



JOURNEYS

NEWSLETTER

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ANOTHER STEP IN THE JOURNEY

MARY AIKENHEAD EDUCATION OPENS NATIONAL OFFICE IN BRISBANE



Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Trustee Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

"This office will be a focal point for promoting the mission of the Church through Mary Aikenhead Education."

Mary Aikenhead Education, the entity recently established by the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries to operate its education ministry in Australia, officially opened a national administration office at the Lavalla Centre, Rosalie in Brisbane on 5 October.

Mary Aikenhead Education has four Catholic girls' secondary colleges within its national system. These include Mt St Michael's College at Ashgrove, along with Catholic Ladies College and St Columba's College in Melbourne, and St Vincent's College in Sydney.

Chair of Mary Aikenhead Education, Mr Pat Mullins said the opening of the office was a significant milestone in the journey of establishment of the new entity.

"The decision to establish Mary Aikenhead Education as an entity was not taken lightly and to see it come to fruition has been a credit to the commitment and hard work of many people. Mary Aikenhead Education encourages collaboration in mission. Such collaboration is the future of the Church.

The opening of this office now represents a further step toward placing this collaborative education ministry on a sure footing for the future," he said.

Trustee of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Sr Elizabeth Dodds rsc, congratulated the Directors on their efforts over the past fifteen months, saying:

"I am extremely proud of and grateful for what has been achieved in such a short time.

This office, under the leadership of Executive Officer, Judith Gardiner, will not only provide vital support services for our schools, but will also be a focal point for promoting the mission of the Church through Mary Aikenhead Education".

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Pat Mullins, Chair, Mary Aikenhead Education, responds to Sr Elizabeth's address at the opening.

DISCERNING A NEW LEADERSHIP MODEL IN HEALTH

A TRUSTEE'S PERSPECTIVE



David Robinson, Trustee Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

"The change in leadership model will strengthen the organisation and provide new opportunities."

The commissioning of the new National Board of Directors of St Vincent's Health Australia on 1 October 2010 was the culmination of an intense and highly professional governance review process involving consultation, acknowledgement of invaluable contributions, care and respect.

In November 2009, the National Board, with the consent of the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, engaged an international consultancy firm, McKinsey & Company, to facilitate a governance review.

A 'Sponsor Group' consisting of national and regional board members was nominated in December and met for the first time in January 2010, continuing until April 2010. The time, effort and expertise contributed by this group cannot be overstated.

The review methodology was reasonably simple, even textbook in nature: understand the current situation, determine the goals and evaluation criteria, name the options (including maintaining the status quo), evaluate the options against the criteria and then make the decision. Underpinning this methodology from the Trustees' perspective however was discernment involving prayer, reflection, feelings, debate, listening, searching...

The information gathering process led by McKinsey & Company delved deeply into the organisation. Many interviews with members of the Congregation, Trustees, board members, executives and SVHA staff and our valued joint venture partners were conducted. By February 2010, the Sponsor Group had developed criteria against which the governance options could be evaluated.

The final recommendation of the Sponsor Group and Board can be summarised as a move to a single fiduciary National Board while maintaining three strong, focused

regional community advisory boards, and strengthening management resources and capabilities. Regional CEOs will report to the National CEO, rather than reporting to their respective regional boards.

The Trustees accepted this recommendation at their April 2010 meeting. A challenging implementation phase then commenced. The acceptance of this decision, by existing regional and national Board members, was remarkable. It remains a testament to the values lived within the health ministry that Board members would readily resign, sacrificing their personal positions for the betterment of the mission and then offer to assist in any capacity required. This would be difficult to contemplate in the corporate world.

For the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries the significant task became discernment around the National Board director selection process. The Trustees saw this task as one of the most important they would ever undertake, especially as many existing directors had expressed interest in becoming a director on the new National Board. Trustees participated in each interview with approximately 20 candidates. The Trustees were privileged to interview such highly skilled and talented people. Their commitment to the mission we all share was palpable. The most difficult element was the final selection of directors.



St Vincent's and Mater Health Board Directors with Dr Tracey Batten, CEO, SVHA in 2009.

As Trustees, we observe that SVHA is an inspirational and incredible organisation with dedicated people at all levels committed to excellence, living and breathing its mission. The change in leadership model will strengthen the organisation and provide new opportunities. There will be ongoing challenges, not the least of which will be protecting existing strengths in maintaining local relationships and focus on values and mission. We have confidence the challenges will be met and SVHA will fulfill its potential. I struggle to find words which could adequately express the deep appreciation and admiration for those members of the health ministry and their advisors who shared the gift of themselves in this process.

ANOTHER STEP IN THE JOURNEY

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The opening was attended by representatives of the Congregation of the Sisters of Charity, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries, Directors of Mary Aikenhead Education along with representatives from the Queensland Catholic Education Commission, other Religious Institutes and Independent Schools Queensland.



The Blessing: Fr Peter Brannelly with Judith Gardiner, Br John Thompson, Pat Mullins and Rowena McNally.

Manager of the Lavalla Centre facility, Marist Brother John Thompson, welcomed guests to the site and Fr Peter Brannelly, Parish Priest of Jubilee Parish, officiated and blessed the newly erected plaque, signage and office space.

Mary Aikenhead Education strives to ensure that the education of young women prepares them to take up the challenges of social justice and respond to all people with courage and flexibility, focusing with hope and compassion on the common good of humankind. The colleges embrace the charism and tradition of the Sisters of Charity, particularly through service of the poor.

The Lavalla Centre, previously the site of Marist College, Rosalie, is rapidly becoming a busy centre of education and spirituality activities for the Church in Brisbane. Marist Schools Australia will also occupy office space at the Centre from 2011.

For further enquiries please contact Judith Gardiner, Executive Officer, MAE on 07 3368 1503 or judith.gardiner@rscoffice.com

SVHA TAP JACOB'S WELL

Recently the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries invited the Directors of the St Vincent's Health Australia Board and the National CEO to participate in a process of formation at the Marriot Hotel, Sydney. Richard Harpham, the Chair of Mary Aikenhead Ministries set the context for the day and introduced the two presenters.

Dr Michele Connolly rsj broke open the Scriptures around the theme *'Tapping Jacob's Well: Drawing the Waters That Refresh Us.'* Michele's scholarship and engaging style enabled all present to reflect on the conversation between Jesus and the Samaritan woman and apply this to ways in which our core values of love, hope, compassion and justice are woven within this story.

Fr Gerald Arbuckle sm, who has a worldwide reputation as a theologian and for his application of cultural

anthropological insights to the Church, engaged those gathered with his presentation titled *'Catholic Identity in Action: Crucial for Ministry.'* Two dimensions were addressed. Firstly, that the overriding task of the Board's ministry is to ensure that in the evolving system-wide culture of SVHA, all decisions are motivated by the healing mission of Jesus Christ. Secondly, that the healing mission and values of Jesus Christ are enshrined as the foundation of Catholic identity within SVHA.

Fr Gerry celebrated Eucharist during which the Trustees missioned the Directors of SVHA, as part of the all-embracing mission of God through a preferential option for the poor, which is at the heart of Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

SANDRA DAVID REMEMBERED



Lesley Jordan and Helen Miller enjoy the function after the 2010 Sandra David Oration held at St Vincent's Clinic, Sydney.

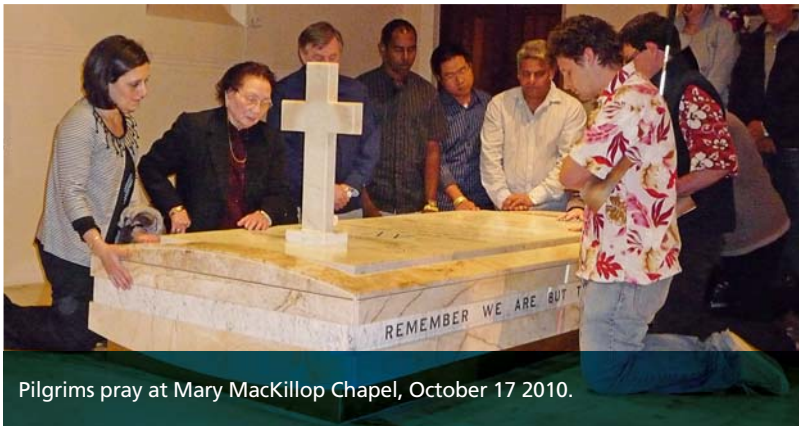
At this year's Annual Sandra David Oration, Professor Clifford Hughes, AO, CEO of the Clinical Excellence Commission, spoke insightfully on *'Quality in Health: Belief, Care or Passion?'*

Attended by over 100 people, the oration was followed by the presentation of the 2010 excellence awards for clinical researchers and the announcement of the 2011 research and multi-disciplinary grant recipients.

Congratulations to all recipients of the awards and research grants!

AUSTRALIA'S FIRST SAINT

THE CANONISATION OF MARY MACKILLOP PROVIDES CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION



Pilgrims pray at Mary MacKillop Chapel, October 17 2010.

On the occasion of the canonisation of Mary MacKillop, known to many as Mother Mary of the Cross, the Trustees of Mary Aikenhead Ministries congratulated the Sisters of St Joseph, their partners in ministry and their associates.

We prayed particularly for all our colleagues within our hospitals, colleges, research institutes, aged care facilities and welfare ministries who were educated by the Sisters of St Joseph.

Sisters of Charity educated by the Josephites, were also especially remembered in prayer.

Some of our colleagues and students, were privileged to attend the canonisation in Rome and we look forward to sharing their stories.

Others joined the pilgrimage to the place of Mary's burial at North Sydney and shared both the excitement and prayer, as the canonisation was beamed from Rome across the miles.

'Remember we are but travellers here', are the words engraved around her tombstone. Words repeated so often by our country's first canonised saint!

PHILOSOPHY OF EDUCATION PROMULGATED

After an extensive period of consultation throughout our ministries, the Trustees have promulgated a philosophy of education for Mary Aikenhead Ministries.

Margaret Stewart of Prism Australia, widely consulted executives and directors across the ministries within health and education, and together with the Trustees has drawn up the philosophy along with a Charter for Implementation. It is based on the Education Philosophy of the Sisters of Charity and that of the Sisters of Charity of Australia. As requested within our MAM Constitutions, the philosophy embraces not only our colleges but also our health, aged care, research institutes and welfare facilities. Promulgated by the Trustees, the philosophy is a vital and complementary component of the foundational documents in the Petition which established Mary Aikenhead Ministries. The philosophy is both aspirational and invitational, and will be presented at the November meetings among the Trustees, Mary Aikenhead Education and St Vincent's Health Australia. After these meetings the philosophy will be distributed to our Boards and Directors. Our thanks to all who participated.

NEW CONFERENCE WEBSITE

A revitalised website for our conferences, and for all seminars/webinars relevant to our Ministries is in the process of being built. Once uploaded, the new domain name is www.mamconferences.com which is a little shorter than the last and hopefully easier to remember.

Save the Dates

Mary Aikenhead Ministries Conference 2011 for executives and directors will be held in Melbourne commencing at 6.00pm on Wednesday, 20 July and concluding at 4.30pm on Thursday, 21 July.

Future meeting dates

19 November 2010
TMAM with MAE

25 November 2010
TMAM with SVHA

17 December 2010
TMAM with Member/
Member Representative

January 2011
Anthony Gittens, CSSp in Australia:
*Discipleship and Mission:
The Adventure of a Lifetime*

All are invited to a seminar on Saturday January 22, 2011 from 10.00am - 4.00pm at Santa Sabina College Aquinas Theatre, 90 The Boulevard, Strathfield.



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