

*'Every rock, every leaf,
every insect has
something beautiful,
nay, wonderful to tell.'*
JTW 1880

Autumn 2017

March 2017 Newsletter

Looking After Our Planet Earth

by Mary Hemmings

In October last year Sr Mary Cresp presented a session to Associates and others, entwining the stories of Fr Julian Tenison Woods and the writings of Pope Francis in *Laudate Si (On Care for our Common Home)*, together with pieces of art which many of the Sisters had created to illustrate our connection with God's Earth.

Throughout 2016, the Sesquicentenary Year, Srs Helen and Kateri Duke visited several rural areas where the Sisters have been in the past. Here they provided the opportunity for rural women to take the time to reflect on this gift of creation in which we all share. Recently our city Associates also were able to share in this day of reflection at Largs Bay (see page 5).

This year has been designated by the United Nations as the *International Year of Sustainable Tourism Development*, recognising "the importance of international tourism ... in fostering better understanding among peoples everywhere ... and in bringing about a better appreciation of the inherent values of different cultures, thereby contributing to the strengthening of peace in the world."

All of these activities have a common theme, namely creating an awareness of our relationship with Earth, the gift of our Creator. As Associates we recognise that Julian, together with Mary MacKillop, left us a wonderful legacy in their continuing of God's mission, especially through the fields of

education and social welfare. In the context of today's world we realise that our education, both of children and of adults, needs to embrace strongly this call to take care of our planet so that those who follow will be truly able to enjoy it.

Julian, the scientist, spoke of the magnitude and wonder of creation in a speech in 1880:

Those who believe, as I do, that there is a Creator of all things, visible and invisible, cannot be affected by opinions necessarily formed independently of real knowledge. If however, there is any opinion forced upon my mind by whatever study I have been able to give to nature, it is that there is almost infinite variety in everything created. The hundred thousand or more known species of plants, the bewildering multitude of forms of animal life, the countless stars, the epochs of past creations imbedded in the rocks, the metals and their combinations, the gems and their forms of crystal and colour, the amazing, the endless aspects of all matter, unite in one testimony, the infinite variety of nature. There is a plan in all, a unity in all. The recognition of that plan is the daily labour of naturalists; but while they perceive this,

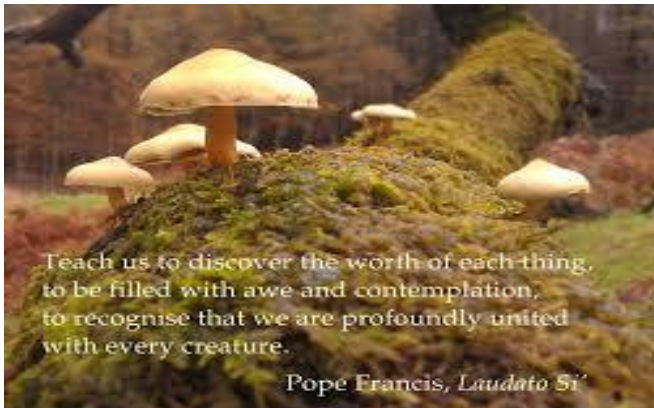


cont next page

they recognise also the endless variation of the means ... the principle which we have discovered universally prevalent in nature is unity and variety.

JT Woods, Presidential Address to Linnean Society 28.1.1880

In *Laudate Si* Pope Francis expresses this same concept as, "The universe as a whole, in all its manifold relationships, shows forth the inexhaustible riches of God ... we need to grasp the variety of things in their multiple relationships." (86)



He also writes, "Living our vocation to be

protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or secondary aspect of our Christian experience." (127)

Those living in rural areas have a great sense and awareness of the environment as many of their livelihoods can be impacted by good or bad practices. We are called to 'ecological conversion', the need for people and nations to change their ideas about the use of Earth and its resources so that Earth and all of its inhabitants and life forms have a chance to survive and flourish.



"What kind of a world do we want to leave to those who come after us, to children who are now growing up?" (Laudate Si 160)

What do I feel that I can do to contribute to looking after God's creation in the year ahead?

Our 2017 Jubilarians

70 Years Professed

Srs Mary Cronin and Joan Mangan

60 Years Professed

Srs Marita Greenwell and Margaret Tully

50 Years Professed

Srs Helen Duke, Ursula Hoile and Christine Schwerdt



RIP Josephites

We remember with love and gratitude:



Sr Nora Kerin who entered eternal life on 24th December, 2016.



Sr Julie Quinn who entered eternal life on 25th December, 2016.

Walk with Jesus

Stations of the Cross

Saturday 25th March 2017

**Bethany Hall
4 High St, Kensington
2pm**

During Lent come and pray the Stations of the Cross led by some of the Josephite Associate Leadership team. There will be time for personal reflection and conversation.

Bring a friend or two. All are welcome!

This will be followed by a light afternoon tea. See you there.



A Visit to the *Mitcham Cemetery* **Saturday 20th May 2017**

**Blythewood Rd, Mitcham
2pm**

Presenter: Sr Catherine Clark rsj



The Josephite cemetery at Mitcham is the place where most of the SA Sisters have been laid to rest. Sr Catherine has a passion for history and will lead us in a reflection about the story of the cemetery and she will also tell us about some of those who are buried there. There will be time for a walk through the cemetery.

This is an outdoor event. Please bring your own chair. Light refreshments will follow and there will also be a raffle to help the Josephite mission in Peru. *(If the weather is inclement this gathering will be cancelled.)*

Please RSVP by 13th May to sa.associates@sosj.org.au or telephone Carla on 8351 1575.



Expressions of Interest re a Weekend at Penola

We are hoping to travel to Penola later this year (probably in October) to visit some of the places associated with the early story of the Josephites. We would like some indication of Associates who may be interested. Please let us know of your interest by 18th April to sa.associates@sosj.org.au or telephone Carla on 8351 1575.

My Ministry by Sr Julianne Murphy rsj



Prior to joining the Sisters of St Joseph, most of my life was spent in Adelaide. Since then I have lived and worked in Port Lincoln, Port Augusta, Wallaroo, Peterborough and Berri. I was then involved in a ministry you would know as the *Travelling Sisters Roadshow*, and now I live in

Warmun – a remote Aboriginal community in Kimberley, Western Australia.

Over the Christmas holidays last year I returned to South Australia and had the chance to visit many of the places where I had worked. It was a time of reconnecting with staff and families. At times, people are amazed at the ‘sea change’ I had taken by going to the Kimberley. However, on reflection, there have always been changes, and I began being immersed in a formal Josephite culture during my Novitiate when my life was enriched by immersion into farming communities, fishing communities, wine growing regions, multi-cultural communities – each with their own culture, landscape and lingo.

Warmun is an immersion into the life of the first owners of the land with their own culture, landscape and lingo. Like all communities, it has its struggles and successes but the Gija people of Australia, even with all my other experiences, have probably given me an essential and central piece of what it means to

be part of Australia.

Gordon is seventeen and is a teenager in Warmun. He has had a sea change too by being immersed into the culture of both the city life of Melbourne and the world of acting. He auditioned, and was successful, in a leading role of an upcoming ABC mini-series called “The Warriors” – the name of a football team he joins where he experiences racism. Consequently, the story line has him returning home. He told the directors “That needs to be filmed on my land – Warmun”, and so it was! The whole community took part as extras.

Gordon, who is passionate about his culture, spoke at school assembly encouraging others to be true to themselves and to remember they are Gija people, no matter where life takes them. He is keen to inspire the children to see life beyond a culture of handouts and drinking. He has been quoted in the media as saying “I don’t want to live a life of drinking. I want to be more, a better person, so people can stop all that and look at me or look at whoever and say, *Let’s stop this.*” Although he mightn’t use these words, but to my thinking he is “seeing a need and doing something about it”, by being a role model for the youth of Warmun.

“The Warriors” is due to air this year. Whilst not seeing any previews of the mini-series, it is hoped the backdrop of a community with a strong sense of culture and faith is portrayed well.



Prayer Day @ Largs Bay by Linda Shmith

19th February 2017: We gathered in a circle with a centrepiece of three candles representing **Earth**, **Air** and **Water** on lengths of coloured satin. Srs Helen and Kateri Duke set out the ideas that we would be exploring and Sr Kateri talked about the small 'e' and the use of 'the' with earth, namely 'the earth'. She asked us to reflect on using a capital 'E' for Earth, as Sr Kateri said "We don't say the Mars, it's simply Mars". The use of the capital letter and removing 'the' gives power back to the meaning of the word Earth. This helped me to focus on Earth as a planet not the earth as soil.

Our first exercise was to use coloured crayons to draw our experience of Earth, starting with our very first memory and continuing around a mandala as we remembered growing up while remembering our Earth connections. In the reflection that followed Sr Kateri invited people to share any new understandings which occurred to them. One woman realised that she had a greater connection to Earth than she first assumed. Another related the fact that she was born on the hottest day recorded in her town and that this pervaded her understanding of the sun's connection to ripening fruit. I have realised over time that the purple blossom of the Jacaranda tells me that Christmas is very close – seasons.

We read a poem 'The Same Air' and Sr Kateri invited us to read the line that resonated in us most. For me it was the line 'The air inside the tanks of skin divers, inside a vial in a sarcophagus' meaning someone living now breathes the same air that once circulated and is part of the air that was trapped thousands of

years ago. We all breathe the same air, if we do not have air (oxygen) we die, as do all living creatures. Trees release oxygen and use carbon dioxide that we exhale plus what we produce unnaturally. The problem is that the amount of carbon dioxide we emit into the atmosphere along with the deforestation that is occurring is putting enormous pressure on the balance of available life sustaining oxygen.

For another exercise we had a small black card with a white circle drawn on it and a white pencil to draw our ideas of what air means to us. Many drew the branches of lungs, or that which air may carry such as moisture (clouds), dust and pollution – all of this with no barrier to our lungs and into our blood stream with the growing awareness that we all share the same air.

Finally the ideas of Masuro Emoto and water were discussed. It was fascinating to consider the ideas of positive thoughts and words and the power it has at the molecular level. Masuro's detailed photos show beautifully formed crystals after being shown the word 'happy' and the half formed and underdeveloped crystals that formed with the word 'unhappy'. Now connect this with the fact that we are approximately 60% water. So, if we call ourselves names and put ourselves down we struggle to get out of the downward spiral. Instead, if we are positive and more gentle of our failings we are more likely to be resilient, shine and open to creative problem solving.

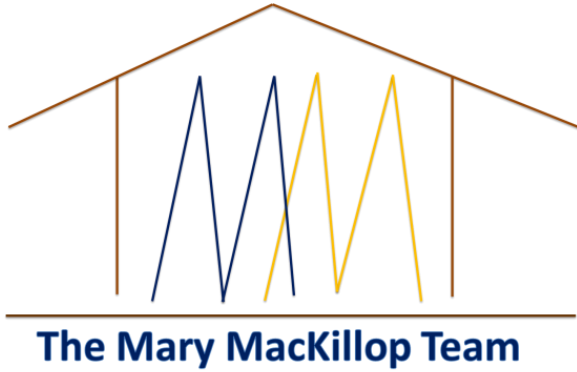
We ended the day by blessing each other and finished with our Reflections of Water – and the traditional group photo!



The Mary MacKillop Team

by Marianne Shaw

I work at Mt Carmel College where our social justice group is called *The Mary MacKillop Team* (TMMT). Our motto is 'never see a need without doing something about it'. This is the logo the group has designed:



The two letter T's make a shelter beneath which the two M's intertwine like people building a community together, all sitting on a foundation which represents our supporting one another.

The themes of our group include acceptance of others/individuality, kindness to others, environmental awareness, understanding of other cultures, developing peace, gender equity and families and economic equality. We have set questions with which to challenge ourselves:

- What should we stop doing?
- What should we start doing?
- What should we continue doing?

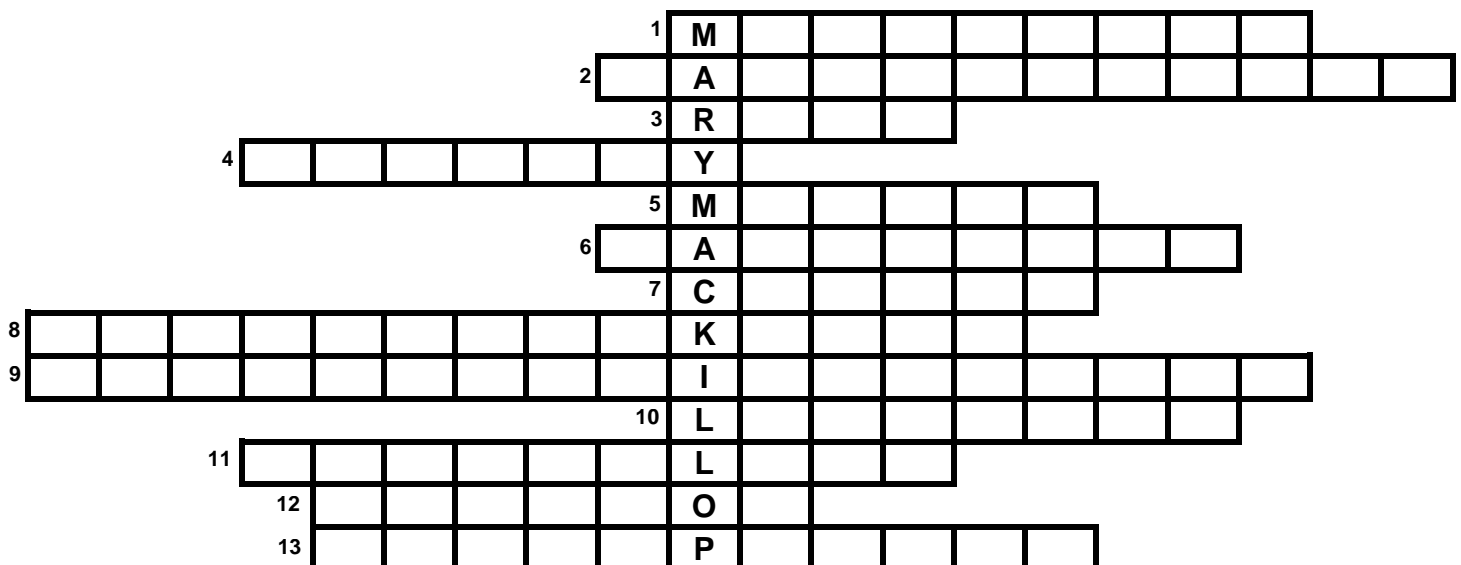
In the next newsletter we will be writing about what our school has done for those in need in our community and what our group hopes to achieve this year as we consider ways of involving the whole school.

Please pray for our group as we meet these and other challenges and goals in our school and in our lives.

WORD PUZZLE

Complete the Word Puzzle by using the clues given below:

1. The maiden name of Mary's mother.
2. The process of declaring a person a saint.
3. Mary travelled to this place to visit the Pope.
4. The place of Mary's birth.
5. The name of one of Mary's sisters.
6. The Jesuit priest who befriended Mary after her excommunication.
7. Australia was still one of these when Mary began her work.
8. Mary was helped by this Irish priest when she was in Rome.
9. The co-founder of the Sisters of St Joseph.
10. The birthplace of Mary's father.
11. Mary travelled to this country to visit her Sisters.
12. Mary was governess to the children of this family.
13. The name of the bishop who excommunicated Mary.



Australia Day Honours for Claire Larkin



Claire has been recognised as a worthy recipient of the **Medal of the Order of Australia** for her *service to the community of Penola*. This service embraces a wide-ranging list of activities and involvements over the years, including a host of clubs and organisations – wherever

the interests of her husband and children were to be found.

The joyful news of Claire's award was received with delight and gratitude by the people of

Penola, especially members of the Catholic Parish community, and all the Sisters of St Joseph. Since Claire's retirement from her work at the Penola War Memorial Hospital in 1995, where she held the responsible position of Chief Executive Officer, Claire has given herself tirelessly to the promotion of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop through her leadership at the Centre as Chairperson and Co-ordinator.

In her own inimitable way, Claire said simply and humbly, "It is an honour to be recognised. However, I wish I could share it with all of the great people I have worked with."

Mary MacKillop Centre Adelaide 2017 Brochure

Included with this newsletter (by post or email) is the brochure for this year. A diverse range of activities is on offer including Retreats. If you are interested please refer to the brochure for registration information.

Associate Newsletter

This newsletter is also available on the internet. Check out the web address:

http://www.sosj.org.au/being-involved/list_newsletters.cfm?filter=NLSAA&loadref=544

There you will also find the newsletters of other regions. This is part of the Sisters of St Joseph website where you will find many articles of interest.

Recycle your Newsletter

When you have finished with the newsletter, a good recycling idea is to pass it around for others to read.

DIARY DATES FOR 2017

Stations of the Cross

Date: Saturday 25th March
For more details turn to page 3.

A Visit to the Mitcham Cemetery

Date: Saturday 20th May
For more details turn to page 3.

Celebrating 30 Years of Associates

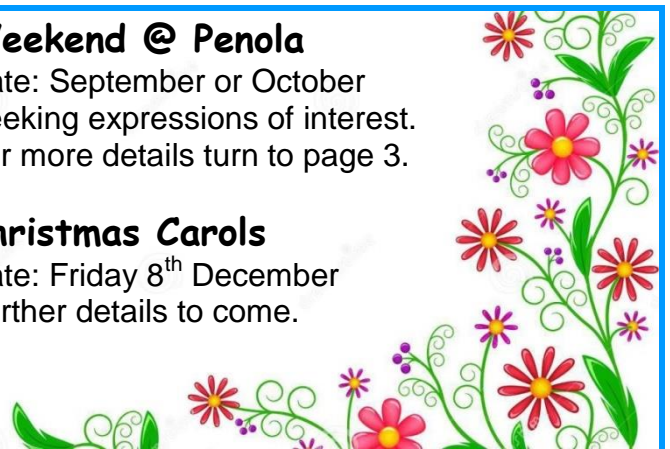
Date: Saturday 8th July
Further details to come.

Weekend @ Penola

Date: September or October
Seeking expressions of interest.
For more details turn to page 3.

Christmas Carols

Date: Friday 8th December
Further details to come.



"In St Joseph's care I leave you." MMK 1873

A Prayer *for* **Josephite Associates**

*Loving God, we give you thanks that we,
Josephite Associates,
can be involved, like Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods,
in your vision for love and unity in our land and world.*

*Through our **friendship**
may we spread community and hospitality in our families and neighbourhoods.*

*Through our **prayer**
may we live more deeply in your presence, Loving God; may we live simply, love
with kindness and walk humbly with you.*

*Through our **service**
may we promote human dignity, justice, a 'fair go' for all and care and healing
for our Earth.*

*Mary MacKillop – pray with us.
Julian Tenison Woods – pray with us.
St Joseph – pray with us.
All those who have gone before us in the Josephite way – pray with us.*

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ and the Spirit of the Charism.

Amen.

Hoping that
you will
be happy
and
full of
courage.
MMK 1875



Go on
courageously
and
continue to
pray.
JTW 1868