

Summer 2018

November 2018 Newsletter

Annual Report: Focussing on Service

by Julie Langman

By definition, Associates are women and men who wish to associate themselves formally with a religious community, their mission and spirituality.

We, as **Josephite Associates**, are people inspired by the story of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods and the Josephite spirit to live the Gospel, and are called:

- to **friendship**
- to **prayer**
- to **service**

To move forward as people who live the spirit of Mary MacKillop, we need to focus on how we embrace friendship, prayer and service in the different places and circumstances in which we all live. Over the past few years our gatherings and reflections have had a strong focus on friendship and prayer, which have inspired and nurtured us. For 2018 our Leadership Team decided that it would facilitate gatherings where Josephite Associates would focus on **service**. We would be *Associates in Action!*

What does service mean to each of us?
How can service be undertaken with meaning and purpose?

Who will we be embracing, assisting and supporting?

Difficult questions, but in answer to the third,

we decided to support Catherine House and the Mercy House of Welcome. As a theme for 2018 we chose "*Josephites Jumping into Justice*" and we launched our year on Saturday, 3rd March 2018 with guest speakers from both Catherine House and the Mercy House of Welcome to help inspire us into *doing* more for these communities.

Jaylee Cooper, Fundraising Manager for Catherine House, spoke of the help offered by her organisation which includes support and accommodation to women 18 years and over who are experiencing homelessness for a myriad of reasons. The most valuable service that we can offer to these women at Catherine House is financial assistance and personal care products. (As a prelude to this new direction for 2018, those who attended our Carols evening on 8th December 2017 brought along toiletries and similar products and these were donated to Catherine House as Christmas gifts for the women.)

We were also privileged to hear from Sr Mary Symons, a Mercy Sister, from the Mercy House of Welcome – a Refugee Centre at Kilburn. This Centre offers asylum seekers a place to come together and receive settlement and visa support. Without any legal rights, welfare support or the right to work while they await the outcome of their application, life for refugees can be very grim and the impact on



*'Do all you can to assist
and love one another.'*
MMK 1890

their mental and physical health can be devastating. English and art classes, gardening, assistance with accommodation, food, clothing, bill paying, legal services and companionship are offered. The most valuable assistance we can offer to the asylum seekers is in the form of financial assistance and conversational English.

On 2nd May, Associates were invited to *Come, Listen and Share* during a session with Sr Moya Campbell rsj. Sr Moya has been appointed by the Congregational Leadership Team to work with our International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) as it explores how best to keep Mary MacKillop's spirit alive through the work of the Associates. Over many months Sr Moya visited Associates across Australia and New Zealand to gain a picture of what is happening and how Associates and Sisters see possibilities for the future.

Early in June we held a *Justice in Action Day* where Associates were invited to come to Kensington and, using their talents, make a full meal for all the residents at Catherine House. We made soups, main meals, desserts, cakes and slices. Many Associates, through their work places and parishes, arranged for donations of toiletries, cosmetics, underwear and pyjamas and a wonderful collection of these items was delivered with the meal.

On Mary MacKillop's Feast Day we were treated to a presentation from Sr Catherine Clark rsj answering questions about Mary MacKillop and her commitment to social justice. Sr Catherine has a phenomenal grasp of history and we were educated, inspired and challenged by her stories of Mary's vision and courage to challenge the attitudes of her time and fight against what was oppressive and unjust. We followed this presentation with a light meal, and I think we left feeling that we had all had a fitting celebration of Mary's feast day.

To visit further our *Josephites Jumping into Justice*, following the 8th of the month September Mass in the Chapel, we again

invited representatives from the Mercy House of Welcome. Sr Denise Mackay rsj (second from the left in the photo below) and 2 young refugees shared their stories and their struggles. Their stories really hit deep, and for many of us they were ashamedly unfamiliar stories! After a soup and roll lunch, those present dug deep and we presented our visitors with \$350.00.



A trip to the Clare Valley, on Saturday 6th October, has almost brought our year to a close. Twelve of us travelled by bus from Adelaide to the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Sevenhill. Others drove from Adelaide and areas such as Saddleworth, Clare, Wallaroo and Kadina. Mary Hemmings and Sr Majella O'Sullivan rsj explored aspects of the life and legacy of Mary MacKillop through images and storytelling. It was a peaceful and inspiring day in what can easily be called *God's country*.

A gathering of over 20 people in October in the Riverland listened to and shared with Mary Hemmings and Carla Mastrangelo about Mary MacKillop and the Josephite spirit, especially evident in this country area. Having 3 people from Timor-Leste present at this gathering enabled further insights to be shared. To work in two of our country areas, Clare and the Riverland, within October was a great privilege.

In November our Leadership Team gathered to plan for 2019. We hope to include more country visits in the year ahead as we continue to provide opportunities for our Associates to gather, share and inspire each other to:

*'make a difference in our local area
and so further the reign of God'*.



**We wish all of our Josephite Associates and your families
the peace and joy of Christmas and
many blessings in the year ahead.**



Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

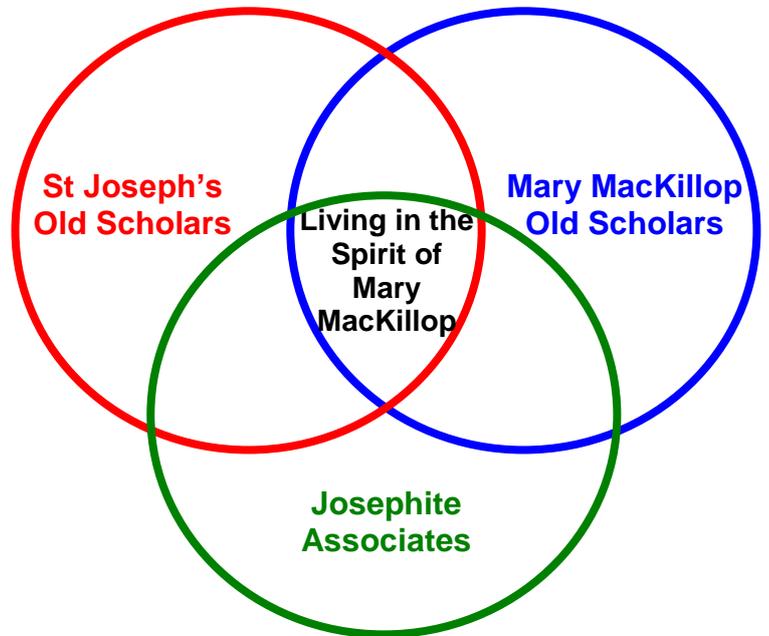
Saturday 8th December 2018

Bethany Centre
4 High St
Kensington

10.30am Mass in the Chapel followed by a light lunch

Lunch hosted by the **St Joseph's Old Scholars**, the **Mary MacKillop Old Scholars** and the **Josephite Associates**.

Come celebrate Mass, then join us in Bethany for a simple Christmas gathering. In the spirit of Mary MacKillop, whose life focus was serving those most in need, you are invited to bring along a non-perishable food item or a small donation to support the **Hutt St Centre** in their care of the homeless of Adelaide.



Josephites Jumping into Justice
2019 Launch of:

Saturday 23rd February 2019
Bethany Centre
From 2pm

'Fanning the Flame of Friendship'

What is it about Mary MacKillop and her story that captures each of us?

Listen to inspiring stories and share in afternoon tea.

RSVP & enquiries:
Mary – 0417 871 904

“We are but travellers here.” MMK 1866

By Therese Meyers



We travelled from various locations along the Horrocks Highway: from Adelaide and from Wallaroo, and near and far from Clare, and we all met at the Jesuit Spirituality Centre in Sevenhill. We travelled there in October to be spiritually nurtured in God’s dream for each one of us.

With the leadership of Mary Hemmings and Sr Majella O’Sullivan rsj, the day offered the opportunity to discover or be reinvigorated in God’s dream for us and our vision for life. The contemporary context for this was that Pope Francis prayed in May this year that we, the lay faithful, will fulfil our specific missions, with creativity. We only need to travel in the footsteps of our St Mary of the Cross! It was very grounding to be reminded that our mission now is the same as it was for Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods, and for Saints Peter

and Paul before them, and for Jesus who joined us in humanity, **as we are all on God’s mission.** The scented wisteria, the rolling hills, the roaming cattle and the sunshine of the day were able to provide the sort after kick-start to be creative about our own personal missions in our own time and places.

Imagine yourself present in the scene beautifully portrayed in Jan Williamson’s 2016 painting of Mary and Julian, who determinedly had set their sights on supporting the poorest of the poor. Step back to their time 1866 ... step back into 2018 ... as Vatican II demanded of all religious orders – be clear about Mary and Julian’s charism. Revel in this: *we are all Josephites*, as we were all assured. We returned to our homes, challenged to have confident trust in God, to have the faith and courage to risk suffering and failure, to respect the dignity of each person, to maintain a simplicity of lifestyle and to offer companionable support to those we encounter and to those in need.



IJALT Report by Mary Hemmings – Chairperson

In October our International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) had a very productive meeting in Sydney. The development of programs that will assist both new and ongoing Associates to continue developing their understanding of what it means to be an Associate, living in the spirit of Mary MacKillop, was one focus.

In the past, Associates came to be through their association with the Sisters; today we as Associates also ‘carry the story’ in our hearts

and so we need to work on how each of us can enable others to become a part of this story.

Communication with over 2,500 Associates spread across 5 countries is an ongoing challenge as we try to keep all included. Those on email would have received a letter regarding our ‘branding’ (naming and logo) and our need to become sustainable through our subscriptions in the future. We ask that you share this with others not on email and provide any feedback for our future discussions.

“Short but Sweet” by Carla Mastrangelo

On a fine weekend in October, Mary Hemmings and I travelled to the Riverland. Our trip coincided with the Rose Festival and we were delighted at seeing all the large and colourful blooms.

Our reason in visiting this beautiful part of South Australia was to give a presentation on the life and legacy of Mary MacKillop and information about the Josephite Associates.

In our talk, we spoke about the beginnings of the Sisters of St Joseph and some of the significant events in the history of the Order. We



looked at the local Catholic schools around the Riverland, the influence the Sisters had in their formation and the legacy they have left the community. We discussed how the Order has spread throughout Australia and overseas including New Zealand, Peru, Brazil and Timor-Leste.

A number of Timorese were working in the Riverland at the time and a few joined us for the presentation. A larger group sang at Mass that weekend, singing in Tetum, their local language, and the passion in their voices was evident. Mary included some insights from her trip to Timor-Leste last year with photos showing places she visited and people she met along the way.

After the presentation we all enjoyed a delicious lunch put on by the local parishioners. This was a good opportunity to get to know and talk with some of the locals. Many thanks to everyone for making us feel so welcome.



Josephite Associate Privacy Policy

The information provided here is an abridged version. Please refer to the July edition of the IJALT newsletter for the full policy.

The information that we have about our Josephite Associates includes names, postal addresses and/or email addresses and telephone numbers. This information is stored at our local level and on a common database in the Congregational Leadership Office in North Sydney. Information will be updated as Associates provide us with relevant details.

Only members of our SA Leadership Team,

IJALT members and the Secretary, who has been delegated by the Congregational Leadership Team, have access to the database. No information will be given to other organisations.

IJALT is committed to protecting the privacy of personal information which the Josephite Associate Movement collects, holds and administers.

Stamps for the Missions

Stamps which are donated are then processed, parcelled up and sold at auction. The money raised goes to **Mary MacKillop Today** (formerly Mary MacKillop International) for the missions in Brazil, Peru and Timor-Leste. 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

Recycle your Newsletter

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

Josephite Associates SA

Statement of Income and Expenditure for 1st July 2017 to 30th June 2018

INCOME		
Opening Balance 1/7/2017		2,513.65
Subscriptions	1,355.00	
Fundraising	1,243.45	
Bank Interest	2.91	
TOTAL INCOME	2,601.36	5,115.01
EXPENDITURE		
Sydney Conference expenses from last year	360.00	
Publishing costs (stamps & envelopes) & expenses	783.00	
Sr Katrina van Ruth for Peru (2016/2017 fundraising)	1,000.00	
TOTAL EXPENDITURE	2,143.00	2,143.00
TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENDITURE		2,972.01
CLOSING BALANCE – Statement dated 30/6/2018		2,972.01

Post July (hence not included in this statement) we have allocated the following fundraising amounts: \$550 to the Mary MacKillop Museum, \$500 to Catherine House and \$300 to the Mercy House of Welcome.

Julie Langman, Treasurer 20/8/2018

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Associate Subscriptions for 2018 – 2019

Title: _____ Name: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Would you prefer the newsletter sent via email? Yes No

Telephone: Home: _____ Mobile: _____

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which helps us to remain in contact with you. To make it easier for you to pay your subs, our banking details are included to enable a direct payment over the internet or to make a payment at any BankSA branch.

BankSA BSB Number: 105-087
 Account Number: 039066240
 Account Name: RSJ Associates SA

Your payment covers, primarily, postage and donations to Josephite ministries. Thank you. We are trying to keep our postage expenditure down as more Associates provide email addresses.

Payment Amount: \$20.00 \$15.00 \$30.00 Other Amount: _____

Payment Method: Cash Cheque BankSA deposit/transfer
(payable to RSJ Associates SA)

Please post this form to: Julie Langman, 16 Greenwood Cres, Glenalta, 5052
 (Especially if you are paying by bank deposit/transfer as you may not be able to include all your details)

Our Josephite Partners

Living in the Spirit of Mary MacKillop

• St Joseph's Old Scholars Association

An Old Scholar is anyone (female or male) who has ever been connected to a Josephite school or college in Australia, as a student or teacher.

Our Association has been in existence for over 100 years. Our 3 functions for 2019 are:

- Sunday 7th April
2pm Mass in St Joseph's Chapel
Followed by afternoon tea in the Bethany Centre
- Wednesday 5th June
12pm Luncheon at the Hampstead Hotel
- Wednesday 9th October
12pm Luncheon at the Lockley's Hotel

For further information contact Josie: 8295 3667 or josievp.44@gmail.com

• Mary MacKillop Old Scholars Association

The Association continues the friendships and encourages the building of life-long networks amongst past students and staff after high school. It also fosters justice and compassion, hospitality and concern for those in need and has a special relationship with the Sisters of St Joseph.

Everyone is very welcome to the Annual Reunion which will be on Friday 25th October next year.

Newsletters and our popular Facebook group (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/179768134304>) keep people in touch with each other. Make contact and share your news.

• Mary MacKillop Precinct

1. Our 3 Venues

Comprising Bethany Centre, Mary MacKillop Museum Adelaide and St Joseph's Chapel. The Chapel is open every day whereas the Museum is still closed until renovations are complete. To make contact please telephone 8130 5900.

2. Monthly Mass (10.30am) & Reflection (5.45pm)

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel

December	Saturday, 8/12/2018	Mass & Reflection
January	N/A	no Mass, no Reflection
February	Friday, 8/2/2019	Mass & Reflection
March	Friday, 8/3/2019	Mass & Reflection

3. Advent Stillness – led by Sr Mary Ryan rsj



*Be still... reflect...
...and find peace.*

*Weekly Friday evening
Advent Reflections*

In St Joseph's Chapel

Friday, November 30
then December 7, 14 & 21
5.45pm - 6.30pm

Allow yourself to be gently led through this time of Advent Stillness in the silence and peace of Mary MacKillop's much loved place of prayer.

*You're invited! All are welcome to this quiet place.
No registration or cost*

Mary MacKillop and Social Justice



by Sr Catherine Clark rsj

The evening talk on the 8th August was based around three questions:

1. What was it in Mary MacKillop's own life that made her so committed to social justice?
2. What was it in Australian society at the time, especially that of South Australia, that made the need so great?
3. As a consequence of Mary MacKillop's own experience and the circumstances of her time, how else did she respond, and what did such a response cost her and her early companions?

The answer to the first question began with a quote from *In an Australian Catholic Social Justice Council Occasional Paper*, written by Geoffrey Hull. He comments that "Mary MacKillop never knew wealth or material comfort in her life, either as the eldest daughter of a Scottish immigrant family fallen on hard times, or as a professed religious."

Issues addressed were the bright future that seemed possible at the time of her birth, which took a disastrous turn by the time she was three months old. Attention was drawn to her father's financial difficulties which resulted in the loss of their home and their long list of moves throughout country Victoria, to Sydney and back to suburban Melbourne, mostly living with relatives. This led to Mary's later statement "My life as a child was one of sorrow. My home, when I had it, a most unhappy one."

At sixteen years of age Mary commenced a period of providing for her family through her various jobs as nursery governess, employee with Sands and Kenny, governess and school teacher in Portland and her move to Penola at the invitation of Fr Julian Tenison Woods to take over the Catholic school there. This led to Mary's meeting with Bishop Sheil and his greeting of her as Sr Mary, his appointment of Fr Woods as Director of Catholic Education and the beginning of a new religious congregation. This first question was concluded by a description of Mary's move to Adelaide to begin the first Diocesan system of Catholic education.

The answer to the second question explored the beginnings of Catholic Education in South Australia, and the failure of the church to attract religious congregations to begin schools. It described the early attempts at Catholic Education and the difficulties encountered. It then went on to describe the beginning of the system of Catholic education, which the foundation of the Sisters of St Joseph enabled to happen.

The third question addressed the foundation of the other works of justice founded by the Sisters of St Joseph. These included visiting the sick, especially those in prison, or offering help and consolation to anyone in difficulty. This finally resulted in the story of the foundations of the Orphanage, the Refuge and the Providence.

All those present were then invited to discuss 2 further questions:

4. Is the call to social justice today the same as it was in Mary MacKillop's time? What makes it similar? What makes it different?
5. To what are we called today?

This proved a good opportunity for an interesting discussion. I hope the last question gives you, the reader, something to think about and act upon during the Christmas season. God bless.