

STUDENTS WITHOUT BORDERS NEWSLETTER

Students Without Borders is **organically developing**. We are now 3,500 students across the country, with some students from international universities. There are also members from the general community. We have achieved both local and global social reach.

Our close relationship with **OXFAM** is growing and before the commencement of semester one 2008, in joint partnership with OXFAM, there will be the **Social Justice Centre** (yellow) on Bush Court between the Guild Shop (purple) and Students Without Borders (green). You will have the opportunity to join a program, internship or campaign with an external organisation and have it acknowledged in various ways through Students Without Borders and on your University transcript. The real benefit is to be involved in making a difference.

For Students Without Borders, and for its goals of holistic and transformative education, it has been a tremendous year. We have been involved in numerous campaigns and projects. You can visit studentswithoutborders.com.au to find out more.

Students Without Borders, directly or indirectly, has highlighted hope in this year of 2007. Some special efforts that I have come across include: Curtin students **Rosalie Scolari** (now at Murdoch), **Jasmine Yapp** and **Kirsten Masters** coordinated an awareness campaign about the increasing destitution in Uganda that culminated with **800 students and community** attending the Perth Convention Centre to find out more.

Through former Murdoch student **Kidima Mubarak** thereabouts **100** recycled and refurbished computers were transported to primary schools in Uganda where there were none. Murdoch students refurbished them.

We have recycled and donated **12,000** computers during the last 30 months. **David Lee** alone has refurbished at least **3,000** of these computers.

Murdoch single parent students **Peta Miller**, **Rebekah Ozanne** and Murdoch Guild President-elect 2008, **Clare Middlemas**, campaigned for all Australia's single parent university students who had lost their Jobs, Education, Training Childcare Subsidies July 1, 2006. They campaigned for one year and as a result the Commonwealth **re-instated** the subsidies even if only for 12 months. They are now campaigning for the subsidies to be re-instated for the duration of a university program.

Curtin student **Riyadh Alkimi** organised for Wheelchair for Kids, the manufacturer, to donate **327 children's wheelchairs** (new) for the Iraqi towns of **Najaf**, **Samara**, **Ramadi**. Woodside is sponsoring the container from Perth to Sydney and in the next couple of weeks the Australian Defence Forces will fly the wheelchairs to Kuwait from where **Riyadh** will escort them to their final destinations. **Riyadh** is a Shi'ite and the town of Ramadi is Sunni. He is hoping the gesture will help bridge divisions. **Riyadh** once said to me, *'Till all this warring happened no-one in Iraq ever asked me whether I am Sunni or Shi'ite. Never.'*

These are all special people, and quiet achievers, who have witnessed that they can make a difference, and have made genuine difference. They are some of many. We hope to continue this organic growth.

Our human rights language is increasing **and we can all contribute to it**. That it will eventually overwhelm the language of balance sheets and parochialism, the immediate circle of concern, I don't know. Nevertheless, there are obvious benefits, radically transformative, by contributing to this language.

Contact **Vicky Noonan** on 9360 6307 or swb@guild.murdoch.edu.au to subscribe (free) to SWB or to find out more.

Thanks, Gerry Georgatos