

From the desk of

Lady Mayoress

Lisa Newman

This month I was fortunate to visit Southside Education – an independent high school at Sunnybank which caters for young women who, for whatever reason, find difficulty with the lack of diversity of school models.

Some of the students have babies and the school has set up a crèche and parenting centre to cater for these youngsters.

I was at the school on this particular day to joyfully hand over a cheque for \$50,000, raised by the Lord Mayor's Community Trust, which I chair. The money is one of our major grant donations and will go towards a new bus and fittings for the school. This will enable young women, without their own transport, to continue their high school education and transport their babies to the crèche.

Southside Education recently received the Dare to Lead High Achievement award for excellence in leadership in Indigenous Education. It is awarded for demonstrating high levels of effective leadership, Indigenous community involvement and improvements in targeted outcomes.

I have discussed previously how fabulous Southside Education is and I am so pleased to see that they have been recognised in this way. The hard working staff at Southside Education are passionate about their students and about the young families that look to them for a better chance at a better brighter future

The Trust also contributes towards the cost of printing Southside Education's bi-annual publication of the incredibly moving art, prose and poetry by the students. Reading the stories can be very heart-wrenching but at the same time the book is filled with hope and joy. The school will be holding a big Art Exhibition and Book Launch on October 23 and I encourage you to put this date in your diary. You'll be hearing more about this event through *Brisbane Circle* over the coming months.



Business Manager for Southside Education, Liz Walsh with Lady Mayoress Lisa Newman and Janaya Hopkins.

Southside Education
Art Exhibition & Book Launch
October 23 2009

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