



## COLLINS CONNECTION

**MAY 2008**

Hello the Salesian Family

So...the walling is old hat and we are slowly trudging along the red tape line of getting building permission and building plans passed! However, we have discovered a new hat...or three! We introduce you, this issue, to our newly established crafts group of very cheerful and proud women. They have been working hard under the guidance of Francinah Sibisi and have achieved their first pair of shoes and some have been working on their first hat. We are a very happy group! We are in the throws of discussing a brand name and a strategy for regular sales. We take orders so if anyone out there wants to place one just contact Bernie Mullen with your size and colour requirements. She will also advise you of the prices.

### **The Proud Crafters of Lawley!**



**And.....their first customer: Sr Margaret Sweeney. Getting ready for her trip to Ireland! Bon Voyage. Please don't lose your hat!**



The group meet three times a week and work from 9h00-13h00. We have a feeling these hours will have to increase as the orders come in. We have our Sister Rosario in Italy raising funds for us. We look forward to her return so that she can share our joy and enthusiasm. We Takkies are feeling a bit insecure...We may be replaced by recycled plastic soon. Our laces are all in a knot! Better not!

We will invite our first craft project donors ZTE to come and see us soon. We want to finish our outfits first so that they have the pleasure of sharing our joy...not our

outfits! We intend making a sash-belt and a pair of shoes for advertising purposes. Nothing better than showing off to get folk interested in our goods.

We have enjoyed other excitement: Michael Sheil and a group of young men that have recently fished their education at Clongowes College in Ireland where Fr Declan Collins was educated paid us a short visit on their way back from Lesotho where they had been experiencing culture immersion programme. We were able to show them our concept plan and took them to see our walled site! We hope they have a better idea of our project and its objectives. Perhaps one or two of them will return as long term volunteers ...anyone for building? Call us!



**These are our visitors from Clongowes College at Fr Declan's memorial stone. This is outside Bernie Mullen's office. We talked about Fr Collins and prayed for him. Keep your eye on us please Fr Declan. We try hard to follow in your footsteps....no matter where they lead! To success...of this we have no doubt...but when?**

We have also enjoyed other visits. Ricardo dos Santos from the Salesian Missions in the USA was very moved by all that is going on here. He has promised to do his best to raise funds and promote our cause. Thank you Ricardo! We also enjoyed introducing takkie life to Adam and David who are involved in an organisation that recruits volunteers. Yes please a few of those! Thank you for your enthusiasm and dedication!

Our Permaculture project has proved to be of great interest. Liza Rossi and I visited Sally Rabichand at the Human Development office in Ennerdale Sally is keen that we begin a tour of the local schools in the informal settlements in order to teach children how to grow their food in limited spaces and in containers such as old tyres, plastic milk bottles. Ryan Dickey is on leave but when he returns we will set up a plan for this new development. It will give the trainees an opportunity to use their lecturing and demonstration skills. Did you know that you can grow oyster mushroom in bags of human hair hanging from the rafters? Send us your hair and we will show you how!

**Yes, we are still here working at our lecturing skills. We are intending to qualify and become accredited permaculture trainers in August 2008...watch us happen!**

**Ps...if you know of any project that will need our services please contact Bernie Mullen.**



We practised singing, 'have you ever been across the sea to Ireland', for weeks but to no avail. Our fund raising trip there cannot happen this year. We are now looking into going to Australia. It is difficult to find large donor organisations that would be interested in funding us, but we are working on the situation. We are now practising the jolly swagman verses! Our left Takkie does not know what the right one is singing...all out of tune!

We do know Thomas Dalury from Red deporte in Spain. He arrived here on 22 May to meet us and to set up a programme for Alex van der Meer and Anika de Mul who will be joining us in June for three months. They would have helped us build the hall but the red tape has definitely not been cut so they will work on fitness programmes as these are part of the donation we received from Red deporte. We look forward to working with them!

**Fr Robert Gore, Thomas Dalury, Ester Buthelezi and Sr Margaret Sweeney:  
members of our famous steering committee.**



We have been to meetings with the Victim Empowerment Forum and introduced Ester Buthelezi as the second representative of Don Bosco Educational Projects. She has been working hard and is now part of the task team who are setting up a local forum for abused women and children. During Child Protection Week in June a team will visit the Laura Vicuña Centre with a puppet show to educate our children on how to keep safe and

how to report abuse. We have not been affected, in any serious way, by the xenophobic attacks that have been part of the scene during the past two weeks. We have liaised with the local police and the local community has made it clear to the perpetrators that they will not tolerate racial discrimination in Finetown. There have been local forum meetings among the people to get this message across and the police have been visible so no trouble has taken root. We are very relieved that we do not have to jog anywhere...

We are going on leave with Bernie tomorrow! Feet up? No! She is very busy getting ready to launch her published book: 'The Bow End of Rain'. She will be back in the office on 10<sup>th</sup> June.

Overheard from my window, 'Mary Help of Christians came to do just that on 24<sup>th</sup> May.' We wish all Salesians and the Family a happy feast day! Here is an extra bit of advice: We must learn from the mistakes of others. We can't make them all ourselves! We Takkies never do...make mistakes I mean! We are the perfect Tacky pair!

Until next issue



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