

Mercy Ed

The Newsletter of Mercy Education ABN 69 154 531 870

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Editorial



Welcome to the first edition of the Mercy Education Newsletter for 2023.

I hope that you all had a well-earned break over Summer. For some of our school leaders this was very different to previous Summer holidays, as they were dealing with the implications of COVID within their schools.

Although there was little or no lockdowns in our schools, it did not mean that COVID was not still impacting upon the day-to-day operations of school through staff and student absences and staff movements. We hope that 2023 will bring greater stability and a greater continuity of learning and wellbeing in our schools.

St Aloysius College North Melbourne celebrated their 135 year Anniversary with a wonderful Eucharistic Celebration at St Patrick's Cathedral. Their College choir excelled with angelic voices. It is also a big year St. Aloysius College Nth Melbourne as they return to co-education welcoming 55 Year 7 boys.

In early March over 30 of our Deputy Principals from Mercy Education and Affiliate colleges gathered at Mount Lilydale Mercy College for the first of their seminars. Our senior leaders were fortunate to have Audrey Brown and Sr Karon Donnellan RSM facilitate several sessions focusing on developing middle leaders. Planning is underway for their second seminar which is to be held in Perth in September.

We would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new senior leaders to the Mercy Education community. We really appreciate their willingness to take up the challenge that Catherine McAuley has set for us leaders in Mercy Education.

Finally, I would like to congratulate all the recipients of the 2022 Mercy Education Awards in their respective colleges. I encourage you to read in the Mercy Education Award winners' section of this newsletter, the reasons why these inspiring young women and men were worthy recipients of their award. Our hope is that they will continue to build on what they have achieved and continue to follow in the footsteps of Catherine McAuley and her Sisters to make this world a better place.

Chris Bence
HEAD OF SCHOOL ENGAGEMENT

Mercy Education Board 2023



Mercy Education Board (Left to Right): Karen Jongebloed (Deputy Board Chair), Kelly-Ann McKinnis (Director), Maria McGarvie (Director), Dr John Ballard (Director), Em Prof Anne Hunt OAM FACE (Director), Georgina Smith (Board Chair), Jeff Thorne (Director), Mary Retel (Director)

Board Directors support our Colleges

Our current Mercy Education Board Directors wish to continue the practice that has existed over the years of supporting our Colleges. This support enables our Directors to gain a deeper understanding and insights of our schools as well as schools feeling the support and encouragement from their Directors.

For 2023 the following Directors are aligned to the following Colleges:

Georgina Smith	St. Aloysius College, Adelaide
Karen Jongebloed	Emmanuel College, Warrnambool St. Aloysius College, North Melbourne
Anne Hunt	Sacred Heart College, Geelong Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg
Maria McGarvie	Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy Sacred Heart College, Kyneton Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale
Mary Retel	St. Brigid's College, Lesmurdie
Kelly-Ann McKinnis	Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo
Jeff Thorne	Mercedes College, Perth Santa Maria College, Attadale
John Ballard	St. Joseph's College, Mildura



Be Curious Become Brilliant… St Aloysius College North Melbourne

The world is co-ed and so are we in 2023…

2022 was an important year in our college history as it marked, in North Melbourne, 135 years of delivering Catholic Education in the tradition of the Sisters of Mercy. The milestone was an amazing achievement, built upon the legacy of the Sisters who were always, and remain, the thread that binds us, built also upon 135 years of parents trusting the school with the education of their children, working hard to fund their dreams, and the countless staff, some for a few weeks, others for decades, who all contributed to this wonderful journey.

It was Mother Xavier Fallon who alongside five fellow Sisters of Mercy, established the first Convent of Mercy in North Melbourne in 1886; it did not quite resemble the beautiful school we now have but in many ways the terrace house on Flemington Road, just opposite what is now the Royal Children's Hospital, which is where the Convent was located, is very reminiscent of Mercy House in Baggot Street Dublin, the foundation residence of the Sisters. For Mother Xavier, it must have strangely felt like home.

A year later, in response to parent requests to provide a "Select Day School for Young Ladies", the Sisters started to teach French, singing and drawing to a small number of students which were the very first classes of a school that would one day be known as St Aloysius. In 1890 the Sisters moved to the school's present site and commenced the provision of both primary and secondary education, for girls and boys.

One early Principal had a most significant and lasting impact on the school. Although Sister Gonzaga was only Principal for four years from 1920, it was under her leadership and direction that the school was re-named St Aloysius College, after her own patron saint and our motto 'Strive for Higher Things' was established. Thirty years later, in 1952, primary classes were phased out to cater for a rapidly growing secondary sector, marking the end of co-education.

Seventy-one years on, in 2023, we are in so many ways returning to our beginnings. This 'return' will certainly bring with it, new stories, a broadening spectrum of experiences, opportunities and challenges which, when combined with our rich past, will add texture and tone to the mosaic that is St Aloysius College and add colour and light, innovation and modernity, to the tapestry of individual stories, all of which are uniquely beautiful, inspirational and personal, all of which will owe their unfolding to Sister Xavier and the Sisters of Mercy.

The return to co-education after seventy-one years was not taken lightly but it was taken with the best interests of our students, families, staff, and community. Although work on the return commenced much earlier, 2022 certainly marked the start of a new chapter in our history as we prepared in earnest to open our doors to both Year 7 girls and boys in 2023. The world, as it always does, moves on but it only moves in the right direction when capable, wise and caring individuals are at its helm; these were certainly very present in making the decision, and bringing it to its fruition, and



First School day for Year 7 2023

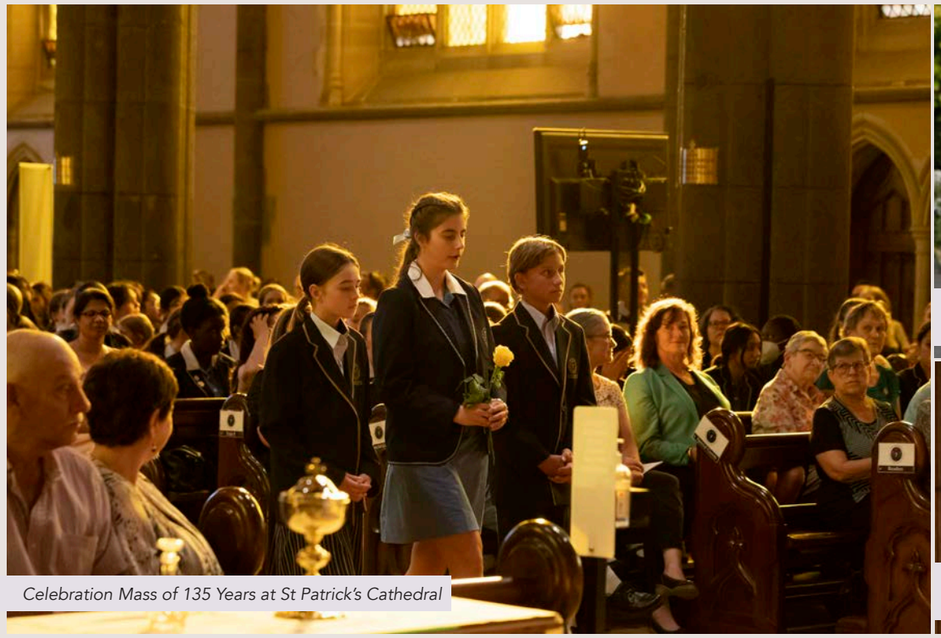
although it may have been a simple tagline, life in Australia in 2023 is very much co-educational and so equality and equity were our touchstones. I thank the very many wise, capable, and caring individuals who led our journey to co-education.

Returning to co-education provides an authentic foundation for our college to reflect the world in which our classrooms live and further allows our young girls and boys to have real-world experiences in navigating the perennial challenges of social and emotional growth, of building mutual respect and trust and working collaboratively, as well as challenging each other. As such, the decision presents an exciting opportunity to develop our campus and our programs in exponential ways.

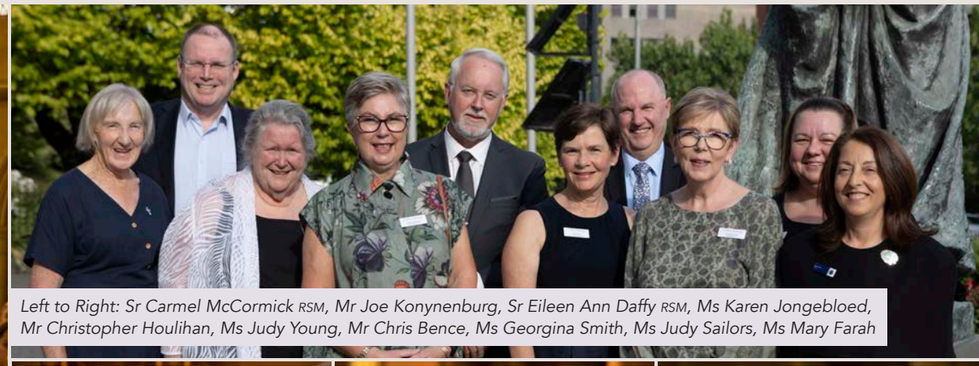
The narrative, life is co-ed and so are we, generated immediate and genuine interest for our families. Our Year 7 intake doubled in 2023, with similar projections for 2024 and 2025, with commensurate additions to staff numbers.

Equally as pleasing, has been the support of our teaching and administration staff. Overwhelmingly they have embraced the move and we were fortunate that so many have co-educational experience; nevertheless, we spent much of 2021 and 2022 undergoing professional development to ensure a seamless transition. As such, our Teaching and Learning and Co-Curricular programs have been redesigned and enhanced to accommodate for the evolving needs of our students. Amongst those changes has been a shift in timetabling and the College's new membership to the Association of Co-Educational Schools (ACS).

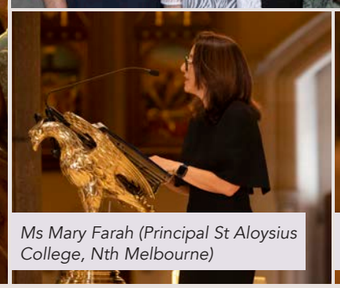
Excitingly, those we cater for the most – our students – have been genuine in their eagerness to welcome the 2023 Year 7 cohort. I am so pleased and proud, that our students have embraced the move wholeheartedly and are taking it upon themselves to not only welcome the boys in Year 7, but to also pass on what it means to be a student at St Aloysius.



Celebration Mass of 135 Years at St Patrick's Cathedral



Left to Right: Sr Carmel McCormick RSM, Mr Joe Konynenburg, Sr Eileen Ann Daffy RSM, Ms Karen Jongebloed, Mr Christopher Houlihan, Ms Judy Young, Mr Chris Bence, Ms Georgina Smith, Ms Judy Sailors, Ms Mary Farah



Ms Mary Farah (Principal St Aloysius College, Nth Melbourne)



Ms Georgina Smith (Mercy Education Board Chair)



St Aloysius students at Celebration Mass

Our 2023 started with a very special Opening School Mass, held at St Patrick's Cathedral, on Thursday 16 February.

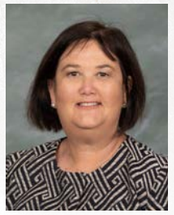
The Most Reverend Martin Ashe, Auxiliary Bishop, Archdiocese of Melbourne, was the principal celebrant, accompanied by concelebrants, Father Thang Vu, College Chaplain, Reverend Max Vodola, Father Barry Tobin and Reverend Jo Dirks.

In his homily, Bishop Ashe invited us to create a "place of welcome" and urged us to continue to draw upon our Mercy values in all our actions, recognising that diverse perspectives can help answer big questions and improve understanding and provide Christian hospitality. It is our great joy to see our students develop a life-long love of learning and curiosity, framed by an outward looking and forward-thinking approach.

Finally, 2022 also witnessed the launch of Towards 2027, the College Strategic plan. This document will be our compass as we move towards a fully co-educational school in Year 7-12 in 2028. 2023 will certainly be a year in which we acknowledge the past, appreciate the present, and look forward with excitement to the next chapter, in a continuing journey, that commenced when the Sisters of Mercy founded our school. In everything we do, we continue to take bold and courageous steps, following the example of our founder Catherine McAuley, in providing a Mercy education which our students and families deserve.

Ms Mary Farah
PRINCIPAL ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE
NORTH MELBOURNE

Mercy Education Welcomes
Our New Principal, Deputy Principals and Senior Leaders



Veronica Parker

Principal – St Brigid's College

Veronica Parker was appointed as Principal to St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie, at the commencement of Term 3, 2022.

Commencing her teaching career in a remote Aboriginal community led by the Loreto Sisters, Veronica has served almost 30 years in Catholic education. She has worked across primary, secondary and tertiary settings in remote, rural and metropolitan locations.

Veronica commenced her career as a primary teacher in the Kimberley region of Western Australia. As opportunities presented themselves, she moved to teaching in a secondary setting and then worked for a few years at the University of Notre Dame and as a Consultant for Catholic Education. Her work in the region spanned 18 years.

Her most recent position was as Vice Principal at Ursula Frayne Catholic College, Victoria Park, a K – 12 College located close to the city of Perth. She held this position for 10 years. It is here where Veronica's love of the Australian chapter of Mercy, through the story of Ursula Frayne was formed. The journals, stories and tradition of Mercy were lovingly shared by the Sisters of Mercy and the faithful laity who continued the Mercy legacy.

Throughout Veronica's professional life, she has drawn on the decision-making and attributes her career success to the mentoring and coaching she has been provided. Veronica's academic studies have enabled her to complete a Bachelor of Arts, Bachelor of Education, Graduate Certificate in Religious Education, Professional Certificate in Instructional Leadership and a Master of Education in Leadership and Management.

Veronica is a mother to three amazing young men. Her sons, William, Michael and Jeremy are all talented in their own fields and she enjoys the laughter and noise of the family home. Married to Geoff, they share a love of AFL, cricket, road trips and coastal holidays.



Natasha Quinn

Deputy Principal – Pastoral Care, Mercedes College

As the newly appointed Deputy Principal at Mercedes College, I am so delighted to be returning to a Mercy school. It feels like coming "home". I was educated in Catholic order run schools all my life and for me the notion of community underpinned by the Mercy values are at the core of what we do in Pastoral Care.

Prior to this role at Mercedes College, I was employed as Vice Principal at Chisholm Catholic College from 2018 to 2022 and as Deputy Principal at St Norbert College from 2013-2017. During 2011 and 2012, I was seconded as a Consultant with the Catholic Education Office of Western Australia in the areas of Strategy, Policy and Governance primarily to work on particular projects including consultation, production and implementation of a system wide strategic plan (LEAD) as well as projects related to "Building the Education Revolution" (BER) and "Smarter Schools" funding and initiatives.

Some of my fondest memories were from Mercy College from January 2002 to December 2010 where I met my husband. Whilst at Mercy, I held a variety of roles including English teacher, Head of Years 10, 11 and 12, Assistant Head of Senior Learning Centre, Head of Learning Area for Technology & Enterprise and Head of VET & Careers. I have also worked as a sessional lecturer for the University of Notre Dame. My first teaching position between 1998 – 2002 was at Lumen Christi College.

Over the past 6 years I served as President, Vice President and Executive member of the Catholic Secondary Deputy Principals' Association of Western Australia. I am a member of the Australian Council of Educational Leaders.

Immediately prior to my teaching and leadership roles in Catholic Education, I was employed in strategic planning, management consulting and marketing for a wide range of organisations including St John of God Hospital, Subiaco and Murdoch and the Sisters of St John of God; KPMG Peat Marwick, one of Australia's leading chartered accounting and business advisory firms; and the Australian Trade Commission.



Lucy Neil

Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching, Academy of Mary Immaculate

I am delighted to have joined Academy of Mary Immaculate. Prior to coming to the Academy, I had heard what a great community it is and in the last few weeks I have felt that strength of community and have been warmly welcomed into the Academy community by staff, students and parents.

I am originally from the UK and taught in England and New Zealand before moving to Melbourne in 2008. I have spent the last 14 years working in Catholic Education in Melbourne in both all boys and all girls secondary schools. During this time, my roles have included Mathematics Learning Area Leader, Director of Learning and Development (Data and Student Progression), VCE Coordinator and Performance and Development Leader.

I believe that our role as educators is to help all students grow and flourish wherever their starting point is and whatever their interests are and my role as a leader is to help put the structures in place that best support teachers in improving student outcomes and achieve individual success. In 2022, I achieved National Certification as a Lead Teacher; my lead initiative was to create a data informed culture that enables teachers to support student outcomes by helping teachers use the data to identify each student's learning level and implement interventions where necessary and using data to evaluate and adapt learning and wellbeing programs.

As Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching, one of my priorities at the Academy is to ensure it continues to be a premier learning community by calling everyone in the community to follow Catherine McAuley's advice to 'strive to do ordinary things extraordinarily well.' I am looking forward to being part of the wider Mercy community and making a positive impact at the Academy of Mary Immaculate.

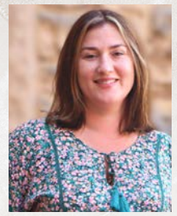


Jim Baird

Deputy Principal – Catherine McAuley College

I have been given the wonderful opportunity to be part of the Catherine McAuley College Community. I am the Deputy Principal at St Mary's Campus. I have spent the majority of my teaching life on the Mornington Peninsula. I have taught at Rosebud Secondary College and Padua College. I have also taught at an International School in Brunei Darussalam, in South East Asia. I have two daughters who both went to Padua College and are both now teachers. My wife is a Learning Support Officer, so helping people in Education is now engrained in the family.

While teaching at Padua College, I was made aware of the pioneering efforts off the Mercy sisters and was always eager to explain to parents the journey of the Mercy sisters to Australia and the roles that they played in establishing Catholic Education in Australia. I am looking forward to continuing my connection with Mercy Education and becoming part of the Bendigo community.



Mrs Kirsty Murphy

Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning, Mercedes College

It is with great excitement and optimism that I commence the role of Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning at Mercedes College, Perth. In my 22 years as an educator, I have been fortunate to experience many school contexts from co-education to single-sex schools in both Perth and the UK. For the past 13 years, it has been my privilege to help shape the future of students at Mercedes College. In my time at Mercedes, I have enjoyed teaching Science, Maths and STEM and spent four years in the Head of Science role. I have also realised that in a rapidly changing world, having Mercy values that underpin everything that we strive to achieve as a community is uplifting. More recently as Dean of Campus, I was able to gain a deeper understanding of whole school initiatives in relation to curriculum development and pastoral care. These leadership roles were a fantastic experience in deeper collaboration with students, staff and the College community for the success of our students.

The success and wellbeing of our students is at the core of my decision-making as a school leader. I look forward to leading whole school initiatives to effectively address to a high standard what we teach, how we teach, and how we tailor to and support our students to achieve success in a changing and complex world.



Megan Edwards

Head of Student Wellbeing – Our Lady of Mercy College

I feel extremely privileged to serve the College community of Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg in the role of Head of Student Wellbeing. Through my years of teaching and in the various leadership roles I have held, I have always placed an emphasis on improving practice and enhancing family engagement. I believe that education at its best nurtures the whole person and that it is when the interconnection of learning and wellbeing are emphasised, that young people truly flourish.

In my career to date, I have taught in schools in three different states and have held the positions of Health and Physical Education Coordinator, Curriculum Coordinator and both House and Year Level Coordinator. In 2022, I completed my Masters of Leadership at the Australian Catholic University.

It is with a sense of great excitement that I commence my role this year. I am grateful for the support and generosity of my colleagues and I feel very fortunate to be a leader of such a vibrant learning community. I am inspired by the legacy of Catherine McAuley and her leadership and our college values of courage, compassion, justice and joy will guide me in my service of the OLMC community.



Jason Blackburn

Deputy Principal – School Engagement, Development and Empowerment, Sacred Heart College

Jason commenced his teaching career in 2010 and has worked for the past thirteen years in coeducational environments. His formation as a teacher finds its roots in the educational charisms of the Marist Brothers and Sisters of our Lady of Sion. Like the work of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy, these orders have historically found their vocation in making Christ known to young people through education of the marginalised and vulnerable whilst fostering dialogue between people of different backgrounds. Such a formation has led Jason to place social justice at the heart of his practice.

With experience working in Victoria's out of home care system prior to becoming a teacher, Jason has held several leadership roles where learner agency and the voice of young people were at the centre of his work. Jason holds a Master's degree in education, specialising in student wellbeing, which he completed in 2013. He has recently completed further study at the University of Melbourne in the field of Instructional Leadership. He is a passionate advocate for the sustainability of the teaching profession and has worked collaboratively with the Independent Education Union since 2019 to provide perspective on professional matters affecting teachers and young people in schools.

The dignity and value of each individual person guides Jason's practice and will be his anchoring principle in his work in student engagement and empowerment at Sacred Heart College.



Melissa Riley

Deputy Principal – Pedagogy, Learning Design and Innovation, Sacred Heart College

Melissa is a passionate educator with almost 20 years of experience in girls' education and a special affinity for the qualities embodied in a Mercy education. She has held leadership roles in ICT (Learning and Curriculum), History Faculty Head, Leader of Student Academic Programs and executive level leadership in Learning and Innovation.

Melissa has advocated strongly for the teaching profession throughout her career and influenced policy and curriculum through a variety of roles outside the classroom, including the board membership of the History Teachers' Association of NSW and the Professional Teachers' Council of NSW. She has also been involved in curriculum development and review at both national and state level through ACARA and the New South Wales Education Standards Authority. Melissa's love for teaching History has never waned, being recognised for her contribution to the community as the recipient of the 2015 NSW Premier's History Scholarship and she continues to deliver professional learning for History teachers at all stages of their careers.

For Melissa, seeing young women flourish through the power of education is the driver for her commitment to change and improvement in all education systems.



Deputy Principal's and Senior Leaders Seminar 2-3 March 2023, Lilydale

On Thursday 2 and Friday 3 March over 30 Deputy Principals and senior leaders from our Mercy Education and Affiliate colleges gathered at Mount Lilydale Mercy College, where they experienced warm hospitality from our gracious hosts. The theme of the seminar was "How can we better grow our middle leaders to be more effective and efficient as they move from being a coordinator to being a real leader".

To provide the senior leaders with great insights and provocations they were fortunate to have as their guest facilitators Audrey Brown and Karon Donnellon RSM. Audrey focused her time with them on unpacking one of the AiSTL Principal Leadership Standards – "Developing Self and Others". Karon facilitated her sessions on leadership in the Mercy tradition, where Karon encourage them to seek out opportunities where they can grow their leadership in and through the inspiration of Catherine McAuley.

The seminar also included a special welcome to country and smoking ceremony followed by the celebration of Mass in the College Chapel led by the College Chaplin Fr Dean. A very pleasant and enjoyable dinner was held on Thursday evening.

Our thanks go out the Deputy Principal Planning committee who worked in conjunction with Leadership Team at Mount Lilydale Mercy College to bring this seminar into reality. A special thanks to Phil Morrison, Liz Keogh and Marilyn Ryan who worked tirelessly on organising the venues, accommodation, the program, and the liturgies. The senior leaders are looking forward to their next seminar to be held in Perth, where our three Mercy Education Perth schools will play host. The focus for this seminar will be on Student Diversity.

New Affiliates

It is our pleasure to welcome our new affiliate Colleges and schools to Mercy Education since our last Newsletter. These are St Thomas School and Pre-school in Goodwood SA, Ursula Frayne Catholic College Victoria Park WA, Our Lady Queen of Peace Albert Park SA, and St Gerard's Catholic Primary School Westminster WA.

Each of these colleges and schools have decided to align themselves with Mercy Education to enhance their historical roots with the Mercy Sisters, as well as appreciating the collegiality that exists between the Principals and Senior Leaders across the Mercy education family, and finally they have the opportunity to access all the conferences, seminars and networks that Mercy Education offer to our colleges and schools especially around Mercy formation.

Mercy Education Awards



Academy of Mary Immaculate, Fitzroy VIC

Kristabelle Francis (Krissy) has been a member of the Academy Justice Group since Year 7, in the role of Class Justice Captain each year.

She is a dedicated member of this group which includes the Academy FIRE Carriers. This year, Krissy has been commissioned as a senior Academy FIRE Carrier and she always uses her outstanding leadership skills to support Academy of Mary Immaculate's commitment to working for reconciliation through education. Indeed, she embraces opportunities to highlight a range of social justice issues.

Krissy is an enthusiastic participant in many Justice and school community activities, sharing of herself generously across all year levels and with staff. She is willing to work outside school hours to support a variety of initiatives. She listens thoughtfully, acknowledging the ideas of others and is always willing to share her thoughts and explore new ideas.

She has been an excellent contributor to her year level's efforts to support the Days for Girls organisation and was an integral member of the group of staff and students who set the foundations for our relationship with the students from Worowa Aboriginal Girls' College, Healesville. Krissy has also been involved in the Academy Connecting Community Program that works to foster relationships with our local primary school with shared activity sessions.

Krissy has led students in Justice Group and in her own year level to fundraise and to raise awareness for the many causes supported by the Academy of Mary Immaculate. She does this by working tirelessly to develop creative initiatives and by supporting initiatives developed by other students and staff. She is a regular participant in the Mercy Seeds of Justice biannual student conferences, leading discussion and forward planning. Over the past two years Krissy has also been involved in our volunteer program, regularly volunteering at St Mary's House of Welcome, Fitzroy and the Fitzroy Homework Club.

Krissy lives the Mercy values in all her encounters at school, in her classes, as a member of her year level and the various groups she belongs to across a variety of areas. She is empathetic and considerate of all students. She is a thoughtful and generous member of groups and is also willinging to work alone for something she believes is important. She is a proud Mercy student who is also a model of Mercy for others in our community.



Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo VIC

Jack Osborne demonstrates excellence in leadership, community participation and lives out the Mercy values. Jack has represented the college through a number of community events, in particular the SPAN (Suicide Prevention Awareness Network) walk in 2022. Jack has a resilience that has seen him overcome many challenges and persevere. He has a strong commitment to social justice, conducts himself with integrity and shows compassion and respect for his peers, staff and all he interacts with.



Catholic College Wodonga, VIC

Simone Herzina is a most worthy recipient of the Mercy Education Award. During her time at Catholic College Wodonga, Simone has taken up all opportunities to lead and serve our community. Simone has demonstrated all six values, most recently through her support of our Youth Ministry Programme and membership of our Sustainability Team. Simone has led and supported Social Justice activities and awareness raising and she has been committed to working for reconciliation.

Outside of school, Simone dedicates her time to working at Vinnies and she has been an integral member of our Sacred Heart Parish Youth Team as they have reconnected to plan and lead activities for our Parish Youth.

Simone is a courageous leader who continually juggles her academic aspirations with her willingness to serve. She always goes beyond to contribute, work with others, build community, involve peers and values everyone.

In the words of one staff member who nominated Simone…it's "A no brainer. Choose Simone, she deserves it!"

Simone has been elected as our College Captain for 2023; a well-deserved achievement for an outstanding young woman who personifies the Mercy values on a daily basis.



Damascus College, Ballarat VIC

Kaitlyn Handreck has contributed positively to all aspects of school life and has shown a desire to make all those around her enjoy their time as well.

She has been a SRC representative for Xavier, was the captain of the Green Group and has coached debating. She is conscientious about her schoolwork makes a point of interacting positively with her teachers. In 2022 she was a proactive member of the Sustainability Committee and was a major contributor the arrangements for EnviroWeek.

She was an active participant in the Regional Seeds of Justice Program at Anglesea in 2022.

Outside school, Kaitlyn is part of her church's youth group and helps with children's programs, Creche, and helping with Sunday school. She is a member of the Ballarat District Support and Fundraising Charity.

Kaitlyn works part time in a pharmacy and part of her goal in this is to create connections with people, build positive relationships with them and thus lead to a rewarding experience for all.



Emmanuel College, Warrnambool VIC

Nina Fitzsimmons completed Year 12 in 2022 and during her six years at Emmanuel College she exemplified the Mercy Education values of Compassion, Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Courage, and Service. She achieved excellent academic results and was a committed and respectful student. She was always keen to volunteer and help at masses and liturgies, wrote letters to the aged care residents at Lyndoch Living during the pandemic and was an active member of Young Vinnies, school environment group, and student book club. Nina was proactive in helping to sort and recycle books as part of the College's library refurbishment, participated as a shadow judge for the Children's Book Council of Australia awards and competed in the Mercy Education Frayne Festival. Nina was recognised for developing a Health Spot app aimed at supporting people with mental health issues through strategies, resources, meditation, and mindful music. She was also a Rotary ambassador as a National Youth Science Forum candidate and was recognised by the Australasian Mercy Secondary School Association for initiating with a clothing manufacturing company based in a third world country, the use of small pieces of scrap fabrics to be sewn into reusable sanitary products for women in India.



Marist Regional College, Burnie TAS

Jazmine Keen is a member of our Student Representative Council and has been an active member of our College community for six years.

In 2022 she held the role of Treasurer of the SRC and did an exemplary job as she liaised with both students and staff.

Jazmine always has a smile on her face and goes out of her way to talk to other students in her own year level and other year levels. She is one of the first students to put her hand up to help out with extra-curricular activities.

She lives and breathes the Mercy values and is a worthy recipient of this Award



Mercedes College, Perth WA

Lara Tucker has been a member of the Student Representative Council and has been a strong leader of both formal and informal initiatives within her homeroom. She positively contributes to discussions, always considering the needs of others in her suggestions. Her kind and compassionate nature allows her to work well in a team environment but she is not afraid of leadership.

Lara is an active member within our College community. She gives up a lot of her own time outside of formal classes to make a difference. She has been a contributing member of the Wellbeing Committee, the Social Justice Immersion, Fashion for Compassion and our Peer Mentor Program. From her participation in such programs, it is clear that Lara lives the Mercy values of compassion and service. Lara also has a strong concern for justice which this is highlighted by the way she always treats staff, students and the wider community with respect. Lara will go out of her way to ensure people feel included and many of our younger students look up to Lara and the example she sets.

Lara is a great ambassador for the College who is very deserving of the Mercy Education Award.



Mercedes College, Adelaide SA

Isabelle Stein demonstrates consistent and outstanding commitment to all of the Mercy Education core values. She has contributed significantly to leadership in the Mercy Tradition of Education in our College. Through serving on the College's Education standing committee as a student representative she has provided valuable contributions to the development of policy and practice to continue to enhance the educational opportunities of her peers and those who will study at our College in the future.

Isabelle is recognised for the way in which she approaches her schooling, her involvement in extra-curricula activities and the way in which she consistently has embraced service leadership.

She is a selfless individual, involved in a wide array of activities, showing hospitality toward others, regularly and courageously leading by example.



Mercy College, Koondoola WA

Elizabeth D'Cruz Gónzalez has been a role model to her peers and younger students through her active living out of the College motto of Love in Action both at school and in the wider community. She has led through leadership and example, upholding truth, fairness, justice, faithfulness, and loyalty and has earned the respect of her fellow students.

In her own time Elizabeth took an active part in various outreach activities for those in need. One such activity was the 50th Anniversary Quiz Night for Brother Ollie Pickett's Wheelchairs for Kids where she was active with organisation, fundraising and service on the night.

Elizabeth was an integral member of the Children, Family and Community class where she gave of her time to raise money for Fr Sam's Sudan Appeal. Her initiative and participation were greatly appreciated and the long-term effects of her efforts will change the lives of others she does not know and from whom she does not expect thanks or recognition.

Elizabeth has a strong sense of justice and strives to improve the lives of those around her, seeking equality and acceptance for all people.

Her living out of the Value of Service in all areas of her life reflects the attitude of both Jesus and Blessed Catherine McAuley, both of whose spirituality is firmly embedded in Elizabeth's life and living.



Mercy Regional College Camperdown, VIC

Matilda Kealley is a valued member of our school community she adopts a mature approach to her studies and builds positive relationships with both peers and staff within our school. She clearly demonstrates the Mercy Education values of compassion, justice, respect, hospitality, courage and service.

Matilda demonstrates leadership in the Mercy tradition. She is acknowledged for her continued involvement in promoting school spirit, community service, fundraising and for a genuine concern and care for others less fortunate. She has also been an active participant and valued member of our school's Social Justice Team throughout her time at MRC. She was also a participant in the Regional Seeds of Justice Event

Matilda is a leader within our school and has also been involved in many extra-curricular activities. She has been instrumental in a new sustainability project that encourages our McAuley Campus community to reduce food waste by collecting it and putting it in MRC's compost minimising waste in landfill and creating our own organic fertiliser.



Mount Lilydale Mercy College, Lilydale VIC

Sierra Stoppa is a student who displays the Mercy values in many areas of her life. She is extremely respectful of both her peers and adults alike. As a class member, she freely offers to assist others and do things to make life easier, especially when a peer is behind or struggling to catch up with a task. She always looks out for those who need support and is often their voice when they may not have the courage to speak up for themselves. Sierra is inclusive, inviting others to participate in activities. She displays the Mercy values of compassion, respect and justice in her daily interactions with others. Sierra was very generous with her time and effort on Mercy Day, assisting with the homeroom stall to raise money for Mercy Works. She is a diligent student who works hard to produce her personal best in all curriculum areas, receiving an academic award in all subjects. Sierra's contribution to the Year 9 Compass program, including the Rite Journey and community service has been outstanding. She is a worthy recipient of this award.



Mount St Bernard College, Herberton QLD

Melinda Obah was awarded the Mercy Residential Mother Mary Evangelist Morrissey Award in 2021. This award is presented to students who, in the spirit of mission, are engaged in service and outreach within the College community. Melinda took the initiative in responding to the needs of others and supported community events.

In 2022, Melinda was nominated to the Boarding Representative Council and she has shown leadership skills by mentoring and working in a pastoral care aspect with other students. Melinda has demonstrated diligence and dedication to her Vocational Training and has achieved qualifications in Certificate II in Health Support Services and Certificate II in Community Services and is studying towards a Certificate III in Health Services Assistance. Her career path demonstrates her desire to serve others. Melinda has participated in Rosie's Outreach 'Friends of the Street' Program, the Tablelands Girl's Rugby League team and was selected in the Tablelands 30 Influential Minds Under 30. Melinda was awarded a highly commended QATSIF Art Award, the 2022 Sporting Excellence Award for Peninsula Athletics and has been awarded the 2022 Long Tan Leadership and Teamwork Award in recognition of her leadership and teamwork qualities. Melinda strives for excellence and inspires younger students.



Notre Dame College, Shepparton VIC

Ann Mariya Varkey embodies the Mercy values throughout her everyday life and this has been evident throughout her time at the College. She has a genuine concern for those around her, including those in need and her peers. This has been demonstrated through her support of many school initiatives over the years, including many roles in College Masses. This year, she was involved in our Easter Liturgy she completed a reading and assisted with the carrying of the Cross. Ann Mariya has been involved in Marist Youth Ministry (MYM), where she has worked with other young people across Australia to better the lives of those less fortunate. Ann Mariya is connected to her faith and has embodied this through the Gamechangers program and her attendance at the Australian Catholic Youth Festival (ACYF). She has always been the first to offer to assist in prayer, support her peers, set-up activities and create resources. The Gamechangers program also enabled Ann Mariya to encompass the true being of a Mercy leader. She helped run a camp for other Gamechangers students, to support them in connecting with their faith and begin to develop their leadership skills.



Our Lady of Mercy College, Australind, WA

Amberley Milne has been a member of the College community since commencing in 2017 as a Year 7 student. Throughout her time at the College, she has held a number of leadership positions such as House Leader, Homeroom Representative and Student Councillor, culminating in her appointment as College Captain for 2022. Amberley has shown compassion and hospitality through the extraordinary number of Community Service hours she has completed, supporting activities such as The Smith Family Buddy Reading program, Breakfast Club and assisting with local parish functions. She has consistently served in the College Choir, helped set up for whole College assemblies and liturgies. Amberley displayed courage by training as an Extraordinary Minister of Holy Communion. She treats all members of the College community with respect and has promoted justice activities including fundraising for St Vinnies, Catholic Care and Caritas.



Our Lady of Mercy College, Heidelberg VIC

Jessica Boek is an active member of the OLMC community. She is the Eco Justice Captain as well as being a member of another social justice group, the Feminist Collective. Jessica is warm and inclusive and encourages other students to take up opportunities to give back to the College and the wider community through their involvement in these social justice programs. This year Jessica assisted with the implementation of a reading program at one of our feeder Catholic primary schools. She was also a member of the Mercy Day Planning committee. She has also competed in the House Debating competition and applied to be an SRC representative this year. Jessica is generous with her time and has spoken at the Resurrection Day Mass, Anzac Day Mass and has also addressed the school during the Mercy Day celebrations.



Padua College, Mornington VIC

Emily McGough was the Goold House Sports Captain and Respectful Relationships leader at the Rosebud Campus. She is a diligent student and an excellent role model. Outside of school, Emily is an active member of her life saving club, volunteering over 80 hours last season. She also assists with water safety and coaching. Emily volunteers in the Starfish Nipper Program, a lifesaving skills program designed for children and young adults with a disability. Emily is also an active member of her local Scouts group, deputy chair of her Venturer unit and member of the State Scout Media Team. Somehow, Emily also finds time to volunteer with the Mornington Peninsula Disabled Surfers Association. Emily is an outstanding student at Padua College who demonstrates the Mercy Education values of Justice, Respect, Hospitality, Service and Courage and is the well-deserved winner of the 2022 Mercy Education Award.



Sacred Heart College, Yarrawonga VIC

Jessica Freeman (Jess) is an outstanding student who is a worthy recipient of the Mercy Education Award for 2022. She is a great role model for her peers and the younger students, living out the values of respect and service in her day-to-day interactions at the College. Jess is very welcoming of new students and has spent countless hours coaching primary age students in basketball after school. Jess is the first to volunteer to assist at College functions as well as being actively involved in fundraising for caritas, St Vincent de Paul Society and our local cancer support network Friends in Common.



Sacred Heart College, Geelong VIC

Allegra Lloyd is a Mercy and Mission Leader and is an active member of the Sacred Heart College Community. Allegra demonstrates respect, compassion and justice and has worked to raise awareness of contemporary issues in social justice both within and beyond the College. Allegra has attended the Project Compassion Launch, Seeds of Justice events and has led and participated in the MADJAM committee, Mercy Leadership Certificate, Respect Cup (Football), St Thomas Aquinas Food Pantry Drive and Mercy Empowerment Dinner. The strengths of honesty, love, fairness and curiosity are reflective of Allegra's character both personally and professionally and she is a wonderful role model to many of our younger students. Allegra is a very worthy recipient of this Mercy Award.



Sacred Heart College, Kyneton VIC

Nicolas Hanna has been a major contributor to the life of Sacred Heart College from Year 7. He has willingly assisted and supported the activities of teh College in so many ways.

Nicolas ran the weekly Community Kitchen every year since he was in Year 7 until COVID-19 struck. He has supported the College in numerous way, during COVID-19 through technology in live streaming, theatre and music productions, assemblies and information nights. He is a whizz with sound and technology!

Nicolas was a recent winner of the Macedon Ranges Youth Award for his membership and work with the Youth CFA. He quietly steps in whenever help is needed.

With a huge heart and genine concern for human rights and Social justice, Nicolas approches life with a smile and a dry sense of humour. He is a most worthy recipient of the Mercy Education Award.



Santa Maria College, Attadale WA

Niamh Smithies was Liturgy Captain and President of the Student Ministry Team. In this role, Niamh has been outstanding. Niamh has authentically modelled her faith and successfully encouraged many students to participate in faith experiences. Niamh has also enthusiastically embraced the Faith Pillar of the College's Strategic plan which aims: 'To provide meaningful and relevant ways for students to connect with their faith'. Additionally, Niamh was instrumental in successfully realising the publication and distribution of the Student Prayer Book used daily by students. Furthermore, Niamh has consistently modelled the College Mercy values of Service, Compassion, Justice, Hospitality and Excellence. Niamh has maintained her excellent academic track record and used her musical gifts to enhance liturgical celebrations. She has demonstrated how to use her God-given talents in service of others. Her contribution to the voluntary Service Program at the College has been exceptional as she actively participated as a leader of the Young Vinnies, Young Mercies and Eco-Justice Service Groups. Moreover, she is welcoming of every member of the community in the true spirit of Mercy hospitality and works tirelessly to improve the lives of the marginalised by advocating for the vulnerable.



St Aloysius College, Adelaide SA

Teyah Geddes has attended St Aloysius College for eight years and her leadership qualities have strengthened in her senior years of schooling. In our first year of implementation of our Reconciliation Action Plan, Teyah has been a consistent presence and voice for First Nations students. She has not only attended RAP Committee meetings, she has also chaired the meetings and contributed to the success of RAP activities. Justice and inclusion are core values for Teyah and she lives out her Mercy values of respect, service and courage in all that she does. We are proud to nominate Teyah for the Mercy Award and know that she will continue to be "a shining lamp, giving light to all around her".



St Aloysius College, North Melbourne VIC

Tabitha De Los Santos, class captain, has stepped up every time she was asked her for assistance, including: organising special homeroom events such as birthday celebrations or year level assemblies. Tabitha has written a number of articles for the School Stream app when requested. She has exhibited the value of service. She has also welcomed a new student in our college and her homeroom, thereby showing hospitality. She has also helped out at a few Talk & Tours and she was a good representative of our College.

Her teachers says that they have noticed an improvement in her work ethic. She is more focused and engaged than they have ever seen her. Working well with peers, a keen participant, polite and respectful in class. Tabitha has demonstrated a sense of maturity over the past year. The leadership position has been encouraging for her.



St Brigid's College, Lesmurdie WA

Kiera Watts through her nurturing nature, has demonstrated compassion towards all the students and staff not just at St Brigid's College but also in the wider community.

Kiera has worked hard and has led the way by volunteering to go on the College Immersion Trip to Ringer Soak where she ran activities for the young boys and girls and assisted in making meals for them.

Kiera took part in the Mercy Young Vinnies Sleepout where she had the opportunity to spend a night like the Homeless and listen to a presentation on how the Vinnies help the Homeless.

Through her hospitality values, Kiera spends a lot of her time with the younger students at boarding helping them with strategies when feeling homesick.

She shows courage through her approaches to her studies and when faced with difficulties, she perseveres and continues until she works things out.



St Francis de Sales College, Mount Barker SA

Toris Bynoe-Kinsley (Tori) was a 2022 Year 6 student at St Francis de Sales College, Mount Barker. Throughout her time at the College, Tori demonstrated an outstanding commitment to her studies and made an invaluable contribution to building community. A feature of Tori's commitment to the College has been in her unassuming yet dedicated work with the Vinnie's Faith In Action group. Tori's leadership and dedication has been inspirational to other students and has contributed enormously to the success of a range of social justice initiatives that have had a wide impact in the community.

Tori embodies the Mercy Education Values and is a deserving recipient of the Mercy Education Award for 2022.



St Joseph's College, Mildura VIC

Jordan McKenzie is a dedicated young lady with a strong passion for social justice. She is a compassionate and trustworthy student who always advocates for the rights of those less fortunate. Jordan is known for her active involvement in our student social justice body, the Mercy Action Group, for the past three years.

Jordan has been involved in many aspects of school life since beginning at the College in Year 7. She exercises a genuine concern for others and is well regarded by her peers and staff within the college.

Jordan continuously motivates her peers to become involved and assist those in need. She leads by example, always lending a hand where necessary, shaking a donation tin, making cupcakes for stalls or talking to a lonely student.

Jordan has become a very valuable member of our College community and is enthusiastic about assisting in all areas of Mercy. Despite COVID restrictions and extended lockdowns, she has participated actively in Mercy programs such as Seeds of Justice Conferences, Harmony Week and Mercy Week activities. She inspires staff and students alike and will continue to live out the College and Mercy values through her involvement in the Mercy Action Group in the coming years.



St Mary's College, Seymour VIC

Emily Homewood began her education at St Mary's College in Foundation. She has been a model student who demonstrates the Mercy Values in both actions and words. She always interacts with both students and teachers in a manner that supports the pastoral ethos of the school. Emily has received the citizenship award for her year level in Year 7, 8 and 9 (2019-2021). In 2022 she was elected the House Leader of McAuley House. In this role and previously, Emily has assisted with the organisation and delivery of activities for younger students and has represented the College with pride at community events. Younger students feel comfortable in her presence and look up to her as a leader. Emily is a student who thinks of others before self and is an example of a student who chooses simply to be kind to others.



Trinity College Colac, VIC

Daniel Heinze is wholeheartedly nominated for the Mercy Education Award for 2022. As a Year 12 student Daniel is a force of positivity. He shows kindness and respect to all. Daniel espouses the values of compassion and inclusion by his friendly greeting to all each and every day. He always communicates with something positive to say to both his peers and staff alike. Daniel eagerly volunteers when the opportunity arises and is very generous with his time in supporting the school. In the future Daniel hopes to work in the field of counselling where he will continue to be of service to others.

Mercy Education Colleges

Mercedes College
Perth, WA • 1846

Academy of Mary Immaculate
Fitzroy, VIC • 1857

Sacred Heart College
Geelong, VIC • 1860

Emmanuel College
Warrnambool, VIC • 1872

Catherine McAuley College
Bendigo, VIC • 1876

St Aloysius College
Adelaide, SA • 1880

St Aloysius College
North Melbourne, VIC • 1887

Sacred Heart College
Kyneton, VIC 1889

Mount Lilydale Mercy College
Lilydale, VIC • 1896

St Joseph's College
Mildura, VIC • 1906

Our Lady of Mercy College
Heidelberg, VIC • 1910

St Brigid's College
Lesmurdie, WA • 1929

Santa Maria College
Attadale WA • 1938

Affiliated Schools

St Michaels Primary School
North Melbourne • 1868

St Mary's College
Seymour, VIC • 1880

Damascus College
Ballarat • 1881

Trinity College
Colac, VIC • 1888

Our Lady of Mercy Catholic School
Deloraine, TAS • 1895

St Thomas School & Preschool
Goodwood, SA • 1896

Padua College
Mornington, VIC • 1898

St Anthony's Catholic Primary School
Millicent SA • 1898

Ursula Frayne Catholic College
Victoria Park WA • 1899

Marist Regional College
Burnie, TAS • 1900

Notre Dame College
Shepparton, VIC • 1902

St Francis de Sales College
Mount Barker, SA • 1902

St Francis Xavier Primary School
Ballarat East, VIC • 1914

Mount St Bernard College
Herberton, QLD • 1921

Our Lady Queen of Peace
Albert Park SA • 1949

Mercedes College
Springfield, SA • 1954

Sacred Heart College
Yarrawonga, VIC • 1963

Mercy College
Coburg, VIC • 1965

St Gerard's Catholic Primary School
Westminster, WA • 1965

Mercy College
Koondoola, WA • 1972

Mercy Regional College
Camperdown, VIC • 1973

Catholic College Wodonga
Wodonga, VIC • 1979

Catherine McAuley School
Craigmore, SA • 1996

Our Lady of Mercy College
Australind, WA • 2020

Catherine McAuley College
MacKay, QLD • 2022