

The
University
of Sydney
Annual Report
2007 Volume
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The Honourable John Della Bosca, MLC
Minister for Education and Training
Level 33, Governor Macquarie Tower
1 Farrer Place
Sydney NSW 2000

Dear Minister,

The Senate of the University of Sydney has the honour of presenting to you, in accordance with the *Annual Reports (Statutory Bodies) Act 1984* and its subsequent amendments, the report of the proceedings and financial statements of the University of Sydney for the year ended 31 December 2007.

Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO
Chancellor

Professor Gavin Brown AO
Vice-Chancellor and Principal

Sydney students aid Kenyan school project

Building a new high school for girls in an impoverished village in Kenya is the first project for an organisation set up by five University of Sydney architecture students.

In 2005, fewer than one in three Kenyan students found a place in a secondary school. In the Katolo area near Lake Victoria, just 12 per cent of girls continue from primary school to secondary school. Encouraging more girls to continue their schooling could be as simple as building a school for them to attend.

Georgia Bowen, Amber Lush, Kirstin Hume Grimm, CC Ip and Harriet Stone have all completed a Bachelor of Design (Architecture) and finished their final year of Bachelor of Architecture in 2007. They formed the organisation 'bricks + cartwheels' through their mutual interest in social architecture and community-driven design.

"We wanted a name that related to architecture and urban planning, but also something fun that didn't take us too seriously, because we do appreciate that we are young and still relatively inexperienced," said Amber.

All the girls have worked in architecture firms or on community development projects in Australia, Costa Rica, Bolivia, Kenya and South Africa, mostly during their recommended year off between degrees.

Amber and Georgia came across the Katolo school project during a trip to Kenya in their summer break of 2007.

"The Katolo community had already started to think about how they were going to construct this secondary school, and had begun the process of securing a site. We were invited to attend one of the community meetings and said, 'We have design skills. Is there anything we can do?' And it grew from there," explained Amber.



"There are basically five of us but the team seems to be growing by the day," said Georgia. "We have a fundraising committee, others doing research, and others still doing the final business proposal and figuring out the budget and the practicalities."

Bricks + cartwheels has several fundraising activities in the pipeline and the secondary school project has been listed by Rotary Australia World Community Service (RAWCS) as one of its international projects.

The students will work in partnership with the community of Katolo to design and oversee construction of the new school.

Georgia said: "Our ultimate aim is for bricks + cartwheels to develop into an organisation that can be the focus of our careers."

At the moment, though, all efforts are concentrated on Katolo. "When you see the local people working so hard to achieve better things for their lives, it inspires you," said Amber.

"We all decided that we wanted to do something positive and constructive when we finish uni," said Amber. "Bricks + cartwheels is something that has developed naturally."

