



# Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania WINTER 2016



## **WINTER—time to share the warmth of mercy**

Dear Associates,

Like our gardens we bunker down in the cold and limit our activities, hoping winter chills and ills don't threaten us.

During the Year of Mercy we then need to think of those who have no warm home, no fire or heater and have to live on welfare. We hope that more of you can attend the Regional Days this year which are reflections on the 150 years of the Sisters and the Year of Mercy.

After our Leader's Day it was decided because of discussions at the IJALT meeting, that Tasmanian Associates would have their own Co-ordinator, Kathy Cuthbertson, whom some of you met on the Leader's Day. Due to the difficulty of Associates meeting across States and countries, this will make it easier. We hope that sometime some of them will join us.

Our weekend at Penola was a lovely experience and you can read of our Associates' impressions of their time there. The Painting of Mary and Julian, a photo of which is in the newsletter, will visit Victoria in August and you will be able to view it at the Heritage

Centre, East Melbourne.

The new statue in the Interpretive Centre is a wonderful interpretation of the kind, compassionate woman Mary was, her hands worn and knobby with arthritis. Penola is well worth a visit to see this statue and visit Cameron House, rebuilt from the timbers of the original house where Mary worked as Governess for over 12 months.

Groups or individuals could make a day of pilgrimage by visiting the Holy Door at St Patrick's Cathedral and viewing the painting.

A special mass for this sesquicentenary year will be celebrated at the Parish Mass at St Francis Church, Lonsdale Street on Sunday, August 7th at 11 am. Please come and join us in thanksgiving.

A way of helping the Josephite ministries is by cleaning out the 'bottom drawer' for items that might be suitable for the Dinner/Auction for Mary MacKillop Foundation in August. These could be brought to a Regional day or left at the Heritage Centre for me to collect.

Thank you to those who have forwarded their **SUBSCRIPTIONS**. You help pay our costs. **Could all subs be paid by 30th June please.** This will help us to budget for the remaining newsletters.

Thank you to Noreen McLeish who prepared the prayer on Mercy for this edition.

Associates, individuals and groups continue to support Days for Girls with donations of articles or cash. Wonthaggi group raised \$120 towards articles by having a gold coin donation at the weekend Masses.

One of the most life-giving occasions for me is meeting up with women I taught in the sixties, who still use the skills I taught them. Such was the case in May when over fifteen of us met for lunch shared memories and news. One of them spoke of the love of Literature given to her by one of our Sisters, a love she still enjoys.

This year we celebrate 25 years since Sr Irene McCormack was shot in Peru. The Regional days are an opportunity to share with you Irene's morning offering.

As so few are attending the Conversations with Mary each month, we have to consider the value of continuing them. Maybe some of you could include this hour during a visit to the city.

To those of you who received Session 1 of the Introductory Program and have not followed up. I would love to hear from you.

I leave you with the words of Mary MacKillop written in 1876:  
*"Let no false fear of God disturb the loving trust and confidence you have in God's mercy and love."*

Every blessing and I hope we shall meet many of you during the year.

*"Mary Fermio rsj"*



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# **Friendship Prayer Service**

# WINTER REFLECTION



***One could say this child's life was one of winter bleakness, turned to Spring smiles and sunshine by another's kindness. He was welcomed, loved and Encouraged.***



Early in the year, these two photos taken in Africa and displayed in the Herald –Sun, touched me deeply. The two year old had been declared a witch and, abandoned by family and village, he lived on whatever scraps he could find. This young woman from Denmark got him into a hospital, named him Hope and the second picture was the result. By going on-line this young woman raised over a million dollars and opened an orphanage for such children. She reached out to this child, reached out to the world, her actions bringing others to reach out to help her support many other children in need.

Jesus also reached out to others and this has become more obvious as we read the stories after Easter when Jesus appeared to his disciples. The episode on the shore of Tiberius is a wonderful example of this. The apostles must have been tired, dispirited, fished all night, no fish!! Jesus knowing how they would have felt suggested they throw the nets in again . He again reached out to them offering them fish and bread for breakfast, food he had already prepared. By reaching out to Peter he allowed Peter to three times acclaim his love for Jesus.

***What other stories in Scripture show Jesus reaching out to others, when requested or of his own initiative. What incidents show others reaching out to Jesus?***

*I have a dogmatic certainty: God is in every person's life. God is in everyone's life. Even if the life of a person has been a disaster, even if it is destroyed by vices, drugs or anything else—God is in this person's life. You can—you must—try to seek God in every human life. That does call on us to reach out to others in our own communities so that everyone can feel*

***welcomed,  
loved,  
forgiven and  
encouraged.***

***Pope Francis***



Maybe we can find some time this month to reflect on these stories and on the following:

**What are these stories saying to me?  
Who during the past week has reached out to me in some way?  
To whom have I reached out?**

**Our prayer could be one of asking forgiveness for the times we judged others unjustly, avoided actions because it was inconvenient, neglected my neighbour in time of need, of thanksgiving for those who have reached out to me in my time of need, of asking to be more aware of those around me.**

***LISTEN TO WHAT JESUS SAYS TO YOU***

*Mary Fermio rsj*

## Time to relax, find space leave refreshed in mind and spirit

**SATURDAYS: 9.30 am for 10 am start—3 p.m.**

**25th June: Murchison—Catholic Church  
Hosts: Rushworth**

**23rd July: Pakenham: St Patrick's Parish Hall  
142 Princes Highway, Pakenham.**

**17th Sept: Maffra: Parish Hall, Duke St**

**22nd Oct: Sebastopol St James Church  
Midland Highway/Vale St.**

**BYO LUNCH : Morning Tea - Host Group  
Donation: \$5 Feel free to bring a friend.**

**Travelling shop will be available.**

**The Sessions will include a reflection on the logo  
for the sesquicentenary—(see cover) and Mary  
MacKillop and Fr Woods.**

**The last session will be discussion and responses  
to questions given to Leaders on their day on the  
vision for Josephite Associates by 2020.**

**Train travellers can be met at  
Pakenham Station if you advise  
Sr Mary**

*These days are a wonderful opportunity to  
introduce others to the Josephite Associates.  
Invite others, bring them along and let them  
experience the friendship and prayer that is  
shared on those days.*

### A RECIPE A DAY BLOG

Annemarie of Hawthorn East who helps with the news-  
letters, has five children under 18 and has a blog you  
may be interested in. On it she puts a new recipe every  
day. A country girl she is very interested in cooking so  
you might like to have a look.

Look up [www.arecipeaday.weebly.com](http://www.arecipeaday.weebly.com) Lovely recipes,  
some heart-warming commentary

### BROADMEADOWS CELEBRATES 150 YEARS

On the feast of St Joseph, the parish of St Dominic's Broadmeadows celebrated 150 years of the Sisters of St Joseph. Before Mass a DVD about St Joseph's Babies Home, an icon of Broadmeadows for many years until its closure in 1974, was viewed. Penola Catholic College now operates on this site. A leaflet with details of St Mary MacKillop's life, some history of the school and Church in Broadmeadows with a lovely photo and history of St Joseph's Foundling Home, established in 1901 on land purchased by Archbishop Carr. The farm was named Kerrsland and John Kerr, who owned it, was against a sale to a Catholic Institution. The first two sisters arrived with a baby and a cow! In those years, children of single mothers were often abandoned, so they were 'foundlings' and Archbishop Carr had asked Mother Mary to start the home to save the babies.

Sisters who lived here worked at the Babies' Home, in the Parish, at the school and served a Motor Mission in the area which visited the Government Schools. On the back page of the leaflet the names of all the Sisters who worked in the Parish, the school and the Motor Mission were listed, a total of 52 Sisters. Acknowledgement was made of all the many sisters who cared for the children in the Babies Home and the many nurses who trained there and became Sisters of St Joseph. Associate Nicole Allen, a teacher at Penola College, helped Faye, Clare, and Melissa organise it all, with Sr Betty O'Donnell at the Heritage Centre advising them. A lovely anniversary cake was part of the celebrations. As Faye said in her report: *It was such a rewarding experience to be involved on such a memorable and important occasion. Congratulations!*





# CELEBRATIONS AT PENOLA

The first highlight was the whole weekend! Walking on Sacred Ground, feeling close to Mary MacKillop and Fr Woods. The camaraderie of the attendees, where there was acceptance and friendship, a shared purpose and being with good people.

As Josephite Associates we were fully included as sharers in the Josephite Charism. After seeing the Josephite Sisters monogram on Archbishop Wilson's mitre, I reflected on how far the South Australian Bishops have come since Bishop Sheil excommunicated Mary MacKillop.

The hospitality and organisation of the Penola parishioners was amazing. The beauty and meaning of the painting of Julian and Mary; meeting the Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, the Sisters from Lochinvar and the descendants of Nancy Bruce; being alive at this time and able to witness this 150th anniversary.

Truly the following words of St Mary rang out -  
 "There where you are, you will find God."

*Christine Nicholls-van Order, Woodend*



L to R: Sr Audrey Thomson, Noreen McLeish, Sr Mary Fermio, Christine Nicholls-van Order, Anne-Marie Wilkinson

I felt very privileged to be a part of the sesquicentenary celebrations at Penola on St Joseph's Day. To be celebrating the Eucharist in the very place where a young Mary MacKillop first put on her simple black dress and became known as Sister Mary was quite overwhelming. We sat in the beautiful park where Mary set up her first school in a stable, all willing the threatening clouds to pass us by. During the open air Mass, celebrated by Archbishop Phillip Wilson with about three hundred guests and visitors, I could not help wondering what Mary would have thought of the occasion. I feel sure she would have thanked all those wonderful women who had continued her dream and still today "listen to the Heartbeat of the World" so faithfully. She probably would have told the Sisters present how impressed she was, that the inspiration that she had shared with Fr Woods one hundred and fifty years ago, was still alive and well in the work of the Josephite Sisters today.



We were made very welcome as we were recognised by our distinctive sesquicentenary badges, while we walked around the town. I was very impressed with the very kind and thoughtful act of one of the shopkeepers, who told us she was not a Catholic, but that everyone in Penola was proud of their most important former resident. We tried to buy some ear plugs but she had none. She asked us where we were staying and when we got home, there on the front step were two sets.

*Noreen McLeish, Hamilton*

***This painting will be on view at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, Albert St, East Melbourne during August—so why not make a pilgrimage to the Holy Door at St Patricks as well. From 7th Sept it will be at the Mission Centre at Newstead, Hobart.***

# MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

## CONVERSATIONS WITH MARY

A MONTHLY GATHERING FOR PRAYER  
AND REFLECTION  
WITH MARY MACKILLOP

MARY MACKILLOP  
HERITAGE CENTRE  
362 ALBERT ST  
EAST MELBOURNE 3002

11 A.M.—12 NOON  
Followed by a light lunch  
Donations gratefully  
accepted.

*This year the words and photos on the Josephite Calendar will be the stepping stone to reflecting on Mary's life and what we can learn from her.*

**JUNE:** *God's love shown in times of aridity*

**JULY:** *...a heart full of trust*

**AUGUST:** *Creation leads us to God*

**SEPT:** *Taking things quietly*

**OCT:** *Rejoicing in God's Goodness*

**NOV:** *Strength in unity.*

## NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE 2016

9th November—19th November 2016

In the Footsteps of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop

A pilgrimage to New South Wales, Victoria and South Australia beginning in Melbourne.

For further information and a copy of the Brochure and booking form

Contact: MMHC 9926 9300

## OPEN DAYS 2016

Special days open from 10 am—4 p.m.

6th August: 19th November:

Tours for groups can be arranged at other times

Contact: Sr Helen Smith 9926 9311

These can include morning tea/lunch and afternoon tea.

The Museum can be visited from Monday to Friday

From 10am—4 p.m. Gifts can also be bought during these hours.

**WANTED**—the Heritage Centre is wondering if any Associate would be available to be at the Shop on a weekday to serve any customers. Time flexible—Parking on site  
Training provided  
Ring Garry: 9926 9300



## PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY DAYS ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA

16 Esplanade , Williamstown.

1.30 p.m.-3 p.m. And 7.30 p.m.—9 p.m.  
Missionary Disciples Listen to the Heartbeat

16th June: Missionary disciples listen to the Heartbeat of Australia - Marianne Zeinstra rsj

21st July : Listen to the Heartbeat of Love's mystery through Poetry, Dance and Ritual  
Carmel Cramer rsj

11th August: The Wisdom of life's grace in life's transitions. Yvonne Harte rsj

15th Sept.: Listening and hearing the story of patients in Palliative Care:  
Mary Frisby

20th Oct.: Listening to the heartbeat of nature  
Janet Wilkinson

17th Nov: Celebrating Julian Tenison Woods.

RSVP: the day before the session

Email: admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au

Phone: 03 9397 6012

## MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION DINNER/AUCTION

**VENUE: Mount St Joseph's College  
133 Maidstone St  
ALTONA WEST**

**DATE: Friday August 26th 7 p.m.**

Three course dinner, preceded by nibbles and drinks. \$40 –BYO drinks

**Tickets available from office**

**Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre**

**Phone: 9926 93600**

**Email: admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au**

**RSVPA: 10th August 2016**

Silent auction and bidding auction held during the evening.

Money raised for Foundation goes towards small life-giving projects.

In 2015 a Maffra community group received funding to obtain I pads for older people and to teach them how to use them. 15,000 people are benefitting from funding in 2015





# JUNIOR JOEYS LAUNCESTON



*We aspire to be people of joy and integrity, doing what is right. We will help others.*

*When we see a need we will do something about it.*

*We will learn more about our Josephite heritage and teach other children in our school about Mary MacKillop, Julian Tenison Woods and the Sisters of St Joseph.*

On Tuesday 16th February, thirty children from St Thomas More's Catholic Primary school in Newstead made a commitment to be part of the school's Junior Joeys group. St Lynette Young invited the children to commit themselves to the Junior Joeys Mission Statement that the group developed last year. (see above) The children are looking forward to meeting other children from Devonport and Ulverstone at our Northern Junior Joeys day in March. *Jacque wood, Co-ordinator and Sr Lynette Young (taken from sosj Newsletter)*

## MORWELL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

This group meets on the first Sunday of each month and Betty Loftus, now at Heritage Manor, stills joins them, often as leader. All members do a share of the organising: Monica copies articles for Members' attention and keeps a record of who attends and could be classed as Treasurer. They have been taking it in turns to lead and choose a suitable topic eg In June, Pat McMillan spoke about the Sacred Heart and used prayers from the newsletter; another month Teresa spoke about Flora McDonald . Corrie had a Communion Service at Heritage Manor and made sure refugees were included in Prayer, Monica took it to the Liturgy team to have another Mass offered for that intention, as none could attend the Mass for refugees offered by Bishop Long; Betty organised a Lenten group there where she lives. Keep up the good work at Morwell!!!

*From an email from Monica Lappin, Morwell*

## REGIONAL DAY AT WONTHAGGI

What a delight to drive along the coast to Wonthaggi with green, green paddocks on either side, and the spray from the ocean veiling the sands at Kilcunda. A warm sunny day greeted the eighteen Associates who travelled from Morwell, Inverloch and Wonthaggi for our day. An apology was received from Leongatha. The day was spent in reflecting on the sesquicentenary Logo, the foundational beliefs of Mary and Julian and looking at the future of Associates in 2020. Of course, a delicious morning tea was provided and the travelling shop was well patronised. Thank you to the Wonthaggi/Inverloch group for your hospitality. Anne-Marie and Sr Mary both look forward to meeting many more Associates during the year.



## PROFILE OF BACCHUS MARSH JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES

**LUCILLE WHEELAHAN**, was married to Laurie for 37 years until he passed away in 1997. He being a teacher meant we resided in places around Victoria and moved to here from Hamilton. We had five children and 9 grandchildren, one of whom teaches in St Bernard's School. I keep busy with the Catholic Museum, set up by Laurie in the Chapel of the old Convent inhabited by the Sisters of St Joseph until 1987. I support the Senior Groups Monday Lunch, and the Hospital Kiosk, Probus and many dear friends.

**CARMEL SHEA** married to Michael with two children and five grandchildren. "Almost" retired beef cattle farmers living in a rural environment. Carmel has been extensively involved in the Parish from School Committees to Parish Groups. Minister of Word and member of Parish Stewardship Campaign. Volunteer at the Bacchus Marsh Visitor Information Centre.

**RONA LAWRANCE** born in Scotland, married an Australian Soldier and moved to Australia when 20 years old. Has six children. Now 92 years old Rona lives at Greendale, part of Bacchus Marsh Parish, in a mud-brick home built by her son. She is surrounded by gum trees and kangaroos sometimes visit her grounds. Rona is a great devotee of Mary MacKillop. Her knees limit her movement now but she still loves to hold her poetry and story nights during the winter, when guests gather round a wood fire, sharing poetry and stories and sipping good wine. Rona is also a member of the Focculari movement.

**VAL DICKSON**, 80 years plus, has lived in Bacchus Marsh all her life, and was educated by the Sisters of St Joseph. At one stage she had considered joining them. Val's main interests are community based—CFA, Hospital Auxiliary, visiting friends, Pony Club, Players Theatrical Group, singing, Church music, intercessory prayer group. Val has over a hundred rose bushes in her lovely garden but is unable to do much gardening these days. She enjoys reading, knitting and crochet. Church activities involve Liturgy Group, Weekly Prayer Group, Family group and Ecumenical activities. Can anyone beat all of that!!! God bless you Val. You are a diamond in our parish.

**LYN SHEA**— married to Bill and has four children and seven grandchildren. Lyn and Bill live on a farm in Bacchus Marsh. Lyn enjoys meeting with the Associates and helping in the Parish Community. She is one of the Bacchus Marsh team who envelope the Newsletter for the Associates.

**JILL BRAITHWAITE**—one daughter and one grandchild. Has lived in Bacchus Marsh for 35 years and during 30 of those helped organise the Bingo at Grant Lodge, the Nursing home attached to the Hospital. Jill has a book business she calls Book Wormink and visits Book fairs, and produces a catalogue to sell her books which she obtains from Op Shops, markets and from England on the Internet. Jill loves her chooks and shares her eggs with the locals. Two dogs and three cats and the garden occupy a lot of her free time. Jill is truly a bookworm!



L to R: Jill Braithwaite, Margaret Closter, Pauline McDonald, Kath Connell, Lyn Shea, and Kath Rowan



Back Row: Mary Flanagan, Lucille Wheelahan, Val Dickson, Carmel Shea, Lyn Shea, Front: Rona Lawrance, Margaret Closter.

**MARGARET CLOSTER** has 2 children and 2 grandchildren and has lived at Bacchus Marsh for 60 years, so Closter is a name one sees around Bacchus Marsh. She is an excellent croquet player. In her younger days Marg helped out at the Hospital Kiosk and was a helper with Meals on Wheels from the first day here, when meals were kept heated on a coal fire in the back of the car and you served them out, plus the soup from an urn, to each person. Margaret's family were part of the group which helped to build the CFA station at Coimodai, on the outskirts of Bacchus Marsh. From talking to Marg I could tell she has some wonderful stories to tell about her years here.





## BOOK REVIEWS

## BULLETIN BOARD

### **THROUGH THE WALL** by Anne Bligh

Former Premier of Queensland, Anne writes warmly of her life as a child and teenager growing up on the Gold Coast, of her entry into the world of politics and the challenges she faced with gutsy courage and empathy to break 'through the wall'.

Her life as a child was affected by a father who found his alcoholism hard to deal with and her parents finally separated.

She loved her work and the people and proved her great courage during the floods in 2011.

A story well worth reading and a story which gives a great picture of Queensland in those years.

I borrowed my copy from the Library.

### **FROM THE OFFICE:**

Many Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour by email. If you are still receiving it by post and would like it by email, just send an email to the address below. You can view it in colour on the [sosj.org.au](http://sosj.org.au) website, under news and events/newsletters.

### Office Address

Mary Fermio RSJ,  
Editor—Associates' Newsletter,  
Josephite Associates' Office,  
PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh, 3340.

**OR** Email: [mary.fermio@sosj.org.au](mailto:mary.fermio@sosj.org.au).

**Or** [vic.associates@sosj.org.au](mailto:vic.associates@sosj.org.au)

**OR** Fax: 03 5367 2078

## SUBSCRIPTIONS

As you know, whether you receive a paper or magazine by post or email there is a cost involved as a subscription. A reminder that we would like them all in by 30th June, so that we can budget for the year.

Subs can be sent by

Cheque to PO Box 37, Bacchus Marsh 3340 or paid by Direct Debit to Bendigo Bank Account BSB 633-000 A/c 156 891 624.

If you don't wish to receive the newsletter either return unopened, or advise by phone or email.

Many thanks for your generous contributions.



## HAVE YOU ANY HANDBAGS YOU DON'T USE?

Women who have to leave home suddenly to go to a refuge, to somewhere safe, to seek asylum, or are homeless, often leave without some female essentials.

A nationwide group called "**SHARE THE DIGNITY**" supply these women with basic toiletries in a handbag. They also operate year round supplying sanitary products to women in need. One of Bacchus Marsh Parishioners is in contact with this group and would welcome any handbags or toiletry items to use for distribution. Sr Mary is ready to be the link person by

collecting articles at Regional Days or receiving money to buy toiletries. **Days for Girls** is evidence of your compassion for others.

*We are but  
Travellers here.*



Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss

Peter, son of Margo Forster, Taylors Lakes  
Miss Lilian Kelly, Mary MacKillop Aged Care

Mrs Kathy Hallcroft, Wantirna South

Sr Camillus Parker rsj

Aylene Gallagher, Bendigo

Josephine Saunders (Nicholls) Melton

Basil Drew, brother of Pat McMillan, Morwell

## **DAYS FOR GIRLS - AUSTRALIA**

Robyn was delighted with the 450 knickers, 150 Face Washers, 10 bags and 3 soaps she has received since the last newsletter. Thank you to all who contributed so generously. On 24th March Robyn travelled to Uganda for 3 weeks work there. I am sure some DFG bags went with her. I have a USB stick with photos of the girls receiving their bags. I shall show this at the regional days.

Gift Cards/Cheques/Cash can be sent to Robyn or me if that is easier for you than posting goods.

*Or contact: Robyn Suttie (Victoria) 03 5335 6761*

*Email: [robynsuttie@gmail.com](mailto:robynsuttie@gmail.com)*

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14; Face washers

Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about

If you collect items, I could collect them and deliver them to Robyn to save postage.

These and donations could be sent to

Robyn Suttie, 7 Banyule Drive

Delacombe Vic 3356

*"whatever you do to one of these, you do to me"*

*Words of Jesus*