



# Josephite Associates

\* Friendship                      \* Prayer                      \* Service  
- August 2008 -

## Hello from the Coordinator

Late in March I had the wonderful opportunity of visiting Peru. It was a rich time for me to learn from our Sisters as they stand with the poor and marginalised of that country. As I go around to the groups in the coming months I hope to share some of my thoughts, stories and photos with you. I know some Associate groups support the mission in Peru and it was humbling to see the great needs of the people and to know that we can make a difference in their lives, with both our prayers and our financial efforts. Keep up the good work!

On my return, I headed to Mungindi on the Queensland border to meet the ladies there and to set up a new group, and also met with the residents at our Hostel at Hunters Hill. All those new members are very welcome. I continued to visit groups at St Marys, North Leichhardt and Belmont. It is always a happy time for me to go to the groups and to hear what is happening on the local scene. Thanks to the contact people who always make my visits so enjoyable.

August is the special month when we celebrate the feast of Blessed Mary MacKillop. I wish you all the blessings of the feast and may we all continue to pray that soon we will be able to call her "Saint". No doubt you will have read in the press that Rome is looking into the details of the second miracle.

The Annual General Meeting is coming around again (see flyer for details). Hope to see you there!

On 8<sup>th</sup> November, we are organising a Pilgrimage to Lochinvar. In the past two years we have visited Perthville and Goulburn, and all the Associates commented on how these journeys touched their hearts. I'm sure this one will do the same!

Until next time.

*Sr Helen Saunders*

## Coming Events—Associates

**Mary MacKillop Mass and Lunch**  
**10:30 a.m. 9<sup>th</sup> August 2008**  
**Mary MacKillop Chapel**

**Annual General Meeting**  
**at Mary MacKillop Place**  
Invitation enclosed  
**30<sup>th</sup> August 2008**

**Kincumber Retreat**  
**12<sup>th</sup>–14<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
'The emblem's journey: the long way home'  
Led by Sr Virginia Bourke rsj

**Tamworth Reflection Day**  
**27<sup>th</sup> September 2008**  
'Hoping for Heaven'  
Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj

**Nimmitabel Reflection Day**  
**18<sup>th</sup> October 2008**  
'Living the Spirit'  
Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj

**Pilgrimage to Lochinvar**  
**8<sup>th</sup> November 2008**  
'Celebrating 125 Years'  
**Bookings essential by 1<sup>st</sup> September**  
\$30 non-refundable

**Nyngan Reflection Day**  
**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2008**  
'Joseph—Jesus Called Him Dad'  
Led by Sr Bridie O'Connell rsj

*For further information phone*  
*Sr Helen Saunders on 02 8741 2334*



## Kincumber Tree Planting—25<sup>th</sup> May, 2008

*We are formed by Christ into Your people  
Called to bring the world into Your marvellous light  
As the Body of Christ, we are messengers of ecological  
vocation.*

*We are entrusted with caring for this  
Earth which You have created.  
Help us to love and respect it,  
To repair what we have damaged  
To care for what You have made good and holy.  
Give us the wisdom and the passion  
To change our minds, our hearts and our ways.*

*Catholic Earthcare Launch, 2002 ([www.catholicearthcareoz.net](http://www.catholicearthcareoz.net))*



This is a portion of the prayer that Sr Ellen Daniel prayed, as many Associates and friends gathered to begin the work of planting 1,800 wetland plants in three sites within the Kincumber grounds, on the morning of the 25<sup>th</sup> May, 2008. Frank Kennedy (an Associate from Boambee) and friends had been on site for a week and had worked very hard to prepare the place. Other Associates and friends from Boambee joined them on the Friday, while the majority of us arrived on the Sunday morning around 9:30 in time for the hot scones, jam and cream.

Sr Ellen welcomed us all, paying respect to the traditional owners and the many Sisters who had lived and worked at Kincumber. After the prayer, it was over to Frank who spoke of Occupational Health and Safety issues, before giving us a practical demonstration of how the trees were to be planted. He suggested we work in pairs, as we had to take the plant out of the cylinder it was in, deposit it in the prepared hole, backfill the hole and then place a cardboard carton over the plant, with a stick enclosed. Things went smoothly and before lunch the majority were planted and Frank seemed to have a smile on his face. After a barbeque lunch it was time to mulch, from the piles of mulch that were near at hand, and then drag water from the nearby dam in buckets to give the plants a good soaking before leaving.



“What brought this on?” you may ask. In 2007 Frank and a few friends were at Kincumber on retreat, when he noticed that the grounds needed a bit of “tender loving care”. Eventually he managed to secure a grant from the Hunter-Central Rivers Catchment Management Authority through the National Landcare Program. After lots of hours preparing the ground, the time came for the “day of planting”.

Frank is a “greenie”, but he also takes seriously the words of Pope Benedict XVI when he said back in July 2007, *‘We must listen to “the voice of the Earth” or risk destroying its very existence. We cannot simply do what we want with this Earth of ours, with what has been entrusted to us. We must respect the interior laws of creation, of this Earth, to learn these laws and obey them if we want to survive. This obedience to the voice of the Earth is more important for our future happiness...than the desires of the moment. Our Earth is talking to us and we must listen to it and decipher its message if we want to survive’.* (<http://www.catholicnewsagency.com/new.php?n=9968>.)



Thank you, Frank, for heeding this message, which is a call to each of us to make our world a healthier, happier place for the generations that will follow us. Thanks also must go to the students of Mount St Joseph, Milperra who came with two of their teachers on that day. It was wonderful to see them at work and to know that these girls are also taking seriously the care of the earth. To all those Associates, their families and friends who came that day – “thank you”.

A folder was passed around on the day and if people were interested in repeating the “dose”, maybe twice a year, they were asked to note their intention. They will be known as “Friends of St Joseph’s, Kincumber”. We will keep you informed of the dates.

Resulting from the positive outcomes of May's Tree Planting Day, St Joseph's Retreat and Education Centre, has been listed as a "Land for Wildlife" property. The aim of "Land for Wildlife" is to help landowners conserve and manage wildlife and contribute to the conservation of our plants and animals. It is a further step in the 'ecological conversion' of our Josephite community and a positive response to the Popes' call.

*Sr Helen Saunders rsj*

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## Vale Mary Kershaw

Mary was born in Quirindi on 7th November 1914, only daughter to James and Agnes Reilly. She had three brothers John, James and Patrick. Twin brothers Peter and Hugh died at around six months of age. Mary attended St Joseph's School, Quirindi, and was honoured at the School's celebrations last year [2007] as being the oldest living ex-pupil.

A lover of dancing, Mary met her future husband Clem at a ball. They married on 8<sup>th</sup> January 1938, the year before the Second World War broke out. They had eight children, James, Terrence (deceased), Kay, John, Michael, Barry, Maureen and Kerrie. Until the school bus began to operate in 1960, Mary spent 16 years teaching her children via Blackfriars Correspondence School. Four of the children attended St Joseph's School, Quirindi for a time.

After living almost 60 years at Warrah Ridge, Clem's health deteriorated and the couple moved to Quirindi in the 1970s. Mary joined St Vincent de Paul and became involved with the Catholic Women's League, making new friends. She was also a beautiful reader of the scriptures. Father Stan Campbell arrived soon after Clem and Mary moved to town.

In 1988, Mary and Clem celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary, and two months later, Clem died suddenly and unexpectedly. A few months after, Mary's brother Jack died and in 1999, the last of her brothers, Pat died in Sydney.

Mary finally lived at The Gables from 2002, where she was surrounded by good friends and good people whom she loved dearly. She leaves behind her seven children, 21 grandchildren and 34 great-grandchildren.

Mary will be greatly missed by all who knew her. She died on 14<sup>th</sup> December, 2007.

*From "Catholic Viewpoint" Armidale  
17 Feb, 2008 edition*

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### Requiescant in Pace

Elsie Bebb (St Ives);  
Marjorie Casey (Roselands);  
Getrudes Cham (Timor-Leste) mother of  
Fatima (Fairfield);  
Rita Doric (Auburn);  
Maryanne Hardwick (Woy Woy);  
Ken Hawkins, husband of Jan (Warialda);  
Ruth James (Tenterfield);  
Sr Patricia Jones;  
Sr Joan Keating;  
Eulalia Kempton (Greenacre), wife of Arthur  
and stepmother of Sr Margaret;  
Mary Kershaw (Quirindi);  
Joan Rosberg (Tahmoor)

### National Pilgrimage In the Footsteps of Blessed Mary MacKillop

**14-24 October 2008**

For more information, contact:

Sr Therese Leydon rsj

Phone 0417 683 123

[t.leydon@bigpond.com](mailto:t.leydon@bigpond.com)

Sr Margaret Knagge rsj

Phone (02) 8912 4818

[Margaret.Knagge@sosj.org.au](mailto:Margaret.Knagge@sosj.org.au)

## Visiting Pat

After the February retreat I went to Cessnock where my friend Pat is in a dementia unit of a Retirement Village. I love driving through Terrigal, The Entrance, Norah Head and Doyalson. All thoughts of the retreat vanished when I saw her. I had been away for nine months and it was too long a time. She had changed for the worse being so thin with very white translucent skin, sitting on a sofa beside the TV set. Her eyes were closed. When I spoke to her there was no obvious sign of welcome so I told her who I was and sat beside her. Gradually she came back to life but I cried that afternoon and evening.

The next day I had a meeting with the managers and a nurse friend from Cooranbong. I learnt that the weight loss was due to the last stages of dementia and I was given a booklet from a health organisation in Western Sydney. I was told that while she was physically the same, it was the dementia which had advanced. We arranged to make a living will a few days later. It included the question of life support and where she would be in the last stages. (She will stay at the village.) Pat is 83 now; while I am her next of kin, enduring guardian, power of attorney, I live in New Zealand and I am five years younger than Pat. I had to make funeral arrangements which will stand if I predecease her. I had been very concerned about that. The new assistant priest was interested in Pat's life and he was very helpful. The funeral directors only need a phone call. The caterers are also arranged. There is a hall at the village which can be used after Pat's Requiem Mass.

Meanwhile Pat is still able to talk though sometimes she has to struggle to get a word out. I began to take her out every day. We went to our usual club and to the Motel and Hotel for meals and drinks. We visited the usual places such as Hunter Gardens. Little by little Pat became more alert and outgoing. She is very brave to go out to the car on her shaky legs when she is practically blind and has trouble seeing where she is going. The heat was draining but I decided to stay until Easter. She still improved and looked forward to a glass of wine before lunch. We went to a healing Mass where we were introduced to more parishioners.

I discovered Pat liked to exchange catches with a large ball at different speeds and directions. She also liked throwing four small balls with Velcro on one side at a "dartboard" arrangement, also with Velcro, with scoring on it. She could play pontoon but Scrabble was out now. I tried it with her but she wasn't up to arranging the letters; she had them back to front and couldn't make a word. I gave the Scrabble set to the activities officer.

Visiting Pat was an ordeal. I cried a lot but I'll keep on travelling while I can do good. I speak to her every weekend. I've told her what is happening in Zimbabwe and she asked me for newspaper clippings. Pat lived in what was then Rhodesia for 12 or more years. She lived with me for 33 years. We talk about our dogs, houses, friends, horse racing and so on. Photo albums are good and I also read to her. The office worker told me to cancel Pat's Sydney Morning Herald so I went to the shop to do that but first they had to calculate what was owed because they were very slack sending out accounts. Pat's bill came to over \$800.

If I had known in 2002 that Pat would go on for six years, still able to talk and go out, I would have stayed in Morisset.

*Nina O'Flynn, New Zealand*

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### Prayers for the Sick

Jayden Ash, grandson of Robyn Butler  
(Tenterfield);  
Max Burling (Warialda);  
Bill Kennedy (Warialda);  
Ron Moore (Warialda);  
Beryl Malcolm (Warialda);  
Helen & Jim Perrett (Warialda);  
Kerie Tolmie, daughter of Don & Lorraine  
Guyer (Tamworth)

### Thank You

Thank you for all your contributions, in the form of both articles and donations. The articles have been so varied and give us all great insight into you, the people who make up the Associates.

We hope you will continue to send them in; it certainly makes the editorial committee's job much easier and lets us know what you, our readers, like to have published in your newsletter.

Our thanks for your continuing generosity.

## Mullumbimby Profile

The Josephite Associates from Byron Bay, Bangalow and Mullumbimby live on the far North Coast of NSW, about one hour from Queensland.

Byron Bay and Bangalow group originally began in the late 1980s and met in Marge Buckley's home. This group included two Sisters of Mercy, one being Marge's sister, Sister Angela, now deceased. Marge, now 91, is still an Associate and a most active one. This group continued to meet until Sister Teresa Keane left the parish.

Mullumbimby group began on 21<sup>st</sup> May, 1998, in St Joseph's Convent, Laurel Avenue, Mullumbimby, under the guidance of Sister Margaret Keane. On 25<sup>th</sup> October, 2001, the two groups combined to meet in 29A Queen Street, Mullumbimby and have continued as one group.

We meet four or five times a year, and rotate the venues – Mullumbimby, Bangalow and Byron Bay. In



2006-2007, we adopted the practice of studying a chapter from *Mary MacKillop – Inspiration for Today*, edited by Sr Pauline Wicks rsj, and found it most helpful. Our last meeting for each year includes a social outing, usually a lunch together.



Although we have 26 members, our usual attendance averages 17. Our project is Aid for East Timor. In 2006, we organised a lamington drive and in 2007 a street stall. Both times we raised over \$1,000.

We are very proud to be Associates of the Sisters of St Joseph and hope that we imbue Mary's spirit of generosity in our three parishes. *Sr Margaret Keane rsj*

Back: Marie Ronan, Peg Bleakley, Jill Stobbart, Margaret O'Meara,  
Middle: Patricia Higgins, Patricia Phillips, Marge Buckley,  
Peggy Finch, Dorothy Gill, Frances Raisch  
Front: Judy Nicholls, Bev Sweeney

Missing: Mary Dynan, Gerda Hughes, Pam Lang, Carmel McLean,  
Ruth Slattery, Patricia Dailhou, Joyce Lang, Rita Harriott  
Silvana Smith, June Snedden, Doreen Watson,  
Jeanne Sjoberg, Lola Fenwick

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### Stamps Wanted



Used stamps wanted for the Josephite mission in Peru

Please send to Sr Helen Saunders  
Locked Bag 3031  
Burwood NSW 1805  
Phone 02 8741 2334  
Fax 02 8741 2399

Associates Office - Locked Bag 3031  
Burwood NSW 1805 - (02) 8741 2334

### Coming Events—

#### Mary MacKillop Place

Mary MacKillop's Feast Day  
8<sup>th</sup> August 2008

Special Intentions Mass  
'Fathers'  
8<sup>th</sup> September 2008

Guided Meditations  
15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2008

These sessions introduce this form of prayer and provide the opportunity to practise praying using the Bible. Mary MacKillop Place offers an atmosphere of quiet which is conducive to prayer and meditation.

Led by Sr Elizabeth Crilley rsj

Special Intentions Mass  
'World Peace'  
8<sup>th</sup> October 2008

For further information phone  
the Ministries Manager on 02 8912 4818