



*"I say," says Josephine to Pauline, "I don't think I'll be giving that mongoose a cuddle."*



*"..and they unpacked the picnic hamper and ate as many slices of bread and butter with lashings of jam as they possibly could." Monique Tonkin of Tynong, Australia has the boys transfixed.*

### Construction In Progress

The end of the 2011-12 school year at Easter saw the graduation of 15 pupils. Their state exams results were fairly average (the girls were better than the boys of course).

Giving a good education is like helping a child build a house. Facts are the bricks and knowing how to arrange them is the understanding. In Asia, children are given huge numbers of bricks, but they are not expected to know how to arrange them. In the West, the children are given so few

bricks that, despite the highly creative ways in which they are taught to arrange these bricks, there are never enough to build a house.

At Veritas, our challenge is to find a humane way of cramming enough facts into the children so that they pass their state exams while also giving them enough understanding to enable them to build their spiritual castles.

All six girls who finished Veritas Academy are continuing their studies in local schools. Of the nine boys who finished,

eight have begun training as electricians, carpenters, mechanics or fitters, and one is continuing his studies. All the boys are staying in a hostel run by the Apostles of Mary (a lay community who are fervent members of our faithful) in Tuticorin.

The new school year began in June with 43 pupils. Unfortunately, the new intake did not match the number who departed because there are no more children in the village chapels of the right age and because no new orphans have arrived on account of the construction work. May God give us more souls. Ω



*Smile Mary-Rose! (Mary-Rose has a new brace).*