

Annual Newsletter

Children of Light

www.colaustralia.com

From the Chairman

It's been over ten years that 'Children of Light Australia' has worked with 'Children of Light Sumba' (now called Yasdeg) to provide financial support for the education of high school students in Sumba. Before that time many students could not afford to get high school education, let alone reformed education. They lived too far from school and couldn't afford to board within reach of a school.

Yasdeg was set up to promote and support reformed education. It opened places in private and boarding homes for students. COL Australia sponsored these students. The work expanded to support the building and some maintenance of a reformed senior school, SMTK, in Kanjonga, Sumba. The school, with a boarding home attached, has become the main focus of Yasdeg's activities. The Lord has blessed this work and many students have been given assistance.

SMTK, the Reformed Senior School in Kanjonga, was opened in 2011 after the Indonesian government made a policy to allow private schools to be opened in all provinces of Indonesia. SMTK offers 13 secular subjects and 10 subjects related to religion. In this way generations of children of the GGRI (reformed churches) are able to develop both intellectually as well as spiritually. Since students come from a range of areas and local GGRI churches they can form friendships and relationships so that the links between the churches become stronger.

Melolo and Sabu Boarding Homes still receive support from COL. This is decreasing over time as Melolo becomes independent from Yasdeg. Home stay support and Mboko boarding home support has come to an end as most students now stay at Kanjonga. For those of you who sponsor these students, we will offer half sponsorships and pair sponsors together to provide shared support to a student from Kanjonga Boarding Home.

In the last 10 years the joint efforts of COL and YASDEG have been a channel of blessing to no less than 500 students who have received financial assistance for their higher education. Of these students, some have become nurses, some teachers in secular schools, and others evangelists. There are some who are still pursuing studies in higher education institutions to become nurses, teachers, members of the armed forces, ministers, accountants, farmers and IT workers.



Committee Members

Chairman – Shannon Reitsema
Secretary – Dini Plug
Treasurer - Veronica Dekker
Member - Henry Strating



Melolo Boarding home and students.





Classes at SMTK

The COL Australia Committee,

This has been a very exciting year in regards to the COL School in Sumba. We thank God that we have been very blessed with sponsors willing to sponsor a child and the school and buildings continue to be built.

In the past year there has been change in the committee. Ben Kramer, the former chairman, has left, leaving a big hole. I (Shannon Reitsema) now have to fill these big shoes. Sr Dini Plug has become our new secretary.

Sr Veronica Dekker is treasurer and Br Henry Strating acts as general support. In the background Sr Miriam Terpstra translates anything that comes our way in Indonesian (so we can all understand it without using google translate) and Br Ben Kramer continues to care for the facebook and webpage, ensuring COL's presence out there.

Our brothers and sisters in Sumba are not that far behind our modern society. They love facebook and are writing posts often. This is great as we now get regular photos and keep up with special events. Since these reports are in Indonesian, Ben adds photos from their page on the COL page. Check it out on [facebook.com/COLAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/COLAustralia).

Contact with your student

If you would like to send a letter to the student you sponsor, we encourage you to do so. You can pass it to one of the committee members and we will have the next visitor to Sumba pass it to them. Alternatively, find out who is going to Sumba and ask them to take it.



Fundraising

Every soccer carnival we have a coffee and cake stall where we raise money and awareness for the school in Sumba. Thank you very much for your support in both making and buying the cakes. We also have other stalls at the carnival that raise money for the COL and we would also like to say a very big thank you to you.

Sponsors and Donors

Over the past few years, we have been blessed with sponsors willing to support this wonderful work of the provision of education for our young brothers and sisters in Sumba. We currently have equal sponsors to students. This is a great blessing. Thank you for this ongoing support.

We also thank all of you who regularly donate money for the building of the senior high school. However, we urgently need more donors for this part of the work. Progress is steady. Stage one and parts of stage 2 and 3 have been completed. The parts of stage two to be built next year, DV, include the nurses post, library, a large under covered area for devotions, a proper driveway and school entrance and an improved kitchen and cooking facilities. We have had a minor setback this past year. Two of the buildings that were built were not up to structural standards and cracked badly during the wet season. This required extra funds and is currently being repaired.



Treasurer's Report

During 2014/15 we have continued supporting Sumba with Stage 2 of the School Building Project.

To date we have sent Sumba \$75,000 towards Stage 2 and they are using these funds towards extra buildings. We are sending progress payments of \$5,000 - \$10,000 for the building project, rather than large lump sums as we can then receive better accountability from Sumba. Our building funds are diminishing and hence we will need to continue our fundraising during 2015/16.

We are thankful that the total funds for donations have been steady as well. Funds for donations are being used for repairs & maintenance of the existing buildings, wages for teachers & boarding home caretakers, and any other items such as desks & chairs. As we have a balance of nearly \$28,000 in donations, the excess amount can be put towards the School Building Project if no other urgent needs are required.

COL has been blessed with a core group of sponsors, which have been sponsoring a child for many years. Currently we are very thankful that we have enough sponsors for the children, but we do however ask you to consider becoming a regular donor, contributing towards the School Building Project. Donations are gratefully accepted as weekly, fortnightly, quarterly, yearly or as a once off payment. You can pass these on to a committee member; mail it to: 9 Dalray Court, Darling Downs WA 6122 or make a direct deposit into the COL Australia bank account: BSB – 036-032 A/C # 30-9779.



With thankfulness to our Heavenly Father we can see that the support is bearing good fruit, and we ask for your continued prayer and financial assistance for our brothers and sisters in Sumba, and for those students who are able to attend a Reformed School.

Sponsorships



Please note that we have updated the types of sponsorships available to suit the present needs. If you would like to make any changes to your current sponsorship, please contact the treasurer.

Student in a Boarding Home \$33.00 month / \$396 per year:

Student in Boarding home (shared with another sponsor) \$16.50 month / \$198 per year.

This sponsorship pays for a student to stay in a supervised Boarding home or at the Kanjonga Senior School. It provides them with accommodation and some schooling expenses.

Repairs and Maintenance Fund \$5 per month / \$60 per year:

This donation contributes to maintenance and general upkeep of the school.

School Building project:

You can nominate how much you would like to donate on a monthly/yearly basis.

Single Donation:

You can nominate how much you would like to donate as a once-off donation. Choose where you would like it to go.

For more information you can email: sponsorship@colaustralia.com



Financial Year 2014 - 2015

1 July 2014 – 30 June 2015

Receipts

Sponsorship - Family Home students	\$4,160.00
Sponsorship - Boarding home students	\$47,372.32
Donations	\$15,018.33
School Building Project	\$26,872.60
Interest Income	\$1,515.26
Total Receipts	\$94,938.51

Expenditure

Newsletter & Advertising	\$999.03
Bank Fees	\$160.75
Sponsorship	\$48,000.00
School Bus	\$10,000.00
School Building Project	\$30,000.00
Total Expenditure	\$89,159.78

Net Surplus **\$5,778.73**

Opening Bank Balance: 1 July 2014	\$ 60,031.16
Add surplus	\$ 5,778.73
Closing Bank Balance: 30 June 2015	<u>\$ 65,809.89</u>

REPRESENTED BY:

Sponsor funds	\$ 21,476.60
Donation funds	\$ 27,908.46
School Building Project funds	\$ 16,069.35
Other funds	\$ 355.48
<i>Closing Bank Balance June 30</i>	<u>\$ 65,809.89</u>

Sponsorships

	2013/14	2014/15
Opening Balance July 1	\$ 14,674.29	\$ 17,944.28
Add: Receipts	\$ 50,350.24	\$ 51,532.32
Less Payments	\$ 47,080.25	\$ 48,000.00
<i>Closing Balance June 30</i>	<u>\$ 17,944.28</u>	<u>\$ 21,476.60</u>

Donations

Opening Balance July 1	\$ 23,089.92	\$ 22,890.13
Add: Receipts	\$ 6,596.38	\$ 15,018.33
Less: Payments	\$ 6,796.17	\$ 10,000.00
<i>Closing Balance June 30</i>	<u>\$ 22,890.13</u>	<u>\$ 27,908.46</u>

School Building Project

Opening Balance July 1	\$ 12,340.35	\$ 19,196.75
Add: Receipts	\$ 51,916.40	\$ 26,872.60
Less: Payments	\$ 45,060.00	\$ 30,000.00
<i>Closing Balance June 30</i>	<u>\$ 19,196.75</u>	<u>\$ 16,069.35</u>



The teacher's office



Lunch time



SMKT drill



Preparing lunch



We're on the Web

Apart from our website you can also find us on Facebook. We post photos and updates on our wall, so come find us and like us!

[facebook.com/COLAustralia](https://www.facebook.com/COLAustralia)

Of course if you are not on Facebook, you can visit our website with all the same pictures and more info at:

www.colaustralia.com