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Spring 2014



Issue 3

Annual General Report 2013 - 2014

by Co-chairs Pat Sandretti and Mary Hemmings (Abridged Version)



Again we have had another active year.

Following our AGM in August last year, Sr Angela Mahar rsj led our Associates in a day titled *Healing and Hope*, enabling us to reflect on different aspects of grief in our lives. Our 2013 Reflection Day was held at Murray Bridge with Sr Catherine Clark rsj, who earlier in the

year had presented at our gathering at the Mitcham Cemetery, continuing the thread by leading us through the day with the theme of *Recalling and Remembering*.

In October, leaders from Murray Bridge and Pt Lincoln, together with our Leadership Team, worked with Val De Brenni on a session of formation and leadership while in December those who gathered at Flora MacDonald Lodge for an afternoon of carol singing were well entertained, with Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj leading us all in song!

To begin our 2014 year, Fr Paul Mullins sj engaged us in a delightful presentation that linked Mary MacKillop and Pope



Francis! Mary had strong allies in several Jesuits in her time and Fr Paul was able to draw some similarities and connections between Mary and Francis. It was great to share this evening with many Norwood parishioners also.

Because the Mary MacKillop Centre at Kensington has now been established as a "*Hub of Spirituality, Education and Hospitality*" the Leadership Team felt that it was time for a new direction for the Associates, as many of the sessions being offered at the Centre provide both spiritual and educational input. We have encouraged our Associates to make the most of these many and varied offerings.

We have also offered some small group gatherings to enable Associates to gather for sharing faith and life experiences. This builds on what has been occurring at Hectorville for many years.

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We look forward to further developing how best to support our country Associates also as we live out our Josephite Associates' Mission:

As Josephite Associates we respond to the call to live the charism of Mary MacKillop in our daily lives in our own unique way.

We support one another by friendship, prayer and service to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.



Past and present staff of Whitefriars Primary School.



Two special presentations were given by Sr Teresa Cooper rsj (left) and students and staff, Alana, Amanda Taverna and Hannah from Whitefriars PS (right). Read their stories in our next newsletter.

Prayer Requests

Do you know of any Associates who have died or are ill and in need of our prayers? We could advise Associates of your/their need for prayers at our gatherings, as well as offering prayers at the Masses on the 8th of each month in St Joseph's Chapel.

If you would appreciate assistance in this way, please feel free to telephone Pat Sandretti on 8264 9658 or send an email to sa.associates@sosj.org.au or let one of the Committee members know.

- *Natalie Tyrrell asks for your prayers at this time for some of her dear friends who are not well.*
- *Prayers for a young mother who is suffering from MS.*

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to *Mary MacKillop International* for the missions in Brazil, East Timor and Peru. Over the last few years thousands of dollars have been raised in this way. Please send your used stamps, leaving a 1cm border, to:

Sr Helen Saunders (stamps)
St Joseph's Congregational Admin Centre
PO Box 1508, North Sydney, NSW, 2059

Dancing with the Stars: November's Saints and Souls

Saturday
1st November
Feast of All Saints

Bethany Centre

9.30 am – 3.00 pm

Presented by:
Sr Virginia Bourke rsj

This year for our **Reflection Day**, Associates and friends are invited to support this event which is being organised by the Mary MacKillop Centre and appears in the Centre's brochure.

The Saints and Souls whose lives we celebrate in November were martyrs and missionaries, mystics and mavericks who answered God's call in the often messy realities of their lives. Reflecting on their lives can console, encourage and inspire US as we face our own struggles.

There is a cost of \$25 (or \$10 for unwaged/concession) which can be paid on the day. Please bring your own lunch. Tea/coffee will be provided. **Registration is required by Wednesday 29th October** by telephone on 8130 5900 or send an email to infos@sosj.org.au



Saturday, 15th November

Bethany Centre

From 7 pm

Associates and friends are invited to a night of light-hearted fun as we meander our way through questions, songs and games in this inaugural event. Our MC for the night is Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj who will keep us both informed and entertained.

This is our **major fundraiser** for the year and, with your help, the money raised will go towards supporting the **SA Catholic Deaf Association** which is a *Josephite ministry*.

The cost is **\$15 pp** which can be paid on the night to our Treasurer Julie Langman. Bring a few extra coins to join in the novelty games.

So, spread the word... tell your friends... and start organising your **tables of 8** or join another table. Tea/coffee will be provided but please BYO supper and drinks.

To arrange tickets please let us know that you're coming (and how many) by telephoning Mary Hemmings on 8355 5365 or send an email to sa.associates@sosj.org.au by **Friday 7th November**.

From the CentreWest Regional Leadership Team

In our last newsletter we introduced Sr Margaret Cleary rsj, our Regional Leader of the CentreWest Region. This region covers South Australia, Western Australia, Darwin and East Timor. In this newsletter we introduce you to the other leaders in our CentreWest Region.

✚ Sr Alma Cabassi rsj



I was born to Italian migrant parents and brought up on a farm in the southwest of Western Australia, near Pemberton. There I went to St Joseph's School until I was fifteen and then took a job that was offered to me in the local pharmacy.

At the age of 19 I responded to the call to religious life where in the first five years I studied to become a teacher. I taught the lower primary grades in small rural schools throughout the southwest of WA. I also spent five years on the Motor Mission in the Pilbara, based at Tom Price.

I began teaching rural town Aboriginal children in the late 1980s which was followed by teaching in the Kimberley at Ringer Soak

and Warmun. Retiring from the school scene I was asked to take up Family Support work in the East Kimberley based in Kununurra and now in Halls Creek. I travelled to isolated communities offering pastoral care, spiritual nourishment through campfire retreats and, at various times as the need arose, I relieved in schools and supported school staff. My work now is part-time outreach from St Vincent de Paul on the local scene, pastoral care, managing Op Shops, small retreats, visiting a few isolated communities, parish administration, *Seasons for Growth and Healing* as well as being part of the CentreWest Regional Leadership Team.

Each decade I have found that life has grown richer and more satisfying though there are still many challenges and situations that cause me to be reflective and dependant on our *Good God*.

"We must hold ourselves in readiness for God's will, whichever way things go." MMK, 1899

✚ Sr Emilie Cattalini rsj



women.

I enjoy spending time with Sisters and friends,

I am the child of Italian migrants – the sixth of eight children. I am deeply blessed by the love and support of my family and my Sisters. I am currently working at *The Sisters' Place* where we offer a safe shelter overnight to homeless

the beauties of nature, seeing the wonder of children, a good read and a good song!

My favourite theologian is Teilhard de Chardin, and I am constantly surprised and inspired by Mary MacKillop. I also find myself inspired and sustained by Irene McCormack, especially in relating to our guests at *The Sisters' Place*.

Blessings to all our Associates. I shall keep you in my prayers.

+ Sr Mary Cresp rsj



Born in Berri, in the Riverland of South Australia, I have taught in primary and secondary schools and also served as a Parish Assistant for a number of years before studying overseas and gaining my Masters in Theology and Spirituality.

While teaching at the Adelaide College of Divinity, I was elected in 1989 as Congregational Leader for the Sisters of St Joseph. During my time in this position, Mary MacKillop was beatified in Sydney. From there I went on to serve as Executive Director

of the Conference of Australian Religious.

Since then I have been Congregational Leader for the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration and I have authored a number of books and articles on spirituality and history. These books include *Choosing Life* (co-authored 2001), *In the Spirit of Joseph* (2005), *Villa Maria* (2009), *Prayer-Chats with Julian* (2010), *In Her Footsteps* (The History of the Western Australian Province 1920 – 1990, published 2012) and *God's Good Time: Sisters of St Joseph in Ministry with Australian Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples* (2013).

"We must all be thankful for the vocation to which we are called."
MMK, 1873

+ Sr Kenise Neill rsj



I was born in Leonora, Western Australia on a remote sheep and cattle station, living most of my childhood in Woomera, South Australia and growing up in a large family. My paternal family were pastoralists and maternal family, opal

miners and storekeepers, originally from far North Queensland, moving to Coober Pedy in 1927.

Prior to my appointment on the team I was graced to work within the Aboriginal community in South Australia in the care and protection of children. I have been passionate about providing safe and nurturing environments for vulnerable children and families since I began work at St Joseph's Home Largs Bay as a 16 year old. After entering the Josephites in 1984 I was given the opportunity to study theology and social work and now I am studying towards a Visual Arts degree.

It is a privilege to be in leadership within the Congregation and I am aware of the need to be open and listen to the voices and be responsive to Sisters and in particular, to people in the world who are poor, marginalised and on the edge. I realise that to be a prophetic voice in the world today and to live out of an evolutionary consciousness is a dangerous place as it will take me/us to places beyond our comfort zone.

Our mandate from our 2013 Chapter challenges us to:

*Hear the cry of the Earth, the cry of children.
To feel humanity diminished.*

An important question for me now is: How can I/we be part of God's mission now in the light of the entire universe being at risk of destruction and so many very vulnerable people and so much in life being exploited and dominated? I also ask myself the question: How do I/we "respond as ecclesial women living on the edge of our existence with Joseph as we continue to re-imagine the gospel of Jesus"?

Josephite Associates SA

Statement of Income and Expenditure

1st July 2013 to 30th June 2014

1ST JULY 2013 OPENING BALANCE		\$3,409.75
INCOME		
Subscriptions	\$2,045.00	
Donations and Raffles for MMI East Timor: AGM Raffle (\$154.60) Donations (\$95.00) Fundraising at Murray Bridge (\$218.00) Hectorville Group fundraising (\$170.00)	\$637.60	
AGM BBQ fee (\$5 pp)	\$160.00	
Murray Bridge Reflection Day (\$20 pp)	\$500.00	
Bank Interest	\$11.96	\$3,354.56
TOTAL INCOME		\$6,764.31
EXPENDITURE		
Newsletter printing and postage	\$634.80	
Associate airfares to Leadership meetings: Pt Lincoln to Adelaide x2 (\$628.81) Adelaide to Sydney for IJALT (\$165.00)	\$793.81	
Presentation fees: AGM, M/B & Leadership formation (\$264.50) Jubilee/Farewell gift to Sisters x4 (\$350.00) Donation to St Ignatius Parish re Pope & Saint (\$100.00)	\$714.50	
Catering: Meat for AGM BBQ (\$160.00) Luncheon at Murray Bridge (\$230.00)	\$390.00	
Donation to SOSJ for use of Bethany Centre	\$100.00	\$2,633.11
Donation to MMI East Timor	\$1,500.00	\$4,133.11
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE		\$2,631.20
30TH JUNE 2013 CLOSING BALANCE		\$2,631.20

Julie Langman

Treasurer

14/7/2014

Entertainment Books by Anne Slattery

In 2014 the Josephite Associates in SA arranged to sell Entertainment Books in an effort to raise funds for the Mary MacKillop Foundation.

We were able to sell 37 hard copy books and 4 digital memberships raising a total of \$533. These funds have been sent on to the Mary MacKillop Foundation and will be used in their *small life changing projects* including scholarships for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander tertiary students.

Many thanks to Sr Patricia Keane rsj for her help in the sales and to all those who purchased a copy/digital membership.

MARY MACKILLOP – WITH OPENNESS TO THOSE OF OTHER FAITH TRADITIONS

❖ Introduction

Mary MacKillop befriended people of other Christian denominations and faith traditions at a time when this practice was uncommon. In turn, they offered her great friendship and support and valued her respect and loving concern. Johanna and Robert Barr Smith were two who became close friends. Her example invites us to work for the unity of all Christians and to be involved in interfaith dialogue.

❖ Gospel Reading: John 17:20

I ask not only on behalf of these but also on behalf of those who will believe in me through their word, that they may all be one.

❖ From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Johanna Barr Smith was an Anglican woman who became a great friend and supporter of Mary MacKillop. The marble slab on Mary MacKillop's tomb at North Sydney was Johanna's last gift to Mary MacKillop. Mary wrote to Sr Annette Henschke:

I want you to let me know where a letter will find Mrs B. Smith on her birthday... I am sending a telegram today to get Sr Patricia to hand paint a birthday card and send it here to me by Wednesday's mail, so that I can write and post it to her by Friday's train at the latest. Something nice – just a birthday one.

❖ Reflective Moment

How has my life been enriched by encounters with people from other faith traditions?

Let us hold in prayer all our relatives and friends from other faith traditions.

❖ Prayer

God, the source of all goodness, You invite us to work towards the unity of all Christians through prayer, study and action with our sisters and brothers as we work towards the unity of all Christians. You enrich our lives as we enter into dialogue with people from other faith traditions. May we, like Mary MacKillop, be open to your presence in the friendships we share with those beyond our Catholic tradition.

We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.

St Mary of the Cross, open to God's presence and active in our world, pray for us.

❖ Call to Action

Find an opportunity to speak with a person from another faith tradition.

October, November, December

@ the Mary MacKillop Centre

8th of Every Month (St Joseph's Chapel)

- Mass: 10.30 am
Followed by morning tea in Bethany Centre
- Reflection: 5.45 pm
Unpacking the early Adelaide Josephite story
Facilitated by Sr Catherine Clark rsj



Julian Tenison Woods (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Tuesday 7th October
- Time: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated

Come and honour Fr Julian on the 125th anniversary of his death. Ponder his story, his gifts and insights, and reflect on his legacy for US!

Presented by Sr Mary Cresp rsj

Mary MacKillop's Mondays (Bethany Centre)

- Dates: 20th Oct, 17th Nov, 15th Dec
- Time: 1.00 pm – 3.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated

Reflecting on the life, spirituality and practicality of St Mary MacKillop and her relevance to OUR times and lives.

Presented by Val De Brenni and Sr Mary Ryan rsj

Open Day (MMK Exhibition Centre)

- Date: Saturday 8th November
- Time: 11.30 am – 3.00 pm
- Cost: Donation appreciated

Visit the gallery and browse through the shop. On offer will be a 2-hour Walking Tour of the local area.

Fridays of Advent (St Joseph's Chapel)

- Dates: 28th Nov, 5th, 12th and 19th Dec
- Time: 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

Take an hour out of the frantic pace of this time of the year to be still... reflect... find peace.

6 Day Guided Retreat #7

*Jesus Christ:
Bred among the Anawim,
Raised by his Abba,
Bread for the World*

- Date: 9th – 16th November
- Time: commencing 6.30 pm on the first day with evening meal
- Place: St Joseph's Convent, Largs Bay
- Cost: \$450

A time to accept Jesus' invitation to *come aside and rest awhile...*

Reflect upon the gift of Jesus to ourselves and our world.

Facilitated by Sr Virginia Bourke rsj

**Applications close
24th October**

FOR REGISTRATIONS OF EVENTS & RETREATS

Phone:
08 8130 5900

Email:
infosa@sosj.org.au

Bethany Centre:
4 High Street, Kensington
Street parking only!

MARY MACKILLOP CENTRE ADELAIDE

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