

ANMAREE IACCARINO - RETIREMENT SPEECH ON BEHALF OF ALL  
THE STAFF FOR MR. GARRY MCLEAN.

3 March 2021 at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, East Melbourne.

*Anmaree Addressing Garry:*

How blessed we have all been to have you as our boss, Garry.

The perfect gentleman, so very kind, always respectful. You took time to affirm and thank us for work done well. You took time to get to know us. Sharing births, deaths, and marriages and everything in-between. You genuinely cared for our welfare and met any concerns with compassion. We Thank-you.

And yet you set high standards

Firstly, as caretaker of these buildings.

As Anne points out, you were part of the team that put new vigour into this establishment. And how beautifully and thoughtfully this was done. But it was Mary MacKillop who bought the land from Dr Howitt and had the Providence built in 1902. And, of course Dr. Howitt's residence dates back to 1870.

These buildings are therefore over 100 years old. Being Heritage listed buildings places a greater onus on the caretaker as they require enormous attention to maintenance. Garry you have maintained the Centre with great pride. Every space, perhaps with the small exception of the Education Office, (a small blight on your record) has been kept immaculate. Having done so, you have allowed the sacredness of the MMHC to shine through.

High standards were also set for all our programs and operation whether is be admin, hospitality or education. The MMHC, is held in high esteem. Repeat visits, by both users of the accommodation facilities and schools bringing their students are a testament to this. We have schools that have attended every year (last year being an exception) since the Centre's opening in 2008/9. Only last week I was on the phone to a principal of a school in Monbulk. He was organising a staff reflection day. He told me he had only heard positive things about the place. This success did not arrive by accident. You always paid attention to detail. Taking care that rooms were set up correctly - moving chairs and tables, data projectors and the like, but also ensuring we had the support we needed to deliver our programs and services to a high standard. Garry you are retiring on your own terms. You are leaving a loyal staff. A happy

staff. A team that is proud of their work and workplace. I couldn't think of a better testament to the success of your years as our boss.

Just a couple of weeks ago Garry was in our Education office and he launched into what only could be described as an Irish Jig. – rather uncharacteristic... No doubt the unwind had begun and Garry, you were dreaming of endless days of sleep-ins and that MMHC mobile phone being officially detached from your hip.

... No more call outs in the middle of the night for a burst water pipe in archives or delinquent men rapping on the Centre's door.

...No need to respond to fire-alarms going off unexpectedly.

...No longer do you have to solve the problem of possums munching on our much-loved flora

I definitely think an Irish JIG was in order.

Garry, we want to wish you every happiness in this new stage in your life.

We wish you many hours barracking for your beloved Geelong and Melbourne Storm.

We wish you continue to have many opportunities to enjoy watching the Australian Tennis Open finals.

We hope it is very soon you set your sights again on the White Cliffs of Dover and that get to enjoy the hospitality of Irish Castles.

From all of us Congratulations. From all of us Thank-you.

A speech wouldn't be complete without some quotes, so, in the words of Mary MacKillop... 'GO ON', have a blast. Well, Mary didn't say 'have a blast' but I am sure she would approve.

And in the words of St Paul...

**I do not cease to give thanks for you as I remember you in my prayers."**

God bless Garry.

EPHESIANS 1:16 (NIV)