



## MYANMAR PROJECT 2019 - HEALING A NATION THROUGH EDUCATION

In January, six teachers from the Diocese of Ballarat embarked on a mission to Myanmar as part of the ongoing Myanmar Project, jointly supported by Catholic Education Ballarat and Catholic Mission. This is the third time that a group of teachers has spent time working with trainee teachers, educational leaders and other Church leaders in Myanmar.



This trip was a gift to us as educators. Through sharing our craft, we continued our professional growth. Through travel to Myanmar, we discovered a generous community with a passion for education that inspired us. Through working closely with others, we were given the gift of new friends. We learnt about a turbulent history, we learnt appreciation and simplicity, we learnt love and empathy, we learnt from each other and we even learnt something about ourselves as members of the universal Church.



The two groups, although in different geographical places, both experienced a graciousness and generosity that were an absolute delight. We all experienced students who were open to and receptive to new learning.

For those who have made donations to Catholic Mission, we saw your dollars well spent. We saw new buildings at the foundation level. We saw schools where there were none before. We saw beginning teachers receiving more comprehensive training. We saw commitment, compassion and a burning desire to make a difference and possibly life long change.

The people of Myanmar are extremely proud of their new schools and we, as a diocese, can feel proud of the small contribution that we are continuing to make in supporting them on this brave and critical endeavour.

*Samantha Meerbach and Stacey Atkins*

Photos: 1 &2) Samantha Meerbach in Moby; 3) Students at St Mary's School, Moby; 4) Shahne Wilkinson with trainees in Hakha; 5) St John's School, Hakha; 6) Kathryn Lynn and Shahne Wilkinson in Hakha; 7) Back- Samantha Meerbach (CEOB), Kevin Meese (Catholic Mission), Shahne Wilkinson (Emmanuel College), Julie Phelan (OLSH Merbein) Front- Monique McGrath (St Francis Xavier); Stacey Atkins (St Pius X Warrnambool), Kathryn Lynn (St Alipius Ballarat)

