income-generating 'plate-making machine' to enable the students to use areca nut plant leaves to produce plates which are in high demand.



Ongoing support for podoconiosis sufferers in Ethiopia



The long queues at the medical camp at Galiya Rogda bear witness to the need for health support



Appeal for baby formula and adequate food for malnourished mothers and infants, Gagure Bora, Ethiopia



Jeevan Jyothy students learn vocational skills



Construction of bathroom facilities for 100 poor vocational students at Troncatti Home, India



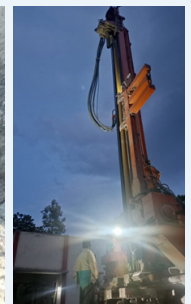
Left: Building repairs for Girls' Home, Salesians, Jollang Centre



Right: Beds and bedding for poor tribal girls at Jollang.



Left: Rainwater tank Goro, Ethiopia



Right: Bore well to provide ready access to water for underprivileged poor tribal families and children at Sirumalai Hills, India

GOOD NEWS!

Learning of successful programs and achievements of sponsored students causes joy and excitement for the office staff. We endeavour to share the news with the shop volunteers and donors whose hard work and generosity are essential components of every positive result. We firmly believe that, for a small, volunteer-run organisation, we (to use a hackneyed phrase) 'punch above our weight'. I hope readers will agree.

In October, there was an ecstatic response to the news that Mrs Meg Harty's sponsored student, Sahaya Raj, at St Vincent de Paul Parish, Kottar, India, had received a Conditional Offer for a Masters course in International Business Management at the London Metropolitan University. What a wonderful outcome from years of sponsorship assistance. Thank you Meg and 'Well done' Sahaya.



Your Conditional Offer for MSc International Business Management

During the year, the Committee had many opportunities to celebrate successes of sponsored students. At Mother Theresa High School, Dindigul Diocese, India, both senior and junior sponsored students achieved excellent results.



Students receiving first and second class honours at Mother Theresa High (Sister Theresa and Father Arockiasamy centre of group)



Sister Ushus (back left) from Irene Home Child Care Institute, together with the District Child Welfare Officer, celebrate students' success at the district Level Children's Arts and Craft Competition

Ansu Jayan was one of many sponsored students achieving outstanding results as can be seen by her grades below:

GOVERNMENT OF KERALA
Directorate of Higher Secondary Education
Examination Results - 2022
Results announced on 21.06.2022. Data updated on 29.06.2022

CHECK ANOTHER RESULT

March 2022 Examination (New Scheme) - Register No : 9102509

Name of the Candidate : ANSU JAYAN
Date of birth : 16-Sep-2004
Father's Name : JAYAKUMAR M R
Mother's Name : SHINY THOMAS
Group Name : HUMANITIES
Result : Eligible for Higher Studies
Grace :

SUBJECTS	FIRST YEAR			SECOND YEAR			GRAND TOTAL			GRADES (OUTAS)		
	CE	TE	TOTAL	CE	PE	TE	TOTAL	CE	PE		TE	TOTAL
ENGLISH	20	70	90	20	--	70	90	40	--	140	180	A+
MALAYALAM	20	80	100	20	--	76	96	40	--	156	196	A+
HISTORY	20	70	90	20	--	58	78	40	--	128	168	A
ECONOMICS	20	75	95	20	--	40	60	40	--	115	155	B+
POLITICAL SCIENCE	20	80	100	20	--	67	87	40	--	147	187	A+
SOCIOLOGY	20	72	92	20	--	76	96	40	--	148	188	A+

Abbreviations: CE-Continuous Evaluation, TE-Terminal Evaluation, PE-Practical Evaluation

Grade Range

A+ Grand Total Score 180-200 C+ Grand Total Score 100-115 with TE Score Greater Than or Equal To 30% of TE Maximum
 A Grand Total Score 160-179 C Grand Total Score 80-99 with TE Score Greater Than or Equal To 30% of TE Maximum
 B+ Grand Total Score 140-159 D+ Grand Total Score 60-79 with TE Score Greater Than or Equal To 30% of TE Maximum
 B Grand Total Score 120-139 D Grand Total Score 40-59 or TE Score lesser than 30% of TE Maximum
 C Grand Total Score Below 40

Maximum Scores

SUBJECTS	FIRST YEAR			SECOND YEAR			GRAND TOTAL				
	CE	TE	Total	CE	PE	TE	Total	CE	PE	TE	Total
Sub without Practical	20	80	100	20	--	80	100	40	--	140	160
For Model	20	40	60	20	40	40	140	40	80	100	260
Sub with Practical	20	60	80	20	40	60	120	40	40	120	280

Data Provided by Directorate of Higher Secondary Education, Kerala
IT Support by National Informatics Centre, Kerala State Centre.

Disclaimer: Neither NICE nor Directorate of Higher Secondary Education is responsible for any inadvertent error that may have occurred. The results published on net are for immediate information to the examinees. These cannot be original mark sheets. Original mark sheets will be issued by the Directorate of Higher Secondary Education separately.

Ansu previously sponsored by Katie and Aaron Davis is now at college and should have a great future ahead of her



Two newly arrived young cows will provide a future income for a young widow - funds donated by Mrs Schober (Vadakattupatty Village, India)



Essential technology for St Mary's Mariapuram High, Neyyattinkara Diocese, India, purchased with Committee funds



New bathroom facilities almost completed, Troncatti Home, India. Thank you donors!



Burmese migrant children in Thailand continue to benefit from text book funds provided by the Committee

During the civil war, the Bethany Fathers and Sisters courageously continued their work for the disadvantaged peoples of Ethiopia. They evoked the admiration of St Veronica staff as we learnt brief details of the unrest, intermittent violence and occasional abductions.

Despite the prevalent unrest and insecurity, many Ethiopian students seized the opportunity to continue their education. Below, Mabarathe, Thigisth and Ebbisee celebrate their graduation as kindergarten teachers in Goro with plans in place to employ them in local schools. Congratulations girls for your commitment and well-deserved success.



Environmentally friendly plates produced by the differentially-abled students at Bethany Jeevan Jyothy Special School.



Essential medical supplies reach Galiya Rogda, Ethiopia



Mabarathe, Thigisth and Ebbisee achieve their goal and future security

Other good news shared by the Jeevan Jyothy community was the selection of two students, Mahesh and Manjunath, chosen to participate in football training to compete in the Special Olympics to be held in Germany in 2023. Well done students.



Follow up health camp for mothers and children proved very popular



At Bethany Little Flower School, Goro, Ethiopia, younger classes receive an introduction to computers.

Whilst the political instability in Sri Lanka is no longer in the news, inflation continues to make life challenging for disadvantaged people. Sister Noyala in Colombo advises that forty percent of families are receiving insufficient food and 'are going hungry daily'.

The Sisters have organised motivational and income-generating programs for poor women who are eligible for financial loans to be repaid over time, allowing other women to benefit in the future.



Learning new skills to empower disadvantaged mothers



Access to education is not so easy for the Gumuz people of Galiya Rogda. Here locals trudge through the mud transporting educational materials.



Horticultural advice, financial support and supplies should secure future independence



A Community Garden will help young mothers to earn an income (Sri Lanka)

TREASURER'S REPORT

TREASURER'S REPORT 2022

St Veronica Welfare Committee relies on the contributions of many generous Donors who sponsor children through educational support and other needs on a yearly basis to enhance the opportunities of these children who come from impoverished families in either India, Sri Lanka or Ethiopia. To further assist the centres, the Committee also raises funds from quarterly special appeals which have a specific purpose and for other requests for assistance from the centres. These appeals assist centres to acquire educational equipment for the schools, water tanks or other projects eg building of safe houses or toilets. Contributions of sponsorships, gifts and appeals for the 2022 year were \$368700, an increase \$92000 on the previous year.

St Veronica's is very fortunate to have a dedicated community of individuals who give of their time, expertise and support to make the Committee's goals achievable through the operations of the thrift shop. The shop is vital to the running of our charity. Sales from the thrift shop meet all running costs, enabling 100% of our donation income to be disbursed to the various overseas centres. The thrift shop is operated by volunteers as is the administration of the Committee, further enabling us to assist students during university studies and other urgent requests from centres. The thrift shop was closed for a total of 11 weeks in the 2022 year from Covid-related issues resulting in a reduction in takings. Sales for the year were \$157870 compared to 2021 \$173494 (shop closure 5 weeks). Expenditure has remained in line with prior years.

During the 2022 year the Committee disbursed \$486378 (2021: \$400735) to the various centres we support in India, Sri Lanka and Ethiopia. Of these disbursements, approximately \$121000 came from thrift shop sales. The disbursements were substantially higher than the previous year and this was made possible from increased contributions from Donors who go above and beyond the annual sponsorship of children. We cannot thank our generous Donors enough for continuing to support us through these uncertain times.

The Committee shows a healthy net asset position of \$880742 at the close of the 2022 year which will enable us to meet our ongoing objectives.

Elizabeth Cole
Treasurer

FINANCIAL REPORT

2022 FINANCIAL REPORT

STATEMENT OF PROFIT AND LOSS AND OTHER COMPREHENSIVE INCOME FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2022

	2022	2021
	\$	\$
INCOME		
Sponsorships, Gifts & Appeals	368700	276669
Thrift Shop Sales	157870	173494
Other Income	720	267
	<u>527290</u>	<u>450430</u>
EXPENDITURE		
Overseas Centre Disbursements	486378	400735
Depreciation	1557	1415
Administration expenses	38542	35073
	<u>526477</u>	<u>437223</u>
Net Profit	813	13207
Other Comprehensive Income	0	0
TOTAL COMPREHENSIVE INCOME	<u>813</u>	<u>13207</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2022

EQUITY

Accumulated Funds	182780	180207
Asset Revaluation Reserve	697962	697962
TOTAL EQUITY	<u>880742</u>	<u>878169</u>

CURRENT ASSETS

Cash	123140	129124
Sundry Debtors	528	489
Total Current Assets	<u>123668</u>	<u>129613</u>

NON-CURRENT ASSETS

Property, Plant & Equipment	759558	759068
Total Non-Current Assets	<u>759558</u>	<u>759068</u>

TOTAL ASSETS

<u>883226</u>	<u>888681</u>
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CURRENT LIABILITIES

Sponsorship Advances	0	10512
Sundry Creditors	2484	0
TOTAL LIABILITIES	<u>2484</u>	<u>10512</u>

NET ASSETS

<u>880742</u>	<u>878169</u>
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This concise financial report is an extract from the financial report. The financial statements and specific disclosures included in this concise financial report have been derived from the financial report. The concise financial report cannot be expected to provide as full an understanding of the financial performance, financial position and financing and investing activities of the entity as the financial report. The presentation currency used is Australian dollars.

If you would like to view the full financial statements for the 2022 financial year, please contact St Veronica Welfare Committee or visit the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) website (www.acnc.gov.au/charity) and search for St Veronica Welfare Committee.

SPONSOR A STUDENT

JERSHMILA G



JERSHMILA is in the parish of the Church of St Lucia. She was born in June, 2010 and is in 8th Standard. Jershmila's mother, Mrs S Anto Jessy Kala, earns Rs 1200 approximately (Au \$25) each month working in a private clinic. Jershmila has one elder sister who is also studying.

At 45, Jeshmila's mother was widowed twelve years ago. After her husband's death, the family was pushed to an extreme level of poverty. By undertaking a short training programme in nursing, she has gained work in a clinic but her monthly earnings are too meagre to afford the daily necessities.

Jeshmila is attending Maria Rafols School and has an artistic mind. She is a good student who hopes to become a doctor in the future.

BENIYAM LEMMESA



BENIYAM is nine years old and currently in Standard 3. He has a father Lemmesa Naga and mother Diribi Kabada. Currently Beni Yam is staying at the Goro Boys' Home and is a good student.

Beniyam is the fifth child in a family of six children. He is a member of the Gumuz community which is considered lower caste and the most underprivileged group in Ethiopia. There are no roads, electricity, education or health facilities in the area.

Many thousands of students have benefitted from the St Veronica sponsorship program over the last sixty-seven years. The Committee was reminded of this in an email from Father Retnam (a St Veronica sponsorship coordinator for 40 years). He commented: 'we have helped many poor children ... they are now in a good position because of their higher education'. Current careers of past sponsored students in contact with Father Retnam included nursing, engineering and teaching. Positions in companies and marketing were also common career choices. Whilst several of the past students were college lecturers, others worked in industry or in information technology or computer centres. Some worked as accountants, another was an airport flight manager. Dear Father Retnam, thank you for sharing this information.

WASTE NOT - OUR MOTTO

The Committee welcomed several new shop volunteers in 2022 helping the thrift shop to remain open six days each week. The shop is popular with regular customers for its good quality, varied stock, friendly staff and presentation. Indeed, Diane, one of the new volunteers, has declared the shop is a veritable 'Aladdin's Cave of treasures'. She suggests anyone looking for a unique gift would benefit from a visit.



A satisfied customer (above) shared her photo wearing a fur coat purchased from Committee shop.



A worthwhile purchase for that special party!



Another hidden treasure!



You may be surprised what can be found!



A gift for a fortunate fan or parent?

Would you like to sponsor a child/donate to our work?

I would like to donate \$ (PLEASE TICK RELEVANT BOX) Child Sponsorship - \$100 per year OR Support of Special Appeals
(New sponsorships only)

METHOD OF PAYMENT: MASTERCARD VISA CHEQUE (PLEASE TICK ONE)

NAME / NAME ON CARD: _____

SIGNATURE: _____

ADDRESS: _____

TELEPHONE: _____

CARD NUMBER:

EXPIRY DATE: _____ / _____

Please send your gift to: St Veronica Welfare Committee, PO Box 5098, West End Q 4101 | PHONE: 07 3844 7423 | ABN: 74 044 171 838

EMAIL: admin@stveronica.org.au | WEB: www.stveronica.org.au