

VOICES



**THANKS
TO YOU**

PAGE 4

**TREATY
NEGOTIATIONS
BEGIN**

PAGE 16



OXFAM
Australia



NATIONAL OFFICE
Locked Bag 20004,
Melbourne 3001 VIC
ABN 18 055 208 636 / CC29173
ISSN 1446-0521

Our life-changing development programs and life-saving humanitarian efforts are made possible by the generous support of donors like you and the Australian Government Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.



Oxfam Australia acknowledges the First Peoples of Australia as the original custodians of the land, and respects the rights they hold as the Traditional Custodians.

We also recognise the dispossession of the land and its ongoing effects on First Nations Peoples today.

First Peoples readers should be aware that this publication may contain images or names of people who have since passed away.

Cover photo: Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: After taking part in training, Shamsun now grows her own vegetables.
Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam.

Connections

with Dr Judith Slocombe AM, Board Chair

After six years of exceptional service to Oxfam Australia and the global confederation, Lyn Morgain is stepping down as Chief Executive in March 2025.

Along with my fellow Board members, I thank Lyn for her outstanding leadership of the organisation and her contribution to the international development sector. Lyn has led with compassion and empathy, placing people at the centre of every decision – the people we work for around the world, our dedicated supporters, and our staff. She has been a fearless leader, a tireless advocate for people whose voices are often silenced and a great friend to all of us here at Oxfam Australia.

Having worked closely with Lyn to develop our next five-year Strategy, the Board is confident that Oxfam Australia is well-placed to meet future challenges head-on and we remain as committed as ever to eliminating poverty by reducing inequality – to creating a world where everyone is equal.

Working with one of Australia's top recruitment firms, we have begun our search for a new Chief Executive. In the meantime, Dr Chrisanta Muli will act as Chief Executive and steer us through the transition phase.

Thank you for everything, Lyn. We wish you all the best for the future.

Photos: Aimee Han and Patrick Moran/Oxfam.

Goodbye and thank you

During Lyn Morgain's time leading Oxfam Australia, the world battled a pandemic, saw the climate crisis escalate, and witnessed an exponential increase in wealth inequality. Under Lyn's guidance, Oxfam Australia has maintained its presence, constantly challenging governments and big business to do better.

For many of you Lyn will be a familiar face thanks to her appearances in the media. Lyn has been a constant and vocal advocate for fairer taxation systems, for the rights of our Pacific neighbours to be upheld as the climate changes, and for the First People of Australia in working towards self-determination.

"One of the things I am most proud of is the way we have explored and embedded our relationship with First Nations communities, here in Australia," Lyn said. "We recognise, in a colonial context, where sovereignty has never been ceded, there can be no Oxfam Australia without a strenuous commitment to justice here in this land."

Lyn worked hard to drive awareness here in Australia of the causes of inequality, including

the concentration of corporate power, the rise of billionaires and the need for tax reform, because we know that inequality creates and perpetuates poverty.

"The trust placed in us by the Australian public, to work with integrity with communities and also hold those in power accountable, is second to none," she said. "We have worked intensively and creatively to engage with our communities and supporters, to help them be part of the change. I am so proud of who we are and the work we do."

Lyn focused on making Oxfam Australia a truly feminist organisation, recognising both the economic and cultural importance of placing feminist principles front and centre in the workplace.

Lyn will be much missed, but we are so fortunate to have benefited from her steady hand and clear leadership. We wish her all the very best in her future endeavours.



Thanks to you ...

Honey farmers in Bangladesh are focusing on developing business models that benefit the community, the environment and local enterprises.

Journalists in the Mekong region are highlighting the unique perspectives of women in water governance.

Young people in Vanuatu are able to join training programs and improve their job opportunities.

Scan the QR code to find out more about the work you support.



Satkhira community, Bangladesh: Koruna tends her bee hives. Photos: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).

Honey is all the buzz in Bangladesh

Koruna, one of Bangladesh's most prominent beekeepers, is making waves in the Sundarbans, the world's largest mangrove forest.

"I am the only female honey farmer in the whole of Bangladesh," Koruna said. "These are not my words, but the Ministry of Commerce made a survey and published it in a book, that I am a woman honey farmer. I feel very proud that I came from a remote place and was recognised as the only proud female honey farmer in Bangladesh."

The Sundarbans region, recognised for its honey production, is particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Thanks to our generous supporters, Koruna was able to participate in a green-business training program run by the Community Development Centre (CODEC), one of Oxfam's local partner organisations.

The training is part of Oxfam's Blue Economy and Inclusive Development for Climate Justice (BID4CJ) project in Bangladesh, which supports coastal communities to have an equal share in the benefits of a healthy ecosystem and a sustainable economy.

The BID4CJ project focuses on developing business models that benefit the community, the environment and enterprises. It equipped Koruna with knowledge on organic vegetable cultivation and the use of vermicompost, and recognised her honey production as a green business.

"I learnt how to cultivate vegetables organically," Koruna said. "As I cultivate honey, I learnt that my business is a green business. I learnt that we could store the honey through processing as we collect honey throughout the year."

Honey farming is seasonal, requiring investment and sustainability. "I need to invest six months and earn in another six months," Koruna said. "The six months business is dependent on the source of flowers. If the flower source is good then the honey will be good, too."

Oxfam's collaboration with CODEC aims to restore ecosystems that provide people with livelihoods and protect the climate. This enhances the community's preparedness and resilience to climate change impacts.





Oxfam Australia
Official Licensee

GROW YOUR SUPPORT

WITH ORGANIC & FAIRTRADE COFFEE

Oxfam FAIR supports its farming partners
around the world with carefully
crafted single origins and premium blends



FAIRTRADE



Check out our full range of ground,
whole beans & drinking chocolate
faircoffee.com.au



From school dropout to role model

Micky, from Vanuatu, felt disappointed in himself when he dropped out of school in Year 11, but he didn't give up on his dream of finding a good job.



Micky did a one-year course in climate change and disaster risk reduction at a vocational training institute, and gained a sense of accomplishment. But he still found it hard to find work. A few months later, Micky heard about a workshop on youth leadership at Melemaat Youth Centre, organised by the MaramaYouth Foundation.

"I decided to attend the training and I was awarded a leadership certificate ... I also learnt about the programs offered by V-Lab and Youth Challenge Vanuatu, two organisations that support young people to start their own businesses or find employment," Micky said. "I was impressed by their work and I filled out their application forms."

Thanks to supporters like you, Micky was able to join the Ready for Work program, which is run by Youth Challenge Vanuatu, one of Oxfam Australia's local partner organisations.

"Joining the Ready for Work program was one of the best decisions I ever made. It empowered me with skills such as computer skills, communication skills, employability skills, leadership skills, and work experience. I did my internship at a local company, where I had the chance to apply what I learnt and to gain more practical knowledge," Micky said.

"The internship placement also transformed me into a very confident individual. I can now communicate verbally with employers in higher positions and socialise with them. This is something I never thought I would one day do, and I am grateful for the opportunity. I believe the skills and experience I acquired will be a foundation for my success in the future.

"I am proud of myself and my achievements, and I hope to inspire other young people to follow their passions and goals."

Photo (above): Vanuatu: Micky persevered with his training courses and is keen to inspire other young people.
Photo: Supplied.

Climate speakers take on Canberra for their communities

In September 2024, Oxfam Australia partnered with Seed Mob, Australia's Indigenous Youth Climate Network, to bring youth community leaders together for the second climate speakers' tour.

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, young advocates Tanya Afu from Solomon Islands, Grace Ann Enriquez from Philippines, and Eduardo Maher and Peter Griffiths-Sebastian from the Kimberley region of Western Australia, joined forces in Australia to meet with politicians, key decision-makers, Australian climate advocates and members of the public across events in Melbourne, Sydney and Canberra.

All the speakers have been personally impacted by the causes and impacts of climate change, including fracking on Country, super typhoons, rising sea levels, floods, heatwaves and altered ecosystems.

"The Australian Government can help poor and vulnerable countries like the Philippines by taking action on what they've promised," Grace said. "For example, supporting the Loss and Damage Fund. And also, we need to see behavioural change and policy change, like steering away from fossil fuel and supporting just energy transition."

Oxfam successfully advocated for the introduction of a Loss and Damage Fund, which would help countries

most impacted by climate change to adapt to changing conditions. After the speakers' tour this year, we welcomed the Australian Government's \$50 million contribution to the fund.

Thanks to supporters like you, we were able to send Policy and Advocacy Lead Josie Lee to the COP29 climate talks in Azerbaijan in November to press governments to commit to an ambitious global climate finance goal for low-income countries. This would provide funding for them to respond to climate impacts and transition to renewable energy.

"We were disappointed with the outcome of the talks, but this has only strengthened our resolve to keep fighting for climate justice for communities in low-income countries where climate change impacts are being felt right now," Josie said.

"The time for Australia to step up its action is long overdue. Australia must immediately end all new fossil fuel projects, create a plan to rapidly phase out fossil fuel exports, and make big polluting corporations pay for their climate damage to impacted communities."



Canberra, Australia: (left to right) Climate activists Tanya, Grace, Peter and Eduardo at Parliament House in Canberra. Photo: Heidi Demond/Oxfam.



Canberra, Australia: Tanya, Grace, Peter and Eduardo meet with politicians and key decision-makers. Photo: Heidi Demond/Oxfam.

Making waves for a living wage

Thanks to supporters like you, Oxfam's What She Makes campaign has worked with clothing brands for seven years, pushing further for them to pay their workers a living wage than any other campaign, worldwide.

In October last year, we were excited to announce that activewear brand Lorna Jane became the first brand to pay a living wage, and over the summer, thousands of conscious consumers like you signed our 'Make Waves for a Living Wage' petition, demanding brands rapidly accelerate their journey towards paying a living wage.

Despite a number of brands making the commitment to pay, many are yet to actually start paying their workers a living wage.

The Make Waves for a Living Wage campaign highlighted the major fashion companies making more than AUD \$1 billion in revenue while garment workers still live in poverty – Big W, Cotton On Group, Myer, Premier Investments, Hanes Australasia and KMD (Rip Curl, Kathmandu).

Oxfam's Sarah Rogan was behind the Make Waves for a Living Wage campaign.

"We found that Kmart Group, in particular, is swimming in cash, making a whopping \$10.6 billion," Sarah said. "Yet, women working in Bangladeshi factories making Kmart's clothes are paid as little as \$6 per day – nowhere near enough to stay afloat."

Dhaka, Bangladesh: Kakoli* works in a garment factory and barely earns enough to meet her needs. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam.

*Name changed to protect identity.

"The fashion sector made \$25.7 billion last year, but the women who make our clothes can't even catch a break, with brands still allowing payment of poverty wages."

Sarah said inequality was stark in the fashion industry, which relies on a system of entrenched exploitation.

"As brands benefit from significant sales, there is no excuse to not prioritise living wages for the women who make our clothes," she said.

With your support, Oxfam will continue to lobby the fashion industry to pay the women who make our clothes a living wage. Thank you for sticking with us.

Find out more at oxfam.org.au/what-she-makes



GIFTS THAT DO ~~GOOD~~ GREAT

Teach 'em young.

Make the little ones in your life smile with a truly thoughtful gift.

These cute and funny gifts in our Unwrapped 'Kids Bundle' teach kids about the world and what it means to be generous and compassionate.

The Kids Bundle contains five (5) cards: Duck, Clean Water, Toilet Paper, Honey, Emergency Food Supplies.

Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian NGO Cooperation Program (ANCP).



OXFAM
UNWRAPPED



[OXFAMUNWRAPPED.COM.AU](https://www.oxfamunwrapped.com.au)



Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh: Shamsun can now cook fresh vegetables for her children. Photo: Fabeha Monir/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Australian Humanitarian Partnership (AHP).

Planting seeds for nutrition – and hope

When Shamsun was just 16 years old, a military crackdown in Myanmar's Rakhine State forced her family to flee to neighbouring Bangladesh, along with hundreds of thousands of other Rohingya families. Shamsun is now one of more than one million people living in Cox's Bazar, the world's largest refugee settlement.

Thanks to our wonderful supporters, Oxfam was able to work with our local partner organisation, Mukti Cox's Bazar, to provide life-saving water, sanitation and hygiene supplies, food, and gender protection programs. That response expanded and over the years Mukti has offered training sessions for people living in the camp.

Shamsun, who now has three children, joined a two-day training workshop on growing her own vegetables.

"After the training, we planted the seedlings and seeds in the garden which they provided to us and we also gave fertilisers and watered the plants accordingly. We planted all the seeds according to their [Mukti's] instruction and it helped us to grow more vegetables," Shamsun said.

"We eat the vegetables with our neighbours and children which we grew in the garden and it provides nutrition to my children. I feel happy to work in the

garden and I have worked as they have instructed me."

Shamsun has grown chilli, brinjal (eggplants), bitter melons, tomatoes, cucumbers, spinach and potatoes and has collected vegetable seeds from other people.

"My children like to eat these vegetables. When I cook these vegetables for my children they eat happily and it is nutritious for them also."

Staff from Mukti visit regularly to monitor the gardens and offer suggestions.

"They tell us how to grow more vegetables and discuss various methods of cultivation," Shamsun said. "I would be happy if Oxfam continued to work here. I would be happy if I could raise my children by educating them. After getting educated they will be able to work and earn. I have dreams of growing more vegetables and want to take care of my garden. I would be happy if I could grow more vegetables in my garden."



Cambodia: Chana (left) and Sare with freshly harvested vegetables from their greenhouse. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).

Harvesting greens and balancing ecosystems in Cambodia

An innovative pilot project in Cambodia is enabling families to grow vegetables in climate-resilient ways. The project uses an ‘aquaponics’ method where aquaculture (fish farming) meets hydroponics (growing vegetables without soil).

Northeastern Rural Development, one of Oxfam’s partner organisations, is piloting the project, and thanks to supporters like you, Chana and Sare are now raising fish in tanks while growing vegetables suspended in tubes of water.

The waste the fish produce is a natural fertiliser for plants. Nutrient-rich water from the fish tanks is circulated to irrigate the vegetables, and the plants in turn filter the water that returns to the fish tanks.

“I didn’t believe that vegetables can be grown in water,” Chana said. “I thought at the beginning that it will not be possible. But after we studied and trained — it is possible. Now we can share this information with other people.”

Since starting the project in August 2022, Chana and Sare’s family, along with two other participating families, have grown spinach, a variety of salad greens, collard greens and cauliflower. It’s a far cry from having to travel 30 minutes by boat to buy vegetables from the market.

“When I use the aquaponic system, I feel that it is easier than growing directly on the ground,” said Sare. “The difficulty was that I must spray pesticides on worms and small insects, but with aquaponics, you don’t need to. It’s easy.”

Journalists ensure that voices are raised and heard



Journalist Vo Kieu Bao Uyen, from Vietnam, is determined to make the voices of local communities heard in the Mekong region, and thanks to supporters like you, Bao Uyen was able to take part in a training program to strengthen her capacity to do just that.

The Earth Journalism Network, one of Oxfam's partner organisations, is shining a spotlight on the unique perspectives of women in water governance, through a program that works with local journalists and fosters networking opportunities for women in the region.

The program includes workshops, mentorship, and a reporting fund to empower journalists to produce inclusive stories about water issues. Bao Uyen has dedicated her career to reporting gender, environment, labour and migration issues. She is one of many journalists who are amplifying the voices of local groups and promoting informed discussions.

"As a child, I was taught that the Mekong River was incredibly rich, but it has undergone significant changes over the years. I aim to shed light on these untold stories and provide an explanation of the real environmental situation in Vietnam," she said.

"The gender-related content presented by the speakers was particularly engaging and informative, providing me with a better understanding of gender lens not only in water governance but also in environmental matters more broadly.

"I feel more confident after each round of training and mentorship," Bao Uyen said. "I [am] striving to bring the voices of women and vulnerable groups into my stories."

The Mekong is one of the world's fastest-growing economic regions, and there is mounting pressure to ensure that development is equitable and sustainable.

The Mekong and Salween rivers are the lifeblood of the region, providing livelihoods, food security and cultural heritage for more than 70 million people. Yet the flow and quality of the waters is being depleted by major projects, pollution and climate change.

Photo (above): Ubon, Thailand: Bao Uyen shares her knowledge at a workshop. Photo: Saneth Meas/Oxfam.

A tasty way to increase income

Thanks to supporters like you, there will soon be more chocolate in the world! Anulavathi, from Sri Lanka, has big plans to increase her family's income, promote local products and make a lot of chocolate lovers very happy.

Anulavathi's husband is a teacher and they have two children. She has always been keen on farming, but it wasn't until she heard about Oxfam's partner organisation, DevPro, that she was able to turn her passion into action.

Through a DevPro training program, Anulavathi learnt the entire process of cocoa farming – from harvesting to fermentation and drying. She can now produce high-quality cocoa and sell it for a premium price. She also has access to machinery, which has made the farming process easier and more efficient.

"From a very young age, watching my parents grow plants with love is what made me start farming too," Anulavathi said. "Thanks to my parents, I have been finding and educating myself as a farmer for 12 years now."

One of the biggest challenges for Anulavathi's business is the high price of fuel, which makes transporting her product very expensive. She is collaborating with DevPro and a group of 35 cocoa farmers in her community to find solutions.

Working closely with DevPro, she is well on her way to realising her ultimate goal, which is to expand her collaboration with other local cocoa vendors and manufacture homemade chocolate. She believes this will not only increase her income, but also help promote locally made products.

With all the knowledge she received, Anulavathi is confident that she can achieve this goal and build a successful business that will benefit her family and her community.

Photos (above): Uva province, Sri Lanka: Anulavathi is excited about the prospect of building her cocoa business. Photos: DevPro (supplied).



Treaty negotiations begin

A ceremony in November 2024 heralded the beginning of negotiations between the First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria and the Victorian Government on the first Statewide Treaty.

A Treaty will ensure that First Nations' communities are properly represented in decisions that affect them, with local knowledge being central to all negotiations.

Thanks to supporters like you, Oxfam has been working with First Nations' organisations for more than 40 years and we are as committed as ever to continuing this journey with the First Peoples of Australia on their path to self-determination.

Wamba Wamba, Yorta Yorta, Dja Dja Wurrung and Dhudhuroa woman Ngarra Murray is the Co-chair of the Assembly and a former Oxfam staff member.



Melbourne, Australia: First Peoples' Assembly co-chairs Ngarra Murray and Rueben Berg with Victorian Premier Jacinta Allen at the ceremony. Photo: Leroy Miller/First Peoples' Assembly of Victoria.

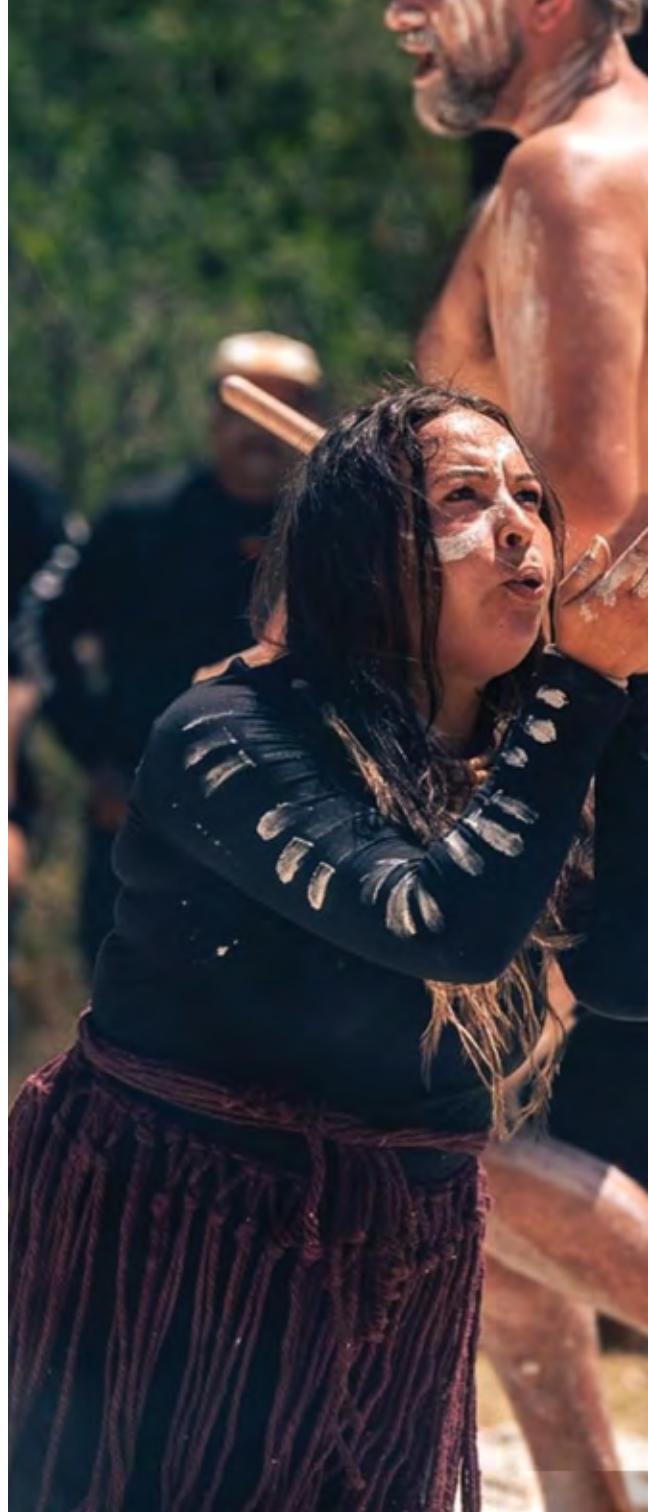




“When it comes to Aboriginal communities, cultures and languages, the experts are Aboriginal people,” Ngarra said. “Through this shared journey to Treaty, we’ll be looking to make sure Aboriginal communities can use local knowledge to come up with practical solutions at a local level.”

At the generous invitation of the Assembly, Oxfam’s Head of Public Engagement, Rod Goodbun, joined the ceremony. Here, he reflects on his experience.

“On a baking hot spring day in Darebin Parklands, we gathered in a large circle, seeking the shade of the eucalypts and the occasional breeze as First Nations groups from across Victoria performed dances and sung-in the commencement of Treaty negotiations. I felt privileged to be present at such a momentous occasion, thinking about the hours and hours of struggle from so many people over so many years to make it possible. I also felt a deep responsibility as one of many non-Indigenous people present, to bear witness to the survival and strength of First Peoples in this country, and to commit to holding our government to account for delivering on the promise of peace and justice that Treaty offers.”







Help create a safer, fairer
world that works for everyone
by leaving a gift in your Will.

When you include Oxfam in your Will,
your values and compassion will transform
the lives of people all over the world,
for many years to come. To learn more
go to oxfam.org.au/wills

The future is equal



OXFAM
Australia



Tigray, Ethiopia: Seadiya no longer has to walk for two hours to get water, now that there is a water point in her village.
The water point was constructed by Oxfam, with support from the German Federal Foreign Office. Photo: Zerubabel Tore/Oxfam.

**WRITE YOUR WILL
FOR FREE IN MARCH**

Caroline's life-long commitment to an equal world

Long-term Oxfam supporter Caroline Le Couteur has devoted her life to creating a better world. She's been a self-sustaining farmer, anti-war protester and Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly, representing the Greens.

As a young university graduate, Caroline went to the 1973 Aquarius Festival in Nimbin, New South Wales, and stayed for 11 years!

"Nimbin was a dying dairy town. The hospital was about to close," Caroline said. "The festival organisers were starting a new world – it was the Age of Aquarius."

The festival ran for 10 days, but land was cheap and many of the idealistic young people decided to stay on. They pooled their resources and bought 500 hectares of land, forming the Co-Ordination Co-Operative.

"It's bloody hard work being a self-sufficient farmer," Caroline said.

Caroline also worked as a solar panel retailer and installer. When she eventually moved back to her home city of Canberra, she worked on government renewable energy policies. She was also a founding director of Australian Ethical Investment.

But politics was calling and Caroline ran for the Legislative Assembly.

"For me, becoming a Greens Member of the Australian Capital Territory Legislative Assembly was simply a continuation of working for a better world," she said.

Caroline said her mother inspired her to help people.



Canberra, Australia: Long-term Oxfam supporter and activist, Caroline Le Couteur. Photo: supplied.

"I got all this from my mum," she said. "My mother was very committed to helping people less fortunate. I have lots of memories of marching up and down Commonwealth Avenue protesting against the [Vietnam] war. I was always interested in changing the world."

Caroline wanted to support Oxfam because "they do something practical on the ground for people who need help. I have a great belief that the world does not treat everybody fairly and we have to support, not blame the 'victims'."

Thank you, Caroline. It's an honour to count you among our supporters.



Wangaratta, Australia: Dedicated members of the Wangaratta Oxfam Group had lots to celebrate in 2024. Photos: Supplied.

60 years of dedication to a world without poverty

In August 2024, the Wangaratta Oxfam group celebrated 60 years of coming together to create a more equal world.

Since its inception in 1964, the Wangaratta group in Victoria has raised nearly \$270,000 – equivalent to more than \$1 million in today's money – for Oxfam projects and disaster relief across the world. Members have hosted balls, book sales, trivia nights, Fair Trade sales and film nights, to name just a few.

Adrian Twitt joined the Wangaratta group in 1967, when Oxfam was still known as Community Aid Abroad.

"I had spent a year in my early adulthood travelling mainly in Europe, but en route to Australia in 1964 I had spent three weeks in India," Adrian said. "I was shocked



by the poverty of millions, and felt that we in the wealthy countries of the world needed to do something about it."

Adrian had a long career in education in Australia, and spent time teaching in England, Canada and Zimbabwe. He and his wife, Helen, have been steadfast members of the Wangaratta Oxfam group and in 1984 they took their three children, who were then aged between five and 11 years, on an Oxfam trip to India.

"It was an outstanding immersion into the work of Oxfam projects in remote parts of Gujarat State," Adrian said. "Our family was feted by rural people whose zest for life, in spite of their poverty, humbled us. It was a life-changing moment for our children, who all

developed a passion to help others in need."

The Wangaratta group's annual dinner doubles as its annual general meeting and last year they decided to host a French-themed soiree in a member's garden.

"We tried this two years ago with huge success – so popular we had to cap the number of patrons," Adrian said.

Last year's soiree was equally successful, raising \$3,700 for Oxfam.

We are so grateful for the efforts of Adrian and everyone in the Wangaratta Oxfam group. Thank you for coming on this journey with us, towards an equal world where no-one lives in poverty.

The future is equal



OXFAM
Australia



Voices is printed with vegetable inks on an unbleached, uncoated paper that is made from 100% recycled post-consumer waste and is carbon neutral.

Cambodia: Chana with his rice irrigation system. Photo: Patrick Moran/Oxfam. Oxfam acknowledges the support of the Australian Government through the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT).