



MARY AIKENHEAD MINISTRIES

# JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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Love - 'We ... continue to ...do more!'



LOVE

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# LOVE

*“Love is not an affectionate feeling, but a steady wish for the loved person’s ultimate good as far as it can be obtained.” (C.S. Lewis)*

In late 2019 I attended a gathering in Green Park opposite St Vincent’s Hospital Sydney during Homelessness Week. As the gathering prayer ended, I mentioned to one of the staff present, how much was being achieved by the staff together with the poor and marginalised. Her reply was, ‘We can do more!’

How prophetic these words were when we think of the time since with the impact of all that has occurred in these three years across all of Mary Aikenhead Ministries. In Colleges, Hospitals, Aged Care, Research, Correctional Health, Welfare Services we have all been asked to meet unknown challenges and to do more. In the Light of Christ’s love for one another and the words and actions of Venerable Mary Aikenhead we continue to do more. What continues to occur across the ministries is more than service and application of skill, expertise and knowledge. It goes beyond caring for others. It is a deeply embedded sense of Love for one another and for others.

Christ’s Love is a fundamental value to the Vision and Mission of Mary Aikenhead Ministries and it is evident each day in the loving acts undertaken by all across the ministries.

Love holds a power to change people, to impact upon people and, at times, it can also bring us pain and anguish. Often, we communicate Christ’s love to others in what we do, the ways we do it and what we say.

*“We try our best to show forth our grateful love by deeds” (June 19, The Everyday Wisdom of Mary Aikenhead, 2007, p 115)*

Perhaps, it is in the smile given to a child, time spent standing silently beside a person in aged care, holding an iPad for a COVID-19 patient to see the family, the palm placed on a glass panel to acknowledge an inmate, the loving welcome to a stranger in our midst, sitting on the park bench with a lonely person, breaking through the frustration of a research challenge, listening to another on the Board on which we sit, calming the family in the Emergency Department or sensing a concern for a colleague and taking the time to ask how things are going. These are acts of ‘...the look of Love...’ in the ways in which each one of us ‘...let Love speak...’. “By this all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another’ (John 13:35).

We communicate a sense of Love in what we say and do...even in the shortest of moments. Sometimes we may not appreciate the impact of the Love we share in the daily tasks we undertake in a hectic life and work schedule. Yet, each of us each day has numerous opportunities to show Love to another. Love is present within each one of us to share. Indeed, no institution can replace the love of the human, yet Love is the soul and spirit of each institution emanating directly from the people. Love is free, not practiced for other means or for rewards but rather as a way of showing others that they are valued for who they are.

*“Love is patient and kind, love does not envy or boast, it is not arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way: it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice at wrong-doing, but rejoices with the truth” (Corinthians 13: 4-8).*

To love one’s self for who we are and in what we do is central to our being. Yet across our Ministries we come to meet others who may not love themselves for one reason or another. It is to these people we reach out especially, with Christ’s love in supporting and embracing them with HIS warmth. It is the sharing of Christ’s love from within us that ‘preaches’ the Gospel in all we do as we see Christ’s presence in the Other. At times, with genuine Love there can be great pain and anguish. The aged person whom we have to farewell, the student who may disappoint, the operation that may not bring the outcome hoped for, the person we know who overdoses or a loved one who succumbs to illness. It is such times when Christ’s love for us touches us deeply and it is this Light of HIS Love that journeys with us during this time of sadness and grieving.

“Love lies at the heart of all human relationships which are ultimately life-giving and sustaining. The unconditional love of Jesus is the primary motivator and basic character that defines and guides Mary Aikenhead Ministries. Our Ministries seek to be places of loving care where the unique dignity of each person is recognised and where the human spirit is nurtured. We place person and spirit above property and possessions.” (Vision, Mission and Values Statement, Mary Aikenhead Ministries 2019.)

All of us within Mary Aikenhead Ministries will “continue to do more” in the name of Christ’s love, for the love of Christ impels us.

*Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard  
Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*

# ST VINCENT'S HOSPITAL MELBOURNE

## STEWARDSHIP VISIT

*"May we never act contrary to justice and truth - and may we be guided by charity in all our actions and words."*

Venerable Mary Aikenhead

On 12 April 2022 the Trustees visited two facilities at St Vincent's Hospital Melbourne (SVHM) Fitzroy - the Biofab3D Laboratory in The Aikenhead Centre for Medical Discovery and the new Mental Health and Alcohol and Other Drugs (AOD) Hub, located in the Emergency Department of SVHM, which opened in March 2022.

Trustees Gary Humphrys and Penny Wright visited the AOD Hub to see the dedicated and caring staff in action. During the visit, the incredible team led by Dr Jacqui Bilo took the time to explain their invaluable work and contribution to their patients' lives. It is impossible to overstate the selfless dedication demonstrated by each team member in their role of helping each patient experience justice

and truth as human beings in the care provided. There is a palpable spirit that recognises each person is deserving of the love of others when they visit SVHM and the AOD.

The AOD Hub is a wonderful and patient centred space. Beyond the physical space is the model of care offered by the dedicated staff. Each patient is treated with a patient-first, trauma informed approach focussed on addressing their mental health and addiction needs.

Gary and Penny left the visit humbled and inspired by the knowledge, energy, creative and intuitive patient centred approach articulated by each team member. The past 2 years has presented incredible challenges for the medical profession and the delivery of services. In times such as these it is only that SVHM is a place of living charity that the space for an innovation such as the AOD Hub could be created. Thank you to everyone for their dedicated service.

Ms Penelope Wright

Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries



L to R: Ms Deanne Hams - ANUM Emergency Department SVHM, Ms Jacqui Bilo - General Manager Medicine and Emergency SVHM, Mr Gary Humphrys - Trustee TMAM, Mr Martin Smith - Executive Director Integrated Care Services SVHM, Ms Angela Nolan - CEO SVHM, Ms Penelope Wright - Trustee TMAM, Mr Brendan Morrissey - Emergency Physician SVHM



L to R: Ms Cynthia Wong - Manager BioFab3D Lab, Mr Richard Haddock AO - Chair TMAM, Ms Christine Raeside - Executive Officer TMAM, Ms Margaret McKenna - Trustee TMAM, Mr Andrew Crettenden - ACMD Project Director SVHM, Ms Megan Robertson - Director Research Governance SVHM, Ms Margaret Stewart - Executive Director Mission SVHM

# MARY AIKENHEAD EDUCATION LIMITED BOARD MISSIONING

On 26 April 2022, the Mary Aikenhead Education Limited (MAEL) Board gathered with the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries at St Vincent's Chapel Potts Point for the missioning of MAEL Directors. Prof. Marie Emmitt, Chair together with Mr Ian Gibson, Ms Leesa Jeffcoat AM, Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke, Prof. Renee Kohler-Ryan and Mr David Robinson began their important governance role at the beginning of 2021. COVID-19 travel restrictions and State lockdowns meant virtual meetings throughout 2021. It was then, both a privilege and delight for the Board to meet in person and be touched by the story and heritage of the Sisters of Charity, that is so palpable in the sacredness of the Chapel.

The missioning ceremony, a symbolic ritual of 'unity of spirit' for the work undertaken and 'sending forth' and in the education ministry, recognised the gifts and skills of each director. In his welcome, Mr Richard Haddock, Trustee Chair spoke of the missioning as a reminder of one's baptism and that all have been called and chosen to live God's message of love in our world.

Christian symbols of water, oil and light were central to the liturgy, with the following blessing offered by Chair, Mr Richard Haddock:

*'I anoint you as Board Directors of Mary Aikenhead Education. In this governance role may your discernment and decision-making always reflect the love, justice, compassion and hope of God for all those you serve.'*

The final prayer captured the heart of each Board Director's commitment to the education ministry:

*Spirit of wisdom, you speak to us in ways that often surprise us.*

*Inspire us,*

*Encourage us,*

*Fill us with enthusiasm for the mission of your Church.*

*We make this prayer in the name of Christ, our Light, Amen.*

Following the Missioning ceremony, Sr Lauren Dixon, Sisters of Charity Congregational Leader and Trustees Mr Richard Haddock, Ms Janet Freeman, Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard, Ms Penelope Wright, Prof. Michael Drew and Ms Margaret McKenna joined the newly missioned MAEL Board for lunch in the St Vincent's College dining room.

[Ms Margaret McKenna](#)

*Trustee, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*



L to R back row: Prof. Michael Drew - Trustee TMAM, Lauren Dixon - Congregational Leader SOCA, Mr Ian Gibson - Director MAEL, Ms Penelope Wright - Trustee TMAM, Mr David Robinson - Director MAEL, Ms Janet Freeman - Trustee TMAM

L to R front row: Assoc. Prof. Peter Howard - Trustee TMAM, Ms Margaret McKenna - Trustee TMAM, Prof. Marie Emmitt - Chair MAEL, Mr Richard Haddock AO - Chair TMAM, Prof. Renee Kohler-Ryan - Director MAEL, Ms Hilary Johnston-Croke - Director MAEL



## DIVERSITY

St Vincent's Health Network Sydney (SVHNS) aims to have a workforce that fully represents the community including people with disability. SVHNS have commenced our partnership with Jigsaw Australia and are working closely to recruit 5 employees with disabilities to our Network.

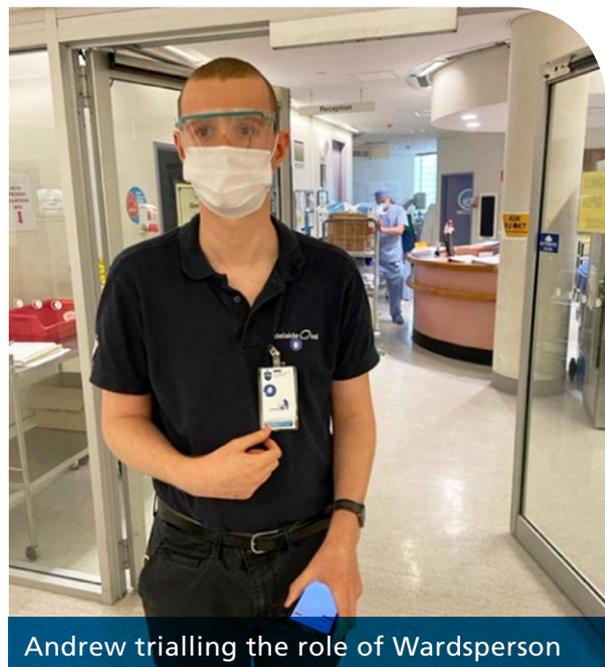
Jigsaw is a social enterprise which offers a training pathway where trainees build job-readiness skills, gain paid professional experience and are supported to transition into open employment once they are job-ready.

The Patient Transport Service has agreed to facilitate a four (4) day workplace trial, commencing 28 February 2022 for three Jigsaw Australia candidates to work four (4) paid shifts in the position of Wardsperson.

The intention of the trial is to allow the candidates to better understand the requirements of the position and demonstrate they possess the required capabilities, motivation and cultural fit into the team. At the completion of the workplace trial, transition to permanent employment will be reviewed.

Jigsaw has identified individuals with a strong desire for sustainable employment, an interest in healthcare, and personal values that closely align with SVHNS's four core values of compassion, justice, integrity and excellence.

The Wardsperson supervisors have used experienced Wardsperson buddies to mentor the Jigsaw team, demonstrating and coaching them through the broad range of vital tasks required both within



Andrew trialling the role of Wardsperson

Wards and in the Wardsperson pool. As part of the care team they are learning to liaise with nurses, communicate with patients and the allied health staff within SVHNS to safely transport and support health services with compassion and care.

The workplace trial concluded on 17 March 2022 and may lead to further exploring opportunities for expansion of a similar model in other areas of SVHNS.

**Mr Michael Romano**  
People and Culture Business Partner,  
St Vincent's Health Network Sydney

# ST VINCENT'S CARE & CARITAS CHRISTI OPENING & BLESSING, KEW

On 5 May 2022 fellow Trustee Margaret McKenna and I were privileged to attend the official opening of St Vincent's Care and Caritas Christi Kew. Although the weather was cold it was a very heart-warming day.

The beautiful buildings and all who dwell and work in them were blessed by Fathers Stephen Curtin and Zaher Mhanna. Father Zaher is himself a refugee priest from Syria and expressed how grateful he was to be there to bless the facilities and how appreciative he is of the opportunity to be able to minister at Kew. He emphasised how he considers St Vincent's Hospital to now be his family.

We were fortunate that three Sisters of Charity, Sr Maryanne Confoy, Sr Maureen Walters and Sr Catherine Meese were able to join us for this very special day. It was obvious how pleased they were to see work initiated by the Sisters of Charity many years ago was not just continuing, but indeed flourishing.

The morning began with a very special smoking ceremony conducted by Auntie Stacey Piper, a local and well-known Aboriginal identity.

After a very prayerful and moving blessing, I had the opportunity to visit both the Aged Care Facility and Caritas Christi. It was difficult not to be impressed and reassured by the quality of the facilities and the beautiful and peaceful outlook afforded to the residents.

I had heard that there was a quite extraordinary chef overseeing the meals for residents and we were given a sample of his skills at a reception that followed the Blessing .....stories of his skills and pride in his work were not exaggerated.

As I wandered through the facilities I noticed a very thoughtful initiative was to have a cabinet outside each room where the residents could display important items in their lives – these often included photos. This helps those entering the rooms to foster a sense of connection and relevance to the residents within.

It was particularly noticeable that the staff caring for and looking after the residents were heavily invested in their caring role – this was not just a day's work for them but rather, a way to contribute to the well-being, comfort and positive attitude of the residents, reassuring them that they were valued and of importance.



Smoking Ceremony

In keeping with the traditions of the Sisters of Charity in their commitment to helping the poor and marginalised some of the rooms at the facility were kept for those who could not afford to buy a place there. Indeed I heard of one gentleman, when shown his room, said that he could not afford it. He was moved when he was told that the room was his regardless of his ability to pay.

It is very reassuring to see that the desire of the Sisters to minister to the vulnerable continues in the moves by St Vincent's Health Australia to establish itself firmly in the Aged Care sector.

This is not always a glamorous area of health service and it has many challenges. However, it is vital in ensuring the dignity, support and care for the senior members of our society, reassuring them of their value and underlining the respect in which they are held.

**Mr Richard Haddock AO**  
*Chair, Mary Aikenhead Ministries*



L to R: Adjunct Prof. Patricia O'Rourke, Dr Michael Coote, Mr Richard Haddock AO, Fr Zaher Mhanna, Sr Maryanne Confoy rsc, Fr Stephen Curtin sj, Sr Maureen Walters rsc, Mr Paul McClintock AO, Ms Ruth Martin, Ms Margaret Stewart, Mr Lincoln Hopper



Rev. Father Zaher Mhanna holding the plaque commemorating the Opening and Blessing of Caritas Christi Kew

# IN MEMORY OF PATRICIA RYAN OAM

It is with sadness that we share the news of the passing of former Principal of Catholic Ladies' College Eltham, Patricia Ryan OAM on 1 June. Patricia commenced in 1987 as the first lady principal of CLC

*What follows is an extract from the Catholic Ladies' College, The First Hundred years book*

... **Patricia Ryan** was the first of the congregation's secondary schools to appoint a lay principal, though both Mount St Michael's in Brisbane and St Vincent's, Potts Point would do so in the next few years.

It was perhaps not surprising that the principal appointed to CLC was one with very strong Sisters of Charity connections. Patricia Ryan, like her predecessor, had attended St Columba's College, as had her three sisters. Her mother had been a student at CLC, East Melbourne, and two of her aunts, Sisters Paulinus and Peter Fennessy had been Sisters of Charity, the former was principal of CLC from 1950 to 1955. She also had the experience of succeeding a religious principal, Sr Josepha Dunlop PBVM, at Avila College, Mount Waverley, where she was in her seventh year as principal when she was appointed as principal of CLC.

Patricia was committed to providing a rich and inclusive curriculum, to consultative processes and to valuing good relationships with students, staff and parents ... Patricia worked with the College Advisory Committee to prepare and draw up a masterplan for the College and to implement the first stage of it in a building programme to commence in 1990. The Committee continued its advisory role until the incorporation of the College in 1993, when it was replaced by a Board of Directors.

The first year of Patricia Ryan's principalship, had seen the completion and the opening by Archbishop Sir Frank Little of the new Religious Education Centre. This building with its beautiful stained-glass windows, to reflect the theme of the Eucharist, brought a new dimension of prayer and reflection to the College.



Patricia Ryan OAM

Patricia Ryan was the longest serving principal of CLC in its first 100 years. In 2000 she was awarded the Medal of Order of Australia for services to Catholic Education. In the Collegian of December 2000, Margaret McKenna and Mary-Anne McCudden paid this tribute to the first lay principal of CLC: "Patricia's leadership has been characterised by a love of humanity and a strong belief in the leader's responsibility to empower and enable individuals to grow. Her strong faith and her commitment to values such as open-mindedness, tolerance, integrity and compassion have inspired those with whom she worked".



**MARY  
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