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MERCY *Ed*

The Newsletter of Mercy Education ABN 69 154 531 870



MCAULEY PARK 2018 CABERNET SAUVIGNON WINS 'HONORARY GOLD MEDAL'

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EDITORIAL

The final edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter for 2020 certainly gives the impression of what the year has been for us with so many seminars and events being held remotely. What was more frequently associated with Mazda cars and speeding vehicles, the word ZOOM has taken on new meaning and is now readily associated with how we meet with one another. Despite the limitations presented to us by COVID19, we have still been able to communicate with one another, impart knowledge and expertise, and see each other's smiling faces.

Our recent events included the MEL Leadership Day with over 90 in attendance throughout the day and with Adele Howard RSM and Chris Hill, ISMAPNG Environment and Sustainability Manager, as co-presenters. Annette Schneider RSM presented a most engaging seminar to our Faith & Mission leaders on her recent research into the life and legacy of Clare Agnew and her sketches on the spiritual and corporal works of Mercy. Over 50 deputy principals attended the seminar with presenter, Dr Aimee Maxwell, psychologist and researcher who offered a very practical and supportive session on the theme of 'Developing Resilience in Difficult Situations'. Our final seminar was a Seeds of Justice event attended by over 90 students and staff on the theme of Unity, helping us gain a better understanding of Aboriginal culture and heritage.

After more than 30 years having the privilege of working in Mercy Education, this is my final year as I head into retirement. I have worked with so many amazing people including Sisters of Mercy, Board Directors, Principals, Deputy Principals, Business Managers, Faith & Mission Leaders, teachers and students, fellow MEL staff and Institute staff at Alphington and many, many more across Catholic Education. It is also my final edition of the Mercy Ed newsletter and I thank everyone who has contributed to it in the past and to the wonderful team at Kreate Graphics who have excelled in their creativity and design work with this publication and many others.

I leave Mercy Education with a deep sense of gratitude, appreciation and satisfaction and acknowledge the support and friendship that I have experienced along the journey. My best wishes go with each of you.

God bless.

Eugene Lynch

Editor

DEPUTY PRINCIPALS SEMINAR



Presenter

Dr Aimee Maxwell is a psychologist from Melbourne who runs a private practice and provides consultancy services for Deakin University's Research for Educational Impact strategic research centre. She received her Doctorate in Psychology in 2017 using the Principal Health and Wellbeing data she collected with Professor Phil Riley. Prior to that, she completed a Bachelor of Behavioural Neuroscience (Hons) and was a Research Fellow at the Centre for Health Economics working on Quality of Life projects. Aimee is interested in improving the lives of others through regular wellbeing support and application of individual and group level evidence-based interventions. Aimee has extensive experience in looking after the wellbeing of educators, especially supporting those with issues related to emotional demands and emotional labour in the workplace.

The second Mercy Education DP seminar was held on 13 November and was a significantly different experience to the one attended in person by deputy principals at OLMC Heidelberg in March this year. The November seminar was conducted remotely by ZOOM, as have so many other meetings due to COVID-19.

We were delighted that 52 participants from locations across WA, SA, TAS and VIC attended the seminar, which was led by presenter, Dr Aimee Maxwell. Aimee is recognised as a very experienced psychologist and researcher and has extensive experience in education and works with clients of all ages. She has presented to our Mercy Education Principals on several occasions and has worked with them in professional supervision. Aimee's presentation was centred on the theme of 'Developing Resilience in Difficult Situations' and participants found it to be interactive, practical and very supportive in helping them manage the very busy, often challenging, and varied day to day work of a deputy principal.

At the conclusion of the seminar there was an opportunity to thank and acknowledge the following people for their work and to offer well wishes for those moving to new opportunities:

- Liz Monahan, Tim Edwards, Paul Finneran, Rachel Valentine, Susan Macdonald, Julie Mortimer and Judy Young for their work on the Deputy Principal Professional Learning Committee
- Paul Finneran, Deputy Principal at Academy of Mary Immaculate on his appointment to Principal of St Paul's Catholic College, Greystanes, in the diocese of Parramatta, NSW
- Susan Macdonald, Deputy Principal – Faith and Mission, Mercedes College Perth, on her appointment to Associate Principal, Mother Teresa Catholic College, Baldivis, WA
- Pauline Cutajar, Deputy Principal - Students, St Aloysius College North Melbourne on her appointment to Director of Students, Shelford Grammar, Caulfield
- Lisa Pope, Assistant Principal - Students, Emmanuel College Warrnambool on her appointment to Deputy Principal, St Joseph's College, Geelong
- Michael Harrison, Vice Principal Faith, Mission and Community, Padua College, Mornington on his appointment to Catholic Education Melbourne
- Claire Wrigley, Assistant Principal for Staff and Students, Mercy Regional College, Camperdown on her appointment to the Assistant Principal - Students, Emmanuel College, Warrnambool



STUDENT-CREATED MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE WINE

A WINNER IN JAMES HALLIDAY AUSTRALIAN CABERNET CHALLENGE

An 'Honorary Gold Medal' has been awarded to Mount Lilydale Mercy College for its McAuley Park 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon which is almost entirely created by the students themselves.

The College's 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon received 96 points from the judges of this year's Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge, a wine competition in its fifth year that awards the best Cabernet Sauvignons across five Australian wine regions. This score would usually result in the awarding of a gold medal, however as the College only produces one barrel of wine and does not sell the wine commercially it is not eligible to receive one. The organising committee was so impressed with this result for the students that it awarded the wine an Honorary Gold Medal instead.

Australian wine producers are invited to participate in the competition which showcases great regional Cabernet Sauvignon in a collaboration between Margaret River Wine Association, Coonawarra Vignerons and Yarra Valley Wine Growers Association.

MLMC's students are involved in every stage of wine production, which is rare in Victoria. They manage the vine canopy and check for pests, take yield estimates, monitor sugar, flavour and acid levels, harvest through the school holidays, bottle the wine and design the wine labels.

"I congratulate the students and staff in the making of the 2018 Cabernet Sauvignon," MLMC Principal Mr Philip Morison said. "This result is a testament to their hard work and the many programs offered by the College in developing our students' dreams and talents, so that they can impact our local and global community. It is also a testament to the production of a good drinking wine."



The vineyard has been at the school for about 22 years and the 2018 vintage was the fifth produced. The 226 plants on approximately half an acre in the school grounds yield about 300 bottles annually. Yering Station has supported the College for several years, supplying wine analysis and barrels. Students also take tours of Yering Station to link their classroom learning about biosecurity and the full winemaking process.

McAuley Park Farm Manager and Agriculture and Horticulture teacher, Mr Tim Thompson, after spending a considerable period of his professional career in the wine industry, said that it was "a wonderful privilege to create a passion for learning and excellence in my students with this program".

"The medal is a significant achievement for everyone involved. It demonstrates the amazing capacity young people have when they are engaged and challenged. This program, the students involved and the results we consistently achieve, give me great hope for the future," Mr Thompson said.

The 2020 James Halliday Australian Cabernet Challenge presented by Langton's, saw 364 wine exhibits from 29 different wines judged simultaneously from 7-9 September in Coonawarra and Margaret River. In what is believed to be a world first, the judging panels, stewards and organising teams connected through Zoom, Skype, telephone, social media and the AWRI wine show judging software, to make the show run smoothly.

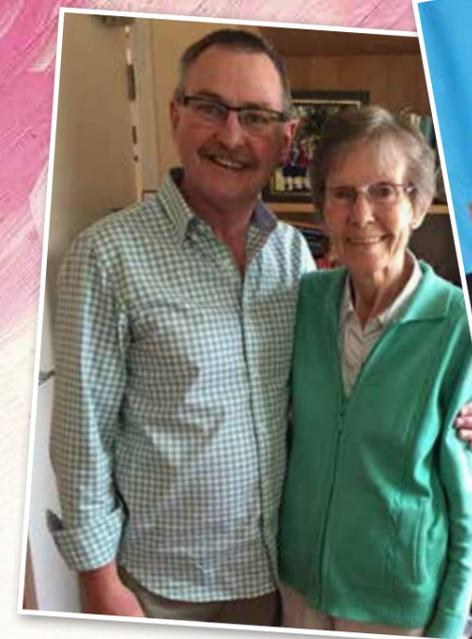


Farewell

EUGENE LYNCH



At the end of this year Eugene Lynch retires after thirty-six years of involvement in Catholic education. Thirty-one of those years were in Mercy education – seven years in Mercy schools and twenty-four years with the Mercy Secondary Education Council, Mercy Secondary Education Incorporated and since 2013 with Mercy Education Limited. In 1990, after five years of teaching, although he did not realise at the time, Eugene accepted a position at Mt Lilydale Mercy College which was his introduction to Mercy and which would lead to an exciting and rewarding career.



After five years at Lilydale Eugene, Hazel and their two young daughters moved to Mildura where Eugene was appointed Director of Studies at St Joseph's College. In 1997 the family returned to Melbourne and Eugene commenced as Executive Officer with Mercy Secondary Education.

Eugene was the only full-time staff member of Mercy Education from 1997 to 2012. During that time there were seven Victorian colleges. The re-configuring of the Institute led to the formation of Mercy Education Limited with twelve schools across Western Australia, South Australia and Victoria, with Eugene as Executive Officer and Company Secretary.

Over recent years, as the work of Mercy Education Limited changed and demands grew, staffing has increased. Eugene enthusiastically accepted these changes and continued his involvement in many ways. His extensive knowledge of the schools and the early days of Mercy Education was willingly shared and underpins what Mercy Education is today and what it will be in future years.

Thank you Eugene and congratulations for your outstanding contribution to Mercy Education. Thank you also to Hazel and your daughters who have supported you at all times. Our hope for you is a long, active and interesting retirement.

Sylvia Williams RSM, Board Chair





SEEDS OF JUSTICE WITH A DIFFERENCE

Nearly 80 students and around 15 staff were treated to a Seeds of Justice seminar with a difference when on 23 November, Mercy schools from across Victoria joined the seminar remotely and listened to inspiring speakers on the theme of Unity.

Keynote speakers were Vicki Clarke, Aboriginal Cultural Leader, Sherry Balcombe, Coordinator of Aboriginal Catholic Ministry Victoria and Jayanne Johnson, current Year 12 student and Flame Carrier at Sacred Heart College Geelong. Each of these strong, Aboriginal women spoke of how important it is for the Aboriginal culture and heritage to be understood and respected to allow it to grow and flourish and never die out.

The seminar commenced with Acknowledgement of Country and a beautiful, symbolic ceremony with each school providing a centre-piece of Aboriginal artwork which included

message sticks, bollards, Indigenous crosses and crucifixes, soil from Lake Mungo NSW, Murray River stones, gum leaves, coolamons, paintings and school candles with Indigenous flora in the college logo. Vicki then took participants on a reflective, spiritual journey with a 'Dadirri' Reflection led on YouTube by founder, Miriam-Rose Ungunmerr. Dadirri is described in the Aboriginal language as the quality of inner, deep listening and quiet, still awareness.

Sherry amazed the many participants, whether they lived in Melbourne or not, highlighting the amazing number of important symbols and spaces around the centre of Melbourne. These included the Bunjil – Creator Spirit in the form of a huge eagle that sits proudly along Wurundjeri Way near Etihad Stadium; Bunjilaka Aboriginal Cultural Centre at the Melbourne Museum; Balit Nangtt-bul – a mural created by the Aboriginal Advancement League; the Corroboree Tree at St Kilda and many more sites with statues, totems, coolamons and stained glass windows displaying the Aboriginal Stations of the Cross. It was a real eye-opener for us all and gave us a sense of yearning to see and learn more about the Aboriginal culture.

Before welcoming our third speaker, Eugene Lynch, connected the seminar's theme of Unity with the Mercy Education values, Gospel teachings and the sayings of Catherine McAuley. As Catherine said,

"The blessing of unity still dwells amongst us and oh what a blessing. It should make all else pass into nothing."

As Mercy people, we espouse the six gospel values of Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service and Courage, and aim to live these out in our behaviors at school and home. We respect our differences and value the right for each of us to have an equal place in community and society.

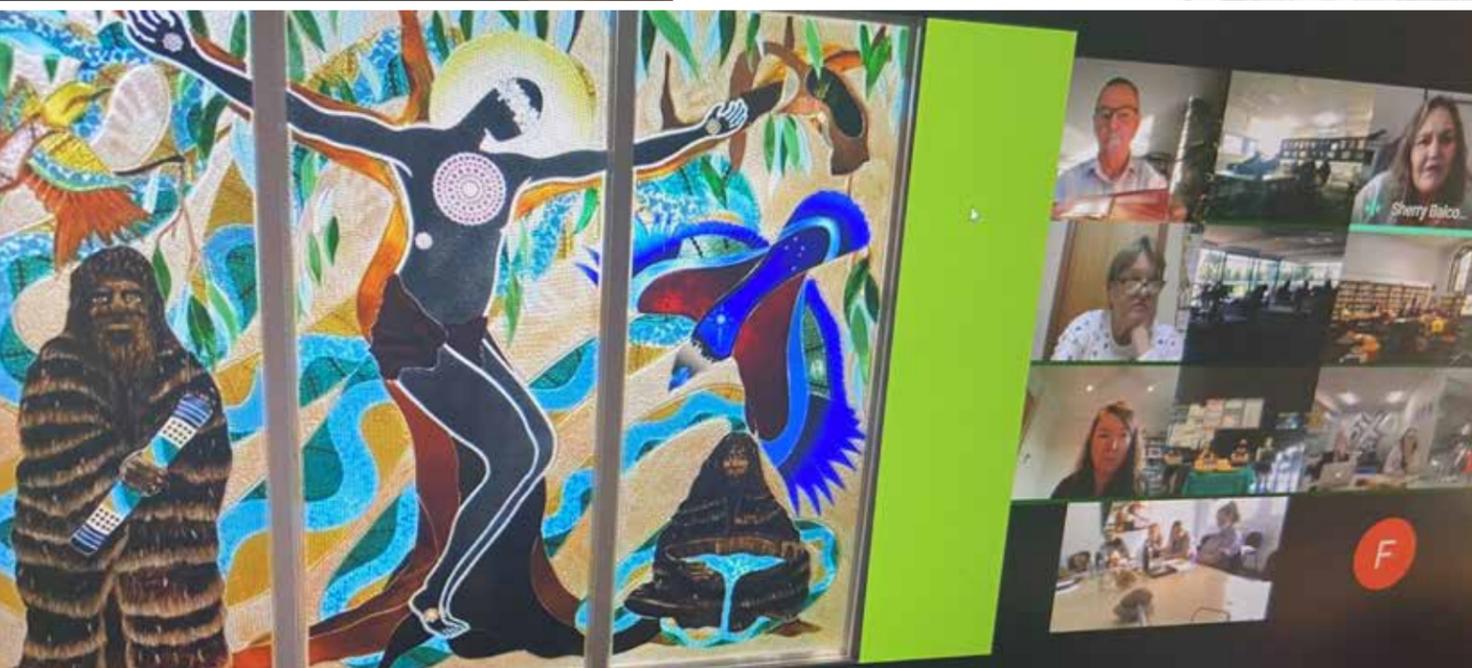
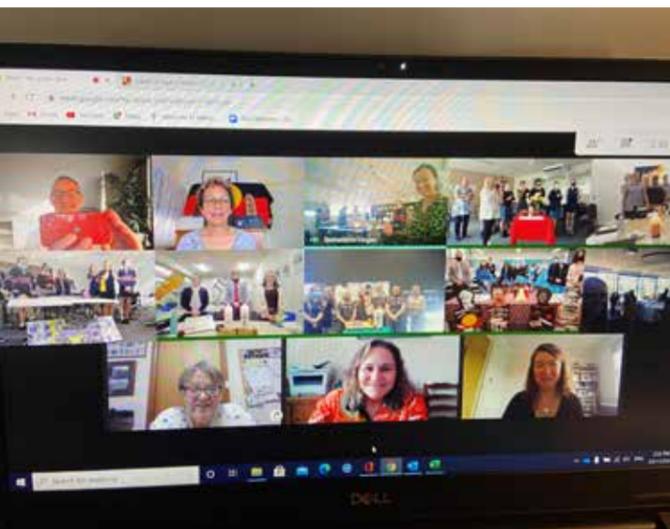
SHC Geelong Year 12 student, Jayanne Johnson, was introduced by her teacher, Claire Connell, who invited Jayanne to tell her story. Jayanne is a proud and articulate young woman who has lived in many parts of the country including NT, WA, QLD and Geelong, VIC. She is a fire-carrier for the college and leads and educates fellow students in promoting an awareness and understanding of how important it is to appreciate and retain the Aboriginal culture and heritage and to learn from the wrongs of the past. She shared stories of her family and her Uncle Johnny who was a wonderful artist and storyteller. Jayanne strongly believes that the Mercy tradition is synonymous with her dream of uniting and bringing people of all cultures together in community and with mutual respect.

The final session of the seminar allowed schools to work in their own groups and consider what they had heard and what they could put in place for 2021 to raise awareness and to unite their school communities. Students were 'charged-up' and came up with some wonderful suggestions including: raising funds for a VCE scholarship for an Aboriginal student; appointing culture leaders to lead activities; incorporate message sticks and other Aboriginal symbolism in college liturgies; build a Reconciliation garden and display Indigenous artwork; promote cultural excursions to Melbourne and regional areas; learn more about the Aboriginal language and fundraise for the Opening the Doors Foundation which provides extra educational funding and support for Aboriginal students.

AN AUSTRALIAN BLESSING

May you always stand
tall as a tree.
Be as strong as the rock Uluru.
As gentle and still as
the morning mist.
Hold the warmth of the
campfire in your heart.
And may the Creator Spirit
always walk with you.

Elizabeth Pike, 1997



We must strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well. Catherine McAuley



MERCEDES COLLEGE
Perth, WA
1846



ST BRIGID'S COLLEGE
Lesmurdie, WA
1929



St Mary's School commenced in 1880 in the 'old Church' which in later years became the Parish Hall.
ST MARY'S COLLEGE SEYMOUR
Seymour, VIC 1880
Affiliated School



ACADEMY OF MARY IMMACULATE
Fitzroy, VIC
1857



SANTA MARIA COLLEGE
Attadale WA
1937



MERCEDES COLLEGE
Springfield, SA
1954
Affiliated School



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Geelong, VIC
1860



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



MOUNT ST BERNARD COLLEGE
Herberton, QLD
1920
Affiliated School



Catholic College Bendigo renamed in 2018 to
CATHERINE MCAULEY COLLEGE
Bendigo, VIC
1876



MERCY COLLEGE
Coburg, VIC
1965
Affiliated School



OUR LADY OF MERCY CATHOLIC SCHOOL
Deloraine, TAS
1895
Affiliated School



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
Adelaide, SA
1880



MERCY REGIONAL COLLEGE
Camperdown, VIC
1973
Affiliated School



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE
Australind, WA
2020
Affiliated School



ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
North Melbourne, VIC
1887



Sacred Heart College amalgamated to
NOTRE DAME COLLEGE
Shepparton, VIC
1902
Affiliated School



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Yarrowonga, VIC
1963
Affiliated School



SACRED HEART COLLEGE
Kyneton, VIC
1889



Stella Maris Regional Girls' College amalgamated to
MARIST REGIONAL COLLEGE
Burnie, TAS
1900
Affiliated School



ST FRANCIS DE SALES COLLEGE
Mount Barker, SA
1902
Affiliated School



MOUNT LILYDALE MERCY COLLEGE
Lilydale, VIC
1896



College of Our Lady of the Sea – 1898 / Padua Preparatory House for Little Boys – 1899; amalgamated to Padua College, Mornington 1946
PADUA COLLEGE
Mornington 1946
Affiliated School



TRINITY COLLEGE
Colac, VIC
1983
Affiliated School



ST JOSEPH'S COLLEGE
Mildura, VIC
1906



CATHOLIC COLLEGE WODONGA
Wodonga, VIC
1979
Affiliated School



ST FRANCIS XAVIER PRIMARY SCHOOL
Ballarat East, VIC
1914
Affiliated School



OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE
Heidelberg, VIC
1910



BUNBURY CATHOLIC COLLEGE
Bunbury, WA
1973
Affiliated School