



“Never see a need without doing something about it”



MESSAGE FROM THE CEO

20 YEARS OF KINDNESS IN ACTION

I am so proud that as we mark the **20th Anniversary of the Foundation**, our determination to continue her life-changing work of improving the lives of marginalised and vulnerable Australians through education, is stronger than ever.

While I believe Mary would always be urging us to do more, I think she would also be quietly proud of the results her Foundation has achieved over the past two decades (see overleaf).

In many ways Mary was an ordinary Australian who achieved extraordinary things. Thank you for taking action, just like Mary did, to create a better world for the people of today and the children of tomorrow.

With Blessings and heartfelt thanks,

Maree Whybourne

CEO, Mary MacKillop Foundation

PS. Isn't it auspicious that we celebrate our 20th Anniversary at around the same time as the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop?

EDUCATION KEEPS ON GIVING

When you help one person get a university education that nurtures their gifts and talents, you will never know the ripple effect it could have in the community.

Theresa Ardler is an Aboriginal woman who manages to seamlessly integrate Indigenous and non-Indigenous spirituality and customs in her life with great wisdom and creativity.

She grew up in Nowra and Jervis Bay, NSW, and initially put her dreams of university on hold to care for her dying mother. But it was she who challenged Theresa to return to school to achieve better marks, and then get the skills to become an educator – something she always wanted.

Theresa did achieve her teaching degree. What became evident during fruitful years in the school system was her great gifts in helping non-Aboriginal people understand the culture, spirituality and customs of her people in a compelling, inclusive way.

Now, Theresa is overjoyed to be doing her Masters in Religious Education at the Australian Catholic University with the support of a Mary MacKillop Indigenous Tertiary Scholarship. This qualification has led her to a dream job as Research Indigenous Liaison Officer at the Australian Catholic University where she gets to put her skills to good use.

She devotes her days to connecting non-Aboriginal students on its eight campuses with Aboriginal communities. For Theresa, this role is all about making Reconciliation a reality, something very close to her heart.

The scholarship you have funded helps with her study costs and gives her the resources she needs to learn and contribute as a community leader.



Theresa is a traditional owner of the Gweagal clan and walks the line between two cultures with grace and passion.

Theresa was recently recognised as the 'New Indigenous Voice of Educational Leadership for Indigenous Education': an award that is testimony to the power of education to help someone achieve their dreams, despite all odds, and make an amazing contribution to society.

This is how your gifts keep on giving long after our students graduate. Thank you.

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS

Mary MacKillop has been described as a “nuts and bolts saint” – because she was devoted to giving people the basic tools to overcome poverty, illiteracy and social isolation.

Despite hardship and persecution including excommunication from the Catholic Church, **Mary made an extraordinary impact during her 67 years**, establishing more than 40 schools for the poor as well as orphanages and homes for the destitute, with the order she co-founded, the Sisters of St Joseph.

Mary had been gone from the world for 88 years when her Foundation was formally launched in July 1997. The Sisters of St Joseph established the Foundation in Mary's name to rally public support for her work to end disadvantage and **keep her vision for compassion and equality alive**.

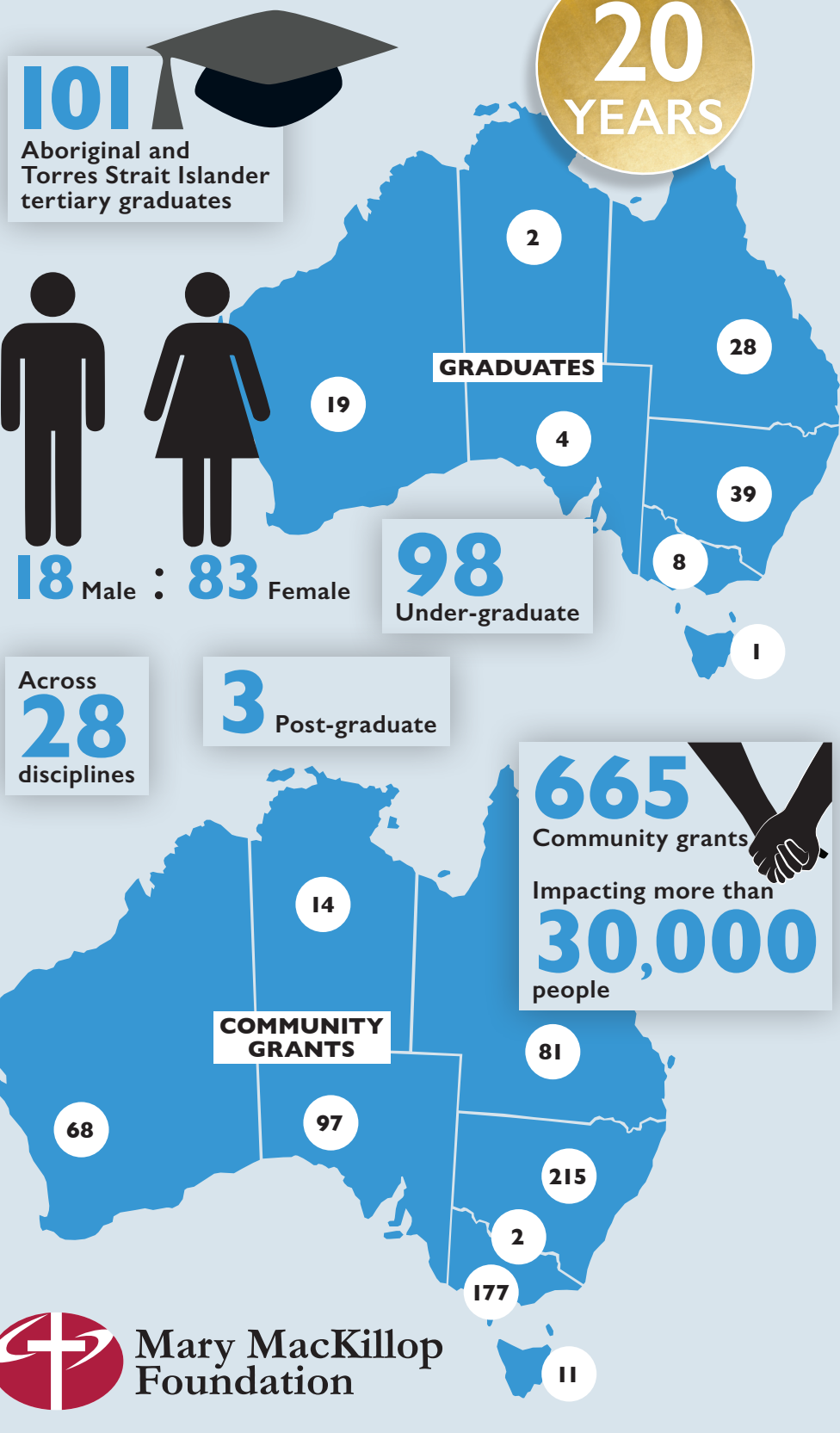
Now 20 years on, we have continued to further her dream, helping disadvantaged Australians access the ‘nuts and bolts’ fundamentals required for dignified, fulfilling lives. **With the help of supporters like you, the Foundation has brought life-changing opportunities to people who would not otherwise have had the chance.**

In that time, we have uncovered countless opportunities to **alleviate suffering and isolation in Australia, providing 665 grants to community groups** who have helped thousands of people overcome adversity caused by poverty, sickness, distress and disability through education.

And what we learnt in the early years about educational disadvantage compelled us to create the Indigenous Tertiary Scholarship program. **Today, 101 Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people have attained a rich array of degrees with your support** – many who are the first in their family to graduate. **A further 93 are studying on a scholarship right now.**

We are thrilled and proud to celebrate 20 years of futures transformed, but it is also timely to remember that **more than 1 in 10 Australians still live below the poverty line**, when many don't have

Since our launch in 1997, we have achieved:



to. Things could be very different if they could access the innovative opportunities only made possible with your support. **We simply need to do more.**

Mary MacKillop said “Never see a need without doing something about it”.

For the last 20 years The Mary MacKillop Foundation has tried to remain true to Mary's challenge wherever we can - and **we will never stop until every person in this country enjoys equal access to education and opportunity.**

US SUPPORTING YOU

As a Foundation supporter, you are the only reason we can continue to help people in our community in need. That is why we are thrilled to welcome to our team someone to support you – **our new Relationships Manager Kingsley Edwards**.

His priority is getting to know you and ensure that you can contribute to Mary MacKillop's vision the way you wish. **Kingsley is a family man who brings a wealth of corporate sector skills and a passion for social justice and education** to this new role.

Please feel free to get in touch with Kingsley with any questions or comments on **02 8912 2748** or **kingsley.edwards@mackillopfoundation.org.au**



Kingsley Edwards would love to know how you feel connected to the Foundation. Will you contact him?



STUDENTS BLITZ LOCAL BACKYARDS – AND THRIVE

Thanks to you, disengaged students who may have otherwise dropped out of school are getting the practical skills to create better futures - and helping others less fortunate.

A community grant you helped fund has enabled Queensland's Deception Bay Flexible Learning Centre – an alternative school for high school students that supports lifelong learning – to enrol 12 young people in a newly created practical learning program, **tending the unkempt backyards of community members living with illness, disability and disadvantage**.

To gain real-life and vocational skills, the students must develop a budget for each Backyard Blitz they undertake, shop for landscaping supplies, and create promotional materials and uniforms for their gardening enterprise.



Participants in the DBay Flexi Backyard Blitz program tend to the gardens of their neighbours in need.

With great determination and compassion, the students have now made a difference to many local people struggling to maintain their yards including a woman who has diabetes and cancer, an elderly lady with a disability, a young family under financial strain and another family threatened with eviction.

"The gratitude of those we help has given the students great satisfaction and enhanced their self-esteem," says Associate Head of Campus Mark Ellison.

This is what your support achieves. **Thank you!**

APPLICATIONS STILL OPEN – INDIGENOUS TERTIARY SCHOLARSHIPS

Are you – or someone you know – an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander person who wants to attend university, but is prevented by financial barriers? There is still time this year to apply for a Foundation scholarship for 2018. Applications close on 31 August. Please visit www.mackillopfoundation.org.au for more information.

JOIN US

In an increasingly digital world, following the Foundation on Facebook can be a simple, fun way to connect with us and other supporters. **We regularly post uplifting Mary MacKillop quotes, prayers and updates** on the projects you fund – all things our supporters said they wanted in a recent survey.

We invite you to join the conversation today! www.facebook.com/MaryMacKillopFoundation



Children at Mary MacKillop Primary School, Birkdale (QLD), take part in Mission Day.



SPECIAL THANKS

COMMUNITY FUNDRAISING

Thank you to all the generous students and teachers across Australia who have been fundraising for the Foundation. In particular, **thank you to those schools raising money this week to celebrate the Feast Day of St Mary MacKillop.**

Every cent you raise makes a difference.



Introducing Mary's people

It is important to recognise that we couldn't continue Mary's work without supporters like you; people who come from all walks of life.

No matter how much or little you give, it all makes an incredible difference and we are so grateful for you. From this edition onwards, we will be sharing some of the moving stories of special individuals who form the Foundation family - Mary's people.

"I WAS DESPERATE"

It was **Mary MacKillop's inspiring life story that gave John of Adelaide* the courage** to make positive changes in his life.

"Six years ago, 10 days after the birth of my first child, I was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. I was desperate. **I reached out to Mary MacKillop by coming to the chapel** and leaving a petition (a written request for parishioners to pray for him).

"One of the Sisters wrote back to me and the fact that she did that meant a lot to me at that time and I've been meaning to give a donation for a long time."

John is currently in remission from his life-threatening disease. Out of gratitude to Mary, he recently donated to the Foundation.

Thank you, John, for your generosity!

* Name and location have been changed



THREE WAYS TO GIVE QUICKLY AND EASILY

1. MAIL this completed form

2. PHONE call 02 8912 2720

3. DONATE ONLINE

www.mackillopfoundation.org.au

DONATE TODAY



Mary MacKillop
Foundation

YES, I WILL MAKE A DONATION TO PROVIDE OPPORTUNITY AND END POVERTY.

Please accept my single donation of:

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Or my choice: \$_____

Or

I would like to make a regular monthly donation of:

☐ \$30 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ Or my choice: \$_____

Select date for monthly processing:

☐ 1st ☐ 15th

Payment Method

Please find enclosed a: ☐ Cheque / Money order (payable to Mary MacKillop Foundation)

Or Please debit this card: ☐ Visa ☐ Mastercard ☐ Amex (\$10 minimum)

Card number: _____ Expiry date: _____ / _____

Name on card: _____

Signature: _____

☐ I would consider leaving a gift in my will to the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

☐ I have included the Mary MacKillop Foundation in my will.

Donations of \$2 and over are tax deductible in Australia. A tax receipt will be sent out to the address above.

If you wish to opt out of, or change the frequency of updates you receive from us, or receive your receipt via email,

please phone us on: 02 8912 2720, fax: 02 8912 2798 email: info@mackillopfoundation.org.au or write to us at PO Box 855, North Sydney NSW 2059 ABN 53 838 436 582