

Media Release

Community puts *Love in Action* to Fight Poverty *Book launch to aid the people of Manado, Indonesia*

The community partnership between Manly (Sydney, Australia) and Manado (Indonesia) is to be depicted in a series of photos in a stunning new book, titled 'Love in Action'. All proceeds from the book will be donated to Manly-Manado, a local movement who work with development partners, Bridge of Hope and Compassion, to get resources to where it's needed in Manado.

Love in Action is a photographic documentary book with over 100 photographs that capture the inspiring story of a community taking action against poverty. All photographs were shot on location in Manado, Indonesia by photographer, Stuart Harris with stories by Jim Collins.

The *Love in Action* book launch event is a celebration of the efforts of the Manly community for the work done to date in support of Manado.

Manly-Manado is a community partnership between Manly in Sydney, Australia and Manado on the Island of Sulawesi, East Indonesia. Manly-Manado provides much needed financial aid to the people of Manado and empowers the people of Manly to personally take action against poverty using their passions and talents to tangibly affect someone in a specific community.

"Putting this book together was an amazing experience. I have been able to use my passion for photography to support social transformation," said Mr Harris. "Through this book we are hoping to generate a broader awareness of the cause and hope that people beyond Manly will get on board to help break the long-term cycle of poverty in other communities around the world. Sometimes we get overwhelmed with the scale of poverty, but this is a way that anyone can help one community to help another."

The book launch will take place at the Novotel Manly Pacific today. The event starts at 7pm, with drinks and canapés offered to guests, musical entertainment and later speeches made by distinguished guests including renowned landscape photographer Ken Duncan, who wrote the foreword to *Love in Action*, Member for Manly, Mike Baird MP, Councillor Jean Hay AM (Mayor), National Director of Compassion, Anne Knock, and the creator of *Love in Action*, Stuart Harris.

Commenting on the launch of the book, Ken Duncan said: "I have endeavoured to encourage Stuart to produce *Love in Action* – and to share the ideas behind Manly-Manado. My hope is that learning about this wonderful initiative may help inspire people to see where they too could make a difference. In buying this book they will be helping to improve the lives of the people of Manado - the people in Stuart's photos and Jim's stories. I really do hope that this book will stimulate people to think about how they too can put love into action. For faith plus action has the power to overcome our fears – and change the world in the process."

Invited guests that attend the launch event will have an opportunity to be the first to view and purchase limited edition framed prints from the *Love in Action* book. **The book will go on sale on Saturday, 1st August 2009, for \$39.95 (including GST) and can be purchased online at www.loveinaction.com.au**

Since its launch in 2005 Manly-Manado has seen over 13,000 people, 180 businesses, nine churches and six schools in Manly unite and get involved in over 120 community events and activities. The fruit of this combined action has benefited some 6,000 people in Manado through a myriad of development projects including 1,294 families being provided with micro loans and 210 children being sponsored. **Manly-Manado partners with three non-government organisations, Bridge of Hope, CNEC and Compassion to drive initiatives that give people a hand up out of poverty in Manado.**

Manly-Manado is dedicated to making poverty history as outlined in the United Nations Millennium Development Goals. The UN has identified some of the hardest challenges in the world today in its Millennium Development Goals — one goal includes halving global poverty by 2015. Manly-Manado is calling on all Australians to help achieve some of these goals by making poverty history through local action.

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About the book launch:

Time: 7pm

Date: Friday, 31 July, 2009

Location: Novotel Manly Pacific, 55 North Steyne, Manly, NSW

RSVP: rsvp@loveinaction.com.au

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About Manly-Manado

Manly-Manado is a Christian-led community partnership between Manly in Sydney, Australia and Manado on the Island of Sulawesi, East Indonesia. Manly-Manado exists to help transform lives out of the mutual poverty that exists within both communities. It empowers people to personally take action against poverty using their passions and talents and tangibly affect someone in a specific community.

For more information go to <http://www.manly-manado.org.au>

About Stuart Harris

Over the past fifteen years, Stuart has walked a corporate career path, but his real love is photography. Love in Action is the fulfilment of a long-held dream – using his photography to make a difference in the lives of others. Stuart lives in Manly with his wife Jeanette and young son Samuel.

About Jim Collins

Five years ago Jim left a financial services career to remain as a Christian communicator. He now works as a Pastor at a local church and is a social justice writer. Jim lives with his wife Cathy and daughter Sarah, in Manly.