

2001

TO

2005

# OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION

Making Mainstream Educational Choices accessible and available to Koorie Kids



# ACTIVITY REPORT 2004 / 2005

## Mission Statement

The Opening the Doors Foundation seeks to address the severe educational disadvantage still being experienced by Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander families by providing assistance to enable them to choose and successfully maintain a positive educational environment for their children

## Chair's Message

The path towards Aboriginal Reconciliation has many obstacles to overcome. Through improved education, the Aboriginal Community is able to enhance its contribution and accelerate the achievement of Reconciliation. The Foundation has continued to play its important role in this process in 2005.

It has been a busy, but rewarding year for the Foundation. As recorded in other parts of the Activity Report, there has been a substantial increase in support to Aboriginal families, both in terms of the number of beneficiary students and funding made available. An enormous challenge still lies ahead but with the support of generous benefactors and other partners mentioned in our Report, the challenge will be embraced.

I thank the Trustees who give their time willingly and generously to the Foundation. I also thank the members of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry and its support group, the Binnap Partners, for their assistance.

John Arthur

### PATRONS

Opening the Doors Foundation is privileged to have Co-Patrons representing both the Indigenous and non-Indigenous communities:

*Emeritus Archbishop Sir Frank Little and Professor Joy Murphy Wandin*

TRUSTEES:	Mr John Arthur	Ms Melissa Brickell
	Mrs Joyce Smith	Mr Douglas Smith
	Mrs Sandra Walker	Ms Vicki Walker
	Ms Naomi Wolfe	
Retiring Trustee 2005:	Mr Kevin Messer	

STAFF:	Mrs Carol Messer—Development Officer (part-time)
	Mrs Lilian Hobson—Finance officer (part-time)

### THE FOUNDATION WISHES TO ACKNOWLEDGE WITH GRATITUDE ITS MAJOR SUPPORTING PARTNERS:

**Mr Harry Bugden  
Mrs Agnes Bugden (dec)**

**Victorian Catholic Bishops  
Portland House Foundation ... Rio Tinto Aboriginal Foundation  
Newmans Own Foundation  
Blessed Sacrament Fathers ... Cabrini Health  
Lord Mayors Charitable Fund ... Ethel May Woods Trust**

**WE ALSO GRATEFULLY AND FONDLY ACKNOWLEDGE ALL OUR DEDICATED "FRIENDS OF THE FOUNDATION" WITHOUT WHOSE CONTINUOUS AND LOYAL SUPPORT THE FOUNDATION COULD NOT CONTINUE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE TO VICTORIAN INDIGENOUS STUDENTS AND THEIR FAMILIES**

## Development Office Report

2004-2005 has been an exciting time of growth and development for Opening the Doors Foundation increasing its capacity to meet the ever growing need of young Indigenous students enrolled in independent educational institutions in Victoria.

The Foundation is now well into its second year of partnership with the St. Vincent de Paul Society. This partnership is absolutely vital to the capacity building ability of the Foundation as it moves into the future. By funding the administration of the Foundation, St. Vincent de Paul Society not only provides the pathway to growth for the Foundation but also allows the Foundation to apply 99% of monies raised to the benefit of Indigenous students and their families. The latter benefit is a great incentive to those individuals or organisations who are considering donating funds to the Foundation.

WWW - the world wide web!! [www.openingthedoorsfoundation.org.au](http://www.openingthedoorsfoundation.org.au) is proving to be a dynamic invitation into the world of the Foundation for both web browsers and serious enquirers alike. The availability of Application Forms and Criteria on the site lifts the administrative burden and allows easy access for schools and parents. There are resources available on the site to assist schools in both informing their students and in raising funds for the Foundation and we are able to acknowledge in a very public way the generosity of those who support the Foundation.

Strong collaborative bonds have been formed with Indigenous Education workers in some rural areas of Victoria, leading to a greater capacity of the Foundation to meet the needs of families and students in these areas; this facet of the work of the Development Office needs to be encouraged and continually developed.

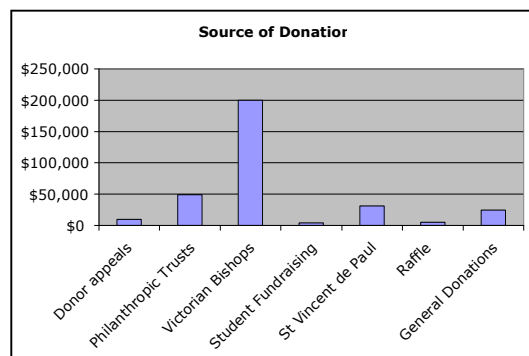
Fundraising has been another area of growth due to successful submissions to philanthropic trusts, extremely generous donations, a strong support committee and the continued support of a faithful group of supporters. Without this support the Foundation would not be considering such a positive and successful future.

Personally, my two years as Development Officer has been so very rewarding and it is satisfying to leave the Foundation in such good shape and ready for an ongoing and vibrant future.

Carol Messer - Development Officer

Foundation Sub-Committee : Albert Aslangul, John O'Halloran, Chrystabel Soares  
Joan Power (Chair, now retired)

This Committee continues to work diligently to support the Foundation in all its endeavours. The graph displays clearly the source of donations to the Foundation. A successful raffle was conducted during '04, '05 producing An excellent result. The Committee is hosting an "Appreciation" evening for all donors and supporters of the Foundation on November 11 2005 and is intending to conduct a major fundraising event during Reconciliation Week 2006. The Committee is very keen to recruit interested people into the group. Whilst it is satisfying to see good results from this period it is clear that we must continue to work hard to ensure the future of the Foundation.



(THE ABOVE GRAPH DISPLAYS DONATIONS RECEIVED FROM 1.7.2004 TO 30.6.2005)

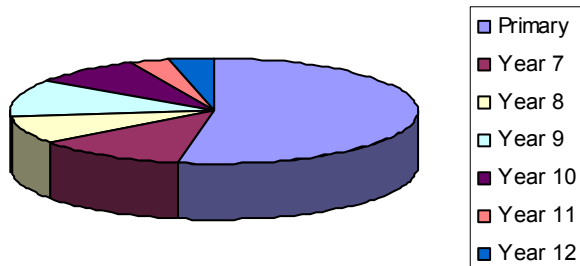
# 2004 / 2005 WHAT HAVE WE ACHIEVED?



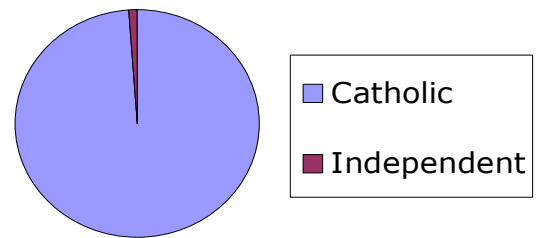
## Year 7 2005 !

He has adjusted to Secondary College well. He has made a very good standard. Thank you for your kind support in 2005, it is really appreciated.

### Year Level Profile



### School Type



## DISBURSEMENT:

**Amount disbursed: \$108,000**

What did that money do?

Sent kids on school camps .. Provided uniforms .. Supported overseas excursions .. Supported leadership experiences .. Covered the costs of VCE camps .. Paid for music lessons .. Covered the costs of book lists ..

Educational indicators tell us that, within the Indigenous population in Victoria, only 54% of 15 – 24 year olds and 42% of 20-24 year olds participate in education or training; only 64 % of 4 year olds participate in pre-school education. These figures lead into results such as a severe over-representation in child protection figures with 40.5 (per 1,000 children 0-17 years) of young Indigenous Victorians placed in out of home care as opposed to only 3.1 non-Indigenous. 89.8 Indigenous males (per 1,000 10-17 years) in juvenile incarceration as opposed to 17.6 non-Indigenous. (Victorian Government Indigenous Affairs Report July 2002 – June 2004)

***Within its own sector the Foundation IS making a difference to these statistics:***

Feedback from parents of students tells the Foundation of each small success of their children. A mum: ... *my young man has a dream ... thank you for your part in helping him achieve it;* a Grandmother: *She is so keen I will do everything I can to encourage and support her ... thanks for your support...*

***A DREAM SUPPORTED .... A FINANCIAL BURDEN EASED ... ONE STUDENT COMPLETING YEAR 12 ... ONE LITTLE PREPPIE OR A NEW YEAR 7 PROUD OF THEIR UNIFORM LOOKING THE SAME AS EVERYONE ELSE .. A YEAR 10 STUDENT ABLE TO CHOOSE A VET SUBJECT WITHOUT FINANCIAL CONSIDERATION ..... A YEAR 9 STUDENT STARTING THE YEAR WITH ALL REQUIRED BOOKS .... A FAMILY DECIDING THAT, WITH JUST A LITTLE SUPPORT, THEY CAN AFFORD TO CHOOSE ..... SMALL ACHIEVEMENTS PERHAPS ... BUT THESE ACHIEVEMENTS FLOW ON ..... THE FUTURE CAN BE CHANGED ...***

**OPENING THE DOORS FOUNDATION**

**P O BOX 1088, THORNBURY 3071**

**Ph: (03) 9443 9070 Fax: (03) 9443 9080 email: [openingthedoors@optusnet.co.au](mailto:openingthedoors@optusnet.co.au)**

**Web site: [www.openingthedoors.org.au](http://www.openingthedoors.org.au)**