

## OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE, HEIDELBERG

On the sun-filled morning of 21 November 2011, the OLMC community were delighted to officially open and bless our new Centenary Building. We were joined by Sr Kath Tierney and members of the Melbourne Mercy Congregation Leadership Team, six former College Principals, members of Mercy Education Limited, our School Council members and members of OLMC's Centenary Committee and Past Pupils Association. ►



## MERCEDES COLLEGE, VICTORIA SQUARE

Mercedes College, Australia's oldest girls' college still on the original site, opened its doors to its latest and most modern learning environment in a ceremony on Tuesday (7 February) performed by the Archbishop of Perth, Most Reverend Barry James Hickey.

The new buildings include stylish coloured glazing in the window design and feature brick and limestone

elements; a feature of some of the historic College buildings. Two beautiful stained glass windows, which Sr Mollie Wright (Principal 1978-1996), retrieved from a Sisters of Mercy Convent in the UK many years ago, now have a new home on the western end of the building providing an historical link to the College's beautiful heritage buildings. ►

Most Reverend Barry James Hickey, Archbishop of Perth with students and Ben Bull, Head of RE



Serisier Learning Centre

Principal, Sheena Barber, with Mercy Education Board Director, Dr John Brick and Mercedes College Prefects





# EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter for 2012.

Exciting times are with us as the new Institute of the Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea takes shape, new Community Leaders assume their trusted positions in each of the six regions across the country and Mercy colleges across Victoria and Perth begin to work together in partnership. Already staff from the WA Colleges have joined with teachers in Victoria at a Mercy Formation Day. Directors of Mercy Education have held a Board meeting in Perth in March and while there, conducted reviews and appraisals for two Principals and a Deputy Principal. Next edition we will feature the most successful Mercy Formation Day, attended by 450 teaching and non-teaching staff, with Mary Duffy rsm and Marilyn Lacey rsm from California, as the two most engaging keynote speakers.

Once again in this edition we acknowledge the compassion and commitment of our Mercy students as they carry on the works of Catherine McAuley in serving those most needy in our communities. Staff from the nine Victorian Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored schools were proud to award the 2011 Mercy scholarships, singly or jointly, to these most worthy students. We look forward next year to also featuring the recipients of the Mercy scholarships from Mercedes College, Santa Maria College and St Brigid's College in WA.

Our Colleges continue to provide excellent facilities for learning and teaching for our students and staff, and most often without Commonwealth or State capital grants. OLMC Heidelberg proudly opened its new Centenary Building in November last year and Mercedes College, Victoria Square was privileged to have Archbishop Hickey, in one of his final official duties, bless the impressive recent capital development project incorporating the Serisier Learning Centre and Coady Sports Centre. We look forward to featuring in our next edition, the blessing and opening of the One World Centre at St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie. Board Directors were thrilled to be able to be represented at both of these events.

Finally we welcome new senior staff to their leadership positions for 2012 and wish them every success in their important work in Mercy Education.

God bless

**Eugene Lynch**  
Editor

## BLESSING & OPENING OF OLMC CENTENARY BUILDING

To celebrate this milestone event were local councillors, the architects (Clarke Hopkins Clarke) and builders (Buildcorp Commercial), as well as parish priests and principals from neighbouring parishes and schools. The blessing ceremony was led by Fr Ted Teal, Parish Priest of St John's Heidelberg.

We had watched this building grow when celebrating our centenary in 2010, so it was fitting that it was named in honour of 100 years of learning at OLMC. We believe that the efforts and legacy of the founding Sisters of Mercy and those who succeeded them are in many ways 'aggregated', reflected and honoured in this building.

This is particularly the case for Level One of the three-story building, which we have named the Sr Basil Emoe Science Centre. Sr Basil was the College's first Principal, and her application for teacher registration in 1905 testifies to her qualifications in Electricity, Sound, Light and Heat. Given that Level One houses six state of the art science labs, it seemed a perfect and fitting name for a centre that houses cutting-edge equipment for a wide range of science disciplines, including gene technology and bio chemistry.

The other two levels comprise 16 classrooms and break out areas for Years 7 and 8 students, as well as storage facilities, teacher study areas and meeting rooms. The girls and their families are delighted with the learning spaces, as are their teachers who enjoy the open, light-filled and vibrant ambience. The building augurs well for high quality and contemporary learning and teaching.



Science laboratory in the OLMC Centenary Building

An accompanying highlight on the same morning was the unveiling of the sculpture, the Keeper of the Light, strategically placed between the Centenary Building and some of our older, more established facilities. The sculptor, Pauline Clayton, gave a moving account of the genesis of the artwork and the inspiration she drew from OLMC students in its conception. The unveiling ceremony was enriched by some beautiful Celtic music and dance performed by our performing arts students.

For the community of OLMC the whole event was a long time coming but overwhelmingly gratifying. We continue to be delighted with the many rewards that the Centenary Building is reaping for students and staff, and we are confident that it will serve OLMC well in its next 100 years of learning.



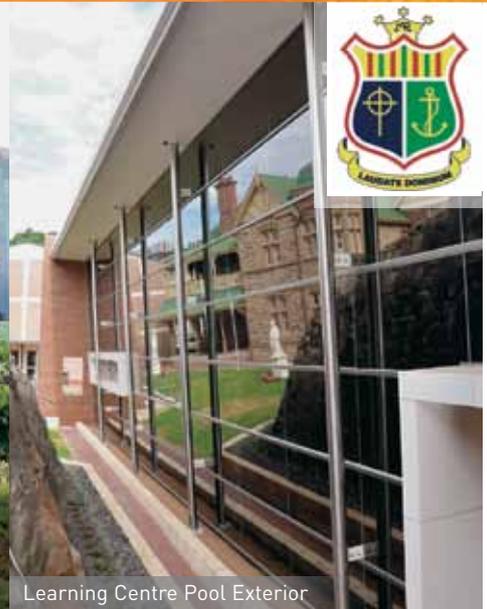
Keeper of the Light sculpture being blessed by Fr Ted Teal



Flexible learning area in the new OLMC Year 7 & 8 Centre



Mercedes College,  
Victoria Square, Perth



Learning Centre Pool Exterior

# HISTORIC BEGINNINGS PAVE WAY FOR MODERN LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

Director of Mercy Education, Dr John Brick and Sr Marie Fitzgerald representing the Institute of the Sisters of Mercy Australia and Papua New Guinea, unveiled the plaque for the buildings of the Stage 1 Capital Development Plan which includes two key structures: the Serisier Learning Centre and the Coady Sports Centre.

The Serisier Learning Centre houses new science laboratories (4), classrooms (8) and breakout spaces built over the renovated, heated indoor pool, and a new Information Technology support office and College Wear Shop which are located on the lower Hay Street level.

The Coady Sports Centre is a spectacular new spacious multi-purpose sports facility catering for a range of indoor sports including netball, basketball, volleyball (a specialist sport), badminton and rhythmic gymnastics. A fully equipped fitness centre which caters for strength and cardio fitness overlooks the sports facility on the Mezzanine level.

The Serisier Learning Centre is named after Sr Mary Dolores Serisier who was Principal of St Joseph's School (one of four schools at Victoria Square) and following the amalgamation of Our Lady's College and St Joseph's in 1967, became Principal of Mercedes Catholic School for Girls.

The Coady Sports Centre is named after Sr Raphael Coady who was involved with Our Lady's College Victoria Square from 1935-1967. She was Principal of Our Lady's College from 1958-1967.



Mercedes College Principal, Sheena Barber with Dr John Brick



Coady Sports Centre

# WELCOME TO NEW SENIOR STAFF



 **Academy of Mary Immaculate**

## KAREN FOGARTY

I still tend to introduce myself as a country girl in the city (despite being Melbourne for a long time now!). My own secondary education was led by the Sisters of St Joseph at MacKillop College, Swan Hill. Then my first teaching appointment was with the Salesians at Rupertswood, Sunbury. I thoroughly enjoyed my time there and still find myself saying at times "I do miss teaching boys". However, after hearing a friend speak so positively about the Academy I sent off my job application. Now, I am centred in Mercy tradition at the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

As someone who has been working at the Academy for eleven years it is exciting to be taking on a new challenge. After one year of employment at the Academy I joined the student support team as the Year 11 Coordinator. Over the years I have also been the Year 11 and 12 Coordinator. Recently I undertook a Head of Department position as the Head of Religious Education and now, this year, the Director of Faith and Mission.

One of the things I value most about working in a Mercy organisation is the ever present reminder to "see the other". We work as educators to develop young women who are equipped to contribute to the world around them. That compassion and care of others in the spirit of Mercy underpins the education of an Academy student is motivating. I never hesitate to tell people that the idea that Mercy graduates will head out in the community, take on leadership positions and influence decisions, keeps me inspired.



 **Academy of Mary Immaculate**

## FRANK BONAVIA

I joined the Catholic system 17 years ago and over that time I have taught in a number of Catholic schools in the Western and Northern suburbs – single sex (both male and female) and co-educational. 2012 sees the beginning of my ninth year at the Academy of Mary Immaculate. I gained my Masters of Educational Leadership in 2011 and have recently been appointed a member of the College Leadership Team.

During my time at the Academy I have undertaken many roles including Head of Department, Learning Technologies Coordinator, Intranet and Website Administrator, TimeTabler and Daily Organiser. My appointment as the Director of School Operations is the combination of the many roles that I have undertaken at the Academy of Mary Immaculate. My background in ICT assists me in my many roles and is where I have been able to offer significant support in the development of the five year ICT Strategic Plan, as well as in the area of Contemporary Learning. This support comes in the form of expertise in resource management, intranet learning support packages, development and training of staff and timetable restructuring.

Apart from my curriculum based roles, I am fortunate to also have the position of McAuley House leader, as well as being a coach for a number of sporting teams. This enables me to have the privilege of interacting with the girls outside the classroom.

At the Academy, we strive to develop resilient woman of Mercy and my roles, both curricular and extra-curricular, allow me to play my part in this process.



 **Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg**

## PATRICIA SWEENEY – HEAD OF LEARNING AND TEACHING

I commenced working at Our Lady of Mercy College in 2008 as Head of Library. Prior to my appointment at OLMC, I had worked in Catholic education in Melbourne for 25 years, in primary, secondary, co-educational, girls and boys schools. My work has largely been in school libraries, but I have also taught Geography and Information Technology.

My experience in school libraries is a great base from which to commence my appointment as Head of Learning and Teaching at OLMC. As a teacher librarian, I have had a whole-school perspective from early in my career and this allowed me to enter into many different subject classrooms across all year levels. Finding resources to assist teachers bring about the best learning and teaching in their classrooms, as well as working as a partner with teachers in their unit planning and delivery, have been invaluable experiences as I embark on this new journey.

I very much value the shared wisdom of my colleagues and over the years have benefitted from gifted and generous mentors who have shared their counsel and insight. I know I am lucky to work with a community of teachers who see themselves as learners and who are passionate about bringing out the best in their students.



 **Mount Lilydale Mercy College**

## JOHN RODGERS – CAMPUS DIRECTOR – MCAULEY CAMPUS

John returns to Mount Lilydale Mercy College after a three year absence (2009 – 2011) where he continued to work in Catholic Secondary Education at Our Lady of Sion College Box Hill. John started his teaching at Mount Lilydale Mercy College in 1989 and has held various leadership positions since 1995 – all dealing with student wellbeing.

A firm believer in empowering the other, one of John's goals for 2012 is to work with students to enhance their leadership potential and skills. Through involvement in activities and connectedness to their College community, John hopes students recognise their education reaches far beyond the classroom.

Dedicated to Catholic Education, John had the good fortune to be sponsored to spend a month in Israel studying the Gospel of Mark in 2011. His studies and time in the Holy Land have enriched his teaching and commitment to interfaith dialogue. An active member of social justice activities, he believes appreciation of and dialogue with other religions and cultures is essential to form understanding and strengthen cooperation among peoples.

John is married with two teenage children that help keep him in touch with the complexities of growing up in today's world.

John is excited to be back in the Mercy community and looks forward to the year ahead.





 **Mount Lilydale  
Mercy College**

**DAVID FINCH –  
DEPUTY PRINCIPAL,  
– DIRECTOR OF  
MISSION**

My wife Liz and I came over to Australia just before starting at Mount Lilydale Mercy College, having taught in England for thirty years. I have always believed in the Catholic sector of Education, which is why I have taught in four schools in different parts of England, including an Ecumenical School (Anglican/Roman Catholic), where I was in charge of the Catholic dimension of the school. I have been Head of Department at two of the schools and worked with the different dioceses in various capacities. I was teaching in my last school in England for twenty years and was Head of Department for thirteen years. For the final seven years I switched directions slightly and was appointed Head of Faith Development, where I had a very satisfying job of developing music and liturgy groups with the students.

As a member of the Mount Lilydale Mercy College Leadership Team, I hope that some of the experiences in my career will be useful in helping develop the College as an institute of learning and as a developing Christian community. I am delighted to have the opportunity and privilege to take up the position of Director of Mission at the College. In my time as RE teacher at the College, I have seen wonderful examples of 'Faith in Action', including the tremendous response to those who suffered in the bushfires, the almost tangible love and support given to all members of the College community following the sudden death of a teacher and colleague, and the many other acts of love performed by staff and students alike. The established social justice activities at the College show that St. James' warning that faith needs to be accompanied by good deeds is definitely 'taken on board'.

Despite the recent 'Ashes' result, Liz and I have received a great welcome since moving over to Australia, in both College and Parish. Three of our four grown up children live here and I am pleased to report that I have not forgotten the skills involved in nappy changing and bath time for our three grandchildren!



 **Sacred Heart  
College Geelong**

**SHARON GILLETT –  
DEPUTY MIDDLE SCHOOL**

It is with great motivation, enthusiasm, optimism and pride that I commence my appointment as Deputy Principal- Middle Years at Sacred Heart College Geelong.

I began my teaching career, very fortunately, at Sacred Heart College as a graduate from Ballarat University in 1990. I then taught Physical Education, Science and Mathematics. Growing up in Geelong, I attended a local State school and always aspired to being a Secondary Educator. My parents instilled in myself and my three siblings a love of learning and always encouraged us to set high standards and work to reach our potential. My father also made sure we all had a dedicated work ethic, something I have put to good use at Sacred Heart College! The amazing sense of community, care and respect that was so very obvious to me when I began work at Sacred Heart is what I realised to be the Mercy Ethos. It is this essence of Mercy that I can honestly say makes a difference in the lives of our students and staff and something I am dedicated to continuing.

My leadership journey began in 1992 when I was given the opportunity to fill the position of Sports Coordinator. My love of sport and immersion in the college ensured that this was a most fulfilling experience. I worked as a Year Level Coordinator across Years 8, 9 and 10 from 1996 to 2008. I completed a Graduate Diploma in Adolescent Health and Welfare through Melbourne University in 2000. In 2008 I took up the opportunity to broaden my leadership experience by moving into the curriculum focussed position of Head of International Baccalaureate Middle Years Program. I am currently completing my Masters in Educational Leadership at ACU. I thank my husband and son for allowing me to strive to achieve my educational and leadership dreams.

My involvement in our college community allows me to pursue my passion for netball where I am our senior netball coach. This passion extends to our local community where I sadly no longer run around the court but still have the most fortunate opportunity to be involved in my local sports club as assistant A grade coach and also as a Life Member.

I am inspired to work in collaboration with my colleagues to achieve our school vision of "Educating girls to make a difference", as well as sharing my own love of life and learning and appreciation of our core values of respect and dignity whilst keeping the vision and dreams of Catherine McAuley alive.



 **Sacred Heart  
College Geelong**

**NATALIE LINEHAN –  
DIRECTOR OF  
TEACHING AND  
LEARNING**

We are delighted that Natalie Linehan has been appointed to the position of Director of Teaching and Learning, Years 7-10. This is an expansion of the role of Head of IBMYP, which Natalie held in an acting capacity last year. Natalie brings her excellent organisational and leadership skills to the role, and, as an outstanding classroom teacher herself, Natalie is a role model for the many teachers who teach these very important year levels. Natalie will engage her infectious enthusiasm and boundless energy to lead and manage many new initiatives in this role.



# 2011 MERCY SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

The annual Mercy scholarship offered to each of the nine Mercy sponsored and co-sponsored schools, recognises students who demonstrate leadership in the Mercy tradition. Students chosen by their schools are acknowledged for their involvement in promoting school spirit, community service, fund raising and for their genuine concern for others less fortunate. Students featured below were the recipients of the 2011 Mercy Scholarship and we offer them, their families and their schools hearty congratulations.



## Academy of Mary Immaculate

### MY NGUYEN – YEAR 7



The recipient of the Mercy Scholarship for Year 7 is a student who has flourished in the social justice group. She is a student who is always aware of the human rights of all people and is an active participant in social justice matters. She has participated in all Mercy fundraising and is an active member of the justice group, volunteering and working hard in the background. She is a quiet student who is highly intelligent and in tune with the sufferings of people in

less fortunate places and countries. She strives to support every cause as determined by the social justice groups. The 2011 Mercy Scholarship for Year 7 is awarded to My Nguyen from 7 Red.

### GEORGIA HILL – YEAR 8



This Year 8 student has really blossomed over the year. She is a respectful and hard working student. She always listens and follows instructions carefully. She is always pleasant and offers a calm and kind presence in the classroom. She is very keen to learn. She attends Justice Meetings and actively participates in Social Justice initiatives. She is always ready to lend a hand and to help anyone who needs assistance. She has a gentle presence and genuine concern for

others. She is a quiet achiever. The 2011 Mercy Scholarship is awarded to Georgia Hill from Year 8S.



### CLAIRE BARLEY – YEAR 11

Claire is someone who exercises a genuine concern for people within and outside the school community. She has developed a strong sense of justice and has been actively involved with fundraising for groups in difficulty or for those less fortunate.

During 2011 she organised two significant events raising money for the Japanese earthquake relief fund and the Somalian famine fund. The two concerts she organised took a great deal of organisation and coordinating, yet she managed to pull things together. Her deeds encouraged others to get involved and created a spirit of goodwill and unity.

A true Mercy student and a most worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship for 2011, Claire Barley.



## Sacred Heart College, Geelong

### DAISY MEDIC



Daisy Medic is person of integrity, passion and compassion. As a school leader she led by example, through her words, ways and through service.

Daisy has shown genuine concern for others during her time at Sacred Heart College and has encouraged other students to do the same. As College Co-Captain in 2011, Daisy was an organiser of 'The Cage', a day where College leaders spent the school day sitting outside in the cold and rain in winter to raise awareness

for the homeless in our community. Daisy was a participant in the Refugee Day with students from other schools, helping local refugees enjoy numerous activities offered.

Daisy actively promoted College spirit through participation in sporting carnivals and Mercy Arts Day competitions and by representing the College in a number of sporting teams.

Daisy has been involved in Community Service throughout her time at Sacred Heart College. She is someone who gets things done without fanfare, trying to make others aware of those less fortunate and how we can help them.



## olmc heidelberg

## Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg

### LIANA GANGI



In 2011 Liana Gangi displayed leadership in key areas of college life. In her role as a Senior School SRC member, Liana was always highly motivated and completed a range of activities to a very high standard.

Liana's commitment to community service and college life included participation in the Austin Repat Volunteer program, the 40 Hour Famine and a variety of clubs including Social Justice, Senior and Year 10

Choirs and House Arts. Liana also exhibited strong leadership qualities and skills in school carnivals and through her involvement in the college musical, My Fair Lady.

Liana is a quiet achiever who often puts the needs of others before her own. She embraces all areas of school life but most importantly she is welcoming and respectful of staff and students alike. We congratulate Liana and were delighted to reward her efforts through the Mercy Scholarship.



### Sacred Heart College, Kyneton

#### KIM BAKER



Kim has been involved in a wide range of Mercy projects throughout 2011. She was elected Celebrating Diversity Leader, a group which operates under the 'Mercy at Work' banner, aiming to promote equality, understanding and acceptance of our differences amongst the school community, including the running of a separate Celebrating Diversity assembly for the year 7's and 8's. Earlier in the year, Kim flew to Perth for the AMSSA conference involving students and

teachers from Mercy schools from across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea. The conference provided Kim with an opportunity to discuss the meaning of Mercy and how the message of Catherine McAuley can be further lived out in our everyday lives.

She has taken part in organizing both the Feast of the Sacred Heart College Mass and the End of the Year Mass and, after a wonderful dramatization of the gospel during her Year 11 retreat, Kim was part of its successful re-dramatization at the AMSSA conference and in the use of liturgical dramatization at our college feast day Mass. Kim also undertook a number of fundraising schemes, including Scope's See Me September Week, raising much needed money for equipment for people living with physical disabilities, and most recently a part of Mo-vement, raising several hundred dollars for men's health issues such as prostate cancer and depression.

Kim is involved in working on ways to enable students from Sacred Heart College become blood donors. This is proving to be quite a difficult task given the lack of blood banks in this area. It does however, demonstrate how passionate and committed Kim can be when she sees a need unfulfilled. In the words of Catherine McAuley, "It is better to relieve one hundred imposters than to suffer one really distressed person to be sent away."



#### CATHERINE ROBBINS

Catherine has also been an integral part of a broad variety of Mercy projects this year. Catherine was elected a Celebrating Diversity Leader, operating under the 'Mercy at Work' banner promoting equality, understanding and acceptance of our differences amongst the school community. She was part of the Kwong Lee Dow Young Scholars Program at the University of Melbourne, while everyone else was on summer holidays in January.

Catherine involved herself in a wide range of fundraising activities, including the SCOPE "See Me September" disability support program, and the JDRF "Walk To Cure Diabetes" fundraiser to raise money for diabetes research. She is a regular volunteer for both the Ursula Frayne college-based soup kitchen, and the Matthew Talbot St Vincent De Paul Soup Van in Melbourne.

Catherine was also part of the biennial AMSSA Conference in Western Australia, where she was able to actively participate with other Australasian students in a number of workshops and forums offering spiritual nourishment and further inspiration in the work of Mercy. It was a great effort for Catherine to have attended the conference, and given the inclusion and input of students such as Catherine, it will undoubtedly be regarded as a very successful experience for all students.

Catherine worked on the various liturgies in the year 11 retreat and generously shared her musical skills to add to the celebrations and to help others to feel confident in using their talents for the good of all. In the words of Catherine McAuley: "God does not look at the action but at the spirit motivating it and God will judge and reward us accordingly."



### Mount Lilydale Mercy College

#### JOHANNA VAN DER LINDEN



Johanna is a very worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship as she displays all of the qualities that fit the criteria for this distinguished award. In addition to an excellent academic record, Jo has been heavily involved in all Social Justice causes and is always the first to volunteer to provide assistance to other students. She is acknowledged by her peers and teachers as a leader. She gives generously of her time without expecting anything in return.

In the Seeds of Justice programme, Jo has not only been involved in speaking at the two, two-day conferences, but also implementing some of the initiatives 'sparked off' whilst attending the sessions. On Mercy Day, Jo organised a 'Vinnies' Stall and sold many items, including clothes that she had made. This initiative was Jo's, ably supported by her friends.

On one Saturday morning Jo addressed the Sisters of Mercy, Melbourne Congregation, speaking about 'Seeds of Justice'. Jo spoke with a quiet passion and a clear commitment to justice and peace, revealing a very mature and incisive understanding of our shared gospel values. She has boundless energy for Social Justice and, like Catherine McAuley, is not discouraged by opposition and/or apathy.

Jo was selected by the College to attend the Mercy Student Conference in Perth in 2011 - not just as recognition of the work she has shown over the years, but also as a further means to encourage her in her Social Justice causes, of which there are many. Despite the passion she has for Social Justice, Jo continues to acquit herself well in the classroom, showing that her academic progress has not been hindered by her commitment to all things linked with Social Justice. Jo is a good all-rounder!

Since being appointed to the position of Indigenous Prefect for 2012, Jo has already started preparing some initiatives she would like to develop at the College and in the wider community. Jo continues to show an amazing empathy and compassion for others - she attended WYD, and continues to show great leadership qualities. She is a young woman of hope, vision and action in the Mercy Tradition.



### St Joseph's College, Mildura

#### LAUREN MOORE



Lauren is a quiet achiever who has a strong commitment to social justice. She is a committed family person who realizes the value of close, supportive relationships. Lauren has a desire to work for projects that relieve the pain of injustice, poverty, sexual abuse and homelessness. Like the Sisters of Mercy, Lauren has been working on projects that aim to abolish sex trafficking and exploitation of children. She believes that they deserve a chance

for a life where compassion and safety are realities, not hopes or dreams. Lauren has been a supporter of cancer research through Relay for Life. She has first hand experience of the effects through family members and realizes the need to be active in addressing these types of issues. In the spirit of Mercy, Lauren is an advocate for the rights of the marginalized and is willing to speak out on behalf of those who have difficulty being heard. Lauren is a worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship and we look forward to her involvement in Mercy projects in her final two years of College life at St Joseph's.



## ZARA FASSIO-OPIE

Zara has been a leader of the Mercy Action Group at St Joseph's College in 2011. In this role, she has assisted in the organization of many social justice projects such as the St Vinnies Winter Appeal and selling wristbands to foster economic independence for women in Peru.

Zara has shown a commitment to a variety of social causes throughout her years at the College. She was fortunate to attend the 2011 World Youth Day in Spain. This trip also included time at the Young Mercy Leaders Conference in Ireland. These experiences have reinforced Zara's passion for social justice and for the Mercy ethos of the College. She has a desire to continue to raise awareness of justice related issues through the Mercy Action Group.

Zara is aware of the challenges faced by those who wish to make a difference in our world, but also knows that the benefits of giving to these causes far outweighs the personal costs. Zara is a worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship and will continue to lead by example in our College community.



### St Aloysius College, North Melbourne



## TRUC THUY NGUYEN

St Aloysius College is delighted to announce that this year's recipient of the Mercy Scholarship is Truc Thuy Nguyen.

Truc Thuy has demonstrated a great capacity for compassion towards those in our local community and through her involvement in the school's Peer Support Program. Beyond that, she has maintained a passionate interest in a variety of Social Justice issues, involving herself in activities such as the Red Shield Appeal, Clean Up Australia Day the "Born to Knit" program, as well as raising money for Mercy Works. In her role as Liturgy Captain for 2012 she has already begun organising and leading prayer services for her peers.

Truc Thuy's willingness to give of her own time and talents to support and care for others truly demonstrates what it means to be a leader in a Mercy school. She leads by example and is willing to go out of her way to encourage other students to also involve themselves in the Social Justice group and its activities. Truc Thuy is a truly deserving recipient of this scholarship.



### Catholic College Bendigo

**Catholic College Bendigo is delighted to announce that the Mercy Scholarship has been awarded to two students who epitomise what it is to truly 'Live the Good News' by upholding the values of justice respect and service.**



## REBECCA BARROW

The theme for 2011 at Catholic College Bendigo was 'Awaken the goodness within'. Rebecca Barrow is a bright, articulate student with a passion for developing her faith academically and personally. She is an active participant in many school and extracurricular activities with a commitment to advocating for the youth in our community. She is a member of the Bendigo Youth Advisory Council and assists in the organisation of events and conducting surveys.

Within our College she has been involved in Youth Ministry, Interschool debating, choir, life teen Masses, School Masses, Debating, Founders' Day, St Vinnies Christmas Hampers and Caritas fundraising. Wherever activities linked to faith are involved, Rebecca is always at the ready to support, promote and assist in conveying the messages central to the spirit of the task.

Rebecca has been elected to lead the Catholic College Bendigo Student Faith Team in 2012 and with her commitment, motivation and talent, she will role model 'faith in action' to all who encounter this talented young woman.



## TASHI STEPHENSON

Tashi Stephenson would love to rid the world of all its inequalities and with great determination and a keen interest in social justice she is making a difference in the world.

Tashi is heavily involved in all College activities including College Masses, CCB Environment and Litter Action groups, Justice Matters camps, Seeds of Justice, Be More Sleep Out, Stronger Rally and World Youth Day activities, Sporting events, Caritas K's, Founders' Day. She is also an active member of our Faith & Ministry Team.

Tashi is committed to working in the Bendigo community as a volunteer at St John of God Hospital and Bethlehem Home for the Aged. She is connected to community groups such as Women Showing the Way and Variety Children's Charity. One of the highlights of Tashi's school life has been an immersion trip to Samoa which she describes as life changing and a faith epiphany. Tashi Stephenson will continue to work tirelessly for equality and is a most worthy recipient of the Mercy Scholarship.



### Emmanuel College, Warrnambool



## AMIE MARSH

Amie has held leadership positions through Adventurers over the years and participated in many leadership and community development projects, both in Australia and overseas. She has acted as Chairperson, Secretary and Treasurer of the local Adventurers group and has helped to organise and participated with her Adventurers group to give blood at Red Cross.

In addition Amie has participated in Multicultural Fests, has regularly visited Lyndoch to spend time with the residents there together with her Adventurers group and has helped out with younger children at Scouts by running after school programs.

Amie was involved in her second trip to Fiji where she and her team were involved with the construction of a playground for a village school. During her time there she stayed with a local family and developed relationships in the community. She raised funds in the months leading up to the trip in order to make it possible.

Amie also planned and executed an expedition to Tasmania with five other teenagers to complete the nine day trek Overland Trail. The group had to be entirely self sufficient, planning everything from flights to food and water. She has also been involved with Warrnambool's performing arts group (musically speaking) and swimming club.