



# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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## STEWARDSHIP VISITS

The Trustees have continued to include stewardship visits to health, education, research, aged care, and welfare ministries as an integral part of their monthly meetings. WHY?

A key reason is that 'stewardship' should always involve listening, supporting, encouraging and befriending. There is no better way to appreciate and understand what is happening 'in the trenches' than to be present and listen to the 'war stories' of dedicated people who are living examples of Christian charity.

Across Mary Aikenhead Ministries, we are so blessed with countless selfless people of various faiths who reflect the message of our founder, Mary Aikenhead, to "serve God with a great heart and a willing mind".

We Trustees all agree that each visit is inspiring and humbling as we note the love and dedication of staff who go well beyond normal expectations to deliver exceptional care to diverse groups of people.

One visit that exemplified this was to the Sr Maria Cunningham Centre at Auburn where people of all ages and situations who have Huntington's Disease are given care and love that is virtually impossible to find elsewhere. The staff live Jesus' message that the sign of a true Christian is "to love one another as I have loved you".



A recent visit to Holy Spirit Northside



From left: Sr Helen Clarke rsc, Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM, Mr Ian Grisold and Dr Tessa Ho at a recent stewardship visit to St Vincent's Private Hospital in Melbourne

Our school visits also reflect the legacy of Mary Aikenhead. Many generations of students have absorbed the story of Mary and the Sisters of Charity and become confident and achieving young women who reflect what is best in a Christian education.

The work of the research arms of our hospitals and associated entities, Garvan Institute, O'Brien Institute,

St Vincent's Institute, Kinghorn Cancer Centre and Victor Chang Cardiac Research Institute, is a fine example of what can be achieved for the people of Australia and beyond as we continue to build on the vision of the first five Sisters who arrived 175 years ago.

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## STEWARDSHIP VISITS

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Our visits this year and every year are a 'wake-up' call to work even harder to live up to the trust placed in the Trustees.

Our increasing attention to the challenge of an ageing Australia also reflects that caring for the poor, sick and aged is foremost in decisions made as where best to devote resources.

There is a focus on reviewing our outreach to disadvantaged people as we seek to live up to Mary Aikenhead's words "The charity of Christ urges us".

Across Mary Aikenhead Ministries, we are so blessed with countless selfless people of various faiths who reflect the message of our founder, Mary Aikenhead, to "serve God with a great heart and a willing mind".

The hospitality extended to us on all our visits has been exceptional. The St Patrick's Day cakes at St Joseph's Hospital, Auburn will always be remembered. The pride and joy that staff have in their everyday work is inspiring. Nothing is perfect but the striving for excellence is evident.

One final thought – the Trustees are thankful for the words of encouragement and support that are often proffered during our stewardship visits. We will continue to be 'present' to all the wonderful institutions that make up Mary Aikenhead Ministries and pray for God's blessings on all of them.

**Jim Russell**

*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

## WELCOMING AND FAREWELLING TRUSTEES

It is with great pleasure that we welcome Ms Michele Hugonnet and Mr David Alcock as Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries from 1 December 2014. Both join us after having worked extensively within the ministries and will bring a wealth of experience and expertise to the role.



Mr David Alcock



Ms Michele Hugonnet



Ms Rowena McNally



Mr Jim Russell

Most recently and prior to her canon law studies at the University of Leuven in Belgium, Michele was the Principal of St Vincent's College, Potts Point. David has just retired as the Business Manager at Catholic Ladies' College, Eltham. We are very fortunate that people of the calibre of Michele and David are available to serve as Trustees. Whilst Michele and David join us as Trustees, we will soon farewell Ms Rowena McNally and Mr Jim Russell who will conclude their ministry from 1 January 2015.

Rowena was an inaugural Trustee and has worked tirelessly, lending her considerable corporate legal experience to the good stewardship of the ministries. Jim is the current Chair of the Trustees' Finance Committee and his practical, common sense approach has been valued and appreciated. Their generous contributions will not be forgotten. We wish Rowena and Jim good health and best wishes for the future.

**David Robinson**

*Chair Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# PROPHETIC LEADERSHIP FOR CATHOLIC EDUCATION

## IN CHANGING TIMES

On 21-22 August the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (MAM) held a workshop for executives from the four MAM Colleges. Entitled *Prophetic Leadership for Catholic Education in Changing Times*, the workshop was presented on Thursday evening by Dr Michael Bezzina, Director of Teaching and Learning at the Catholic Education Office Sydney, and on Friday by Dr Gerald Arbuckle SM, co-founder of Refounding and Pastoral Development. It was facilitated by Trustees Sr Helen Clarke rsc and Professor Gabrielle McMullen AM and held at the MAM offices in Bondi Junction.

Workshop participants were Ms Stephanie Evans, Deputy Principal – Learning and Teaching, Ms Alison Leutchford, Deputy Principal – Student Wellbeing, and Ms Mary-Anne Mannix, Director of Catholic Identity and Mission, from Catholic Ladies' College;

Ms Madonna Ahern, Deputy Principal – Students and Ms Ros Collier, Deputy Principal – Curriculum, from Mt St Michael's College; Mr Greg Bertuna, Head of Human Resources, and Mr Malcolm Finger, Business Manager, from St Columba's College; and Ms Rachel McLean, Director of Faith and Mission, Ms Laura Wilson, Head of Human Society and Its Environment, and Ms Libby Parker, Head of Religious Studies, from St Vincent's College. Mr Peter Kelly, Executive Officer, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia, assisted with preparations for the workshop and also attended.

On the Friday, participants gave a short presentation, which they had been invited to prepare in advance and in which they provided an example of how their College had exhibited prophetic leadership. In the evaluation of the workshop, the participants indicated their

appreciation of the opportunity for leadership formation and 'cross-pollination' across the Colleges.

**Gabrielle McMullen AM**

*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

*The workshop addressed the following questions:*

- *What challenges face Catholic schools in the context of a changing Church?*
- *What forms of leadership best serve us in successfully navigating this context?*
- *How do we understand the call to prophetic leadership as school leaders?*
- *What skills and responses enhance our ability to lead in ways that are prophetic for our schools and our Church?*
- *How does our Mary Aikenhead story call us to new models of passionate and compassionate leadership?*

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## FORTHCOMING MINISTRIES' PUBLICATION

Next year marks the bicentenary of the founding of the Religious Sisters of Charity in Dublin by Mary Aikenhead. There will be many celebrations of this milestone – one project being undertaken in preparation for the anniversary is sponsored by the Mary Aikenhead Ministries' Formation Committee, which is chaired by Trustee Sr Helen Clarke rsc.

The project involves the publication of a reflection for each day of the year based on the work of Mary Aikenhead, her Sisters and/or Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

The volume will be produced by Jesuit Publications and was inspired by, and will have a similar format to, *Finding God's Traces* by Michael McGirr.

The reflections for this publication, which will draw its title from the heritage, traditions and charism of Mary Aikenhead, are currently being prepared by Sisters of Charity and stakeholders from across Mary Aikenhead Ministries and are due to be submitted by the end of the year. Following the editorial process, it is anticipated that there will be a formal launch in mid-2015.

The national working party overseeing the project is chaired by Ms April Honeyman, Principal of St Columba's College. The Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries congratulate April and the working party on their initiative.

**Gabrielle McMullen AM**

*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# MAM SOCIAL JUSTICE AWARDS

The Mary Aikenhead Ministries Award for Social Justice is sponsored by the Trustees and is normally presented to one graduating Year 12 student from each of the Mary Aikenhead Ministries Colleges.

It is awarded to students who have displayed a strong commitment to, and active participation in, social justice programs in their Colleges, who have inspired other students to become involved in social justice activities through their leadership, and who, through word and action, have modelled the charism of Mary Aikenhead, the mission of the Sisters of Charity and the values and mission of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

The recipients of this award are importantly public advocates for Catholic Social Teaching in the context of addressing local and global issues of injustice, inequality and marginalisation.

The 2014 award winners are:

#### Catholic Ladies' College

Ms Scarlett Faulkner and  
Ms Brooke Smale (joint award)

#### Mt St Michael's College

Ms Elizabeth Baldwin

#### St Columba's College

Ms Bridget Hollibone

#### St Vincent's College

Ms Polly Fleeting

It is heartening to see the way these young women have worked with their College communities, in such creative and diverse settings and contexts, to bring to life the continued commitment of Mary Aikenhead Ministries to the service of the disadvantaged.

#### Peter Kelly

*Executive Officer, Mary Aikenhead Education Australia*



Mr Jim Russell presenting MAM Social Justice Award to Elizabeth Baldwin of Mt St Michael's College

“HE WILL BE YOUR JOY  
AND DELIGHT AND  
MANY WILL REJOICE  
AT HIS BIRTH.”

(LUKE 1:14)

As we celebrate the birth of the Christ child, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries wish you and your loved ones his blessings for Christmas and the New Year.



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