

A GLIMPSE of what's happening in and around the confines of the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care.  
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# What's Up?

Volume 13, Issue 3

July 2010

## Launched.

**J**esuit priest Father Frank Brennan launched the Final Report of the Confronting Racism in Communities Project on 29 June at MacKillop Place in Paddington.

The launch was attended by representatives of three levels of government, non-government, church, police and various community and service providers.

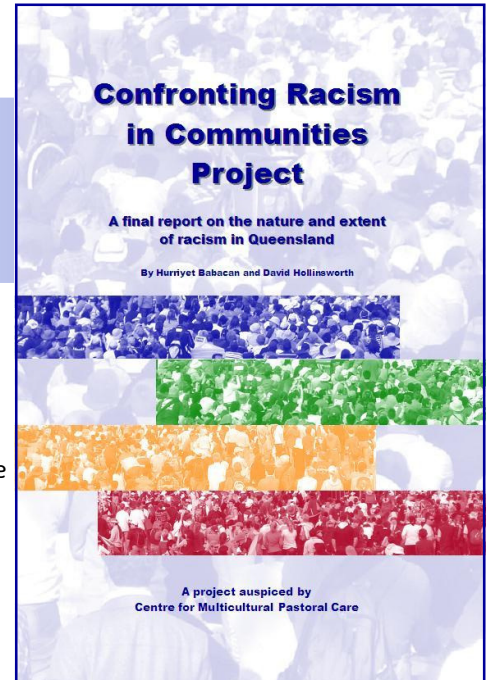
Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC) Director Clyde Cosentino said the launch was a culmination of several years of hard work by many communities and individuals throughout Queensland.

"It goes to show that when individuals and organizations come

together, and with government support, major issues can be tackled head on and positive results are achieved.

Clyde also expressed hope that the project will encourage continued government support for further and more comprehensive and inclusive research on the extent of racism in Australia in order that meaningful strategies are put in place to eliminate racism.

The Confronting Racism in Communities Project funded by Multicultural Affairs Queensland aims to address the variety of racisms experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse communities in Queensland.



### Confronting Racism in Communities Project

A final report on the nature and extent of racism in Queensland

By Hurriyet Babacan and David Hollinsworth

A project auspiced by Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care

A pdf copy of the First Report, the Final Report and some training manuals are available on the CMPC website: [www.multiculturalcare.org.au/projects](http://www.multiculturalcare.org.au/projects)

*(Related stories on pages 2 and 3)*



Fr Frank Brennan keeps the audience's interest. Seated on front row from left: Hurriyet Babacan, David Hollinsworth, Arthur Maudlin, Garry Page, Uncle Des Sandy, Robin Sandy, Ravina Waldren, Mark Copland, Peter Arndt and Camilla Cowley.

**Confronting Racism in Communities**

*Project Backgrounder*

**T**he *Confronting Racism in Communities* project sought to explore the variety of racisms experienced by people from culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds in Queensland.

The project was funded by the Queensland Government through Multicultural Affairs Queensland (MAQ) and managed by the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care (CMPC), working in partnership with other multicultural, mainstream and government agencies.

The three-year pilot project aimed to document the nature and extent of racism in Queensland and provide support, training and resources to the community sector.

A full-time project worker was employed to administer the project analysis and results during the first two years of the project.



**Above from left: Project worker Mitra Khakbaz, authors David Hollinsworth and Prof Hurriyet Babacan, refugee advocate Fr Frank Brennan SJ, aboriginal elder Uncle Des Sandy and CMPC director Clyde Cosentino.**

The project was launched in July 2005, against a backdrop of significant national and international events.

In the wake of these events, a number of individuals and organisations had spoken of an increase in the frequency and severity of racist incidents perpetrated against people from

culturally and linguistically diverse (CALD) backgrounds

However, despite anecdotal evidence, the actual number of formal complaints received by Human Rights and Equal Opportunity Commission (HREOC) did not substantially increase

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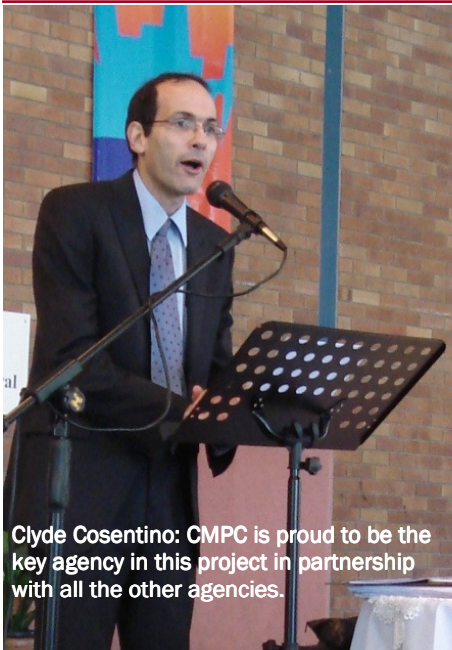
**Fr Frank Brennan SJ**

*Excerpts from Fr Brennan's speech:*

**I** am delighted to launch this comprehensive report that gives evidence of and pointers to the necessary interventions for the prevention of racism and its adverse effects in contemporary Queensland. Whether we be a prospective prime minister or just a citizen, each of us can do more to counter racism at the individual, inter-personal, institutional and societal levels with appropriate coordination to ensure maximum effectiveness. Each of us has the job of making the stranger welcome, maintaining our values while protecting Australia."

"Today I am honoured to launch *Confronting Racism in Communities Project* – a final report on the nature and extent of racism in Queensland by Hurriyet Babacan and David Hollinsworth, a project auspiced by the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care of the Catholic Archdiocese of Brisbane. Those of us concerned about the underbelly of institutional racism exposed by the legal manoeuvrings following the tragic death of Doomadgee on Palm Island need to be aware that this report is restricted in its scope, not as the fault of the authors, but simply because the project team were





Clyde Cosentino: CMPC is proud to be the key agency in this project in partnership with all the other agencies.

(Continued from page 2)

during this period, nor did the number of formal complaints received by state anti-discrimination and equal opportunity agencies.

Furthermore, numerous authors had pointed toward a general lack of empirical evidence on the precise nature and extent of racist incidents in Australia.

Accordingly, the Project's aim has been to develop a comprehensive evidence based on the nature and extent of racism in metropolitan and regional Queensland.

The project team developed a Racist Incident Reporting Form in order to facilitate this data collection process.

The form was designed to be completed by people who had experienced racism or by workers themselves when the people who had experienced racism were not available to tell their story.

Racist Incident Reporting Forms were administered through approximately 70 Data Collection Points located throughout metropolitan and regional Queensland including Cairns, Tablelands, Townsville, Mackay, Rockhampton, Wide Bay, Sunshine Coast, Toowoomba, Brisbane, Logan and the Gold Coast.

After the first two years, the direction initially provided by the funding body took a different approach to the proposed model. The project focused more on delivery training and education and to compile a second a

## Launched. (cont'd)

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final report (instead of a compilation of three reports). During this period the project has delivered number of training sessions in various locations. While the project has tirelessly focused on running training sessions, this change of direction proved to create challenges in engaging government sector in training.

During this period the project has delivered training sessions in Brisbane, Logan, Townsville, Sunshine Coast, Cairns, Bundaberg, Maryborough, Toowoomba and Gold Coast.

The funding has also provided for the compilation of a Racism training manual and resource and completing a final report on the extent of racism in Queensland and measures to prevent it.

 Clyde Cosentino, CMPC Director



commissioned by the Queensland government to document the variety of racisms experienced by culturally and linguistically diverse persons excluding indigenous Australians. Subject to that funder-imposed limitation, this is a very comprehensive report including an academic literature review, training procedures, and data collection. Though I must note that all the data collection agencies except those few in Toowoomba were on the coast."

"Over a two year period the researchers investigated 398 racist incidents, 62 of which came from the Indian ethnic community – 15% of all complaints. So it is not just Victoria

with its high percentage of Indian students which is encountering racism towards Indians in Australia. Those from Africa collectively were the largest sample – 21%. It was very surprising to see that persons born in Australia or living here more than 10 years made far more complaints than those arriving in the last 12 months. I daresay this indicates not a ready community acceptance of new arrivals but a greater hesitance or incapacity of new arrivals to make a complaint. I was also surprised to see that only 10% of those notifying a racist incident were Muslim, while 37% were Christian. 64% of respondents stated they did not know the people responsible for acts of

racism while 36% did know the person or persons responsible. Putting aside those incidents perpetrated by mixed groups of men and women, males were responsible for 57% of reported incidents while women were responsible only for 19%. So we men need to lift our game. The researchers found that only 19% of incidents were reported, and two thirds of those who reported incidents were not satisfied with the outcomes. So there is still much to do in satisfactorily addressing racism in our society."

The Report and more information on the Project can be found on the CMPC website: [www.multiculturalcare.org.au/projects](http://www.multiculturalcare.org.au/projects)

*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

**T**he celebration of the World Day of Migrants and Refugees once again gives me the opportunity to express the Church's constant concern for those who, in different ways, experience a life of emigration. This is a phenomenon which, as I wrote in the Encyclical [Caritas in Veritate](#), upsets us due to the number of people involved and the social, economic, political, cultural and religious problems it raises on account of the dramatic challenges it poses to both national and international communities. The migrant is a human person who possesses fundamental, inalienable rights that must be respected by everyone and in every circumstance (cf. [n. 62](#)).

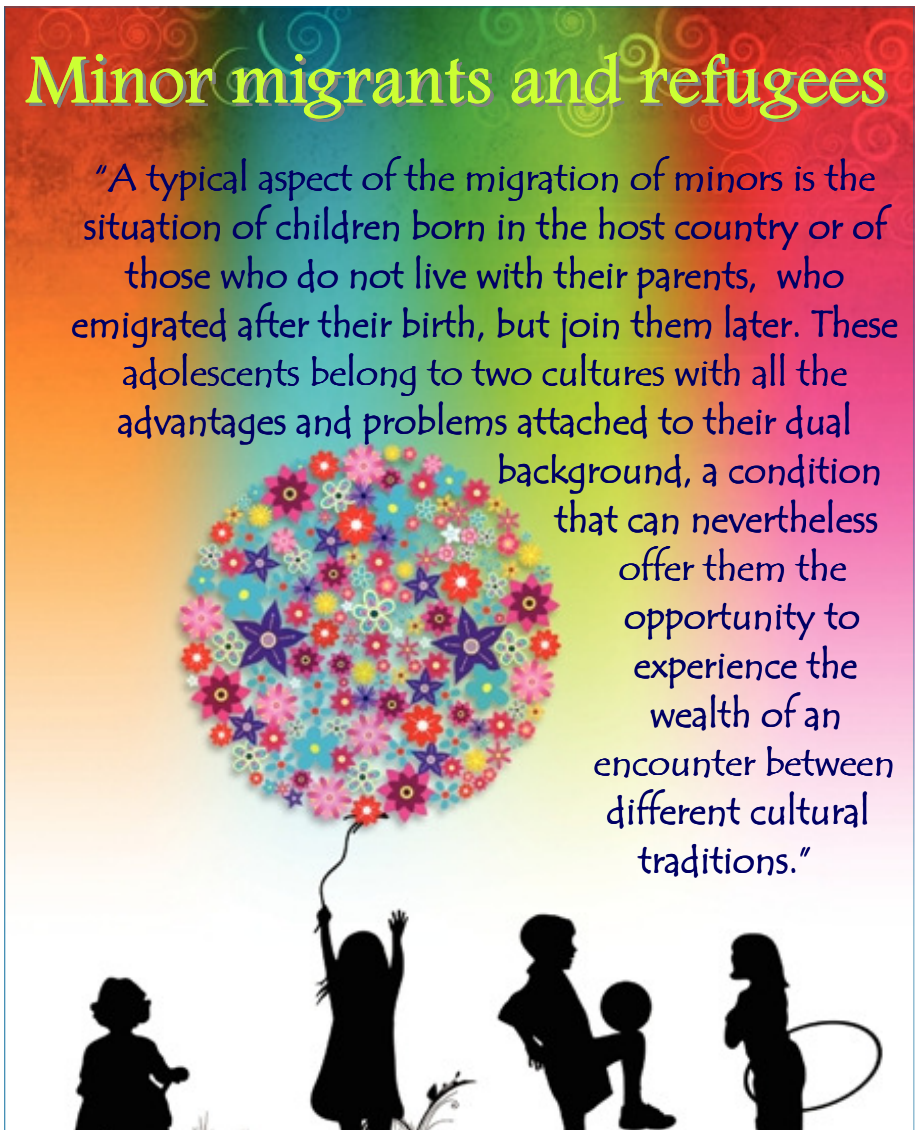
This year's theme – “Minor migrants and refugees” – touches an aspect that Christians view with great attention, remembering the warning of Christ who at the Last Judgement will consider as directed to himself everything that has been done or denied “to one of the least of these” (cf. Mt 25:40, 45). And how can one fail to consider migrant and refugee minors as also being among the “least”? As a child, Jesus himself experienced migration for, as the Gospel recounts, in order to flee the threats of Herod, he had to seek refuge in Egypt together with Joseph and Mary (cf. Mt 2:14).

While the Convention on the Rights of the Child clearly states that the best interests of the minor shall always be safeguarded (cf. Art. 3, 1), recognizing his or her fundamental human rights as equal to the rights of adults, unfortunately this does not always happen in practice.

Although there is increasing public awareness of the need for immediate and incisive action to protect minors, nevertheless, many are left to

## Minor migrants and refugees

“A typical aspect of the migration of minors is the situation of children born in the host country or of those who do not live with their parents, who emigrated after their birth, but join them later. These adolescents belong to two cultures with all the advantages and problems attached to their dual background, a condition that can nevertheless offer them the opportunity to experience the wealth of an encounter between different cultural traditions.”



themselves and, in various ways, face the risk of exploitation. My venerable Predecessor, [John Paul II](#), voiced the dramatic situation in which they live in the [Message he addressed to the Secretary General of the United Nations on 22 September 1990, on the occasion of the World Summit for Children](#).

“I am a witness of the heart-breaking plight of millions of children on every continent. They are most vulnerable, because they are least able to make their voice heard” (*L’Osservatore Romano*, English edition, 1 October 1990, p. 13). I warmly hope that proper attention will be given to minor migrants who need a social

environment that permits and fosters their physical, cultural, spiritual and moral development. Living in a foreign land without effective points of reference generates countless and sometimes serious hardships and difficulties for them, especially those deprived of the support of their family.

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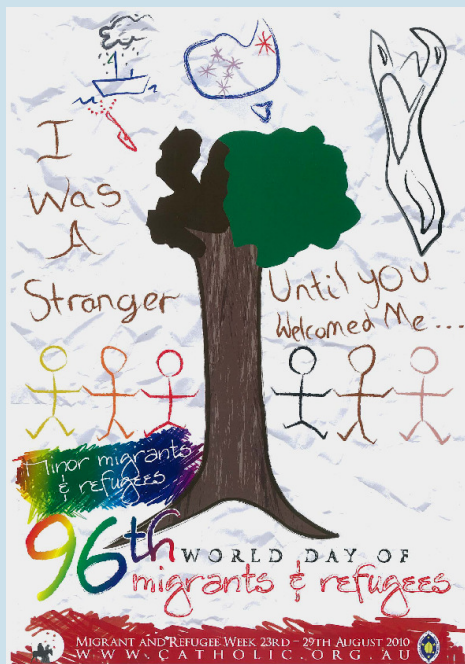
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## Resource Kit to celebrate Migrant and Refugee Week (23 - 29 August 2010)

As in the past years, the Australian Catholic Migrant and Refugee Office (ACMRO) and the Australian Catholic Bishops Conference (ACBC) have produced a resource kit that builds on the theme of minor migrants and refugees contained in Pope Benedict's message for Migrant and Refugee Sunday 2010. This year's cover page and insert posters were designed by students of St Therese School in Mascot, Sydney.

In keeping with the theme of minor migrants and refugees, this year's kit takes the form of an educational resource primarily, but not exclusively for children. Parish Priests, Teachers, Directors of Religious Education and the wider faith communities are called to a greater awareness of the presence of child migrants and refugees in our midst. All are called to welcome them, to listen to their stories and to learn from their experiences.

The resource kits will soon be distributed across all states through their local archdiocesan immigration/multicultural centres. In the Archdiocese of Brisbane, the resource kits will be distributed to parishes and schools through the Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care. The resource will also be made available on the ACBC website: [www.catholic.org.au](http://www.catholic.org.au). For further information contact Fr Maurizio Pettena CS or James Voortman on (02) 6201 9848.



## Multicultural Mass - Archdiocese of Brisbane 29 August 2010

In observance of National Migrant and Refugee Week, Multicultural Mass will be held on 29 August, 2pm at the Cathedral of St Stephen, 249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane.



(Continued from page 4)

attached to their dual background, a condition that can nevertheless offer them the opportunity to experience the wealth of an encounter between different cultural traditions. It is important that these young people be given the possibility of attending school and subsequently of being integrated into the world of work, and that their social integration be facilitated by appropriate educational and social structures. It should never be forgotten that adolescence constitutes a fundamental phase for the formation of human beings.

A particular category of minors is that of refugees seeking asylum, who, for various reasons, are fleeing their own country, where they are not given adequate protection. Statistics show that their numbers are increasing. This is therefore a phenomenon that calls for



careful evaluation and coordinated action by implementing appropriate measures of prevention, protection and welcome, as set forth in the Convention on the Rights of the Child (cf. Art. 22).

I now turn in particular to parishes and to the many Catholic associations which, imbued with a spirit of faith and charity, take pains to meet the needs of these brothers and sisters of ours. While I express gratitude for all that is being done with great generosity, I would like to invite all Christians to become aware of the social and pastoral challenges posed by migrant and refugee minors.

Jesus' words resound in our hearts: "I was a stranger and you welcomed me" (Mt 25:35), as, likewise, the central commandment he left us: to love God with all our heart, with all our soul and

with all our mind, but together with love of neighbour (cf. Mt 22:37-39).

This leads us to consider that any of our concrete interventions must first be nurtured by faith in the action of grace and divine Providence. In this way also hospitality and solidarity to strangers, especially if they are children, become a proclamation of the Gospel of solidarity. The Church proclaims this when she opens her arms and strives to have the rights of migrants and refugees respected, moving the leaders of Nations, and those in charge of international organizations and institutions to promote opportune initiatives for their support.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary watch over us all and help us to understand the difficulties faced by those who are far from their homeland. I assure all those who are involved in the vast world of migrants and refugees of my prayers and cordially impart to them the Apostolic Blessing. ✠

From the Vatican, 16 October 2009.

BENEDICTUS PP. XVI



## Indonesian Community marks 15th year

**T**he Indonesian Catholic Family (ICF) turned 15 in March this year. The community celebrated this milestone by hosting a dinner and entertainment gathering at the Sacred Heart Centre in Runcorn on 15 May.

ICF friends and colleagues from the Ethnic Ministers Group, St. Joan of Arc (Jubilee Parish) community, Canossian sisters, Centre for Multicultural Pastoral Care, Catholic Charismatic Renewal Group, and many others joined ICF in celebrating their 15th year.

Entertainment featured a comedy play titled "Jaka and the Eight Goddesses" presented by the ICF Youth Group. (See synopsis below)

In her welcome speech, ICF President Lisa Liputra thanked the community and friends for their steadfast support.



From left: Yosef Firdasaputra, Pandu Dewantara, Lisa Liputra and Willi Lim and Ryan Alwi blow the birthday candle.

"As I look around the room, one thing is quite clear: that there is a lot of love present amongst us. This is evident at every community gathering — at Mass, rosary prayers, working bees, choir practices, charismatic prayer groups, picnics and many other activities," Lisa said.

"We come from different backgrounds and experiences, but we leave all this behind when we pray at Mass or when we work together," Lisa added.

On their 15th anniversary, Lisa asked the community to reflect on their past achievements and challenges and to think about the next five, ten and fifteen years.

One of the current challenges faced by the community is the absence of a Chaplain since Fr Maxi's departure in

March this year. Despite this setback the community remains hopeful and positive.

ICF was founded on the 7th of March 1995 by four families who desired a closely knit group that would provide support and nurturing to the already established as well as the newly arrived Indonesian families in Brisbane.

Fifteen years on, this group of families flourished into a much larger community that gathers regularly for Mass and for other spiritual, social and cultural activities.

Indonesian Mass is celebrated every Sunday at 10.30 am at the St. Joan of Arc church, 47 Clyde Road, Herston.

For more information visit the ICF website: [www.icf-brisbane.com](http://www.icf-brisbane.com)



**O**nce upon a time, in Faraway Land, there lived gods and goddesses and citizens and they lived in harmony. One day, a group of gorgeous goddesses travelled to Earth to play and to bathe in the clear blue waters of a beautiful lake in one of Earth's forests. They were enjoying themselves so much that they lost track of time. The goddesses were also not paying much attention to

### (In English): Jaka and the Eight Goddesses



their surrounds. On the other side of the forest, a young man named Jaka Tarub was collecting some wood. He

noticed a pile of silk scarves by the lake. He has heard of stories that

(Continued on page 8)



## The Chinese Catholic Community celebrates 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary

The Chinese Catholic Community (CCC) in Brisbane gathered for a Thanksgiving Mass on 13 June at the Sacred Heart Centre in Runcorn to celebrate their 25th year. Mass celebrants were Bishop Brian Finnigan, Fr Paul Cashen MSC, Fr Albert Chan MSC, Fr John Li, Fr Peter Gong and Deacon Des Neagle. An anniversary dinner was held at a local restaurant the previous night. Following are messages from Chinese Community Chaplain Fr Chan and CCC Brisbane President Helena Cheung which appears on their 25th anniversary souvenir magazine.

**T**he story of the Chinese Catholic Community in Brisbane is a simple one.

Fr Albert Chan MSC had a dream. He wanted to bring together the Chinese Catholics living in Brisbane into one faith-filled community.

In January 1985, Fr Chan sold his old faithful 250cc motorbike, borrowed \$4,000 from his congregation (Missionaries of the Sacred Heart) to buy a second hand car and drove into Brisbane. He was then a young 52-year old with 21 years of teaching experience, and in debt.

Over the next ten years, Fr Chan with the help of old friends, gathered together a small group of young Chinese Catholic families, mainly from Papua New Guinea and started with monthly Masses at St Thomas' Church in Camp Hill.

With the arrival of large numbers of Asian migrants from Hong Kong, Taiwan and South East Asia in the 1990's came the desire to have our own community centre. Thanks to the very generous support from friends in Brisbane, interstate and overseas, we were able to purchase 2.5 acres of land at 80 Nemies Road, Runcorn. On 17 March 2002, Archbishop John Bathersby blessed and opened the Sacred Heart Centre.

The Sacred Heart Centre is the heart of our community. It is used for all sorts of occasions, big and small, ordinary



and special – prayer and worship, social, community, cultural and sporting. It is also available for other communities to use for a reasonable rate.

Fr Albert Chan, a very big thank you for the last 25 years. You are our Father and friend, our inspiration and guide. May you lead us for many more years to come.

Thank you to all our volunteers, friends and supporters. Thank you to those who have given so much time and effort in preparing and organising our 25th anniversary.

**Helena Cheung**

*President, Chinese Catholic Community, Brisbane*

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To receive an electronic copy of What's Up? newsletter, send an email to [whatsup@lists.catholic.net.au](mailto:whatsup@lists.catholic.net.au) with the word "subscribe" on the subject line.

POSTAGE  
PAID  
AUSTRALIA

## Afterthoughts...

### **Jaka and the Eight Goddesses**

*(Continued from page 6)*

*goddesses frequently visits this lake to bathe and that they need their silk scarves to return to Faraway Land.*

*Feeling a little mischievous, Jaka decides to steal one of the silk scarves in the hope that one of the goddesses will not be able to return to Faraway Land and will end up as his bride. Whilst going through the pile of silk scarves, he notices a nice sarong. Thinking that the sarong must be owned by the most beautiful goddess of them all, he decides to keep the sarong.*

*Little did he know that the sarong actually belong to a male guardian of the goddesses. Jaka then finds himself stuck with his new male friend, Bidadaro. This was not the outcome that Jaka had wanted. Bidadaro was also very frustrated to be stuck on Earth. Nonetheless, they try to make the best of the situation. Jaka took Bidadaro to church and introduced him to his friends. Bidadaro was starting to feel at home on Earth. When Bidadaro's parents travelled to Earth to take their son back to Faraway Land, Bidadaro went with them. But as soon as he was back in Faraway Land, he missed Earth and all his friends. As soon as he found the opportunity, Bidadaro returned to Earth. He arrived there just in time to join Jaka and his community for their 15th anniversary.*



### **25th anniversary**

*(Continued from page 7)*

#### **Excerpts from Fr Chan's message:**

We launched into the deep water with very little resources, personnel, material or financial. It has been a team effort right from the beginning. Along the road there have been some rough patches but never too rough. Fortunately the journey has been mainly a smooth one.

Our Community has been very fortunate to have so many willing helpers, young and not so young, the elderly, Catholic and non-Catholic, in so many areas and ministry – pastoral, spiritual, liturgical, musical, educational, social.. We have also been very fortunate that over the years, priests and sisters from different Congregations have helped us in the pastoral ministry.

Many thanks to Archbishop Francis Rush (RIP), Archbishop John Bathersby and the Auxiliary Bishops and other Archdiocesan people who have been so supportive over the years.


Our members are comparatively young and active – mainly from Papua New

Guinea (especially Rabaul) from Hong Kong, Taiwan, South-East Asia... It is my fervent wish that in the future more and more people from Mainland China

will join us. I am optimistic regarding the future.

...

Having our own home base, we have to be careful not to become an exclusive club. We are a Catholic Community reaching out to others and offering help and hospitality to one and all. We have to integrate into the mainstream parishes and into the Australian society and where possible retaining our own Chinese language, culture and customs.

Let us go forward, in one mind and heart, trusting in the providence of God and placing our Community under the guidance and protection of Mary our Mother and St Joseph. 

In Christ in whom we trust.

**Fr Albert Chan MSC**



**HANDS OF THE WORLD - an Exhibition and Sale of handmade objects from 21 countries including Australia presented by the Brisbane Cathedral of St. Stephen Art Group (COSSAG). Saturday 30 October— 3 November 2010. Venue: Francis Rush Centre (249 Elizabeth Street, Brisbane). Craftswomen and men are invited to submit work in wood, glass, clay or textiles for consideration. The curator's decision will be final. An entry fee of \$10 applies and COSSAG will sell on the artist's behalf for a commission of 20%. Please contact 3870 9427 or [mollyjon@tpg.com.au](mailto:mollyjon@tpg.com.au) for enquiries.**