



Towards the end of 2023, our school began the process of consultation, design and construction of a carved entranceway -

We wanted to have an entranceway that represented our school as both a Catholic school and a school in Aotearoa New Zealand. Over the last few years, our staff and students have learnt a lot more about local history and mana whenua (hapu and iwi). These local stories and history have become important to us, as too our charism and special Catholic character history.



Master carver Simon Lardelli, who also completed the Campion College waharoa, supplied the totara wood and carved our waharoa. This culturally significant piece of work represents both our Catholic ory.

-a-Kiwa, Paoa and Kiwa. The cross bars at the top (maihi) are shaped to represent the two waka that landed here, Horouta and Takitimu. The design on the maihi is called kakano which represents the seeds of future generations. It also refers to the gaining of knowledge students get when they come to our Josephite charism engraved in it. The top of the tekoteko is for God. Mother Mary, who is the patron of our school, is in the centre and she is cloaked in Te Wairua Tapu, the Holy Spirit. This aptly resembles the shape of a dove.



Father Mark blessing the waharoa at dawn

The carved tekoteko

School and Campion

You will see that our founding charism of the Josephites is still alive and well in our schools.



J J J engraved in the tekoteko

Yours in Christ
Helen (Perky) McGuigan
Principal & Josephite Companion

MARY MACKILLOP'S FEASTDAY AT MISSION BAY

Quite a number of Sisters, Companions and friends gathered for an evening ritual on Mary Mackillop's feast day at Mission Bay. We thought about the way Mary displayed courage and the way she had the ability to lift people's spirits, helping them to find meaning and purpose in their lives.

Our world is in need of much courage at the moment with many wars, famine, devastation and pain. We lit candles as we thought of those who have also been inspirations of courage for us today – Suzanne Aubert, Whina Cooper, Irene McCormack and Pope Francis as well as Julian and Mary.

Our time together ended with wonderful Josephite hospitality – delicious soup and hot rolls. Just right for a winter's night. Many thanks to all who helped.



Chris Wilson and Cathy Allen from Hibiscus Coast with Rosa from Christ the King school.



RIP Deepest sympathy to the family and friends of Pat Lythe who died recently. Pat told me that although she wasn't actually a Josephite Companion she loved getting our prayer sheets. We give thanks for all the work she did unstintingly for the Church

Venerable Suzanne Aubert Meri Hōhepa

Suzanne Aubert (1835–1926) lived a life of heroic service and compassion. The Sisters of Compassion and the Bishops of New Zealand ask us to pray for the beatification of Suzanne Aubert

The celebration day for Suzanne Aubert is the 6th October. We remember that she was very much involved with the Josephite Sisters in the early days in Whanganui

From the History of Suzanne Aubert

“In 1883 a new chapter began in Suzanne's life when the opportunity came to revive the Catholic Mission on the Whanganui River. Together with Father Soulas, and three Sisters of St Joseph of Nazareth, she set up base at the isolated Māori village of Hiruhārama, 80 kilometres up the Whanganui River. The Sisters remained there with Suzanne for a year before returning to Whanganui.”



The next newsletter and prayer sheet will be distributed at the beginning of December. If you have a change of address or any copy for the next issue, please contact Catherine Birt at P.O. Box 830 Whangaparaoa 0949 or crbirt@gmail.com or phone 027 294 785