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MEDIA RELEASE

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FAIR TRADE SUPPORTER OF THE YEAR VISITS COSTA RICA

The Social Justice Coordinator of St Monica's College Epping, Fadi Elbarbar, has returned from a visit to Costa Rica to meet Fair Trade farmers.

Fadi was awarded the Fair Trade Supporter of the Year Award by Fair Trade Australia and New Zealand for his work promoting the benefits of Fair Trade through his social justice work at St Monica's College Epping (SMC). SMC is one of the few Fair Trade Schools in Victoria.

Fadi visited the CoopeAgri cooperative in San Isidro and met fair trade coffee and sugar farmers. The CoopeAgri cooperative has been established for more than 50 years and has been fair trade since 1994. His trip included visiting many projects that are direct benefits of Fair Trade.

"I have now seen first-hand the difference it makes when we support Fair Trade products," Fadi said. "The difference it makes to the owners and workers is immeasurable and this amazing journey to Costa Rica has certainly increased my passion to promote the goodness of Fair Trade. Our support locally does make a difference to people's lives."

Fadi's trip to Costa Rica was sponsored by Fair Trade Australia and New Zealand as part of his award as Fair Trade Supporter of the Year.

"If the average consumer could only see how Fair Trade changes the way of life for vulnerable communities they would always choose Fair Trade products when shopping."

Fadi is available for interview and has an excellent selection of photos available.

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