

MARY'S NEWS TODAY

MARY MACKILLOP
today

Spring 2018

***Linda, a recipient of a
Mary MacKillop Today
Scholarship, is
determined to use her
education to give back
to her community.***

You helped Anna See!

You're supporting rural Aussies

Dear friends and supporters of Mary MacKillop Today

Welcome to our very first edition of Mary's News Today! Here we can share stories with you about the work you are making possible - both in Australia and overseas. In this edition you'll see we have heart-warming stories from near and afar.

I'm thankful for your support and prayers as we complete the final steps of the merger to unite as Mary MacKillop Today. I believe we'll now make an even greater impact for people in need.

If you have any questions or feedback, please feel free to contact me personally on 02 8912 2765 or kirsty.robertson@marymackilloptoday.org.au.

Thank you for your kind support. Happy reading!

With gratitude,

K. Robertson

Kirsty Robertson
CEO



Your big heart has helped rural Australians

Mary MacKillop Today's Financial Inclusion Program supports low income earners to move away from financial hardship towards stability. In partnership with Good Shepherd Microfinance, we offer No Interest Loan Schemes (NILS) to individuals, like Susan, suffering from financial exclusion and poverty in areas of rural NSW. Susan is living with a degenerative disability that affects the use of her legs. Her previous home had stairs, leaving her housebound. Susan desperately needed to move and, thanks to your support, we were able to help her buy appliances for her new home that are much more accessible for her - a new fridge, washing machine, TV and dryer. Susan now has more independence because she no longer relies on others to help her wash and cook.

"Without NILS I wouldn't be here now (in a new home). I wouldn't have been able to afford these things I needed. It has enabled me to set up myself here. Without access to NILS I would have had to go into a home, now I will be able to stay here and be comfortable."

- Susan, who overcame her barrier to independence through the No Interest Loan Scheme

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MEMBER

Mary MacKillop Today is a signatory of the Australian Council for International Development Code of Conduct reflecting Mary MacKillop Today's Compliance with industry Standards of good practice, transparency and accountability.

Inspired by Australia's first saint, Mary MacKillop Today empowers communities in Australia and overseas to realise their dignity through education, health, financial inclusion and livelihoods. Mary MacKillop Today's approach is shaped by the principles of our organisation. These principles are Human Dignity, Common Good, Participation and Subsidiarity and Options for the Poor.

Mary MacKillop Today acknowledges the traditional owners and custodians of the land, past and present, on which all our offices are located.



LINDA

“Mary MacKillop Today has provided financial peace of mind to continue on with my studies. The scholarship eases the financial struggle of trying to pay bills, buy resources, feed and support my family whilst studying and maintaining good grades... I would like to say ‘Thank You’ to all Mary MacKillop Today supporters and sponsors, I am very grateful that there are individuals, organisations and corporations who are able to assist and encourage Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to achieve their education goals and dreams by supporting programs such as Mary MacKillop Today.”

-Linda, Mary MacKillop Today Scholar

Linda's Story

Linda is a motivated, focused and driven individual. As a mother of six and proud grandmother of one, she works tirelessly to inspire, educate and encourage her children to study hard by setting a good example. Born in Rockhampton, Linda lived and travelled all over Queensland before settling in Western Australia, where she's grateful to have been accepted into the Whadjuk Noongar community, a community she wishes to give back to after she finishes her studies.

As a recipient of a Mary MacKillop Today's Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Scholarship, Linda, studying Medicine and Surgery, aims to have a successful career helping to improve Aboriginal health and life expectancy when she graduates. She is determined, with her acute understanding of Aboriginal culture and family structures, to make a difference in peoples lives by educating them about their health and treatment options and by providing culturally appropriate health care services, education and advice.

Thanks to you, with a Mary MacKillop Today Scholarship, Linda has the financial security to work towards her dreams without the worry as a mature aged student and as a mother and grandmother, of incurring huge financial debt.

Thank you for providing livelihoods...

Mary MacKillop Today's partner in Peru, Solidaridad para el Desarrollo, has just completed training 40 women in Puka Phallcha and Kailla Kipu communities to knit beautiful garments and work together to manage their small businesses! Many of the women are single mothers juggling work and family, and many were illiterate before beginning the training. Women in Peru, particularly those in remote and rural communities continue to be disadvantaged in gaining access to education and employment. Through the training, that your dedicated commitment to Mary MacKillop Today supports, the women have learnt values such as solidarity, respect, trust, achieving their rights, and having a strong work ethic.

"This project has been very important for me because it has given me guiding values for my personal life and my family, which I have put into practice."

One of the woman from Kailla Kipu who recently completed our livelihoods training.

Thank you for supporting our livelihood programs to transform lives. You can further support our artisans by purchasing their beautifully handcrafted fair trade products at:

www.ethica.org.au



**You can transform
the lives of
women in
Peru!**

Say hello to Iza

Mary MacKillop Today's Mobile Learning Centre (MLC) operates in and around Dili in Timor-Leste. Many challenges exist for children to access quality education, with many schools and pre-schools outside of the capital lacking basic resources. One such school in the Municipality of Liquica, that's just 25 minutes from Dili, the Teachers there feel very lucky that the *"Biblioteka Movel"*, as the MLC is called by the kids, visits. When the bus is there, the teachers are able to use and borrow books, musical instruments, and resources to motivate and engage the kids. Kids, like Iza, who at almost 5 years old makes sure she never misses a day of pre-school! Ensuring kids have access to education early in life is vital for their long-term development. And thanks to your commitment to the MLC, children like Iza, will continue to get that chance.



IZA

*Thanks to you -
Iza loves
coming to school!*

You helped Anna see!

In the small community of Waramo village in Vanimo, Papua New Guinea, your generous support is transforming the lives of people like Anna. When Jude, a Community Based Rehabilitation Volunteer with our in country partner, Callan Vanimo Inclusive Education Resource Centre, first met and assessed Anna, he referred her to the hospital eye clinic. Anna had cataracts in both eyes and was almost completely blind. Jude has been receiving training to help identify people like Anna, who are living with disability or treatable impairment. Anna has now had her surgery and was so happy she could see, she kissed all the doctors, nurses and volunteers at the hospital! Jude will keep visiting Anna during her recovery and continues to help more people in the community to access the healthcare they need, all because of your kind spirit. Thank you!

*Anna can't stop
smiling because she
has her sight back -
thanks to you!*



ANNA

Your Legacy...

Having a valid Will is important to help protect the future of your loved ones. After considering your family's needs, choosing to leave a lasting legacy to Mary MacKillop Today will allow our life-changing work to continue for years to come. Your generosity will make a difference to the lives of many people both in Australia and overseas. There are several ways you can leave a gift in your Will. Please contact Emily Hickman on 02 8912 2712 for a confidential discussion about a way that works best for you.

Celebrating new beginnings!

Thank you to those who joined us for the Office Blessing at our new space in North Sydney on 17th July. It was great to be able to meet many of our supporters and to have some of our amazing Mary MacKillop Today Scholarship recipients attend.

Sr Monica Cavanagh, the Congregational Leader of the Sisters of St. Joseph, provided a wonderful prayerful blessing and we ask that you, our supporters, pray for us as we begin our journey as Mary MacKillop Today - that we continue to be led by Mary's spirit and follow God's way.



Photos by Mary MacKillop Today Staff, where required, names have been changed for privacy.

MARY MACKILLOP
today

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THANK YOU...

for your generous support of Mary MacKillop Today.

If you'd like to join us by becoming a Parish Ambassador, speaking for Mary MacKillop Today, running an ethica stall or collecting stamps, call or email us today!

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