

IJALT Meeting

20-22 January 2019

In January Catherine Birt from New Zealand and myself were privileged to be invited to be a part of the first IJALT meeting for 2019, held at Mount St North Sydney.

We were welcomed by the team who have been working very hard, under the direction of Sr Moya Campbell rsj, to work towards the Josephite Associates/Companions to become a flourishing, sustainable, autonomous group, into the future. This is a very exciting time to be Josephite Associate (Companion in New Zealand) a time for all of us to consciously live out the Charism and Spirituality of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

For many years the Sisters of St Joseph have nurtured and assisted in the expansion of the Associate groups throughout Australia, New Zealand, Timor Leste, Peru and Scotland. Now it is our turn to take on the responsibility of passing on the Josephite story and charism. The members of IJALT are a very dedicated and generous group who are providing the framework for this to happen. During the last two years they have almost completed a review of our current documentation as well as producing all that is required now for organisations. We will soon have access to materials that will provide all associates with a common Formation Program and Administrative Handbook.

It was not all hard work, on Monday morning Daniel Ang, a most inspiring young man from the Diocese of Broken Bay, shared with us a positive outlook on the future of the Church in Australia. Daniel reminded us that as Josephite Associates we have something great to share, a way of being that can make our world a better place.

As Pope Francis wrote in *Evangelii Gaudium* “What are we waiting for?”

Noreen McLeish
Hamilton Vic



Back Row: Catherine Birt, Beverly Badcock, Anne-Marie Wilkinson, Pauline McGuire, Noreen McLeish
Front Row: Moya Campbell rsj, Mary Hemmings, Helen Dougherty