

Spring 2015



2014 – 2015 Annual Report

by Mary Hemmings – Chairperson of Josephite Associates SA

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 in our world. (Josephite Associate Mission)

The past twelve months have provided a different focus for our Associates here in SA. Early in 2014 we had decided to focus on gathering people in *small home groups* to 'share faith and life' through discussions. This came about because the Mary MacKillop Centre in SA now offers many different input sessions covering a range of topics. And so, a Resource Folder of possible discussion starters has been put together and distributed to country groups and to city groups, including our Hectorville group that has operated for twelve years.

In November our first *Quiz Night* was organised as a different way of bringing Associates and friends together. Carla Mastrangelo from our Leadership group compiled a great selection of questions and activities to keep us challenged throughout the evening which was compered by Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj. A fun night, with many laughs, was had by all who attended. From the event we were able to provide over \$2,000 to support the ministry of the SA Catholic Deaf Association, led by Sr Majella.

Also in November many Associates attended *'Dancing with the Stars: November's Saints*

and Souls', a session conducted by Sr Virginia Bourke rsj. This provided the opportunity for input and reflection around the feast days of November.

2015 began with *Mass* celebrated by Fr Paul Mullins in the Chapel on the 8th February followed by afternoon tea. In March we were invited by Sr Margaret Cleary rsj and the Regional Leadership Team to an afternoon based around *St Joseph*, our patron saint, led by Sr Mary Cresp rsj.

Our country *South East Associates* have gathered together in Penola on a couple of occasions and the group from *Murray Bridge* are frequent visitors to our gatherings at Kensington.

In 2016 the *Sesquicentenary of the Josephites* will be celebrated. It will be 150 years since Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods began this amazing enterprise in a stable school in a small country town. Today Sisters, Associates, Covenant Josephites and friends continue this legacy through everyday activities and involvement in ministries that bring the *Good News* to those in need in our local communities.

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As we move towards this significant milestone, our challenge as Associates is to enable others to come to know and share in this wonderful story.

- Who do we invite to join in this melody?
- How do we share the richness of what we have?
- What do we do to ensure the relevance of what began 150 years ago speaks to people today?

From our subscriptions and raffles during this financial year we hope to provide a *donation* to Sr Pat Sealey rsj to support the amazing work that she does for refugees. Sr Pat's work is so very much in tune with what Mary MacKillop would see vital: supporting those in great need. Many thanks to our Associates for your generosity.

News from Hectorville by Anne Hannagan

The Josephite Associate Motto of *friendship, prayer and service* holds great significance to all Associates. The Hectorville Associate Group come together on the fourth Wednesday of each month in the knowledge that Mary MacKillop continues to have a tremendous impact on our lives. For many of us the Josephite story began when we came to know the Sisters during our school days, and often those friendships have become a precious gift of our lives today.

We are indeed 'family' as we come together to share our faith and our lives in trust and openness – and often a lot of laughter. At the meetings in recent months, topics of discussion have included a focus on devotion to the Sacred Heart both in our own lives and in the life of Mary MacKillop. We have also looked at the Gloria and the Apostle's Creed and our attention to the wording of these prayers which we recite so often at Mass.

Having celebrated the Feast of the Assumption on 15th August we reflected on the various titles under which Our Lady is known. We all had a favourite title by which we honour Our Lady but above all she is *The Mother of God*.

Our members enjoy coming together with the

Sesquicentenary...

There will be some events occurring next year to mark the Sesquicentenary and we will provide information where possible. One core theme that the Sisters are hoping to present is to focus on the ministries that are occurring today in the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

In light of this, following a suggestion from our Riverland friends, all groups or individuals are invited next year in your communities to '**Gather for a Cuppa**'. This would possibly involve naming an occasion when those in your community could come together and share in morning or afternoon tea, with a gold coin donation. The funds raised, perhaps with a 'good old raffle' to supplement the donations, could then be directed to a Josephite ministry.

wider Josephite family at the 8th of the month Masses in the Chapel and to events at Bethany and the Exhibition Centre.

Concern for each other and the wider community is always the subject of our prayer. We miss those who have died in recent months and also those who are now unable to attend meetings. We are grateful for the contribution each of these people has made to our discussions over the twelve years we have been coming together as an Associate Group. We have been blessed by the friendship and companionship of people of great faith. Thought-provoking questions, comments and 'quick wit' have meant that we have experienced some very fruitful and interesting meetings.

Birthdays are celebrated in grand style. Each three months we honour those who have reached another milestone during that time. Thank you to the members who arrange for the beautiful cakes we share on these occasions. It is fortunate that you do not have to supply a candle for each year!

Thank you also to the members in whose homes we meet. We are grateful for your hospitality.

Mary MacKillop

150 Years Since the Story Began

Saturday, 26th September 2015

Mary MacKillop Exhibition Centre

19 Phillips St

Kensington

From 2.00 pm

Presented by Margaret Muller

You are invited to an afternoon of information and conversation as we prepare to celebrate the sesquicentenary of the Sisters of St Joseph, with their humble beginnings in Penola. Come and listen to our guest speaker as she explores:

Mary MacKillop: the Teacher, and her days in and around Penola

Margaret is a researcher and writer for the Interpretive Centre in Penola. Her passions include the life and legacy of the Josephite co-founders and the Penola Interpretive Centre.



A Christmas 'Adventure'

Sunday, 13th December 2015

Bethany Centre

4 High St
Kensington

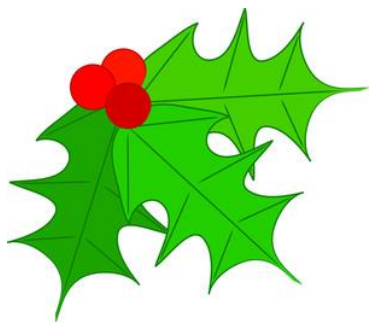
2 pm – 4 pm

Hosted by Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj

Come along, bring a friend and enjoy an afternoon of *friendship, prayer and service.*

You won't be disappointed as we meander through a varied programme designed by Sr Majella to entertain us, as well as leading us in some prayerful moments.

Please bring a packet of Christmas crackers which will be collected and sent on to a local charity. So, come and enjoy. Afternoon tea will be supplied.



Reflecting on Mary's Feast Day by Jane Marshall

As we gathered on Saturday 8th August, I could not help but feel what it is to be Catholic, especially here in Adelaide. However, there have been times for me when it is hard being Catholic, and one can despair when you see the decline in numbers attending our Sunday Masses. Yet the tremendous sense of faith, community, ministry, and commitment was so alive and palpable in the Chapel and over at lunch that day.

It was interesting when Fr Phillip Marshall said it was "the largest congregation" he had had at a Mass for some time except, I am sure, when he attends special Masses for Weddings, Confirmations and Holy Communions.

We came together to honour a woman – an inspirational woman who lived her faith with all the struggles she encountered on the way and a woman of integrity and faith. This woman, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, who walked in our streets, taught in our schools, prayed in our churches and touched so many lives, was

the reason we came to celebrate in such great numbers.

There was a great spirit of oneness as Religious Sisters, Covenant Josephites, Associates and the wider Josephite community gathered together because of a woman who continues to inspire us to live in the spirit of kindness, humility, patience, and above all clothe ourselves with love, as St Paul said to the Colossians, and it remains the call for us today.

The scripture readings for the day invited us to trust, and not to worry. We all know how the worries of this life can take us away from the things that are vital for healthy living and rob us of the peace that only God can give. So as each of us strives to bring about the Kingdom of God in the spirit of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, may we learn to trust in Divine Providence as Mary did, and bring about the Kingdom of God for our world today as individuals and as a community.



Congratulations!

We also acknowledged 20 years of operation of the Mary MacKillop Exhibition Centre at lunch on the 8th August with the traditional *cutting of the cake*.

Sr Patricia Keane rsj has been there since the beginning, and it was lovely to see that her first and most recent volunteers were also at the gathering to help with proceedings and share in the festivities.



Josephite Associates SA

Statement of Income and Expenditure

1st July 2014 – 30th June 2015

1ST JULY 2014 OPENING BALANCE		\$2,631.20
INCOME		
Subscriptions		\$1,320.00
Fundraising:		
Donations and Raffles	\$388.00	
Quiz Night	\$2,169.00	\$2,557.00
Bank Interest		\$5.36
INCOME for 2014/2015		\$3,882.36
EXPENDITURE		
Australia Post (stamps and envelopes)	\$1,013.66	
Photocopying newsletter/Use of Bethany	\$234.00	
Gifts for Guest Speakers	\$117.99	\$1,365.65
Donations to Josephite Ministries:		
SA Catholic Deaf Association	\$2,169.00	
Refugee Support	\$500.00	
Mary MacKillop Foundation	\$100.00	
SOSJ	\$100.00	\$2,869.00
EXPENDITURE for 2014/2015		\$4,234.65
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE		\$2,278.91
CLOSING BALANCE as on Statement dated 30/06/2015		\$2,278.91

Julie Langman

Treasurer

08/08/2015

Subscription Renewal

A reminder that membership for the **2015 - 2016 financial year** is now due. Please complete your details on the form which was included in our last (Winter) newsletter, if you haven't already done so. The form may be posted, together with payment which may be made by cash or cheque, to our Treasurer Julie Langman. The address is: 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052. Alternatively, Julie will be available at the gathering on Saturday 26th September.

Monies collected go towards supporting Josephite ministries and also for administration costs including the production and postage of the newsletters, resources and some travel expenses to conferences/events.

Many thanks to all Associates who have already renewed their membership.

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: *Used Stamps, Locked Bag 3031, Burwood, NSW 1805*

Mary MacKillop

A Woman of the Church

Introduction

As a baptised Christian Mary MacKillop took seriously the challenge to serve Christ in all peoples, especially those who were poor. She trusted in the providence of God to sustain her. As a leader in the Church, Mary was often engaging with Bishops and Priests whom she treated with great integrity and respect. Mary MacKillop was for many a 'sign and instrument of God's love'. She and her Sisters lived in and among the people, taking the heart of the Church into their midst.

Gospel Reading – Mathew 18:20

For where two or three are gathered in my name there am I in the midst of them.

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

Mary wrote to her Mother about the situation in Moss Vale in a letter dated 22 – 3 – 1886:

I feel an especial interest in the Moss Vale people and they know it. The Cardinal is so pleased with the manner in which they have kept up the Rosary and other devotions when they had no Priest, that he intends giving them a resident one as soon as possible.

In Bundaberg it was noted that when the Priest was away for long periods the Sisters did many things the Priest might have done. Sr Teresa writes to Mary MacKillop on 26 – 9 – 1879:

I have not much time to write as we were up the last few nights, I may say, with a poor woman, who died last night. Poor thing. She died such a happy death. She thought she would see Fr Rossolini again, but will not poor thing. She was in such pain.

Reflective Moment

How do I see my role in today's Church?

Let us pause and hold in prayer all those involved in ministry within the Church

Prayer

O God, you call us all to follow you in the way of Jesus.
Gift us with wisdom and understanding as you did Mary MacKillop,
to be faithful servants of the Gospel.
May your love enfold those who bear the responsibility of leadership in our Church.
May we rejoice in the gift of Mary MacKillop to our Church.
We make this prayer through Christ our Lord. Amen.
St Mary of the Cross, gift of God to us today, pray for us.

Call to Action

Offer a word of affirmation to a person carrying out ministry in the name of the Church.

From *A Novena of Prayer and Reflection* by Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj. Used with permission.



When I could not see my way
God kept my heart full of trust.



The will of God is a very dear book
which I never tire of reading.

In St Joseph's care I leave you.

So great is the strength we possess in our unity.

All depends on prayer; begin with it and end with it.

In
God
alone
I
trust.



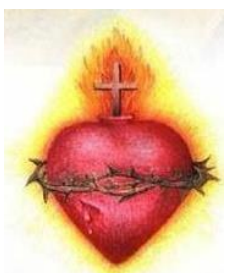
God
is
all
goodness
and
love.

My name in religion is *Mary of the Cross*.

Let us remember we
have been called by God
and God has a right to
our perfect service.

More than ever should we
be humble and patient,
charitable and forgiving.

May the spirit of the Sacred Heart animate you.



All will be right with time and
a little patience.



October, November, December @ the Mary MacKillop Centre

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

- Mass: 10.30 am (except in November)
Followed by morning tea in the Bethany Centre
- Reflection: 5.45 pm
Gain a deeper knowledge of Mary MacKillop's life
Facilitated by Sr Catherine Clark rsj



Fr Julian Tenison Woods (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Tuesday 6th October
- Time: 1.30 pm – 3.00 pm OR
6.00 pm – 7.30 pm (repeated)
- Cost: \$10
- Registration: by Friday 2nd October

Who was the initiator of our Australian system of Catholic Education? On the eve of the 126th anniversary of his death in 1889, come and encounter Fr Julian!

Presented by Sr Mary Cresp rsj

SA Josephite Reconciliation Circle (Bethany Centre)

- Dates: Mondays 12th Oct, 2nd Nov & 7th Dec
- Time: 6.45 pm – 9.00 pm
- Contact: mary.ryan@sosj.org.au

You are invited to join this group in advocacy and solidarity with Aboriginal/First Nations peoples in SA and nationally.

Presented by Dr Alitya Rigney

Advent Stillness (Bethany Centre)

- Date: Fridays 27th Nov, 4th, 11th & 18th Dec
- Time: 5.30 pm – 6.30 pm

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

'Be still and know that I am God.' Psalm 46:1

6 Day Directed Retreat #5

*A 'vacation with God'
by the sea at Largs Bay*

- Date: 13th – 20th November
- Time: commencing 6.00 pm
on the first day with evening meal
- Place: St Joseph's Retreat Centre, Largs Bay
- Cost: \$450

You are invited to rest and be attentive to the Presence of God in your life.

A companion and guide will be with you each day.

Facilitated by Val DeBrenni and Sr Gen Ryan rsj

**Applications close
16th October**

FOR REGISTRATIONS OF EVENTS & RETREATS

Phone:

08 8130 5900

Email:

infos@sosj.org.au

Bethany Centre:

4 High Street, Kensington
Street parking only!

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