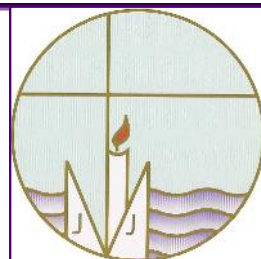




Josephite Associates, Victoria-Tasmania WINTER 2017



WINTER—a good time for reflection

Dear Associates,

From glamorous Autumn we are now in the throes of the Winter season, keeping close to fires, heaters and enjoying winter foods such as soups and tasty casseroles and enjoying our sleeps under a doona.

Since our last newsletter the Core-team have spent a weekend at Baulkham Hills with Associates from across Australia and New Zealand. Two reports are in this issue. Since my Novitiate days there, the area around the buildings has become smaller in various stages and recently a large area of land from the gate to the driveways has been sold for developing.

We have had lots of rain which saves watering the garden and everything looks green and lush. Even my "lawn" looks realistic since it has been mowed and the weeds cut down to size.

One lovely afternoon was spent with seventeen women I taught at Mount St Joseph's, Altona West in the 60's, the first years of the College. One woman I had not

seen for 52 years! We had a very happy time together catching up on news since the last time we had gathered together.

THANK YOU to all those who have sent in their subscriptions and many generous donations. If all could be in by June 30th it will help us to budget for the rest of the year. .

Conversations with Mary are still being attended sufficiently to keep it going. Looking at Mary's letters to her mother, Flora, gives a real insight to their relationship and love for each other.

Core-Team Members As we approach the changes in the governance of the Associates one or two new members for this team will be needed. So if you feel you could meet 3-4 times a year to share your wisdom and skills we would like to hear from you. Feel free to discuss this with us at any time.

New Associates This can be a challenge to all of you to invite others, whom you feel share our charism, to consider it. Share what it means to you, as new members are always needed to continue the Charism of Mary MacKillop. Brochures can be obtained from the office to leave in the Church or to give to someone. Invite others to your meetings and Regional Days or to the Annual Mass. It is up to each Associate to accept this challenge. A morning tea on **8th August** with an invitation to others, could be a start, with a sharing session in which each shares what it means for her/him to be an Associate, or a talk or reading on Mary MacKillop. Don't forget the men!! Or people of other faiths, of which we have

several Associates. I have included some words written many years ago about what it means to be an Associate, and some more recent ones.

St Mary MacKillop's feast day is on a Tuesday. You may be able to encourage the local school and priest to make it a great feast day. What could you or your group contribute or share either with the children or parents? DVD's with her story are available from the Heritage centre. Check that your school has one. Maybe you could donate one if they don't. A good time to use our imagination!

Let us pray to Mary MacKillop for our country especially our youth and those who have sought refuge here. The words: "**What if that were me!**" always reminds me that, but for the grace of God, I could be the one seeking peace and freedom.

Mary's hands wrote hundreds of letters, washed hundreds of dishes and cared for many children and Sisters. The hands of this statue speak of all that to me.

May Mary obtain blessings for each of you and your loved ones.

Mary Fermio rsj

Inside this issue:

- 1 Editorial
 - 2 Reflection
 - 3 Events in Victoria
 4. The Heritage Centre Days
Who are Associates?
 5. No Nursing Home for me!
Westbury Memories
 6. Regional Days
 - 7 Associates Conference
 - 8 Bulletin Board
- Enclosures:*
1. Prayer Sheet:
 2. News from Associates Peru



Hands of statue at Penola

Friendship Prayer Service



WINTER REFLECTION



We are all on a journey, either alone or with others, going the same way or in the opposite direction. Each day we set out not knowing for certain if we will complete that journey, or that day.

A newspaper account of a young 15 year old girl, setting out with three companions, to cross Greenland, facing crevasses, polar bears, fatigue and whatever the country might throw at her, speaks of a journey, she called an adventure , hopefully to be completed on her 16th birthday. This kind of a journey speaks loudly of bravery, spunk, preparation, hope, confidence in her own ability, and the love between daughter and father, who is one of her companions. She spoke of hours of training, of dragging weights up and down the sand, of preparation, of having to carry rifles on the journey for protection. This kind of a journey is not new to her and she is planning a third one in December.

The Josephite Associates have set out on a journey when they made their commitment to Josephite life and now, led by the IJALT, it is a journey to self-governance, hopefully to be achieved by 2020. And like the young lady above there has to be preparation, planning for the pitfalls ahead and a hope that this vision will be attained. The recent conference at Baulkham Hills did a lot of this, reflecting on how the Associate Vision fits into the overall Josephite vision, which emerged at the last Chapter of the Sisters. The theme of the conference was “The Future is one we are Creating”.

Each Associate is a part of that journey, responsible to help in its creation.

How will you be part of the journey?

Some of you have started the journey to be enrolled but have detoured on the way. Maybe you could complete that journey as part of this vision. Could you make a greater effort to meet other Associates, to stir up your initial enthusiasm by coming to a Regional Day or the Annual Mass or inviting someone else to consider becoming an Associate.

SPEND SOME TIME IN REFLECTION:

- ◇ Why did I first become a Josephite Associate?
- ◇ Or why am I getting the newsletter if I am not an Associate?
- ◇ What attracts me?
- ◇ How have I lived the mission of **FRIENDSHIP, PRAYER and SERVICE**
- ◇ How can I see myself contributing to the Vision of 2020?
- ◇ What effort can I make this year to meet other Associates?



At our **ANNUAL MASS** on the 2nd Saturday of November, Associates renew their commitment to the ideals of St Mary MacKillop they try to live by. I find this a very moving experience as they say **I DO** to the questions I place before them, the questions asked at their enrolment.

This year I hope we can spend some time sharing what is happening, what the future holds and how this can be authentic Josephite living, shared with the Sisters and Affiliates. This time, in the history of the Associates, which goes back to the 1980's, is a very exciting one and we ask your prayers that all will go smoothly and that all Associates will be completely supportive, and that the Holy Spirit and St Mary MacKillop will be guiding decisions and inspiring those who are giving so much time and effort to this vision.

So I would urge you to come, sharing in this journey!

WE MADE IT!!!

Mary Fermio rsj



TIME: 9.30 arrive for 10 am start
Finish approx. 3 p.m.

26th AUGUST - Parish Centre, St Patricks,
PAKENHAM

23rd SEPTEMBER—Parish Centre,
LAKES ENTRANCE

14th OCTOBER - Parish Centre, Lerderberg St
BACCHUS MARSH

BRING YOUR OWN LUNCH Donation \$5
Morning Tea provided by Host Group.
Travelling Shop will be available.

BRING A FRIEND OR SOMEONE INTERESTED
PLEASE MAKE THIS DAY
A PRIORITY IN YOUR DIARY

PROGRAM:

SHARING STORIES :

The Stories Jesus told.
Stories of Mary Mackillop in Art
Stories about Mary MacKillop

MARY MACKILLOP FOUNDATION DINNER/AUCTION

FRIDAY
25TH AUGUST 2017
Mount St Joseph's College
133 Maidstone St, Altona West

7 p.m. Drinks and Nibbles
Followed by 3 course meal

Silent Auction and Bidding Auction
during the evening

Tickets available from
Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre
Ph 9926 9300

*If you have items to donate to the Auction
they may be left at the Heritage Centre, with
Sr Mary Fermio or at
13 Havelock Road Hawthorn East*

*The email I forwarded recently gave a won-
derful insight into all the ways the Foundation
helps groups around
Australia, Peru and East Timor.
The work of Mary Mackillop goes on.*

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY
ST JOSEPH'S BY THE SEA
16 ESPLANADE WILLIAMSTOWN
Each Session 1.30-3p.m. and 7.30-9p.m.
Donation: Subsidised \$10-\$15
Cost: \$20-\$25
Gift: \$30 -\$35

15th June: The Dynamics of Interfaith Dialogue
Giovanni Farquer rsj

24th August: Listening to the Heartbeat of those
desiring Treaty: 50 years after the referendum
Sherry Balcombe, Marianne Zeinstra rsj

21st Sept: Know your Place, Know your story, Story
connects us to family and community

26th October: Earth Centre Stage Marge Abbott

23rd November Expressions of spirituality through the
performing arts Jacinta Chute

To book ring: 9397 6012

Other programs available on Brochure from above
address or admin.sjbtsw@sosj.org.au

CRAFT MORNINGS

First Thursday of the month 10a.m. to 12 noon
A mixture of teaching and BYO craft is offered.
From 4th May to 7th December
Donation and bookings: as above

SHARING THE DIGNITY

Last year many of you collected handbags for
this group who passed them on to women in
need. We have many empty handbags!!

This year we can again start collecting in Sep-
tember but I have a suggestion to make:

If you can put some toiletries in each bag
it would make it much easier for those who
collate them, and less expensive for them.

SUGGESTION: Each time you shop at the super-
market you buy one item to go in the handbag.
Eg. A tube of toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo,
hand cream, tampons, soap, face washer, brush,
comb.....etc etc etc So between now and then
you would have quite a few items collected. This
could be a group project. Maybe one of the
stores or chemists would donate some.
The handbags are distributed first
week of December.



MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE
P: (03) 9926 9300



Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE
2007-2017

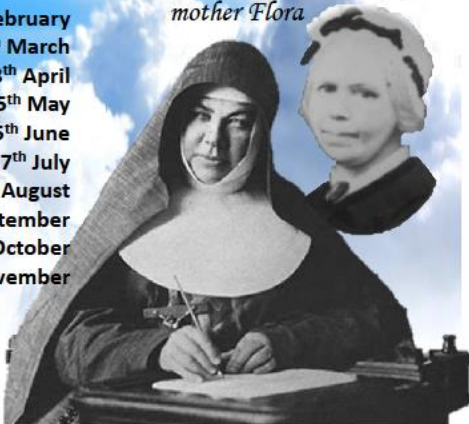
A monthly gathering for prayer and reflection with Mary MacKillop, facilitated by a Sister of St Joseph.

2017 Conversations With Mary

11.00am-12.00pm

- Wednesday 15th February
- Wednesday 15th March
- Tuesday 18th April
- Monday 15th May
- Thursday 15th June
- Monday 17th July
- Tuesday 15th August
- Friday 15th September
- Monday 16th October
- Wednesday 15th November

During 2017 we will reflect on Mary's letters to her mother Flora



For further information and acceptances please contact
MMHC on (03) 9926 9300
or admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au

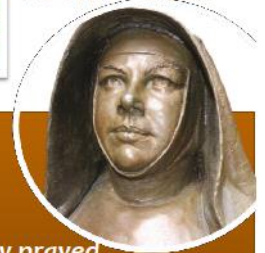
OPEN DAYS 2017



Mary MacKillop
HERITAGE CENTRE
2007-2017

10am – 4pm
on the following
Saturdays:

11 February
6 May
5 August
18 November



- Take a tour of the Museum
- Visit the Gift Shop
- Enjoy light refreshment
- Pray in the Chapel where Mary prayed
- Mary MacKillop Walking Tour available @ 11am

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre

362 Albert St, EAST MELBOURNE P: (03) 9926 9300

WHO ARE JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES?

These words (edited by me) from Associates in South Australia were printed in the magazine "Soundings" many years ago but still have a great meaning.

"There are many different ways that we have been led to become Josephite Associates, but the spirit of Mary MacKillop is almost visible in all of us. We are looking for ways to grow...by living our daily lives through prayer and personal relationship; with Jesus. Mutual support, friendships, relationships with each other and the Sisters are important.

We want everyone to feel that they can be Associates. Even the housebound can know that they have something to contribute. We recognise that they are already contributing and affirm them in that.

It is not always possible to be involved in all activities. We need to assure people that being an Associate lies in carrying out their own obligations, whatever and wherever that may be. We feel that it is important that we come together regularly to share in prayer, friendship and mutual support. We need to involve our youth and to believe in ourselves and in what we are doing. "

Victorians have shared these thoughts

"I like to meet with like-minded women, and together grow in faith and nurture our spirituality at our meetings" "I have made many new friendships with people I meet as an Associate. Friends with whom I share much in common." "A sense of belonging" "Helping out where we see a need, or just stopping to spend a short time with a lonely person" "I have the support of our Associate group in using my uniqueness in making a difference in our local area." "To see a need and do something about it—thus mirroring the work of the Sisters who taught members of our family". "Being an Associate reinforces the philosophy of putting others needs before my own"

CELEBRATION IN TASMANIA

On 24 May 1887, just over twenty years after the foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph of the Sacred Heart in Penola, five Sisters arrived in Westbury to make their first foundation in Tasmania.

Sister Francis McCarthy, the leader of the group invites us to join her on a trip down memory lane.....

"Expecting never to see them again, we farewelled our Sisters with great sadness and set off from the Vale (Bathurst) on the first stage of our journey. En route, we stayed at Mount St where we were welcomed by Mother Mary MacKillop. How we valued her loving words of encouragement as we boarded the SS Corinna for the voyage south and our new life and mission in Tasmania. I remember well the anticipation and relief we felt as we entered Tamar Heads and dropped anchor in Lagoon Bay off Low Head on the evening of Saturday 21st May, three days after our departure from Sydney...we experienced a strong southerly gale, heavy squalls of rain and high seas which broke on board breaking the skylight and causing other damage which necessitated the ship going at half-speed for 13 hours. ...On Sunday morning we arrived at the wharf in Launceston. How pleased we were to be welcomed by the Presentation Sisters who offered us hospitality at their convent. Two days later on 24 May having recovered our 'land legs' the five of us set out in a horse drawn chaise on the final stage of our journey to Westbury. After about twenty miles we came to the outskirts of the pretty little village nestled under the Great Western Tiers. Arriving at Holy Trinity Church, we were welcomed with joy by a large number of parishioners and the clergy.

Our little Convent was not quite completed so we were temporarily accommodated in the presbytery...school was to open the next day so we settled ourselves in and set about preparing for the children to come on the morrow...eight children arriving for class in the old Church...by the end of July we had ninety pupils. Over the next 130 years, 150 Sisters have served in a variety of ministries.



Westbury Convent and School

Jill Dance rsj (taken from sosj.org.au)

NO NURSING HOME FOR ME!

About two years ago my wife and I were on a cruise through the western Mediterranean aboard a Princess liner. At dinner we noticed an elderly lady sitting alone along the rail of the grand stairway in the main dining room. I noticed that all the staff, ship officers, waiters, busboys, etc seemed very familiar with this lady. I asked our waiter who the lady was, expecting to be told she owned the line, but he said he only knew that she had been on board for the last four cruises, back to back. As we left the dining room one evening, I caught her eye and stopped to say hello. We chatted and I said, "I understand you've been on this ship for the last four cruises." She replied, "Yes, that's true." I stated, "I don't understand" and she replied without a pause, "Its cheaper than a nursing home." So, there will be no nursing home in my future. When I get old and feeble, I am going to get on a Princess cruise ship. The average cost for a nursing home is \$200 a day. I have checked on reservations at Princess and I can get a long term discount and senior discount price of \$135 per day. that leaves \$65 a day for:

1. Gratuities which will only be \$10 per day
2. I will have as many as 10 meals a day if I can waddle to the restaurant or I can have room service (which means I can have breakfast in bed every day of the week)
3. Princess has as many as three swimming pools, a workout room, free washers and dryers and shows every night.
4. They have free toothpaste, razors, soap and shampoo.
5. They will even treat you like a customer, not a patient. An extra \$5 worth of tips will have the entire staff scrambling to help you.
6. I will get to meet new people every 7 to 14 days
7. TV broken? Light bulb need changing? Need to have the mattress replaced? No problem! They will fix everything and apologize for your inconvenience.
8. Clean sheets and towels every day and you don't even have to ask for them.
9. If you fall in the nursing home and break a hip you are on Medicare. If you fall and break a hip on the Princess ship, they will upgrade you to a suite for the rest of your life.

Now hold on for the best! Do you want to see South America , the Panama Canal, Tahiti, Australia, New Zealand, Asia or name where you want to go? Princess will have a ship ready to go. So don't look for me in a nursing home, just call shore to ship. PS: And don't forget, when you die, they just dump you over the side at **no charge!**

REGIONAL DAYS

NAGAMBIE

Our first Regional Day, held at Nagambie was attended by sixteen Associates, some arriving in pouring rain. They came from Stanhope, Girgarre, Creighton's Creek, Colbinabbin and Rushworth, all part of the Rushworth group. Two intrepid travellers, Faye Donoghue and Teresa Leach came from Broadmeadows and others from Nagambie who provided us with a very welcome cuppa and tasty morning tea. Faye from Broadie celebrated Essendon's win at the football that night. She had more energy than I did!

The group participated fully in the reflection and discussion which looked at three stories Jesus told, enjoyed a happy song "This Little Light of Mine" and shared many insights into the stories and art work of Mary MacKillop. During the final ritual each was presented with a candle and invited to "Let their Light Shine".



The day ended very happily and we are grateful for the effort members put into preparing the hall and providing refreshments. Many took advantage of the travelling shop to purchase some articles.



The whole group holding their candles at the end of the Final Ritual—all ready to "Let their Light Shine".

MORWELL

A small but enthusiastic group of Associates from Morwell, Wonthaggi and Inverloch gathered in the cosy Tennis Pavilion at Morwell to share Friendship, Prayer and Service. As usual the host group outdid themselves with providing morning tea. All shared reflectively at each session and joined in the singing of "This little light of mine". Many insights into St Mary MacKillop's life was provided through word and art and the stories about her written by Sisters, revealed much of her character and ordinariness. At the end of lunch, time was taken to celebrate the 80th birthday of Sr Mary Fermio with sparklers and cake. Thank you to all who shared this time. Morwell have two people doing the Introductory course and one, Carol, joined us for the day. I am sure she felt very welcome among Associate friends.



INTERNATIONAL JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES LEADERS CONFERENCE

THE FUTURE IS ONE WE ARE CREATING.

On the recent Palm Sunday weekend Josephite Associate Leaders from Australia and New Zealand gathered. The theme of the conference was Creating the Future and it provided a weekend of food for good, spiritual development, planning and Josephite friendship.

On the Saturday, Sr. Katrina Brill's theme and aim was for us to see life, our surroundings and Jesus with "new eyes" and to develop mindfulness and creativity. It was intellectually challenging and in the evening, after discernment, thought and no television(!) I gained more understanding. Mass was celebrated in the beautiful chapel. There was an air of unity and purpose and a real sense of sharing the Josephite charism. The lovely singing was an example of individuals using their talents as we are expected to do; to let our light shine; to develop spiritually and to grow as Josephite Associate leaders.

On the Sunday, the sessions were practical and were centred on planning the Josephite Associates future. Together we journeyed through the light of Christ and saw with "new eyes." Sr. Katrina explored the 4 C's of Consciousness, Contemplation, Creativity and Communion. She also introduced the concept of the 3S's of **Small steps, Simple content, and Stick- at-it.**



The lighter moments of interaction between Sr. Katrina and her faithful offside Madge (alias Sr. Christina Neunzerling) were humorous and enjoyable. The camaraderie of the Associates and the Sisters, the sharing of meals, laughter, friendship and prayer, engendered encouragement and renewed our desire to live out our Josephite charism. Seeing with "new eyes" and with the resurrection to empower us, with Jesus to claim and inspire us, with the examples of St. Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Fr. Julian Tenison Woods, and with commitment, we can encourage and help others to seek, share and develop their talents as Josephite Associates.

Chris Nicholls -Van Order

'The Future is One We are Creating'

The future of the Josephite Associates is very close to my heart and I was delighted to be included in, and be informed of, the pro-active Vision of the International Josephite Associate Team (IJALT) at the recent Conference in Sydney. Sr Katrina Brill rsj lead us through an excellent process which culminated in us having a clearer understanding of the WHAT and the HOW of our Mission over the next three years if we are to, not only sustain our Associate groups, but to grow through a shared knowledge and understanding of the Josephite Story.

As Josephite Associates we have 'come of age' and we need to take responsibility for sharing the Josephite Charism in communion with one another. This renewed consciousness and awareness will enable us to, reach out to, and attract others, meeting needs together. Through being in communion with others who have also been drawn to the Josephite

Charism, our Friendship, Prayer and Service (action) will help spread that Charism. The good news is, we are not alone, the IJALT have, in consultation with the Leaders, some excellent suggestions and ideas that we can all put into place in whatever way that suits our own particular circumstances.

It was a privilege to spend time in such beautiful surroundings at Baulkam Hills with its long history and many shared memories and beautiful liturgies, and to meet with Sisters and Associates from all over Australia and New Zealand, all with the desire to live and promote the Josephite Charism.

Noreen McLeish





BOOK REVIEWS

BULLETIN BOARD

SEEING THE LIGHT

A Mother's story—Sharon Simpson

Sharon's life was turned upside down when 8 year old Jack, a twin, her youngest children, collapsed at school., leaving him in a semi-convulsive state. It was many weeks later that Jack was diagnosed with MS and treatment, which terrified him, began. Sharon felt she was walking her own Calvary journey. Later Jack was diagnosed with Hodgkin's Lymphoma as well. The book relates the anguish of Sharon, the beautiful friends Jack had at Woodend, their prayers to Mary MacKillop and Jack's eventual return to complete health. Mary MacKillop herself visited the family more than once and gave Sharon hope in their prayer.

Published by Penfolk Publishing Blackburn it is available from Catholic Bookshop, Lonsdale St Melbourne and Mustard Seed bookshop Sydney and I hope to have copies with me on Regional Days

SISTERWORKS located at Richmond. Check out an article on the sosj.org.au website under News. Or look up **SISTERWORKS** on google. Sr Maureen Lomar has connected with this craft group and is sharing her sewing skills with them.

FROM THE OFFICE:

All Associates are now receiving their Newsletter in colour thanks to donations and subscriptions received.

Check out the sosj.org.au website for interesting articles during this sesquicentenary year.

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OR Email: mary.fermio@sosj.org.au.
Or vic.associates@sosj.org.au
OR Phone/Fax: 03 5367 2078

USED STAMPS

Used stamps have raised over \$180,000 for the Mary MacKillop International Mission for Peru and East Timor. These are prepared for the Sydney Stamp Auctions by Josephite Associates in Sydney. Leaving a border of about 1 cm around the stamp assists them.

Please forward to STAMPS

**Locked Bag 3031
BURWOOD NSW 1805**

Collecting stamps could be a group activity in your parish and schools.



*We are but
Travellers here.*



Let us pray for the following deceased and their families who grieve their loss
Sr Leonie Rutherford rsj
Johanna Commadeur, mother of Adrian
Irene Withell, Maffra
Sr Eileen Carr rsj
Patricia Stroud, Abbotsford
Jim Ross, husband of Margaret, Eaglehawk

DID YOU KNOW?

That as a pensioner you are entitled to 50 concession stamps a year for postage at 60c. A form can be filled in at a Post Office and you receive a card which keeps a record of each book of 5 60c stamps you buy. I notice that many of you use them but I recently met someone who didn't know they were available.

DAYS FOR GIRLS - AUSTRALIA

Recently I collected 42 completed bags from the Broadmeadows group. Another collection is on the way.

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: robysuttie@gmail.com*

Items needed are:

Knickers sizes 10-12; 12-14; Face washers
Zip lock Bags—Large 27cmx32cm about
Flannelette and cotton material in floral or stripes

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*