

VICTORIAN BRANCH

FUNDRAISING DINNER

In 2004 the Victorian Branch held a very successful Fundraising Dinner. The event was held on 29th August at Mt St Joseph Girls' College, Altona West. Our group spent many months preparing the details of the dinner and seeking donations for the auction. We were delighted to work with Staff and students of the College in the planning, preparation and serving of part of the meal.

The evening was a very happy friendly occasion. The girls greeted our guests, served nibbles and showed each person to their table. The meal was enjoyed by all, as was the musical entertainment. There was a short presentation on the work of the Mary MacKillop Foundation throughout Australia. The serious part of the evening, fundraising, was conducted in good humour by our MC and auctioneer who sold every item we had to auction and encouraged the raffle and silent auction. Our guests were generous and enthusiastic exceeding all our expectations for a financially successful evening, in all we raised just over \$5000.

Encouraged by our success in 2004, we are now preparing for our 2005 Fundraising dinner to be held on August 19th. Donations are welcome and tickets for the dinner can be obtained by calling our branch office on (03) 9861 9500.

The Victorian Branch is delighted to be involved in the distribution of funds directed to the Mary MacKillop Foundation through the Melbourne Lord Mayor's Charitable Fund for children with special needs in Church Schools.

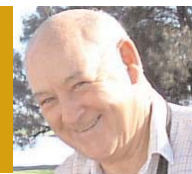
In 2005 we welcomed two new members to our branch, enabling us to remain a vital group contributing to the work of Mary MacKillop in our world today.
Anne Porter rsj

HOW TO HELP US

You can become a regular donor as a Friend of the Mary MacKillop Foundation or make a one off donation to the Foundation or to a specific area of ministry:

ring 02 8912 4860
email marymackillopfoundation@sosj.org.au
web www.marymackillopfoundation.org.au

WA BRANCH



"BREAKFAST IN THE PARK"

Around the middle of March each year, the WA branch of the Mary MacKillop Foundation offers a fully cooked breakfast - with extras - for anyone who considers they are a "friend of the Josephites". It is a better experience than "Breakfast at Tiffany's" and takes place on the banks of the Swan River at Burswood Park, with its picturesque lawns and gardens.

The aim is to raise funds for the Foundation and it involves a lot of catching up with friends. There are usually 70 - 90 of us. This year the day coincided with the Feast of St Joseph. In 2006 it will be held on Saturday March 11.

Much of the food is donated. Charlie and Domenic Fazari supply the best sausages in the west at no cost. In season fresh fruit from the famous Swan Valley is provided by the uncle of one of our branch members, Kerry Katich. John McCormack, George Howell, Sr Marie Moriarty and Laurie Mayne stand behind the 4 BBQ's and give an "eat your heart out Jamie Oliver" performance.



This function is the first on our fundraising calendar for the year. We promote Entertainment Books, on a yearly basis and then vary the "programme" with "high teas" - with entertainment - and movie preview shows. More about those in future editions of the newsletters.

If you receive this newsletter and you know of other people who would enjoy a breakfast or any of our functions, they can call Laurie Mayne on (08) 9271 5649. Visitors from the east in Perth at "breakfast" time are most welcome to enjoy the hospitality.

Laurie Mayne

WORKS OF THE FOUNDATION

Examples of Funding 2004-2005

PEOPLE IN RURAL AND ISOLATED AREAS

Bus for Mungindi

The people of Mungindi on the border of NSW and Queensland have suffered a gradual loss of basic services that affect the life of the community. There is no public transport within the town or between Mungindi and the neighbouring townships or the nearest big centre at Moree.



Two Sisters of St Joseph live in Mungindi where there is no resident priest. They minister to the people in the

parish which includes several townships. The Foundation provided \$15,000 that allowed them to form a partnership with the Local Government; together they gained Federal Government support for a bus.

Local groups have agreed to maintain and service the bus and one of the Sisters and other members of the community obtained their bus licence. This bus not only takes people, mainly seniors and indigenous who have no support, from Mungindi and townships in between into Moree each pension week; it also does a local circuit and takes groups to community events. The independence it gives and the opportunity to meet others and form a focus for self-help are important fruits of the bus as this relieves some of the helplessness associated with isolation.

WA MacKillop Rural Network

The lack of spiritual support is a major issue throughout rural Australia. In previous years the Foundation has supported projects in north western Queensland. This year support was provided to investigate the spiritual needs of people in areas around Northam and Merredin in Western Australia. Video centres are being developed to provide a focus for local groups to gather and access appropriate adult spiritual resources. Training and support will be provided for local leaders by teleconference to empower the local communities and to provide the networks which are ready in times of crisis to respond to periods of doubt and helplessness.

PEOPLE WITH MENTAL ILLNESS OR DISABILITIES

Outing for members of Brisbane Catholic Psychiatric Pastoral Care

A bus outing was provided for members of this group to Marian Valley, Canungra, South East Queensland, a sacred place in a beautiful setting.

Many of the group find it hard to show any enthusiasm and spend much of their time sitting around without any sense of purpose.

In their feedback they spoke of feeling very special and privileged. People with mental disorders often receive a message from society that they don't deserve anything, so going to a place that is beautiful and valued by others added to the pleasure of the social interactions of the day.



Shoes for the Boarding House

This project provides new and fitting shoes for the homeless and is an ongoing one which has received previous funds. Mentally ill people living in boarding houses are among the poorest members of our society. Nearly all their disability pension goes on board so few can ever afford new underclothes, shoes or other clothing. This project focused on 86 people in three Sydney boarding houses whose dignity was respected as they were taken to local shoe stores and personally fitted with shoes of their choice. The shopping expedition became a social event and included a cup of coffee or lunch: an important aspect of social life.

ABORIGINAL AUSTRALIANS IN SITUATIONS OF DISTRESS

Cultural reaffirmation

Several programs such as that carried out by the Milriwang Tungari Incorporated group have been funded by the Foundation.

The Elders took the young people out to country and ensured they had knowledge of significant sites and their own history and culture. In this coming together as a unified group there was cultural/heritage reaffirmation which helps young people in their loss of their own sense of identity and its resultant problems.

Training future leaders and providing the background information they need for cultural tourism is an important step towards movement from despair to self determination.