

Associates News

CELEBRATING ST MARY MACKILLOP AUGUST 2017



**Welcome to the
Josephite Associate Queensland
Quarterly Newsletter**

PLANNING GROUP

Joan Gilbert

joangilbert@gmail.com

Marie Sellin

mariesellin@hotmail.com

Janette Dobson

janettewdobson@hotmail.com

Erin Jones

ejones@tsv.catholic.org.au

Pauline McGuire

pmcguire@tsv.catholic.org.au

Moya Campbell rsj

moya.campbell@sosj.org.au

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Editorial & Reflections

Events – Qld Conference

FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE SEASONAL NEWS

PLEASE EMAIL:

qldassociates@sosj.org.au



St Mary of the Cross MacKillop – A Woman for our times

Who Was Mary Mackillop?

Mary was a woman of her time – born of migrant parents and reared during the gold rush days. She was surrounded by frenzied materialism, chaotic individualism and social fluidity but she had a strong upbringing within the Catholic faith. This was influenced by the Highland Scots ‘conservative outlook’ – a reticent approach solidly instructed in Catholic beliefs, devout with a deep, interior piety but undemonstrative in their expression of religion.

Mary’s parents inculcated in their family a strong belief in God’s abiding love, a confident trust in Divine Providence, resignation under suffering and a submission to God’s will which gave them a strength of character to face the challenges of life.

Mary Understood The Issues Of Her Day

Mary was acutely aware that the education of the children in rural areas was significant for the future of the families and in particular the children. Religion was central to her teaching of the children and she

shared the faith imparted to her by her own parents to the children she taught. She recognised the need to care for the aged, women and children and worked tirelessly to alleviate some of the challenges being faced in the community.

Mary Experienced Adversity

Mary's life is in some ways is reflective of our own as she understood from her own experience the fragility of day to day living. At different times we may suffer a breakdown in our family relationships and they become fragile and require mending; sometimes financial crosses are sent our way; sometimes we experience sickness and frailty and during our life people disappoint us.

Mary Was A Communicator

Communication is a key to successful relationship building in our lives today. Mary was an exceptional communicator. Her breadth of friends spanned across all walks of life from the very rich to the very poor; to clerics including Bishops. Her friendships withstood the test of time because Mary's friends were treated warmly by her; she respected them and others in need especially children in poor areas. In all her writings to the Sisters and others her charitable love shines through with not a word of malice. What a role model for each of us!

Mary Was An Educator

Mary's love for and understanding of children especially the poor was evident throughout her life. She was a registered teacher who developed teaching methods and curriculum based on her values and beliefs which she shared with the early Sisters and children in schools. Many of us owe our education to the Sisters of St Joseph truly a gift from Mary MacKillop.

Mary Was A Politician

Mary's struggle with the Bishops in some areas and her clear vision of the future of the Sisters of St Joseph was in no small way due to her skilful ability to negotiate. She had a great understanding of the different levels of authority and how they were interconnected.

Summary

St Mary of the Cross MacKillop, our Australian saint and role model, through her witness to God's call for a 'fair go for all' reminds all Christians that : 'This is what Yahweh asks of you: only this to act justly, to love tenderly, and to walk humbly with your God'? Micah 6:8

In summary Mary was 'at home in humanity' – a quality that many Australians admire. As we ponder on Mary's example let us rejoice and celebrate her feast day!



**Friendship
Prayer
Service**

DATE CLAIMER FOR
**Josephite
Associates**
QUEENSLAND CONFERENCE
25/26/27 MAY 2018

THEME:
*Step Forward with
Mary MacKillop...
Find our Path in the
World Today*

WHERE:
*Kedron Wavell RSL Club
21 Kittyhawk Drive
CHERMSIDE QLD 4032*

**FURTHER DETAILS WILL
BE ADVISED**

**Josephite
Associates**
QUEENSLAND

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Josephite Associates Lyn and Len Horner were recognized with one of the highest awards the Catholic Church can bestow. The couple were not expecting the award and were taken aback when their family arrived at the church.



Lyn and Len were surprised to be awarded Knight and Dame of the Order of St Gregory the Great, Civil Class during Sunday Mass at the Sacred Heart Cathedral in Townsville. The medals were received with much joy and emotion. They received the awards for services to the church, being only the second couple to receive this award in the Diocese.

The couple were part of the original members of the Associate Movement in Townsville when the group formed in the 80s. They have worked for the church for over 30 years. Len has served under 3 Bishops, first as Secretary and then Chancellor of the Diocese. Lyn first worked as a Catholic School teacher until she moved to the position of Pastoral Leader, the first married leader in the Diocese. They have been parishioners of the Mary MacKillop Parish for over 30 years and are

active members of the current Townsville Josephite Associates.

In the congratulatory letter, Pope Francis wrote, 'we recognize your contribution to the wellbeing and advancement of the church and the Catholic cause'.

COMMUNICATION

Newsletters will continue four times a year. For this year, our themes will centre around Easter, Pentecost, Mary MacKillop and Christmas.

We really encourage all groups/individuals to contribute to the Newsletters about happenings in their areas. The dates for articles to be submitted to qld.associates@sosj.org.au are as follows:

Christmas (Advent) – 27 October 2017

FINANCE

We recorded our appreciation for the donations we have so far received. These are now being used for administration needs and supporting service outreach which Joan and Moya are doing in July of this year.

PRAYER

PRAYER – is about being in relationship with God, it is about listening, speaking and spending time in silence.

"God's love is too deep for words to express" Mary MacKillop 1870

For Mary MacKillop God is experienced as a God of Love – the One who calls her and all people into a loving, personal relationship. She often calls God "Our good God". Mary believes that we can trust God, even when life is dark and there seems to

be no hope. It is through prayer and this belief that God is always present, that Mary is able to carry on with hope in the difficult and painful times in her life.

Visits to Associate Groups in Queensland

10 July 2017 – 23 July 2017



Josephite Associate Queensland Groups

Allora
Cairns
Clermont
Caboolture
South of the River
Millmerran
Rockhampton
Townsville
And places in between

Sr Moya Campbell rsj and Joan Gilbert departed Brisbane for Cairns on Friday 6 July 2017 to begin their journey to meet with Josephite Associates. This journey began in Cairns and concluded in Millmerran on 23 July.

Throughout this newsletter a short paragraph about each location will be included capturing a snapshot of the event in each location.

QLD ASSOCIATES



Mary MacKillop Words

“Let us be joyful and thank God” 1874



“We can all work quietly doing our best for God” 1883



“God will protect and work with us” 1885



Cairns	10 July 2017
Townsville	12/13/14 July 2017
Rockhampton	16/17 July 2017
Clermont	18/19 July 2017
Allora	21 July 2017
Pittsworth	22 July 2017
Millmerran	23 July 2017

The Brisbane and surrounds gathering will be featured in the Christmas newsletter.

DIARY OF A ROAD TRIP JULY 2017

7 JULY 2017



Figure 2 First Stop - lovely spot in Childers

6.30 am saw us leaving Brisbane for the Road Trip that was to take us to Cairns and all parts in between. It was a foggy morning with intermittent rain but we set out with pilgrim hearts ready for the adventure ahead. Even if we weren't travelling on horseback like Mary MacKillop and the early Sisters, we felt her presence as we travelled along.



Figure 1 Joan enjoying lunch

Seven hours later, we arrived in Rockhampton having enjoyed the scenery along the way and a couple of stops where we enjoyed a cuppa and our sandwiches. We had travelled 615 km today.

8 JULY 2017 – On the road again.....



The day began at 6.00am as we filled the car and began the next leg of the journey, travelling in foggy conditions which reminded us that life is sometimes very unclear and requires a leap of faith to continue the journey. We passed through a variety of country from ripening sugar cane fields, mango orchards, beautiful bush and the occasional yellow of the wattle. The mountains hazy blue reminding us of Namitjira's paintings of the outback.



Figure 3 Moya with the picnic basket

9 JULY 2018 – On the road again



Another early start and as we left Townsville, there was the usual fog and a magnificent moon to accompany us for the first few hours. We were on the road again for the final leg of the northern journey to Cairns.



Figure 4 Early morning Joan and Moya

We were blessed today with fields of sugar cane but also the many farms growing bananas. The bananas were covered in various coloured bags to protect them no doubt from hungry animals.

The miles passed quickly and by 11.00 am we were in Cairns and enjoying the warmer weather. Our first task was to find our accommodation at Seville Conference Centre run by the Sisters of Mercy. We were welcomed by Terry Power who gave us a tour of the place and then left us to settle in. We found where we were to present tomorrow at the Mercy Aged Care facility. Some of the Associates, - Margaret Collins, Connie Fitch are quite elderly and residents at the facility so to include her, Carol Leary decided to book a place for our gathering at the Aged Care Residence.

We feel ready to present to the Associates tomorrow and expect a group of 20 Associates.

10 JULY 2017 – The Journey continues....



It was a different beginning as our first presentation was this morning. Carol Leary, an Associate of many years had gathered together 20 people – some Associates and some potential Associates. Special mention was made of Bruno Mayne who was too unwell to join us. Bruno is still contributing as an Associate.

We began at 10.00am with morning tea and much sharing and talking.

The atmosphere in the meeting was positive and affirmed the way forward for the future of the Associates. There were people there who had never heard of the Josephite Associates so it was an opportunity for them to ask their questions, take a brochure and hopefully, continue to commit themselves to living a life of Prayer, Friendship, Service. We saw Service in action from the group who prepared the venue, the food and did the clean-up.

Figure 6 Joan somewhere in the Great Outdoors



Figure 7 The new Associates' Banner



Figure 5 Carol and her helpers

There was a real sense of appreciation by the group for our visit and the news of the Associate movement. All of us left the meeting inspired anew to continue to live the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

11 JULY 2017 - Cairns



Another early start as we left Seville Conference Centre – a most hospitable place to stay if you are looking for a place while in Cairns. It was only a short trip of four and a half hours to Townsville.

Pauline and Erin (both on the Associates Planning Committee) had organized dinner with them. Ken Theodore joined us as well. Ken went to the Associates' Conference in Sydney last year. A question we were asked in Cairns was 'Can men be Associates?'. It is good to have Ken on board to be part of our discussions.



“Find happiness in making others happy”
1889



12 JULY 2017 - Townsville

Morning sunrise over The Strand

We went to see Sr Carmel Street and Mary Stark. Mary was very interested in what we are doing as she was one of the early Associates who saw a great future for the organization. She lived out the Service aspect of the Associates as she became Partner in Mission with Carmel. They were a formidable team over many years in the Townsville Diocese. It gave us great pleasure to present Mary with her new badge as ongoing member of the Associates.



13 JULY 2017 - Townsville

Early start this morning for the Refugee Breakfast held at Seagulls Resort here in Townsville. We had been invited to attend by Pauline McGuire, Associate from the Parish at Mundingburra.



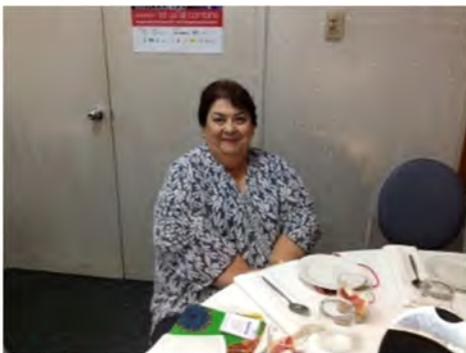
The speakers were most informative. Professor Eileen Pittaway, PhD, AM drew the link in Australia between the Human Rights of all peoples and how the law in our country protects these rights. She also praised the Townsville community for their forward approach in the settlement of refugees. Mundingburra Parish is supporting this resettlement of refugees. Professor Pittaway drew on much of her own research which is backed up by her own work in refugee camps and in the United Nations spanning 50 years.

Sibbo, a refugee told his story as to how he came to Australia and some of the difficulties refugees encounter as they settle into this country. A vote of thanks was given by one of the refugees present who is part of the Mundingburra Parish.



It was a good start to our day – one which made us reflect on our own lives and the challenges of the present refugee system in this country.

We had an appointment with Taya who is APRE at St Joseph’s Mundingburra. She is keen to get something going for Year 4 and 5 as an outreach in the name of Mary MacKillop. Taya is also interested in becoming an Associate.



We also admired the sculpture of Mary MacKillop which holds pride of place in the front of the school.





We had an appointment with Bishop Tim Harris at 2.30pm. Pauline McGuire and Erin Jones (both local to Townsville and members of the planning committee) accompanied Joan and Moya as we talked with the Bishop about the Associates and the work they are doing in the Diocese.

An enthusiastic group of Associates began to arrive at Mundingburra at 5.15pm and the meeting started on time with a welcome and prayer prepared by Pauline McGuire and Ken Theodore.

We presented our PowerPoint outlining the significant changes happening within the Associates organization. Participants were receptive of these changes which provoked many questions and comments.



Some photos from the gathering:

Figure 8 Prayer focus for the meeting



Figure 9 Lyn and Len ready for a holiday



Figure 10 Ken Theodore doing kitchen duties



Figure 11 Joan with Mary, Fr Thomas, Patsy

14 JULY 2017 - Travelling

After our few days in Townsville, it was time to pack up and leave after a session at the House of Prayer. A small, enthusiastic group of 5 participated in a 'think tank' generating new ideas for opportunities for Retreats centred on the spirituality of Mary MacKillop.



Figure 12 Joan and Moya enjoy lunch by the sea

15 JULY 2017- Rockhampton

Today an early start and of course, more fog!!! It was an enjoyable trip in the early day as we retraced our steps of a week ago to return to Rockhampton. We met with Janette Dobson who was the local organizer of our visit to Rockhampton to ensure that we had days and times right. We attended the Multi-cultural Mass at 9.30am, followed by a presentation to 15 Associates and other interested people. A second session was held in the afternoon where a further 15 people joined us to hear about the Associates. Margaret Smith rsj attended this session to support the local Associates.



Figure 13 Joan, Janette and Theresa



Figure 14 John Spark and Pat Galvin



Figure 15 Norma Galvin

16 JULY 2017 - Rockhampton

Janette Dobson had done a great job in mobilizing the local Associates and their friends. There is still much enthusiasm to know of the spirituality of Mary MacKillop. Margaret Smith came to the morning session and Sandra Hopkins was at the afternoon session so it was great to have them along to support the local Associates. Many staunch supporters of the Sisters were present. Norma is one. Janette's mother Theresa was at all sessions and helped with the organization.



Figure 16 Janette and Moya

17 JULY 2017 - Rockhampton

We had an interesting group this afternoon – some Associates and the Administration Team from St Joseph's Wandal. Sandra Hopkins rsj also joined us again in the afternoon and we appreciated her support.

Thank you to the Rockhampton Associates for such wonderful sessions.



*Figure 18 Joan and Moya
after the session*



Figure 17 Kay and Julie a visiting Associate from Bendigo

“Let us rejoice and thank God for giving us such solid proofs of his love” 1877



18 JULY 2017 - Clermont

Again, we had an early start and you wouldn't believe it but we had fog again. We set out for Clermont again mindful of the Pilgrimage we were part of. Much transport on the road but it didn't worry us.

Having arrived and being met by Helen, Joan and I settled in and then decided to go exploring the area. We journeyed out to the old Copper Chimney and the cemetery.

We continued to follow the road to Theresa Creek Dam and were agreeably surprised by the beautiful sea of water that we found.

Later that afternoon, Helen took us out to see the Sesquicentenary monument commemoration 150 years of the Sisters of St Joseph. It is out the front of the old Copperfield Store.



19 JULY 2017 - Clermont

In the early morning with the stars still prominent, we left Clermont for Toowoomba, waved off by Sister Helen Archer.

We arrived in Toowoomba and settled in for three nights as we were visiting Allora, Pittsworth and Millmerran using Toowoomba as our base.



Figure 19 Helen and the Clermont ladies

21 JULY 2017 - Allora

We drove to Allora for our presentation there at 8.30am. We were met by Fr Rod McGinley and the Allora people. We then found out we were to join some of the school community for Mass. What a joy! Fr Rod gave a reflective homily and asked Sister Moya to say a few words about Mary Mackillop towards the end of Mass.

We then had the country 'cuppa' and gave our Presentation regarding the Associate scene at present. 15 were in attendance and it was so good for Moya to catch up with so many she knew there. Lunch was at the local 'Amy's Café' and enjoyed by all.

As always there was much discussion with the Associates and we were really inspired by their enthusiasm and thirst for knowledge of Mary MacKillop. In each place we visited we left some bookmarks, books on Mary MacKillop, prayer cards and flyers regarding the Associate conference next year.



Figure 20 Associates gathered at Amy's Cafe Allora



Figure 21 Friends Enjoying lunch

22 JULY 2017 Pittsworth

Another cold morning as we left for Pittsworth for the gathering at 9.30am. A small group gathered and welcomed us warmly. We were interviewed by Kerrie from the local Pittsworth paper. We look forward to receiving a copy of what was written and of course, the photo. We met Fr Thomas and spent some time talking with him.

We were beginning to realize that the rural Associates are different in that they are already involved in so many organizations, groups and events that happen in their local community.

"We must teach more by example than by word." 1867



23 JULY 2017 – Millmerran

This morning, we journeyed to Millmerran to visit the Associate group there. It was a crisp, cold morning but the sun was shining.

There was no priest for this day so celebrated a Liturgy of the Word with the Eucharist prepared so well by the local community. Nell McQueen was the presider and Pat Taylor gave the reflection (both are Associates). We couldn't help but realise that this was shades of not the past but the future Church.



Many of the young ones took their part in the various roles. Moya was invited to speak after Communion so she recounted something of the trip that she and Joan were on and the need to keep on promoting the spirit of Mary MacKillop.

Joan and I then left for Brisbane on the last leg of our Pilgrimage. We had certainly learnt much as we journeyed and are sure the information will be put to good use in the future.



Figure 23 Joan and Pat Taylor



Figure 22 The Present and the Future



Joan and Moya would like to thank all those who assisted in ensuring this Pilgrimage visiting local groups so successful.

“Keep up courage We do not live here forever” 1877



BRISBANE and SURROUNDS GATHERING

DATE: SUNDAY 27 August 2017

TIME: 2.00pm -4.00pm

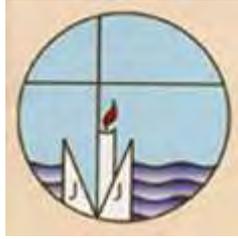
PLACE: St Joseph's Convent

67 Bage Street, NUNDAH

RSVP:

**22 August 2017 to
qldassociates@sosj.org.au**

Or phone 0435 214 210



Thank you to those who have made a contribution in 2016

DONATION TO THE QUEENSLAND ASSOCIATE MOVEMENT

NAME: _____

PHONE NUMBER: _____

AMOUNT GIVEN: (PLEASE CIRCLE):

\$20 \$30 \$40 \$50 OTHER \$ _____

ALL DONATIONS CAN BE FORWARDED TO

ASSOCIATES PLANNING COMMITTEE

123 WARREN STREET

FORTITUDE VALLEY QLD 4006,

PHONE: 3833 6119 & E: QLDASSOCIATES@SOSJ.ORG.AU

CHEQUES AND MONEY ORDERS MADE PAYABLE TO JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

DIRECT DEPOSIT

COMMONWEALTH BANK

ACCOUNT NAME: JOSEPHITE ASSOCIATES QLD

BSB NO: 064163

ACCOUNT NUMBER: 10429581

REFERENCE: SURNAME AND INITIAL (E.G. CAMPBELL M)

