



Autumn Action for the Foundation !!

Hello from the New Development Officer

I'd like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as the new Development Officer for the Foundation. My name is Kathy Johnston and I've had the privilege of working with and for Aboriginal communities in education for the past thirty years.

This new exciting opportunity with the Opening the Doors Foundation comes after 19 years at the Catholic Education Office working in the areas of Multicultural Education, English as a Second Language, Literacy and Studies of Society and Environment (SOSE). One of my roles was also to help establish and coordinate the Aboriginal Education Team and this is when I first met Vicki Walker and became acquainted with the work of the Aboriginal Catholic Ministry.

Between 1998 and 2005 I managed Projects for the Aboriginal Education Strategy Branch in the Department of Education and eventually decided that semi-retirement was a most appealing prospect.

The opportunity to work with the outstanding people at the Ministry and become involved with the Foundation came at an ideal time and I took up the position on the 20th March, '06.

Working only two days a week has made this a very hectic start to the new job as the applications for Grants closed early in April. Our aim was to process them as quickly as possible in order to ensure students were well equipped for the new term.

In the short time that I have been working at the Foundation, some things have become very apparent.

* All families are making big sacrifices in order to get the right school for their children.

* The financial support the Foundation provides is important and very gratefully received by all the families.

* Research indicates that a major impediment to achievement for Aboriginal students is low self-esteem. Many parents comment on the importance of the Foundation in providing access to correct uniform requirements and (not really optional) subject aids, in maths and science in particular.

* We have supported the pursuit of musical, artistic or other creative forms of expression, knowing they can be life-altering options for some students. Without the help of the Foundation, many families have stated that they simply couldn't afford them.

* Strong, successful role models are critical to any community. We've also been able to provide some support to talented Aboriginal students to undertake unique opportunities to attend International conferences and leadership events.

I'm looking forward to meeting people in person and thank you all for your interest and support.

Deep appreciation and special thanks to Carol Messer who left very big shoes to fill.

Kathy Johnston

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Special points of interest:

- New Development Office appointment
- End of Financial Year — the best time to donate
- Message from Trustees
- Statistics and Good News

A Message From Foundation Trustees

The Trustees of Opening the Doors Foundation would like express their appreciation for your support. We request that this support continues to ensure the future of the Foundation and to encourage the educational aspirations of Koorie families and students.

John Arthur
Chairperson

END OF FINANCIAL YEAR

It is that time of year again!!!

I am enclosing a brochure with this Newsletter just in case you would like to take the opportunity to make a donation for the 2005/6 tax year!

Donations to the Foundation are critical to our work and are tax deductible.

The Statistics Sheet will tell you that the need is great and we are not yet able to meet all of that need ... your continued support is so important to the lives and futures for all the Aboriginal students we are able to assist.

THANK YOU!!