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MERCY

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Ed



MCALLEN SCIENCE CENTRE

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EDITORIAL

The final edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter for 2014 is a bumper edition and features a Farewell and a Welcome, an Opening and Blessing, the AMSSA student conference and detailed accounts on regular events such as the Frayne Speech Festival, Seeds of Justice, Mercy Day celebrations and Outreach experiences. These events contribute to the fabric of life of Mercy Education and bring much richness and joy to our Mercy schools.

Principal, Sheena Barber, concludes her time as the dynamic, spiritual and dedicated leader of the Mercedes College community. Her time at Mercedes College has been marked by a deep commitment to her faith and a relentless drive to provide the best educational opportunities for the young women entrusted in her care. Sheena will be sadly missed but we do offer her and her husband Rob, every best wish as they settle into the next phase of their life. We look forward to welcoming Principal-elect, Kerrie Fraser, in our first edition next year.

We warmly welcome Brian Turner who commenced his principalship at Catholic College Bendigo at the start of Term 4. Brian returns to Victoria and the Sandhurst Diocese after seven years as Principal of Blackfriars College in Prospect, Adelaide. We wish him well at CCB and extend our sincere appreciation to Michael Chalkley for his impressive and passionate leadership of the college over the first three terms.

Congratulations to Sacred Heart College Kyneton for a tremendous year of celebrations in its 125th anniversary year. The College hosted the 19th annual Frayne Speech Festival on a beautiful spring day in August and all who attended expressed their delight with the warm hospitality and their visit to such a beautiful school. Congratulations to the Academy of Mary Immaculate on the opening and blessing of the McAllen Science Centre which provides outstanding new senior Science laboratories for students and staff at the college. This state of the art facility is complemented by the beauty of the stained glass windows throughout the building. Finally congratulations to the organisers of the AMSSA student conference, Seeds of Justice events and the St Brigid's College immersion program in Cambodia. These events continue to bring to the fore our passion and commitment to mercy and justice in the world.

May the peace, joy and blessings of Christmas be with you and your families.

Eugene Lynch
Editor

Cover: Stained glass, McAllen Science Centre, Academy of Mary Immaculate

FAREWELL TO SHEENA BARBER



Sheena Barber has contributed unstintingly and extensively to Catholic Education for over 40 years and has undertaken a diversity of roles in both Victoria and Western Australia.

Sheena has assumed leadership responsibilities spanning strategic, academic, pastoral and religious portfolios including positions as a Head of Music, Year Coordinator, Head of Religious Education, Head of Secondary School, Regional Officer in the Diocese of Geraldton and Coordinator of Curriculum for all Western Australian Catholic Schools. For the past six and a half years Sheena has been the Principal of Mercedes College, Perth and for the last eighteen months, combined this with being President of AMSSA – Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association. As an active member of the Western Australian Catholic Secondary Principals' Association, Sheena has chaired both the Industrial and Management Committee and the Professional Development and Pastoral Care Committee. An impressive array of responsibilities yet it is not the role but the manner in which these have been undertaken that is remarkable.

Sheena was a student at Mercedes College for the last two years of her secondary education. She returned as Principal to lead the very Mercy school that had formed her as a young student and woman. Sheena consistently demonstrated a deep respect for the history and tradition that is the foundation of Mercedes College. Her deep and abiding faith, her passion for justice, her compassion for the poor and vulnerable, her unshakeable belief in the capacity of staff and students, her commitment to honour parents as the prime educators of their girls and her endless energy and optimism are some of the attributes that have made her a much loved leader. Her innate warmth and hospitality are evident to all who meet her.

Sheena is a passionate educator with learning and teaching always being a major focus wherever she has served. Her unwavering commitment that Mercedes is seen and experienced as a Catholic school with a rich Mercy ethos has been laudable. At Mercedes, her aim has been to ensure that each girl is given every opportunity to fully embrace her gifts and talents. No decision has been made without ensuring that it is in the best interests of the students. Sheena is courageous and has always stood up for what she believes to be right regardless of the consequences. She has been a wonderful role model for the young women in her care.

Whilst Sheena retires from education at the conclusion of 2014 and relocates to Tasmania with her husband, Rob, she will continue to nurture and sustain her vital connections to Mercy through involvement in Mercy community projects.

Beyond all these achievements, Sheena is a devoted wife, proud mother of four children and loving grandmother of nine grandchildren. We thank her most sincerely for being a woman of Mercy and wish her every blessing as she continues to generously share her many gifts.

Mary Retel, MEL Board Director



WELCOME TO BRIAN TURNER



Mercy Education extended a warm welcome to Brian Turner, newly appointed Principal of Catholic College Bendigo, when he took up his position at the College on 6 October 2014. Brian reflects on his journey in Catholic Education and pays tribute to some of those who have shaped and influenced his beliefs and leadership style.

One of the greatest challenges when moving to a new school and charism in any leadership capacity, is the internal tension that sometimes prevails as one tries to imagine how that praxis presents itself within the context of the charism in that particular setting. How would I know that the praxis of the school resonates with the charism? The comforting aspect of my move to Catholic College Bendigo is that I am returning to a Mercy College. This will be my third Mercy experience.

My first teaching appointment was at a small town called Noorat, a campus of Catholic Regional College, Camperdown. Sr De Chantel was the Campus Coordinator and a wonderful mentor. I still fondly remember her advice, twenty three years later. If you are going to be successful in teaching, and life, you must learn as much as you can about the community you serve and develop strong relationships with the students and their families. You only gain respect through service and being sensitive to each families' context. Through time, I have come to realize the wisdom in this advice and now appreciate that this notion of service and stewardship is prime in any dimension.

When I moved to Notre Dame College at Shepparton in the Goulburn Valley, as a Deputy Principal under the mentorship and leadership of Peter White, once again I had a similar experience. We were challenged to respond to a local need for young people, who were expelled from local schools and had no educational options. I remember Peter asking me "what I was going to do about it?" This was the catalyst for the McAuley-Champagnat Program. The future of the program was entirely dependent on forging trust and outreach to those most in need. It was about courage and trust in Providence. Sr Rose McGiffin was on the staff at Notre Dame College at the time and was a great supporter of, and involved in establishing the mission, of the program. The Mercy values of compassion, justice, service, respect and hospitality were at the forefront of the program's rhetoric and more importantly its praxis.

Over the past seven years, I have been the Principal of a Dominican Boys, ELC-12 School in Prospect, Adelaide. The school has over 1050 students enrolled, which includes over 50 nationalities, 18 religious groups, predominantly EAL background with a quarter of the students supported by the South Australian Government

Student Card facility. The diversity of the school is amazing, as is the demeanour and compassion of the students. The challenge has been to support the students and to appreciate and regard their context so that they grow in self-esteem and succeed, not only academically, but socially. The results are outstanding and the school should be very proud of its record. On reflection, the mission of Blackfriars has many similarities to Catherine McAuley, relating to service and community.

My next challenge will be returning to a familiar Diocese; to Bendigo, and to our family and friends. Catholic College Bendigo has a wonderful reputation, and as Principal and a parent, I look forward to being part of the School's journey, as the Mercy identity further evolves within the new context of governance. No doubt the resolve and legacy of Catherine McAuley will emerge once again and be evident in responding to the local and global community.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MICHAEL CHALKLEY

Mercy Education acknowledges and sincerely thanks Michael Chalkley for his principalship at Catholic College Bendigo during Terms 1–3 this year. Michael's contribution was acknowledged at the 2014 Mercy Education Dinner by Board Chair, John Shannon.



Left to Right: Sr Berneice Loch RSM, Sheena Barber, Michael Chalkley, Mary Retel and John Shannon



BLESSING A OF THE MCALLEN

The Blessing and Opening of the McAllen Science Centre at the Academy of Mary Immaculate took place on 26 August 2014. Monsignor Greg Bennet VG was the celebrant representing Archbishop Denis Hart who was unable to be present on the day.

Members of the Academy community and a number of special guests gathered together for this important day in the life of the College. The McAllen Science Centre is a three level building with car parking facilities for the Convent. The centre includes three science laboratories, staff offices, break-out areas for students, a workspace for the laboratory technician and a lift which enables easy access to the College gymnasium where a number of key events take place during the year. Visitors commented on the colours, the light and the openness of the new facility.

Many of you will be aware of the Murray room windows, commissioned for our 150 celebrations, which tell so beautifully, the story of Mercy. These windows were designed and created by Mr Kevin Foley, staff member and Mr David Watt, Foley and Watt Leadlights.

Following approval of the Science Centre project, Kevin and David were invited once again to design a three level window for the McAllen Science Centre. The only direction they received took the form of three words – “God and science”.

With that brief they have gifted the College with three stunningly beautiful windows, windows that call us to ponder the mystery of life and the majesty of creation, windows which tell the story of creation from three perspectives – the indigenous, the biblical and the scientific.

Those present marvelled at the creativity of the design and the power of the finished product that will grace the McAllen Science centre for years to come and will cause those who view the windows to stop and reflect, to see beyond themselves to the immensity of something far greater.

The McAllen Science centre is named after Sister Mary McAllen, a Sister of Mercy and past Principal of the College. It is an exciting and engaging learning space for the students of the Academy of Mary Immaculate as the College moves forward into the future.

Sr Mary Moloney rsm, Principal



AND OPENING SCIENCE CENTRE



1. Members of the Senior Student Leadership Team with Mr Adrian Fuller, Deputy Principal, Monsignor Bennet, Sr Mary and Sr Annette
2. Monsignor Greg Bennet with Sr Mary Moloney and Sr Annette Schneider
3. From left, Creation Designers – David Watt and staff member, Kevin Foley of Foley & Watt Leadlights
4. Monsignor Bennet, Sr Mary and Mrs Margaret Budde, sister of Sr Mary McAllen, unveiling the plaques



Charles M. Duke, Jr. was the 10th and youngest man to walk on the moon. As Lunar Module pilot for Apollo 16, Charles spent nearly 71 hours on the lunar surface in April 1972. Charles' mission encapsulates the motto of NASA, 'For the Benefit of All'. The Apollo Missions will forever remain a triumph of human endeavour and collaboration.



ASTRONAUT, CHARLES DUKE VISITS ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE, NORTH MELBOURNE FOR MERCY DAY

On Mercy Day 2014, St Aloysius College community hosted extraordinary guest, Brigadier General Charles Moss Duke Jr, an Apollo 16 astronaut who was the youngest and one of only twelve people to have walked on the surface of the moon. He was accompanied at the College by his wife of 51 years, Dorothy Claiborne Duke.



General Duke captured the imagination of students and staff describing the tasks he undertook while on the moon surface. He showed footage of the lunar mission including a clumsy fall while climbing back into the lunar module. While students chuckled, he pointed out the very real possibility that he could have died at that moment, if the fall damaged his heavy survival apparatus. He spoke to students about the adventure of space travel and how as a team, NASA worked to meet the challenge laid out by President John F Kennedy. General Duke spoke of his love of flying, persistence in his studies, service to his country in the US Air Force and his openness to the opportunities offered to him.

A student wanted to know if General Duke felt there was life on other planets. Against expectations, he replied No, and went on to say that if there was life on other planets it would also have been created by our loving God, who created our beautiful precious blue jewel, the Earth.

Other questions posed elicited the following responses:

- Q. What did the Earth look like from space?**
- A.** Like a jewel on the black velvet sky
- Q. Did you sleep on the Moon?**
- A.** Yes, we had three extra-vehicular excursions, and we ate, slept and did chores in the module.
- Q. Have you seen the movie Gravity?**
- A.** No, but he had been told it wasn't very realistic.
- Q. Would you recommend space travel?**
- A.** Yes, in fact my son tried to be a Space Shuttle pilot, but didn't make it in to the program.

Above: Portrait of Apollo 16 Astronaut Charles Duke; Inset: St Aloysius Student, Keira O'Reilly (Year 11) pictured with Brigadier General Charles Duke and his wife Dorothy Claiborne Duke during his visit to St Aloysius College in September.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE PROGRAM

RECENT SEEDS OF JUSTICE PROGRAMS:

- STAFF FORMATION SEMINAR
- REGIONAL VICTORIA STUDENT EVENT
- MELBOURNE STUDENT EVENT
- PERTH STUDENT EVENT

The theme for the 2014 Staff Formation Day was that of “Fostering Mercy beyond the school gates”, and such a key issue explored throughout the day was the global injustice of human trafficking.

Participants began the day in conversation with Sr Angela Reed rsm, as she shared the insights she has gained through research and time spent living in the Philippines. She also introduced the group to the concept of ‘problematism’ and encouraged those present to exercise critical reflection when discussing vulnerable peoples or presenting an issue of injustice.

Later in the day, the group spent time with Sr Carole McDonald rsm as she spoke about the work conducted by ACRATH and assisted participants to explore the excellent school resources available at www.acrath.org.au.

While the material presented by both Sr Angela and Sr Carole was confronting, all participants were able to leave the Formation Day feeling empowered and well informed as to how they might examine and respond to the issue of human trafficking within their school communities.

During the day, participants also had the opportunity to hear from Bernadette Inman, Coordinator of Young Mercy Links, along with two members of YML: Kathryn Dowling and Isabella Farchione. Kathryn and Isabella spoke candidly about their experiences as members of YML, and encouraged all present to promote this post-high school Mercy youth group to senior students in their respective schools.

*Fostering
Mercy beyond
the school gates*



REGIONAL SEEDS OF JUSTICE DAY – AUGUST 2014

After a successful planning meeting held at Mercy Regional College in April, students from many different Mercy Schools attended the third annual Seeds of Justice Regional Event on August 21/22nd. Students attended from the following schools:

Notre Dame College Shepparton; St Aloysius College North Melbourne; Catholic Regional College Sydenham; Sacred Heart College Geelong; Emmanuel College Warrnambool; Mercy Regional College Camperdown; Damascus College Ballarat.

Forty two students and ten staff from these schools shared the wisdom of guest speakers Sr Karon Donellan RSM and Shane Howard (formerly of the band Goanna).

The Regional Retreat is situated at Anglesea. It's proximity to the beach and compact layout, make it a perfect destination for students to gather and share their love of Social Justice and their commitment to being people of Mercy.

Shane Howard shared his life experiences and his journey into a deeper understanding of indigenous culture in Australia. He challenged students to be aware of the economics, the politics and the justice behind their clothing purchases. He promoted questioning, curiosity, study and awareness of the issues affecting our own country and our global communities.

Sr Karon shared a great deal the day with the students and staff, becoming part of the fabric of the event. She shared stories of Mercy women in isolated outback areas of Australia embracing the indigenous community. Sr Karon then went on to encourage the students to embrace the fact that they are Mercy people, no matter where their journey may take them. She highlighted the concept of hospitality and education as synonymous with a life in Mercy and challenged the students to empower others in their schools to become more aware of the manner in which Mercy people treat one another and the strangers in our lives. Sr Karon proposed that students look into their own communities to recognise the qualities of Mercy at work and the aspects that might be improved.

Of particular interest were the creative responses to the keynote speakers presented by mixed groups of the students.

They included, rap songs, poetry, drama and interview style responses. Each of these creative responses indicated that the students really took on board the message of the Keynote speakers and considered how they might express what they had learned in a fun and creative way.

One of the most inspiring facets of the Regional Event is the input of each school group and staff. All the staff were encouraged to be involved in some way and take on responsibility for leading a session or warm up activity. As a regional team we believe this is a great strength of the event and brings about great collegiality. From the prayers and reflections to the team activities and hypothetical arguments it was a great event.

I would like to thank all staff involved in planning and implementing the Regional Event and the Melbourne Seeds of Justice Committee for their continued support.

Mrs Jo-Anne Saunders
On behalf of the Regional SOJ Event Team

SEEDS OF JUSTICE STUDENT PROGRAM – EVENT 2 – OCTOBER

The event began with an interactive workshop hosted by Mairead Kennedy. Participants took on the challenge of seeking out information about the disproportionate impact of poverty on women across our shared globe. Empowered by the knowledge gained in their opening workshop, participants then moved into conversation with Sr Julia Anne Ryan RSM. Sr Julie Anne was more than generous in sharing the story of her 27 years living and working in Papua New Guinea, and her interactive presentation left a palpable and lasting impact on all participants. Later in the day, participants had the chance to deepen their knowledge of the Mercy story in PNG, as they took part in a workshop focused on the story of the Yarapos Mercy Secondary School.

The connections that participants made between the content they had encountered in each session was on full display later in the evening, when the direction of the event was handed over to the students. Working together in small groups, participants presented a range of creative, energetic and joyful responses in the form of song, drama, dance,



music and prayer. On the second day of the program, Marlo Drake led a conversation about the ongoing relationship that has developed between the Sacred Heart College Geelong community and the Mercy projects underway in Timor Leste.

SEEDS OF JUSTICE PROGRAM – WESTERN AUSTRALIAN EVENT

In order to acquire a more in depth understanding of homelessness, we went to a retreat facility in Safety Bay where we spent two days learning about homelessness through a Mercy lens, getting to know students from the other Mercy schools and developing ways in which we could help the homeless in our own communities. The program was packed full of activities. A talk from Tracy Pollett, a lady of New Zealand origin who gave us a compassionate insight into the lives of the less fortunate, her own life and her own meaning of 'home.' After much discussion we explored the theme through art with our resident artist Lisa Speranza, who assisted in creating lino prints to decorate pieces of material from clothing from op shops further exploring our idea of 'home.' We also reflected prayerfully on the topic by walking the labyrinth in the garden and completing a sand mandala labyrinth. The experience was great fun as well as a great opportunity to learn more about a particular social justice issue and develop as people of Mercy.

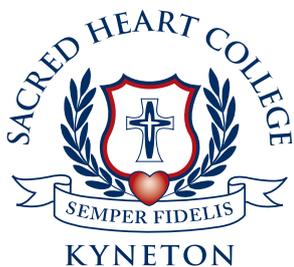
Recently students from the 2014 Seeds of Justice Program gathered at Santa Maria College to share our progress in various schools in raising awareness about homelessness. We shared the accomplishments of each of the schools and we were extremely impressed with the results. Those of us from Mercedes College decided to make a movie in which a few of the Seeds of Justice girls dressed as homeless people while the others filmed, attempting to capture people's reactions to the homeless. Santa Maria College had managed to raise a large

amount of funds to help Tracy find a new home and donated the rest of the money to St. Vincent de Paul. Aranmore had organised a jacket collection where they asked their peers to donate their old jumpers and coats which they then to donated to St Vincent de Paul for their work with the homeless.

The Seeds of Justice program has been an amazing experience that we were all very privileged to be a part of. We had a great time getting to know all the girls and boys from Santa Maria, Mercy and Aranmore Colleges. We look forward to continuing this good work next year and encourage the younger students to embrace this opportunity and work towards raising awareness and being involved in action for the benefit of not only the school community but the global community.

Stefanie Boyle & Kate Martin (Mercedes College)

*Mercy
Responding
to Women and
Poverty in
Our World*



FRAYNE SPEECH FESTIVAL

The 2014 Frayne Speech Festival, hosted by Sacred Heart College Kyneton, was conducted in magnificent style and once again proved to be a wonderful occasion of spirited competition. Sacred Heart College Kyneton, staff and students, welcomed fourteen schools from across Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. We extend our thanks to the hospitality students and staff for preparing and presenting the beautiful and sumptuous food throughout the day.



Voice Choir: 2nd place – St Aloysius College, North Melbourne;
1st place – Catholic College Bendigo



Public Speaking: 1st place Sophie Hellemans (left) – St Brigid's College, 2nd place Mariya Bakay (right) – St Aloysius College North Melbourne.



Debating: From Left, Runners-up, Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy and Winners, St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie WA.

ECH FESTIVAL



Above – Best Overall Debater: Jordan Sibberas, Mount Lilydale Mercy College, presented by Lucy Molony, Board Director



Right – Catering by SHC Kyneton Hospitality Students



Above – SHC Kyneton Principal, Craig Holmes, at the conclusion of the Festival

In the SHC Kyneton newsletter, Principal Craig Holmes, praised the value of the festival and acknowledged the work of his staff and students in hosting the day.

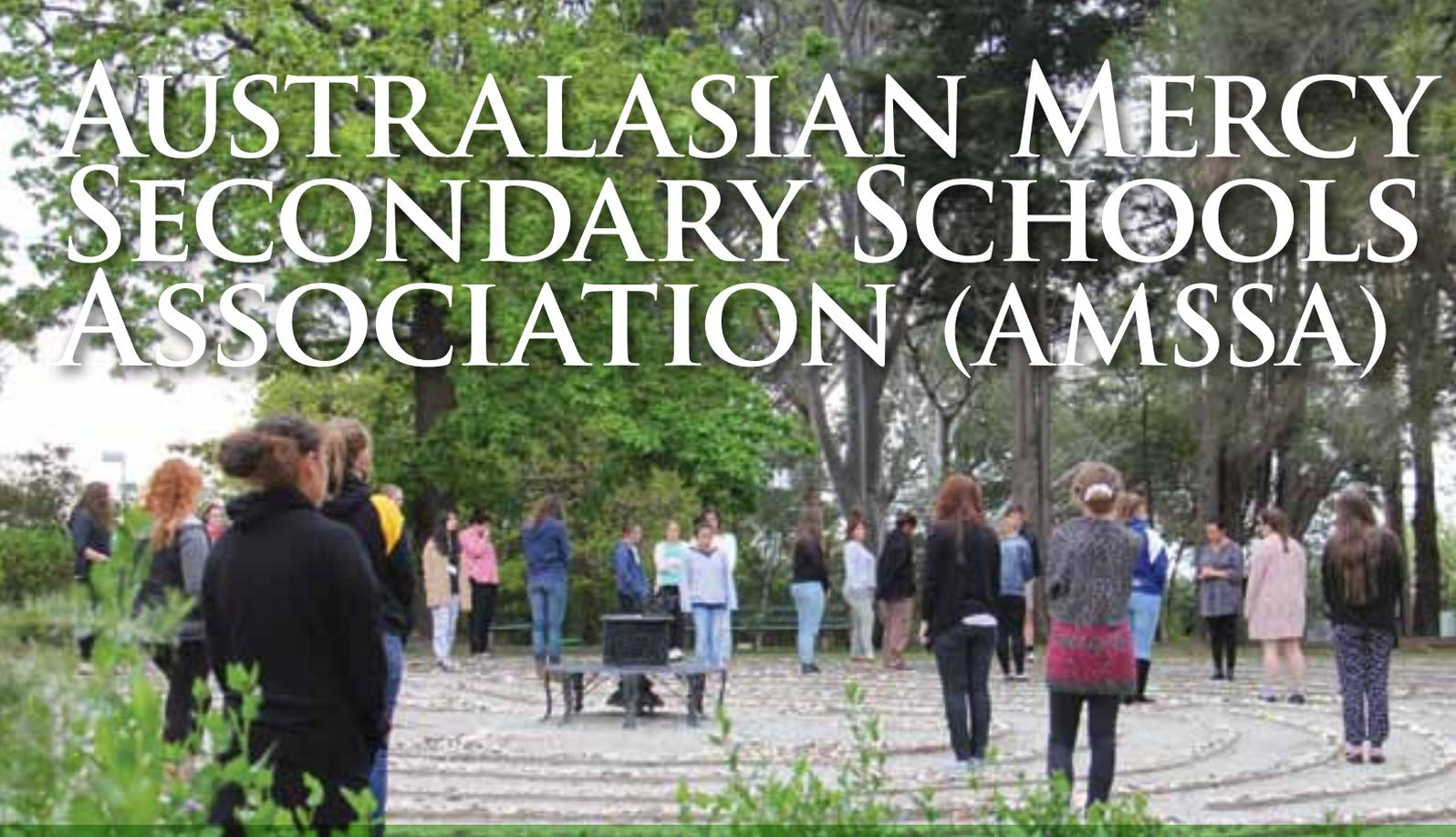
"On Friday 29 August, Sacred Heart College hosted the Frayne Speech Festival which was established in 1996 and is named after Mother Ursula Frayne, leader of the first group of Sisters of Mercy to arrive in Australia from Ireland in 1846. This year, a total of fourteen schools across Victoria, S.A. and W.A., founded in the traditions of Mercy education came together for spirited competition in debating, public speaking and voice choir. We had almost two hundred students participating and the festival showcased the talents of many excellent speakers. The stunning weather provided a wonderful atmosphere to see our beautiful College and students, and the activities fostered a sense of unity across the schools. Our Hospitality students and staff provided the catering for the day and our guests from all the schools and Mercy Education Limited applauded and congratulated them on their skills and professionalism.

A power of work was required to prepare for and host this day and I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the Sacred Heart staff and students for their effort and support. It was a day that will be a highlight in our 125th year."

Overall Results

Public Speaking	
1st place	Sophie Hellemans – St Brigid’s College Lesmurdie, WA
2nd place	Mariya Bakay – St Aloysius College, North Melbourne, VIC
Voice Choir	
1st place	Catholic College Bendigo, Bendigo, VIC
2nd place	St Aloysius College, North Melbourne, VIC
Debating	
1st place	St Brigid’s College, Lesmurdie, WA
2nd place	Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy VIC

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION (AMSSA)



The Twelfth Biennial AMSSA Student Conference honoured the beginnings of our Mercy Story, celebrated our growth and unity and challenged students to revitalise Mercy for the future. Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg welcomed students of Mercy Schools across Australia, Aotearoa New Zealand and Papua New Guinea to share in a rewarding Mercy experience. This year's conference saw a range of national and international speakers delivering information and insight on contemporary issues and practices in Mercy education.

The first week in October marked the beginning of the Conference with delegates arriving at Amberley Retreat Centre in the Lower Plenty bushland in Melbourne. The Conference was opened by Mutthi Mutthi elder Vicki Clark on the Yarra River where delegates listened to the story of the first people to this land and were graciously welcomed. Students were asked to bring water from their local communities to be joined with water brought from the 20th Anniversary of the Opening of the Mercy International Centre in Dublin. On behalf of the Sisters of Mercy, Sr Anna Nicholls from New Zealand shared greetings and best wishes for the Conference. There was a great sense of hope in her message, assuring students that Catherine McAuley's vision of making the world a better place for everyone could be something students could easily put into practice.

The exciting program known as Generation Waking Up allowed students to explore some simple questions about today's generation and the need to wake up to the call of social justice. Students also looked at incorrect assumptions many privileged people have and took with them valuable lessons. Students were genuinely "woken up".

The time spent in Melbourne provided students with an opportunity to visit the Academy of Mary Immaculate, a place of significance in Ursula Frayne's story. The group was met by

Sister Mary Moloney and Claire Martin, the College's Social Justice Prefect. Initially time was spent in the Chapel, where Sister Mary described the wonderful contribution Ursula Frayne made to the Catholic communities of both Perth and Melbourne.

The Melbourne experience continued when delegates dined at Lentil as Anything. Patrons are asked to reflect on their feelings and decide how much they want and can contribute to this unique experience, and put a donation into one of the boxes in the restaurant. This unique financial model that is centered on the values of trust, generosity and respect gives people the opportunity to eat out and be social regardless of their financial situation. The staff at Lentil as Anything explained to students that they did this because everyone has a right to feel valued and respected, and that money should help bring people together not divide them.

The Justice Marketplace was an incredible display of how students are striving to keep alight the flame of Mercy in the schools across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

Students shared stories about local and overseas immersions, awareness raising campaigns, fundraising events, advocacy work on behalf of marginalised groups and Mercy ministries supported within their school communities. Students were



challenged to wander the market place and collect ideas for possible projects they could implement in their own communities.

This conference invited students to step outside their own local place, situate themselves in the Mercy world and from that perspective look at who Mercy is in the world today, what we are about and see if we can discern anything of where we might be headed. Students recognized that we are at a significant time in the ongoing story of Mercy particularly in regard to collaboration with the youth of the global family of Mercy as they increasingly undertake responsibility for the continuation and growth of Mercy ministries. We hope that this Conference allowed delegates to reflect on their role in the Mercy educational endeavour, mindful of the evolving growth of our community and dedicated to a strong sense of unity with like-minded students in Mercy Schools across Australasia.

**Melissa Trolio – Mercedes College
(AMSSA Student Conference Planning Committee)**

*Catherine McAuley's
vision of making the
world a better place
for everyone could
be something students
could easily put
into practice.*



CAMBODIA MERCY OUTREACH ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE, LESMU

On 8th October, 20 students and 5 staff members returned from a most successful Mercy Outreach Immersion trip to Cambodia which has taken a year of planning, meetings and fundraising.

During the 12 day immersion students experienced heart wrenching sadness upon hearing the story of a child survivor of the Pol Pot regime, pure joy at giving out rice and food to two entire extremely poor villages, preparing and cooking a local beef dish under the cover of a hut during a thunder storm, riding bicycles into remote villages to meet families of local school children, hearing life stories from landmine victims, meeting and living with our own Sister of Mercy, Sister Denise Coghlan at the Reflection Centre, learning about silk worms and the process undertaken to weave beautiful silk scarves at a remote village, taking a group of 35 children on a swimming excursion and walking through the utter squalor and filth at the rubbish tip to donate handmade quilts to the elderly.

Some have learnt that improving just one little aspect such as providing toilet blocks at school can change a young person's education, that it is sometimes a good thing to push oneself out of one's comfort zone, that we can make a difference in a small way to other people's lives, that there is a place in the world for everyone whether rich or poor, that we need to

be grateful for things we take for granted such as education, shelter, food and medicine. Some students wish to return to Cambodia to continue the good work we embrace here in our Mercy Outreach Immersion programs.

The students rose to every challenge that was presented with dignity, enthusiasm and compassion and I was incredibly proud of each and every one of them. They worked hard in sometimes very adverse conditions without complaining. I think they will be stronger for having experienced life in Cambodia and will have a much better understanding and empathy for those people living in third world countries.

They have learnt a great deal about themselves and I hope that they will spread the word about Mercy work to others. I am sure they will be better young people for having experienced our Mercy Outreach Immersion in Cambodia and I would love them to continue on in this spirit.

Debbie O'Hara
Mercy Outreach Coordinator



TREACH IMMERSION 2014

RDIE WA





93 YEARS OF COMBINED SERVICE

On Friday 28 November MLMC recognised almost 100 years of service from three retirees, Terry Dunn, Adrian Reilly and Colleen Anglin. Principal Philip Morison welcomed guests and former Principals, Sisters Beth and Nancy and Bernard Dobson.

Longest serving staff member, employed 41 years ago by Sister Gabrielle, Terry is renowned for his friendly manner and enthusiasm for life. He competes in Masters Athletics and Cricket and introduced weightlifting to the curriculum. Former students participated in the recent Commonwealth Games. His contribution to Sport was so significant a House was named after him.

Adrian commenced in 1985, teaching History, RE and English. A gifted writer, he produced the book chronicling 100 years of Mercy for the Centenary. He was admired by his students for his comprehensive knowledge of history, generosity of spirit and deep humanity. In 1993 when the College was rocked by the tragedy in Central Australia, Adrian was the bulwark of strength for all.

Colleen received her education from the Mercy Sisters and was employed in 1987 to teach English and RE. She established Public Speaking as a formal part of the curriculum and also spent some time as Head of English. Colleen was the chief organiser of the Frayne Festival initiated in 1996 for the Centenary which was so successful it is now an annual event across all Mercy Schools in the region.

The College is grateful to these stalwarts of Catholic Education and wishes them a wonderful retirement. Their mercy will continue to resonate in the hearts of all they have touched.

Patricia Olson

Anglin Family



Dunn Family



Reilly Family



“Live for something

Write your names in kindness, love and mercy on the hearts of those you have come in contact with

You will never be forgotten”

Thomas Chalmers



MERCEDES COLLEGE
Perth, WA 1846



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
North Melbourne, VIC 1887



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE
Lesmurdie, WA 1926



ACADEMY OF MARY IMMACULATE
Fitzroy, VIC 1857



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Kyneton, VIC 1889



SANTA MARIA COLLEGE
Attadale WA 1937



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Geelong, VIC 1860



MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE
Lilydale, VIC 1896



St Ann's College amalgamated to
EMMANUEL COLLEGE
Warrnambool, VIC 1872
Co-sponsored College



CATHOLIC COLLEGE BENDIGO
Bendigo, VIC 1876



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
Mildura, VIC 1906



MERCY COLLEGE COBURG
Coburg, VIC 1965
Affiliated School



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
Adelaide, SA 1880



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE
Heidelberg, VIC 1910



NOTRE DAME COLLEGE
Shepparton, VIC
Affiliated School