



JOURNEYS

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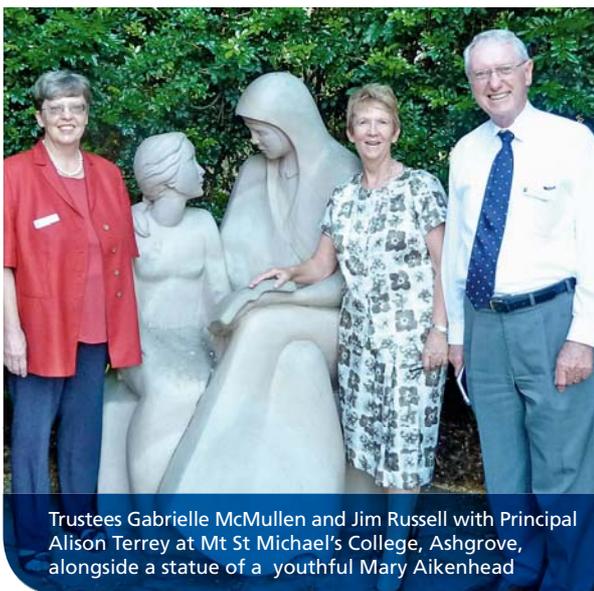
JOURNEYS NORTH

TRUSTEES VISIT TO QUEENSLAND TMAM MINISTRIES

On 6-7 February the two Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (TMAM) appointed in 2011, Dr Tessa Ho and Professor Gabrielle McMullen, and recently appointed Trustee, Jim Russell, were in Queensland to visit TMAM health, aged care and education ministries.

Following two days of intensive visits and meetings with staff in Brisbane and Toowoomba, it was most evident that all stakeholders – the founding orders, staff, volunteers, local communities and the Trustees – can be very proud of the ministries' achievements in Queensland.

Our visit commenced at the Regional Support Services Office (RSSO) of St Vincent's Health and Aged Care, where John Leahy, Chief Executive Officer, and his staff welcomed us warmly. John was our gracious host during our visit and personally accompanied us on most of our appointments.



Trustees Gabrielle McMullen and Jim Russell with Principal Alison Terrey at Mt St Michael's College, Ashgrove, alongside a statue of a youthful Mary Aikenhead

...the founding orders, staff, volunteers, local communities and the Trustees – can be very proud of the ministries' achievements in Queensland.

The Trustees then travelled to Kangaroo Point for a briefing by Cheryle Royle, General Manager, St Vincent's Hospital, Brisbane, followed by morning tea with her executive and a tour of the Hospital. Subsequently, we visited neighbouring Marycrest Retirement Centre and Lilian Cooper Nursing Home, with Jason Eldering, Acting General Manager of Caritas Care, the local aged care and retirement services arm of St Vincent's Health Australia (SVHA).

On Monday, we returned to RSSO for lunch with the St Vincent's Health and Aged Care executive, and the local SVHA Community Advisory Council. Sr Bernadette Edgcombe SSPS, Provincial Leader of the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters, also joined us for lunch – Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital is a joint venture between SVHA and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters. We appreciated the opportunity to interact with key Queensland stakeholders.

In the early afternoon, John drove us to Holy Spirit Northside Private Hospital in Chermside for a meeting with Daniele Doyle, General Manager, and members of her executive, followed by a tour of the facility. The collaboration between SVHA and the Holy Spirit Missionary Sisters represents a significant contribution to Catholic health care in a growth corridor of Brisbane.

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Our next destination was Mitchelton to further aged care facilities conducted by SVHA. Jason Eldering rejoined us and, together with Linda Nicholson, Facility Manager, provided a tour of Madonna Villa Nursing Home, St Joseph's Villa and Oxford Park Retirement Village.

The day ended with a visit to Caritas Care in Red Hill from where aged care and retirement services are coordinated. These encompass Commonwealth-funded residential aged care, retirement living services through independent living units, and community-based aged care.



Trustees Jim Russell, Gabrielle McMullen and Tessa Ho at St Joseph's Villa



Trustees with Carl Yuile and staff, St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba

On Tuesday morning we made an early start for Toowoomba, with John Leahy kindly driving us and, as on other occasions throughout the two days, providing detailed background on our facilities in Queensland and the local context. Mid-morning we arrived at St Vincent's Hospital, Toowoomba where our visit was hosted by Carl Yuile, General Manager, and his staff.

We were well briefed on health care in Toowoomba and the significant role played by St Vincent's Hospital as we toured the facilities and enjoyed warm 'country' hospitality.

Upon our return to Brisbane, our focus was the education ministry and a visit to Mt St Michael's College, Ashgrove. There are significant links between TMAM ministries in Brisbane – thus, Pat Mullins, Chair of the Board of Mary Aikenhead Education Ltd is on the local SVHA Community Advisory Council and Patrick O'Sullivan, Chief Finance Officer at RSSO, is Deputy Chair of the Mt St Michael's College Board.

Patrick accompanied us to the College where we were warmly welcomed by Alison Terrey, Principal. We were delighted to have the opportunity to tour the school, including the impressive new Ionian Centre. The finale, before the Trustees departed the College and ended their visits to TMAM ministries, was a photograph in front of the beautiful sculpture of a youthful Mary Aikenhead in the College gardens (see page 1).



Trustees Jim Russell, Gabrielle McMullen and Tessa Ho with John Leahy at RSSO

We are most grateful to our colleagues who facilitated visits to the ministries in Queensland. It was invaluable for the Trustees to see many of the TMAM facilities first hand and especially to meet staff and volunteers who are the heart of our ministries – we extend our thanks to you all.

Gabrielle McMullen
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries

A TIME OF SADNESS AND CELEBRATION



Inaugural Trustees are presented with books celebrating their contributions to the founding years of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Left to right: Michelle Maradin, Sr Linda Ferrington rsc, Lesley Jordan, Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Shayne O'Leary and Richard Harpham

TMAM have also had two new members of staff join the office team. Ms Michelle Maradin has commenced as Executive Assistant and Ms Shayne O'Leary as Accounts Clerk. Since arriving in November, they have already made valuable contributions to office operations.

The Trustees look forward to continuing their leadership of Mary Aikenhead Ministries which was established by the Holy See to witness to the Gospel through the commitment of our education, health and welfare ministries to the values of hope, justice and compassion in loving service of God's people, especially the poor and marginalised.

Lesley Jordan
General Manager Trustees of
Mary Aikenhead Ministries

Preparation for 2012 has meant a busy time for the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries (TMAM) with a number of changes occurring. In December TMAM celebrated the contributions of three of the inaugural Trustees, Mr Richard Harpham, Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc and Sr Linda Ferrington rsc, as they concluded their terms.

The celebrations included a small liturgy and presentation to each of them, a book highlighting the considerable developments undertaken in these foundational years.

The Sisters of Charity of Australia, as the sole member of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, announced the appointment of Mr David Robinson as Chair and Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen as Deputy Chair, TMAM, from 1 January 2012, for a period of two years. The Trustees also welcomed two new Trustees, Sr Helen Clarke rsc and Mr Jim Russell.

As from 1 January 2012, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries are:

- Mr David Robinson, Chair
- Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Deputy Chair
- Sr Helen Clarke rsc
- Dr Tessa Ho
- Ms Rowena McNally
- Mr Jim Russell



Trustees Mr David Robinson, Mr Jim Russell, Emeritus Professor Gabrielle McMullen, Dr Tessa Ho, Sr Helen Clarke rsc and Ms Rowena McNally

THE TRUSTEES GO BACK TO SCHOOL

A VISIT TO MT CARMEL COLLEGE

As part of the 2011 retreat in Hobart, where the Trustees went on pilgrimage to significant places in the story of the Sisters of Charity's ministry in Tasmania, a visit was made to Mt Carmel College in Sandy Bay, which was established by the Sisters in 1942.

The seven Trustees were made most welcome by the Principal, Ms Laurie Wolfe, and the staff of the College and spent most of Friday afternoon at the school. While the Sisters of Charity withdrew in 1997, Mt Carmel College is firmly committed to continuing to be a school in the tradition of the Sisters.

Several times during the retreat, the Trustees spoke about how strongly Mt Carmel College continues to foster the spirit of the Sisters of Charity. This was a source of joy and encouragement to the Trustees, as Tasmania is of such importance in the story of the Australian Sisters of Charity and the Trustees are strongly committed to an ongoing presence of Mary Aikenhead Ministries in Tasmania.

It was most evident to the Trustees that Mt Carmel College values and celebrates its links to the Sisters of Charity. One feels their continuing spirit in:

- *the sense of community at Mt Carmel College;*
- *the commitment to restorative practice and Triple R: respect, restore and repair;*
- *the holistic approach to facilities – the Trustees were particularly impressed by the congenial atmosphere of the junior school;*
- *College activities about which the Trustees heard or which they experienced – for example, the earnestness of junior students enacting a Gospel story in the grounds;*
- *the quality and welcoming nature of the learning centre, the library, College grounds and other facilities the Trustees visited;*
- *badging, works of art and architecture reflecting the school's commitment to Gospel values and the charism of the Sisters of Charity.*



Trustees and their spiritual adviser, Br Joseph Smith OH, at Mt Carmel College

The values of the Sisters of Charity remain embedded in the life and practices of Mt Carmel College, which is clearly proud to be a school in the tradition of the Sisters.

In expressing appreciation to the College and wishing it ongoing success in these endeavours, Mary Aikenhead's own words seem most fitting:

"May our God teach us to value the congregation and to do our very best to practise and to transmit its spirit from age to age."

Gabrielle McMullen
Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries



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