



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## BETHLEHEM COLLEGE SOCIAL JUSTICE GROUPS

### WIN 2012 COMMUNITY CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries were pleased to receive a generous donation of \$1,000 from Bethlehem College, Ashfield (formerly a Sisters of Charity school). The Bethlehem College's Social Justice Group was awarded first place in the High School Team division of this year's West Ashfield Leagues Club's Community Citizenship Awards.

On 18 September in a formal ceremony the College's Faith in Action (FIA), CARE and the Assistant Catechists groups were awarded First Place in the High School Team division in recognition of their work in the community. School principal Ms Paula Bounds said, "We are incredibly proud of the way the teachers and the students involved in these groups constantly strive to follow the example of the Sisters of Charity and live out the school motto *Este Fideles*."

This significant award included \$1,000 for the College to contribute to its local community in recognition of the achievement. Students of the College made a decision to donate the prize money to Mary Aikenhead Ministries. The Trustees are most grateful for the generous donation, and have committed the money to Tierney House, a part of St Vincent's Homeless Health Services.

Tierney House, which opened in October 2012, provides an innovative care centre established in a terrace house in Darlinghurst's St Vincent Hospital campus. The 12 bed unit provides comprehensive health care to the city's homeless or those at risk of becoming homeless, many of whom suffer from recurring health issues.

The centre also offers short-term accommodation to the homeless men and women of Sydney's inner city. Those residing in Tierney House have access to homeless health care offered by the hospital as well as St Vincent's mental health and drug and alcohol services and other general clinical specialties.



Bethlehem College students Samantha Stillianesis, Jackie Boustani, Mariah Andonenas, Kirsty De Lange and Nicole Inati receive their award acknowledging the school's work in the community. Seated, from left: Principal, Mrs Paula Bounds, Marie-Lisa Boland, FIA Facilitator and Margaret McGrath, CARE Facilitator.

*"We are incredibly proud of the way the teachers and the students involved in these groups constantly strive to follow the example of the Sisters of Charity and live out the school motto *Este Fideles*."*

# PILGRIMAGE

## TO PARRAMATTA AND ST JOSEPH'S AUBURN



St Patrick's Cathedral, Parramatta.



Parramatta Female Factory.

Trustees Professor Gabrielle McMullen and Dr Tessa Ho, and Michelle Maradin, Executive Assistant for the Trustees, joined a Sydney Pilgrimage on 8 August led by Marie Weatherall, Mission Integration Manager of St Joseph's Campus, St Vincent's Health Network and sponsored by the St Joseph's Hospital Executive.

*"We continue in the tradition of the Sisters, offering places of hospitality for the sick and poor."*



Plaque at the site of Our Lady of Mercy Convent, Parramatta honouring the work of the Sisters of Charity.

Staff, volunteers and residents of the Campus journeyed to selected 'sacred sites' in Parramatta and St Joseph's Auburn, following the foundation story of the Sisters of Charity and their lay co-workers, and the establishment and growth of the Mission & Ministry.

As we stood in the middle of the Goal Green of Parramatta, historian Judith Dunn recalled the arrival of the courageous Sisters of Charity to minister to the female convicts of the Parramatta Female Factory and care for children in the Orphanage. The personal stories of these women and children, and the sadness and difficulties they faced were heartrending. Fittingly, the children of Parramatta donated the delicate silver gate of St Patrick's Cathedral across the Green.

A visit to the lovely modern Cathedral and adjoining Sacred Heart Chapel was followed by a memorable visit to the Our Lady of Mercy Convent site and St Mary's Convent, which was the first site of the Sisters of Charity Convent. A plaque honouring the work of the Sisters of Charity commemorates this. Sr Veronica rsm, archivist for the Sisters of Mercy, current occupants of the convent, showed us many fascinating

moments of the religious, and told of their pioneering work in setting up the first Consumptive Hospital in the region.

After a delightful lunch at St Joseph's Hospital Dining Room, Marie Scollard, who has given over 60 years' service to St Joseph's, guided us around 'Duncraggan House', the Chapel and the first hospital site for St Joseph's and Convent at Auburn, and the Grotto.

Accompanied by Marie Weatherall and Marie Scollard, we traced our history, walking around the old sections of the hospital, marvelling at the evolution of the hospital as it grew to meet the needs of the community: the emergency department, theatres, pharmacy, the chapel and Foundation Stone. We listened to the stories as they recounted the lives of those who committed so much to the service and healing ministry in the tradition of the Sisters.

We continue in the tradition of the Sisters, offering places of hospitality for the sick and poor. Truly, this day of pilgrimage offers sacred spaces, which are places of tranquillity and spiritual refreshment for staff, volunteers, patients and residents.

**Dr Tessa Ho**  
Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries

# MEETING WITH THE MINISTRIES

The Trustees conduct regular pastoral visits to the ministries and relish the opportunity to meet with dedicated staff across the ministries who are continuing the mission and living out the charism of the Sisters of Charity. Interacting with staff and experiencing the ministries in action provide occasions of particular joy to the Trustees. In recent months we have had a full program of such visits.

In conjunction with our two-day September Trustee meeting in Sydney we made pastoral visits to both St Vincent's and Mater Health Service (SV&MHS) at Darlinghurst and St Vincent's College at Potts Point. Our visit to SV&MHS on Monday, 17 September commenced with meeting members of the NSW Community Advisory Council to the health ministry and executive members of both the public and private hospitals. After an informative presentation and discussion, the Trustees broke into smaller groups to be briefed on major developments at the Darlinghurst campus. I joined the party going to the new Kinghorn Cancer Centre, which undertakes innovative cancer research linked to clinical care.

The following afternoon the Trustees visited St Vincent's College, a school founded by the Sisters of Charity in 1858 and thus one of the oldest Catholic girls schools Australia. The Trustees had the opportunity to tour the College and meet students and staff and hear of planned developments. Members of the College Board then joined us for a presentation by Ms Deirdre O'Donnell, College Board Chair, and dinner hosted by Ms Fay Gurr, Principal.

Our pastoral visits continued in Melbourne during the Trustees' October meeting there. We made three pastoral visits, namely to St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne, St Columba's College and the O'Brien Institute, as well as participating in a briefing about the St Vincent's Institute for Medical Research and meeting with members of the Institute Board, its Foundation Board and senior staff.



Trustees and General Manager of Mary Aikenhead Ministries have a tour of St Columba's College conducted by the 2013 College Co-Captain Monica Ireland and Amelia Thomas.

On the morning of Monday, 22 October we were welcomed to St Vincent's Private Hospital Melbourne with a liturgy prior to a presentation on key hospital activities by CEO Martin Day and his staff, who focused particularly on outreach, nurse education and research programs.



Trustee, Mr David Robinson presents a Mary Aikenhead Ministries crest to Ms April Honeyman, Principal, St Columba's College, Essendon.

Lunch provided an opportunity for informal discussion before the six Trustees broke into groups of two to visit the East Melbourne, Fitzroy and Kew campuses respectively.

The next day the Trustees held the second part of their meeting at St Columba's College in Essendon. We took time out in the middle of the day for a tour of the College conducted by the 2013 co-captains and then a briefing over lunch from Ms April Honeyman, Principal, and her executive team. The Trustees enjoyed the opportunity to spend the whole day at St Columba's College and to gain insights into the vibrant life of the school.

During their time together in Melbourne the Trustees made a pastoral visit on Wednesday morning to the O'Brien Institute, which is a leading centre for microsurgery and related research, located adjacent to St Vincent's Public Hospital Melbourne. The Trustees meet with members of the Institute Board, senior staff and Mrs Julie Leeming, Chair of the Hummingbird Ambassadors, volunteers who raise funds for the O'Brien Institute (the hummingbird is the symbol of the O'Brien Institute, reflecting both the precision of a hummingbird's flight and that of microsurgery). Professor Wayne Morrison, Director, made a presentation on the Institute, with ensuing discussion providing insights both into the work of the Institute and the Trustees' wider ministries.

We greatly valued the opportunities in recent weeks to meet so many contributors to Mary Aikenhead Ministries and thank them both for their warm hospitality during our visits and their dedicated work in the spirit and tradition of the Sisters of Charity.

**Gabrielle McMullen**  
*Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# AWARD CEREMONIES

As the school year drew to a close the Trustees were privileged to attend a number of award and graduation ceremonies at our colleges. I went to the two Melbourne schools, where the occasion contributed to the 115th anniversary celebrations of St Columba's College and the 110th of Catholic Ladies College.

St Columba's College celebrated on 25 October with Mass preceding the graduation in St Monica's Church, Essendon. Catholic Ladies College gathered for an awards ceremony at the school on 19 October, where I was pleased to present the TMAM Social Justice Award.



Trustees, Sr Helen Clarke rsc and Gabrielle McMullen, and St Columba's College student, Julia Rossi.

At St Columba's College, Trustee Sr Helen Clarke rsc and I presented our award jointly.

**Gabrielle McMullen**  
Trustee – Mary Aikenhead Ministries

THE TRUSTEES OF MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU AND YOUR FAMILIES A BLESSED AND SAFE CHRISTMAS.

*May the new year bring peace and good health to all.*



## DO YOU LIKE TAKING PHOTOS?

### WOULD YOU LIKE ONE OF YOUR PHOTOS PUBLISHED?

The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries would like to extend an invitation to budding photographers within Mary Aikenhead Ministries to submit one of their photos to feature on our 2013 Christmas Card.

### WHAT DOES CHRISTMAS MEAN TO YOU?

### DO YOU HAVE A PHOTO THAT REPRESENTS CHRISTMAS?

The image chosen by the Trustees will feature on the 2013 Mary Aikenhead Ministries Christmas Card, with details surrounding the image announced in the February 2013 edition of Journeys.

If you would like one of your images considered for the 2013 Mary Aikenhead Ministries Christmas Card, we ask that you submit your original photo as a high resolution jpeg to: [lesley.jordan@maministries.com.au](mailto:lesley.jordan@maministries.com.au) marked 'Christmas Image'.

All submissions should reach this office by Friday 25 January 2013.

For more information please feel free to contact the office of Mary Aikenhead Ministries on 02 9335 5400.



MARY  
AIKENHEAD  
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MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES  
SUITE 2.01-2.12  
LEVEL 2, EDGECLIFF CENTRE  
203-233 NEW SOUTH HEAD ROAD  
EDGECLIFF, NSW 2027

TELEPHONE 02 9335 5400  
FACSIMILE 02 9327 7811

[WWW.MARYAIKENHEADMINISTRIES.COM.AU](http://WWW.MARYAIKENHEADMINISTRIES.COM.AU)