



Summer 2019

December 2019 Newsletter

IJALT Visits the Regions

By Mary Hemmings

During 2019 members of the International Josephite Associate Leadership Team (IJALT) visited different regions across Australia and New Zealand. On Saturday 16th November Anne-Marie Wilkinson presented to Associates in Adelaide. Though only a very small group was able to attend, hopefully those present gained further insights into who we are as Associates and the role IJALT has in this story.

Following is an outline of some key points shared at this session. Four key foci were named and elaborated. (From *Global Sisters Report* 9th Jan 2018: Sr Joan Chittester, Benedictine Sister, to Oblates (Associates) in 2017.)

1. Why do we (Associates) exist?

"To give new life, wider space, new depth and stretch to the charism of Mary MacKillop (and Julian Tenison Woods) and so create one great flame that the rest of Australia/the world can feel and see it lived and so themselves imagine another way to be alive." (based on a statement by Sr Joan Chittester)

2. Where do we come from?

- Jesus
- Peter, Paul and company
- Mary and Julian
- Us



Ultimately, we trace our origins back to **Jesus** who came to share God's mission with us. The early **apostles** continued what Jesus began, as did **Mary and Julian** in the 1800's and today **WE** are the carriers of the Good News. Together with the Sisters, we Associates live the Gospel with a Josephite heart.

3. Who are we?

We are faith-filled carriers of the spirit of Mary and Julian... *living this charism in our daily lives in our own unique way. We support one another by friendship, prayer and service to make a difference in our local area and so further the reign of God.* (Josephite Associates' Mission Statement)



*'May God bless
and keep you and
give you courage.'*
MMK 1875

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*"Take refuge in the heart of Jesus in
all your cares."
JTW 1872*

We are also from many places and cultures: Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Timor-Leste and Scotland.

4. What must we do?

Mary MacKillop took risks... stepped out of the norm... into an unknown future...

We, too, need to step into an unknown future...

We are living in an ever-changing world...

We need to continue to evolve to be relevant...

"That the lay faithful may fulfil their specific mission by responding with creativity to the challenges that face the world today." Pope Francis 2018

We are Church...

Can we make a difference in our world... be a part of renewing our Church so that together we can make God's mission alive?

Associates are involved at **local, regional and international** levels.

Some Challenges for Associates/IJALT:

- Change... remaining relevant today.
- Name... do we remain *Associate* or change to *Companion*?
- "Growing" our Movement... how do we invite others into our story?
- Mary MacKillop: *Saint for All Australians*... do we reflect our multi-cultural communities?
- Finances... becoming sustainable and viable.

In July 2020 our Associates' three yearly Conference: "**Be Courageous and Full of Hope**" will be held in Adelaide. This will be a great opportunity to break open these challenges and discern how we as a Movement goes forward into the future. See the Flyer and Expression of Interest in our IJALT Newsletter (sent by email or enclosed with the postal newsletter).



The '3 Groups'

You would have read that sometimes the '3 Groups', namely, St Joseph's Old Scholars, Mary MacKillop Old Scholars and the Josephite Associates come together to host events. For over a year now the '3 Groups' have been meeting regularly to see how we can support each other and continue to work *In the Spirit of Mary MacKillop*.

At one of our meetings this year we were inspired by our facilitator, Helen Smith, who presented the following information to us. It is an interesting approach to life from which we all can benefit.

Resilience doesn't mean the person doesn't feel the intensity of the event or problem. Instead, it just means that they've found a pretty good way of dealing with it more quickly than others.



Something to think about isn't it?



Saturday 15th February 2019

*Bethany Centre
4 High St, Kensington*

From 2pm

The Josephite Associates of SA invite you to the

Launch of our 2020 year with the theme...

Be COURAGEOUS and FULL OF HOPE!

We are faith-filled carriers of the spirit of Mary MacKillop and Julian Tenison Woods.

We are the Church in a changing world.

How are **we** instruments of courage and hope?

Come and Listen... Come and Share...

Afternoon tea will follow. Please RSVP Mary on 0417 871 904 or email sa.associates@sosj.org.au by Friday 7th February.

All are welcome. So, come along, bring a friend!

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Associate Subscriptions for 2019 – 2020

The Leadership Team sincerely thanks you for paying your subscription, which enables 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.

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Opening and Blessing of the Redeveloped Mary MacKillop Museum

by Julie Langman

After much waiting and anticipation, the day finally arrived! The redeveloped Mary MacKillop Museum was officially opened and blessed on Sunday 1st December 2019. The ceremony was conducted in the Mary MacKillop College Gymnasium. Following the 'Welcome to Country' by Dr Lewis O'Brien, Sr Monica Cavanagh rsj, Congregational Leader of the Josephites, gave the opening address.

The Museum is bright and new with integrated contemporary digital technologies. Sr Monica described it as educational, inspiring, enlightening, unique and engaging. The Museum, and future walking trail, will radiate the love and courage of Mary MacKillop and her Sisters, as well as documenting their care and compassion for all people. It tells Mary's South Australian story and the stories of some of the earlier Sisters, as well as the stories of Mary's early friends and supporters.

Following a scripture reading from the Book of Psalms, Bishop Greg O'Kelly gave a reflection inspired by both the reading and a letter written by Mary MacKillop to her Sisters in 1891, on

the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the congregation where Mary wrote:

"Little did either of us know what was to spring from so small a beginning."

His Excellency, Governor Hieu Van Le, also spoke about the need to share Mary's story and legacy. We could all do well to learn from Mary MacKillop to be a 'gift' to one another and to all Australia.

The Governor and Sr Monica unveiled the commemorative plaque, which will be installed in the foyer of the Mary MacKillop Museum, and Bishop Greg blessed the plaque.

Sr Margaret Cleary rsj, Regional Leader of the CentreWest Region, concluded with a vote of thanks to the myriad of people who have helped bring the dream of the redeveloped Museum to fruition, especially Sr Mary Ryan who has been instrumental. Sr Margaret also thanked the students from Mary MacKillop College who provided the beautiful music on the day and assisted with the afternoon tea which followed, and which was enjoyed by all.



Photo by In-House Imaging.
Used with permission.



Renmark Celebrates 100 Years! by Mary O'Donnell

Over one weekend in October this year, Renmark celebrated 100 years of Catholic Education. The weekend started with Holy Mass celebrated by Bishop Greg O'Kelly in St Teresa's Church followed by supper, speeches and a display of memorabilia in the nearby Catholic Hall. The school was also open for visits where there were more memorabilia along with a sausage sizzle on the Sunday afternoon. There was a dinner at the Renmark Club on the Sunday night, where I was invited to be one of the guest speakers. Here is an abridged version of that speech...

I am standing here tonight because I am one of the oldest scholars still around to share my memories with you. My first memory takes me back to thinking that I must have been a bit of a problem child, as Mum asked Sister Mel if I could start school before I turned 5, so I had the last term of 1943 at school in the Hall before I was officially enrolled in 1944 at the school in 12th Street. In those days you had a year in the Babies, then Grade 1 and Grade 2. Sister Maura was our teacher. We made our First Communion in Grade 2.

There were 16 students in our class, and it was the largest class to go through the school in the late 40s and early 50s. I was born in 1939 and those of us who are left have turned or are turning 80 this year. I would like to pay tribute to those who have left us too soon – Wendy Beard, Nessie Telfer, Barry Aston, Dick Vigar and Louis Chizmesya.

We had Sister Mercedaes in Years 3, 4 and 5 and Sister Cassian from Year 6 onwards. Sister Cassian taught Years 6/7, First Year, Second Year, Intermediate and Leaving all in the one room. It was not until I started my teaching career that I realised what a huge job she had at the time. No wonder she was so strict!

The first Sisters I can remember were Sisters Mel and Bernardine (after whom Bernardine Lynch was named). She was closely followed by Sisters Jerome, Maura, Mildred and Marie Therese. Sr Marie Therese (Joan Barry) is with us today. She was only with us for a short time but left a huge impression on me. I remember she had the strange combination of Years 4 and Secondary. She was a very young nun at the time, and we loved her. I still do and look on her as my mentor. Sr Joan turned 98 this year, and when I asked her what she did for her birthday she said, "Oh, they took me to the football to see Port Power play." What a lady! Another beautiful nun we had was Sister Charlotte.

My First Communion day is etched in my mind – girls in white dresses and veils and the boys in white shirts and grey trousers, with the Communion breakfast in the Hall. I still have my certificate and my prayer book. The Communion classes before ours all went to the Giles Property for a picnic and I remember feeling disappointed when that was discontinued, but our breakfast, prepared by our mothers, was superb. When thinking about Confirmation many old family names came up like, Maddigans, Nugents, Schirmers, Lynns, Whalens and O'Loughlins and many others – they were our sponsors. We were confirmed by Bishop Gallagher.

A highlight of the school year was Sports Day. There were two teams, St Teresa's who were blue and pink and St Francis Xavier's who were green and gold. We all had yellow and grey sports uniforms. The first part of the day was when we presented items like Irish dancing, Spanish dancing with castanets, dancing round the Maypole, and a gymnastic spectacular, where we got to wear huge cuffs made out of cardboard. The boys did the pyramids, and who can forget the club swinging which I can still do to this day. We did a lot of practising before sports day. The second half was devoted to sports which started with a march with the Captain carrying the banner and the vice- captain carrying the ball.



Mary and Sr Joan

In the Footsteps of Jesus by Bridgette Barrett

Earlier this year Mary O'Donnell and I were privileged to travel to Jordan and Israel on the *Footsteps of Jesus Tour*, a *Harvest* pilgrimage, which we highly recommend. The group was led by Fr Anthoni Adamai in the company of 20 other Hectorville and Tranmere parishioners.

There was a highlight every day – see the photos below. We were able to celebrate Mass daily – mostly in outdoor settings – and pray the Rosary on a regular basis as well as morning and evening prayers. There was much shared hospitality, a time to get to know and care for each other and reflect on the life and times of Jesus and the great gifts that His life gave, and continues to give, as we participate in our own journey.



A shepherd in Nazareth. This is a working village illustrating aspects of life in the first century.



With the great St Joseph at his house.



Mary at the Stella Maris Monastery – Elijah's cave, Mt Carmel.



A natural cave at Shepherds' Field which now has a chapel for pilgrims to attend Mass. The field has been identified as the scene where the Angel of the Lord visited the shepherds and informed them of Jesus' birth.



Mass at Bethany beyond the Jordan where Jesus was baptised.



Dining at a Nazarene village.



On the Sea of Galilee.

This bronze statue of Jesus was very confronting. The dimensions were taken from the Holy Shroud of Turin and shows the marks inflicted by the soldiers as per the marks identified by the shroud.



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. We have three functions every year:

Mass – April

Winter Luncheon – June

Spring Luncheon – October

For information about dates in 2020 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 Dinner which is held on the last Friday in October.

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 and St Joseph's Chapel.
Telephone 8130 5900 for all enquiries.

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

Venue: St Joseph's Chapel – open every day

December	Sunday, 8/12/2019	Reflection ONLY
January	Wednesday, 8/1/2020	No Mass, No Reflection
February	Saturday, 8/2/2020	Mass & Reflection
March	Sunday, 8/3/2020	Reflection ONLY

3. *Mary MacKillop Museum is now **OPEN!***

The Museum is open Tuesday – Sunday, from 10am – 4pm. There are 2 galleries to explore and a gift shop you can visit and make purchases.

4. *2020 Josephite Calendar – only \$8 each!*

Order form available from our website www.marymackillopdeladeide.org.au or visit the Mary MacKillop Museum.

***"I knew God would take care of all and
make everything right in the end."***

MMK 1892

Mary MacKillop

At Christmas Time



Introduction

“As Christians we are joyful because we are looking forward to celebrating that the Word became flesh, that God entered our world in the person of Jesus, that Jesus was full of ‘grace and truth’, that His humble birth gave such glory to God and hope to the world.

We are joyful too because... we have celebrated God incarnate in the person and life of St Mary of the Cross MacKillop. We have rejoiced in our Australian woman whose life and legacy bring the hope of God’s love into a world too often marked by sadness, poverty, violence and despair.” (excerpts from a letter written by Sr Anne Derwin rsj 2010)

Scripture

While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn. (Luke 2:6-7)

Reflection

“As we contemplate the Christmas story, we are invited to set out on a spiritual journey, drawn by the humility of the God who became man in order to encounter every man and woman. We come to realise that so great is his love for us that he became one of us, so that we in turn might become one with him.” (Pope Francis 2019)

From the Pen of Mary MacKillop

“Lying upon the straw of Bethlehem, Jesus does not only preach humility, but gives a perfect example of obedience and charity.” (1897)

Prayer

Loving God, Joseph listened and obeyed.

May we be open to the good news of the gospel and encourage each other when anxieties seem to be overwhelming. *Loving God hear our prayer.*

Creator God, Mary is the mother of Jesus your Son.

May we be faith-filled participants of your creation and offer hospitality and consolation to those in need. *Creator God hear our prayer.*

Glorious God, the terrified shepherds were amazed.

May we reach out to others, especially during this Christmas season, and bring about healing and hope through our words and actions. *Glorious God hear our prayer.*



Wishing all Associates,
together with family and friends,
a very happy and holy Christmas and
blessings for the New Year.