



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## OUR VALUES AT WORK

### MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES TRUSTEES VISIT MELBOURNE

Recent consultation across St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA) has reinforced the unequivocal commitment of staff to compassion as a value which is integral to the nature of their delivery of health and aged care. When the two Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (TMAM) appointed in 2011, Dr Tessa Ho and Professor Gabrielle McMullen, and recently appointed Trustee, Jim Russell, visited St Vincent's Health Melbourne (SVHM) on 27-28 March we saw that commitment in action.

Our visit commenced at the Fitzroy campus of the health service where we were briefed by Professor Patricia O'Rourke, Chief Executive Officer, about key activities of SVHM and strategic initiatives. The meeting was also an opportunity to meet senior executives. The gathering began with an acknowledgement of country by Michelle Winters, Senior Aboriginal Health Liaison Officer, and we were particularly pleased to learn of her work in promoting Indigenous health and Indigenous employment at SVHM. Professor O'Rourke generously made Lisa McDonald, Director of Mission, available to host the Trustees' two days in Melbourne. Lisa led a reflection during the briefing that allowed the group to contemplate on their shared commitment to Catholic health and aged care.

*The SVHM staff at the prison provide remarkable care, focused on the human dignity of each patient...*

Our first clinical visit was across Melbourne at Port Phillip Prison where SVHM provides health services. We were driven there by Stephen Vale, Director of Medical Services, Aged and Community Care, whose portfolio includes the prison ministry, offered through three wards at Port Phillip Prison and the secure St Augustine's Ward at the Fitzroy campus. The SVHM staff at the prison provide remarkable care, focused on the human dignity of each patient. We learned how they advocate for their patients to ensure appropriate services from the prison authorities.



Trustees Tessa Ho, Gabrielle McMullen and Jim Russell with Lisa McDonald, SVHM Director of Mission, Bernadette Mundy of Briar Terrace and Byron Lazarides of The Cottage

During our visit we were very conscious of the prison ministry offered by Mary Aikenhead and the first Sisters of Charity in Dublin, and the pioneering Australian Sisters' presence in both the Parramatta and Hobart Female Factories. The continuation of the ministry through the presence of SVHM at Port Phillip Prison, manifests service of the poor in the tradition of the Sisters of Charity.

We returned to the Fitzroy campus for lunch at Briar Terrace where the Sisters of Charity, under the leadership of Bernadette Mundy, conduct a drop-in cottage for the homeless and socially isolated people from the local community. We met participants and volunteers, before going next door to Sr Francesca Healy Cottage. Under Manager Byron Lazarides, the latter, which is generally known as 'The Cottage,' provides short-term health care in a supportive residential environment for those experiencing or at risk of homelessness. We valued hearing about these two ministries and highlight them as important examples of the welfare activities across Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

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# OUR VALUES AT WORK

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Trustees Tessa Ho and Gabrielle McMullen with Lisa McDonald, SVHM Director of Mission, and Professor Michael Parker, Director of the Biota Structural Biology Laboratory at the St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research

During Monday afternoon the Trustees visited a range of in-patient facilities, including the Cardiac Investigation Unit, Emergency Department, Intensive Care Unit and Mental Health. Kerry Bradley, General Manager of Medical Services, and her staff, made us very welcome and, from our interactions with them and patients, we were highly impressed by the quality of care and commitment to excellence and innovation. We gained further insight into clinical services the following morning, when we toured the impressive new St Vincent's Cancer Centre with Dr Ray Snyder, Director of Cancer Services.

At the conclusion of Monday afternoon we were privileged to visit Cambridge House, one of SVHM's aged care facilities. Maryanne Welch, General Manager of Aged and Community Care, introduced us to staff and the culturally-diverse residents, to gain an understanding of the holistic programs provided by Cambridge House.

SVHA has a national and international reputation for its leadership in medical research, and on Tuesday morning we toured the two Melbourne research institutes. Our first visit was to St Vincent's Institute of Medical Research where Director Professor Tom Kay and his staff provided us with an overview of facilities and programs. After morning tea we toured the O'Brien Institute and Professor Wayne Morrison, Director, and his staff briefed us on the Institute's micro and regenerative surgery programs which "act as a bridge between fundamental advances and scientific discoveries and their clinical application." We congratulate the staff at the two institutes on their world-class internationally competitive medical research.

Our two days at SVHM concluded with the opportunity to meet the pastoral care team.

We are most grateful to all those within SVHM who live out the mission and values of our ministries, and thank them for their warm welcome and hospitality shown to us during our visit.

**Gabrielle McMullen**  
*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

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## A SPECIAL VISITOR

In May 2012, Mary Aikenhead Ministries was honoured to be visited by His Most Eminent Highness, the Prince and Grand Master of the Order of Malta, Frà Matthew Festing. This was the first visit by the head of the Order to Australia<sup>1</sup>, and his time here included a tour of two of the health facilities conducted by St Vincent's Health Australia, Caritas Christi Hospice in Melbourne and Gorman House Detoxification Unit in Sydney.

The Australian Order of Malta has been a long-term benefactor of these and other SVHA services, and Mary Aikenhead Ministries gratefully acknowledges the generous support of the Order. At Caritas Christi Frà Festing joined the residents, staff and members of the Order, for Mass and a blessing of the sick.

At Gorman House he participated in a barbeque for residents provided by members of the Order. Frà Festing acknowledged the very special care that these ministries provide to vulnerable members of the community.

**Gabrielle McMullen**  
*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

<sup>1</sup>The mission of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, which was founded ca. 1048, is to serve the sick, the disadvantaged and those in natural disaster and conflict situations. In the Catholic Church, the Grand Master ranks as the highest official after the cardinals and, in addition to the Pope, is the only modern leader of an entity within the Catholic Church to be considered a sovereign monarch.

# MILESTONES

## OUR MELBOURNE COLLEGES CELEBRATE SIGNIFICANT ANNIVERSARIES

### St Columba's College

On 29 February 2012, the St Columba's College Community, past and present, celebrated its 115th anniversary with a Mass in St Patrick's Cathedral, Melbourne. Those attending included students, parents, staff, Board members, special guests and, of course, many Sisters of Charity.



April Honeyman, Principal St Columba's College with students at St Patrick's Cathedral Melbourne

An extract from Principal April Honeyman's speech, follows:

*"From that quiet whisper of God's voice heard in the intimacy of Mary Aikenhead's heart would come a mighty chorus of women's voices ... her Sisters of Charity:*

- *voices speaking for the silenced;*
- *voices comforting and reassuring the poor;*
- *voices advocating for change;*
- *voices questioning and searching for new and better ways to be, and to do God's work;*
- *voices imagining and dreaming;*
- *voices of women – heard in strength, in certainty, in faithfulness, and in service.*

*Since our foundation in 1897, this call has been a cornerstone of St Columba's College:*

- *It has shaped us and impelled us to action;*
- *It has taught us what it means to walk in the ways of those who heard that call;*
- *It has given us courage to believe that "just because it hasn't been done before, doesn't mean it can't be done now."*

*It has taught us:*

- *that creativity demands critique and challenge;*
- *that to renew requires vision and energy, and to transform requires dedication and selflessness;*
- *and finally, that compassion has to be drawn from our deepest resources, not from those most readily to hand."*

April Honeyman

Principal, St Columba's College

### Catholic Ladies' College

This year, Catholic Ladies' College celebrates its 110th anniversary this year. The 2012 theme: *"We seek what they sought, in new and different ways,"* strives to capture the past, celebrate the present and plan for the future, in a way that is consistent with the values and beliefs of our College and Christian story. The key words of "seek," "sought" and "new and different ways," tell us something of searching, reflection and hope for new ways.

In essence, we strive to honour the goals and meaningful work of the many generations of young women, their teachers and parents, who have been part of Catholic Ladies' College since 1902. The continuity of our Christian heritage, values and beliefs, as well as life's challenges, call all within our community to be the best they can be in today's world.

The opening Eucharist in February and a special afternoon tea with the Sisters of Charity, have been two occasions of celebration, appreciation and inspiration for the students and staff to mark this special milestone in the story of Catholic Ladies' College. Individual prayer scrolls, created by students and staff, together with a 'procession of light' provided the central focus for the Eucharist.

On 21 March, Foundation Day, the College welcomed Sr Annette Cunliffe rsc, Congregational Leader and many Melbourne Sisters of Charity to afternoon tea. Student leaders and staff welcomed the Sisters and shared stories from across the decades. In June this year, the College community is looking forward to the blessing of the Sr Una McAllister Centre, a recently completed centre for music, liturgy and reflection.

Margaret McKenna

Principal, Catholic Ladies' College



Sisters Margaret Nabbs and Bernadette Culhane join Year 9 Student Sarah Loncarevic for afternoon tea



# VALE TO PETER FERRIS

12 AUGUST 1932 – 1 MAY 2012

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries wish to acknowledge the outstanding contribution and legacy of Mr Peter Ferris. In over thirty years of service, Peter made an extraordinary contribution to both St Vincent's Darlinghurst site and the Sisters of Charity.

Peter was a man of deep faith that was lived out in loving service of his family, friends and in anyone in need. This faith and commitment led Peter to reach out in numerous ways, particularly as an executive and board director of the Sisters of Charity and their health ministries. Over a partnership of more than 30 years, Peter served on the Finance Committees both for the hospital and the Sisters of Charity; was Chairman of St Vincent's Clinic for 10 years; chaired the St Vincent's Darlinghurst Campus Council; was a Trustee of St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, and made a significant contribution to the growth and development of both health and research.

*"Apart from the Sisters of Charity themselves, few have contributed more to St Vincent's Darlinghurst than Peter."*

Robert Cusack  
Executive Director Private Hospitals  
St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney

In addition to his great leadership and financial astuteness, Peter was always a true gentleman of great wisdom and friend to many of us. The Trustees are truly grateful for the legacy left by Peter.

Sr Helen Clarke rsc  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



Peter Ferris AM KCSG, Trustee, St Vincent's Hospital Sydney, with Cardinal George Pell



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