



SAVE THE DATE



Speaking the silence

AMSSA CONFERENCE

SYDNEY NEW SOUTH WALES

8 - 10 AUGUST 2019

AMSSA Report November 2018

Welcome to the AMSSA November newsletter. Thank you to the schools who have contributed articles and photos for the newsletter.

The newsletter is very much focused on the AMSSA Student Conference which was held in September in Perth. It was a very successful Conference and one that the students wholeheartedly engaged in. There is a report from Emma Nofal, the Conference Executive Officer who did an outstanding job in working to ensure the success of the Conference. There are a number of reflections from students from a range of schools who gained so much from the experience.

Thank you very much to the organisers: Emma, Kerrie Fraser, AMSSA Executive member and Principal of Mercedes College, the staff and students from Santa Maria College, Attadale and the representatives from the other Perth Mercy schools who all made such a great contribution

Planning is well underway for the next AMSSA Staff Conference which will be held in Sydney at Monte Sant' Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney from August 8 – 10 2019. The theme of the Conference is "Speaking the silence". I have printed the Save the Date flyer again for your information.

I wish you all the blessings of Christmas and trust you enjoy a relaxing and refreshing holiday break. I thank you for your many contributions to AMSSA and your ongoing support.

Kitty Guerin
AMSSA Executive Officer

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THE FIFTH BIENNIAL AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS STUDENT CONFERENCE PERTH, WESTERN AUSTRALIA 22-26 SEPTEMBER 2018

The Fifth Biennial Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Student Conference honoured the foundation of the Sisters of Mercy in Australia and the faith and courage of Ursula Frayne who brought her order's spirit of Mercy to the shores of the Swan River. The Conference provided an experience in heritage and celebrated the growth of Mercy across Australasia. The story of Ursula and her companions was shared as a powerful example of resilience, tenacity and determination to be Mercy for others and encouraged students to animate Mercy into the future by responding to local and global needs just as those who had gone before them.

Santa Maria College alongside Mercedes College, St Brigid's College, Mercy College, Aranmore College and Ursula Frayne College welcomed students from Mercy schools across Australia and Papua New Guinea to share in a rewarding Mercy experience. This year's conference saw a range of speakers from the Sisters of Mercy, alumni from Australian Mercy schools, artists & performers and Social Media compassion advocates.

The last week in September marked the beginning of the Conference on the cusp of the Feast of Our Lady of Mercy. As delegates settled into their new home –the Santa Maria College Boarding School, Perth welcomed delegates with warm weather, blue skies and a glistening Swan River. Students from Australian Mercy schools were very keen to meet their international Mercy companions from PNG and Saturday afternoon was spent getting to know other delegates.

The Conference was opened by the Principal of Mercedes College, Mrs Kerrie Fraser followed by a moving Acknowledgement of Country by Gina Williams and Guy Ghouse who sang their way into everyone's hearts with gracious story telling of the first people of this land. Students were asked to bring foundation stones from their local communities to honour the humble beginnings of each of their Mercy Colleges across Australia and PNG. These stories were shared in the Heritage Marketplace and passionately illustrated the flourishing of Mercy.

Throughout the Conference students were invited to engage and reflect interactively through the Flipgrid App. Students were able to share their knowledge about the Conference theme and began to hear the stories that other students brought with them. Students quickly realised what a committed and passionate group they were apart of.

A highlight of the Conference was the sail up the Swan River to Perth by ferry. Delegates followed in the footsteps of Ursula Frayne and her companions and on arrival to the city explored on foot how the Mercy story grew in Perth via an engaging game of the Amazing Race of Mercy. The time spent in the city provided students with an opportunity to visit Mercedes College, the oldest continuing girls' school in Australia, located at Victoria Square, the original site of foundation, a place of significance in our Mercy story.

Principal of Mercedes College, Mrs Kerrie Fraser, expressed her gratitude to Santa Maria College for hosting the conference and acknowledged the wonderful contribution made by the planning committee from the representative Mercy schools of WA. "We have done so many exciting things throughout this short period – hearing from the Mercy Sisters on hospitality and forgiveness, to an engaging session with YouTube influencer Brett Stanford from How Ridiculous on pushing boundaries and self-improvement, to the inspirational sharing from past students from Mercy colleges on how invaluable living Mercy values have become in their daily lives".

Conference Highlights:

- Opportunities to enjoy rich rituals and the beauty of engaging liturgies

- An evening with How Ridiculous exploring 'building a meaningful legacy with purpose'
- Time with Mercy alumni reflecting on their personal formation stories that were founded in Mercy and continue to shape post school commitments with groups like Young Mercy Links
- A morning comfortable cup of 'high' tea overlooking the picturesque Swan River reflecting on the Sisters' understanding and lived experience of Hospitality
- A progressive dinner through historical Fremantle, Ursula's first landing place in Australia
- A series of percussion workshops dedicated to appreciating the respectful relationship between Ursula Frayne and her indigenous brothers and sisters
- A Heritage Marketplace, sharing the stories of Mercy foundations across Australasia and paving the way for Mercy to journey into the future

Patience Hahambu, who travelled from Papua New Guinea, regarded the experience as an amazing adventure she will never forget. "This conference experience has exceeded all my expectations – the topics discussed were inspiring and very relatable – and the students, staff and presenters I've met have been so warm and welcoming to me, I definitely plan to come back to Perth," she added.

Our Lady of Mercy College student Jessica Berti said she has "been inspired to share the lessons learned during the Conference with family and friends back home in Victoria."

The Conference allowed delegates to recognise that we are at a significant time in the ongoing story of Mercy and provided an opportunity for delegates to reflect on their role in the Mercy educational endeavour, mindful of the evolving growth of our community and dedicated to a strong sense of unity with like-minded students in Mercy Schools across Australia, New Zealand and PNG.

Emma Nofal

AMSSA Student Conference Executive Officer

Heritage Marketplace





Mercy Heritage Centre





Percussion Workshops



The Amazing Race of Mercy



Walking in Ursula's Footsteps Rivercruise





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AMSSA Conference – Mercy Connections Across Cultures and Across Time

The biennial Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Conference (AMSSA) was held in Perth over the September holidays and it was a wonderful opportunity for staff and students to reflect on their Mercy heritage and the way we "do" Mercy at our schools. The conference

theme "From Humble Beginnings" allowed us all to explore the Mercy story in Australia from the arrival of Ursula Frayne to the expression of Mercy in our communities today.



What follows are some reflections from the All Hallows' School conference delegates Giaan Smith and Ella Proberts:

"The AMSSA conference was amazing. It was a great opportunity to meet like-minded people from all around Australia and PNG and hear about how they carry out mercy within their schools and communities. During our time in Perth we participated in a torch light tour of the Fremantle prison, a cruise down the Swan River following in Sr Ursula Frayne's footsteps, competed in an amazing race around Perth's CBD and had a delicious high tea. We told the story of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy through a traditional Indigenous clap stick activity

which was a great way to get to know the Mercy story and the other delegates.”(Giaan Smith)



“Setting up a ‘heritage market place’ display for the conference made me realise the importance of our history to how we live Mercy today. Being able to really delve into our past and learn about it in the context of our values, allowed me to gain a much greater appreciation of our ‘humble beginnings’ and how it is the reason why our school is still thriving. Teaching our history to people from schools all over Australia and PNG further reinforced just how much determination and grit went into the foundation of our school - travelling in a boat from Ireland to a completely unknown land to establish a school is not a particularly easy thing to do. The perseverance of the Sisters was reflected in the story of the other schools too. The displays at the Heritage Marketplace demonstrated the vast and creative ways in which Mercy values can be reflected in each of the school contexts.”(Ella Proberts)

One of the delightful elements of our trip to Perth was meeting the staff and students from Mercy Secondary College in PNG. In 2019, All Hallows’ School will be supporting Mercy Works in their fundraising efforts which will contribute to the renovation costs of one of the dormitories at the school. Staff and students from Mercy Secondary College provided an insight into their education system and the Mercy story behind their community.

The AMSSA Conference provided an opportunity to connect with Mercy communities around Australasia and showed us that the circle of Mercy is indeed timeless and far-reaching.

Reflection from Catherine McAuley Westmead Student on the AMSSA Conference

Catherine McAuley Westmead had two students and one staff member attend the recent AMSSA Student Conference. Year 10 students Katherine Katrib and Martha Kassis attended along with teacher Miss Lisa Allen. Katherine Katrib has written the follow report on her experience:



All the students who attended had the opportunity to listen to many inspirational speakers who shared their stories and aimed to present to us the significance of being a Mercy student. For example, we listened to an Iranian refugee, Farzad Mousavipour, tell the story of how he had to flee to Australia in order to survive. He attended a

Mercy school in Perth where he was given an opportunity to study and immediately felt the compassion from those around him. Hearing these eye-opening stories encouraged us as individuals to try our very best to leave a mark on this world.

We formed an instant connection with the other Mercy students with whom we completed many activities with. We also had the chance to explore the city of Perth and took part in a torchlight tour of the notorious Fremantle Prison which was either the highlight of your trip or the scariest night of your life! We completed an Amazing Race of Mercy in Perth's CBD where we had to solve the riddles and journey through the footsteps of Ursula Frayne (a Sister of Mercy).

The unforgettable experience ended with a wonderful ritual that consisted of prayer and a percussion performance which all the members of the conference had spent hours practicing. Both Martha and myself now feel inspired and ready to continue the works of Catherine McAuley and 'taking one day at a time resolving to do good today but better tomorrow'.

Katherine Katrib, Year 10 Student
Catherine McAuley Westmead

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Deep conversations and the Mercy within us - AMSSA Student Conference, Perth

From 22 – 26 September I had the opportunity to attend the AMSSA Student Conference in Perth. There were students from Mercy Schools all around Australia and Papua New Guinea.



We started the conference with a Welcome to Country, with two Aboriginal locals. They taught us words from their language and encouraged us to #5words – to learn five words from the local language back at our homes; this way the languages will not die out. We then shared stories of our foundation stones that we had brought from our schools. The evening finished with keynote speaker Brett from the YouTube channel How Ridiculous, who shared his story of rising to fame, but also of how faith has also been present in his life.

On Sunday, we had two keynote speakers, then in the afternoon guest speakers. I had the opportunity to listen to a refugee from Iran. He shared his story of escaping then living on Nauru and the struggle he went through to get refugee status in Australia. My other speaker spoke of women's empowerment and taught us to create a legacy that we were proud of, no matter how small, and that we can achieve many things.

Sunday night we went into Fremantle for a tour of the Fremantle Prison. One of the girls made the comment "How quickly you bond with people when thrown into a torchlight prison tour". Having a large group of girls and telling stories then having jump scares resulted in many screams and holding on to everyone. Monday was the day was spent in the Perth CBD with an Amazing Race of Mercy and the day concluded with dinner and a musical quiz night at Mercedes College (the oldest Mercy school in Australia). On Tuesday we had the 'Heritage Market Place', which was an opportunity to share things that our school does and get ideas of what other schools from around the country do.

The trip was an amazing experience, I made friends from all around the country. I engaged in many deep conversations that always left me

asking questions. This opportunity taught me about what we can do in our power with people and that even after we leave school that there will be mercy within us.

**By Charlotte Brook, Year 10
Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo**

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AMSSA Student Conference 2018

During the September holidays three Year 10 Mercedes College students, Mikaela Zuiderduyn, Georgia Gillibrand and Savannah Regan were selected to attend the AMSSA Student Conference held at Santa Maria College, Attadale.



The conference which is held in a different city each two years, is a leadership camp involving all of the Mercy based schools around Australia, PNG and New Zealand. All the students boarded at Santa

Maria College, and for some, like Mikaela and Georgia this was a daunting experience. For the next five days the students met new friends, listened to a range of guest speakers and participated in a number of activities.

A favourite, Brett from How Ridiculous, inspired the students to start organising a 'sponsor a child' program at the College. A fun percussion workshop saw students learn how to play aboriginal tapping sticks and created their own performance.

Sr Elizabeth Nicholls from the Sisters of Mercy also spoke about the importance of 'hospitality' which led to another activity - a High Tea - which was enjoyed a little too enthusiastically!

The girls said they were very grateful for the opportunity to attend; that it was a very rewarding experience and they hope to bring some Mercy spirit to the College with some of their future initiatives.

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AMSSA Student Conference – Student Reflection

After Monte's Mercy Day this year, along with Mrs Egger, we embarked on a journey to Perth to represent Monte at the 2018 Australasian Mercy Secondary School Association (AMSSA) Student Conference (22-26 September). The aim of the conference was to connect students from Mercy schools all across Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, exploring the humble beginnings of Mercy in Australia and beyond. Throughout the conference, we had the opportunity to listen to incredible speakers, follow the journey of Ursula Frayne, the woman who first brought Mercy to Australia in 1846, and visit some of Perth's incredible sites.



During the event, we had the opportunity to listen to some insightful speakers. Guy and Gina, two Indigenous singers from Perth, highlighted that Mercy was essential in breaking down barriers between communities to reach a common goal. A member of the Youtube channel 'How Ridiculous' highlighted how he uses his platform to advocate for school children in the Philippines. Gaby Kinsman spoke to us about Young Mercy Links, a program that she started to enable Mercy students to continue their Mercy mission post-school. Each of these speakers, and the many more who attended the conference, encouraged us to think critically about how we can make differences across Australia using the values common to Mercy schools.



One of the highlights of the trip was meeting so many amazing and like-minded students from all over Australia. Over the five days, we made so many connections, bonding especially with girls from All Hallows' School in Brisbane - which also has the original statue of Catherine McAuley that is now replicated at Monte. In the heritage market place, all of the schools set up displays showing their own Mercy story and how we continue to live out the Mercy values through our initiatives and activities at school. We were able to share our story, from Mother McQuoin to our engagement with Timor-Leste, to our house colour system and more.

Along the way, we were able to take part in many fun and engaging activities around Perth. An amazing race saw us travelling throughout the Perth CBD, following in the path of Ursula Frayne and ending up at the very first Mercy school in Australia. Other sights included a tour of Fremantle Prison, Perth Botanic Gardens, and a cruise down the Swan River. Percussion workshops and indigenous art activities were a fun part of the trip.

The experience we had in Perth was unforgettable. We couldn't thank Mrs Egger more for accompanying us on and coordinating our trip - it wouldn't have been the same without her. Monte's connections are truly amazing and it was invaluable to learn so much from the Mercy schools across Australia.

CATHERINE MCAULEY WESTMEAD CELEBRATES ITS 52ND BIRTHDAY

Catherine McAuley Westmead celebrated its 52nd birthday on Tuesday, 6th November 2018. On that day in 1966 the school was opened by Bishop James Carroll, with the students moving into the premises the next day. Up until then the students had been accommodated in cramped facilities at either St Patrick's, Parramatta or from January 1966, demountable buildings on site.



It was the Sisters of Mercy who were approached to undertake the responsibility for this new regional school and they were particularly excited at the prospect of building a new separate secondary school for the girls under their care. It was the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta who, in collaboration with dedicated lay staff, gave the school its founding principles and established many of the traditions which still forms an intrinsic part of the Catherine McAuley Westmead of today.

In 2016 the school celebrated their Golden Jubilee with a 'Back to McAuley Day' for former students and staff which saw over 800 attend. A wonderful six-minute video which captures the spirit of the many ex students and staff who attended this event can be viewed by clicking on the link here: <https://youtu.be/IWYR3HmZ4bM>.

The school also released a commemorative book full of memories and photographs from students, parents and staff who have had a connection with the school over the past 50 years. This 'Book of Memories' can be purchased for \$30 from the school by phoning School Reception on 9849 9100.

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The Catherine McAuley Rose

Each spring and summer Catherine McAuley Westmead students have the opportunity to enjoy the Catherine McAuley roses blooming in their courtyards. This rose, named after Catherine McAuley, was officially launched in a ceremony held on 12th November 1992 by the Sisters of Mercy. It was named in honour of Catherine McAuley in celebration of Catherine being declared venerable.



It was declared that the radiant colour and delicate fragrance of this rose is reminiscent of the golden haired, gracious Catherine. The

clusters of blooms are symbols of the devoted groups of sisters sent by her to bring comfort to the needy.

The rose is a free flowering rose that repeat flowers quickly. It was initially bred in the United States and was chosen by the Sisters of Mercy in North Sydney from among many unnamed roses at Swane's Nursery in Sydney.

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'SEE THE PERSON' AWARD FOR VCAL STUDENTS

The work of Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo's dedicated VCAL Community Services students is making a difference and this has been recognised with the Scope 'See the Person Community Award'. This is part of the 'Making it happen' Scope Recognition Program.



Congratulations to all students involved with the Balloon Football League this year and well done to Ms Jan Miletic who has supported the students in this partnership with Scope.

Denise West, General Manager of Scope North and Statewide Services, was full of praise for the CMC students:



"The CMC VCAL Community Services Class student volunteers have contributed to the efficient running of the Balloon Football League (BFL) including but not limited to umpiring, scoring and management of teams in collaborations with participants, improving statistic collection forms, voting best on ground and creating new award categories. They perform all these tasks whilst building relationships and adding to the friendly community atmosphere with their positive 'see the person' attitude.

"The BFL participants have benefitted by an improved league and the group has identified ongoing awareness project opportunities.

"A core group of students have also attended two of the rounds on days that have been allocated student free by the school and at the Scope BFL AllStars even which involved travelling from Bendigo to the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in Melbourne during their school holidays!"

Vaughan Gray, a Year 12 VCAL student summed up his experience of volunteering this year, "Scope has been an eye opener for me in these last few months. It is so nice seeing clients with smiles on their faces and know that something so small is such a big deal to them. Being there brightens not just their day but also mine."

**Mr Matthew Angove,
Director of Learning & Teaching – St Mary's Campus
Catherine McAuley College, Bendigo**

DAMASCUS STUDENT HELPS THOSE IN NEED

Since the tender age of 11, Year 10 student Leah Young always knew she would volunteer overseas in a developing country, and for her 16th birthday Leah chose her destination to visit, and to her the choice was obvious – India.



Leah's mum, Melissa Young, had always encouraged her to open her mind to new possibilities, to become more independent and to help those that have less than us.

"We did some research and selected i-Spiice (Integrated Social Programs in Indian Child Education) as they provide housing, food and place volunteers in schools to teach English to the Indian children," she said.

Leah's mum and dad, Melissa and David Young, both work in education in Primary Schools, so their family has built a real appreciation and love for education and the need for offering education for everyone.



Leah said that she is closest to her mum, so her family decided for her to go on this trip with her dad, to help better connect the pair for the future. So, they spent the September school holidays in India together.

"I really didn't understand the difference between India and Australia until I actually arrived in India. The moment I stepped off the plane, the smell and the heat was overwhelming. The buildings were dilapidated and the poverty was striking."

Leah found it difficult to comprehend that the population of Australia would fit in the city of Delhi which has 26 million in population.

"My first reaction, was - oh my god"! It was not what I expected and the photos I had researched didn't describe the place adequately at all."

After a few days in Delhi, Leah and her dad travelled to an Indian village, Dharamsala for two weeks to teach English at the local community school.

"This school was based out of a local ladies home located on a hill, which was a long tin shed with three beds. At 4pm each day, children walked to her home that she opened up each afternoon for volunteers to teach the students until 6pm."

During the two-week period, they taught so many beautiful local children, and Leah developed a special relationship with a quiet 10 year-old boy, who couldn't speak English at all, so it was difficult for them to communicate. Luckily Leah knew a bit of Hindi which helped the cause.

"I had the idea to use my mobile phone, pointing to emojis to communicate to the children. It worked well and the children responded really well to lots of sensory learning, so we made play dough, and the children would draw to aid in conversation. Every day we did something different, we taught numbers, days, times, conversation starters, school and subjects."

Leah fell in love with many of the children, they were adorable, and would mimic everything she said. She was amazed that these children had to walk three hours each way to school, and no-one was forcing them to attend, they chose to attend.

"It was so different to Australia - these children loved attending school even though they had so little resources. In Australia children don't want to go to school, but yet the schools have an abundance of resources in comparison."

"I loved the experience. It was very surreal and confronting to see such poverty, where so many people sleep on the streets. Such a different way of life."

"It was wonderful to travel to a new country with a purpose and have a role to play and to feel so useful. I am very grateful for my life in Australia now. I see school as more of a privilege and try to take it less for granted. The visit has turned everything around for me, and I look at things differently now."

Upon return to Australia, Leah and her family are sourcing school supplies to donate to Dharamsala, to help the region further educate the local children.

"I hope to volunteer again and visit different countries and I am now saving for my next trip and maybe after secondary school I could visit Africa."

"In the future when I travel I want to do it with a purpose and make a difference. This is much better than just going on a holiday to relax. Helping others and learning other cultures is important and can change your life forever."

RUN FOR A LIFE

Recently, Marian College, Christchurch joined with its brother school to participate in and promote the biennial St Bede's College Canterbury Run For a Life event and charity concert.

In total, an incredible \$160,000.00 was raised for Canteen – the most the events have ever raised.



Ten Marian students joined teams of St Bede's students in running approximately 100km each over five days throughout the South Island of New Zealand to raise funds for teens with cancer. To be able to

participate, each runner was expected to raise a minimum of \$500 through sponsorship.

Runners kept up their spirits by reminding each other: No matter how hard it gets – this is nothing compared to living with cancer. Students from both schools pitched in to support the logistics of the event and fundraising.



Marian and St Bede's students also organised and put on a Canteen Concert For a Life – an extravaganza showcasing talented groups and individuals from each of the schools including kapa haka Maori and Pasifika group performances, jazz band, choir, barbershop and more.

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MERCY COLLEGE, KOONDOOLA

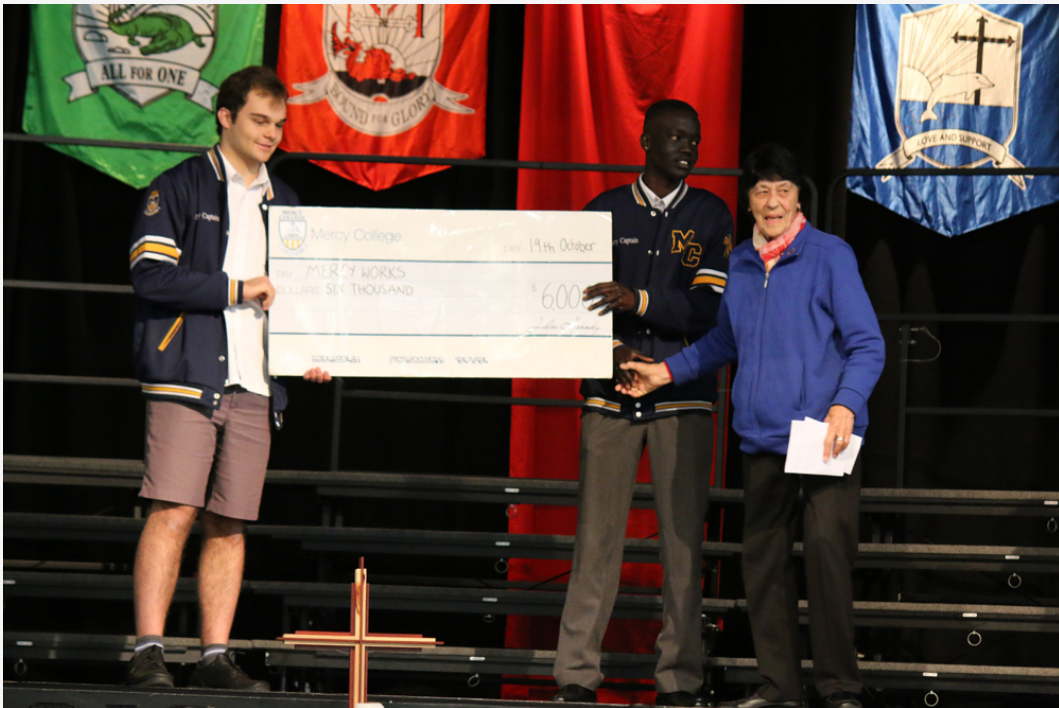
Mercy Day 2018

Each year, on 21 September we celebrate the feast day of Our Lady of Mercy. This year was no exception, as we celebrated as a whole College community with our annual fun day, which is the highlight of the year for many students. The day began with Mass celebrated by our chaplain, Fr Sam, and was attended by students, staff and Sisters

of Mercy; Srs Catherine, Jilyan, Janina, Noreen, Kaye and Margaret and, also Moira, sister of the late Sr Paula Mc Adam.



At the end of Mass Fr Sam blessed the memorial plaques of Paula and Judge Dan O'Dea which will be placed at the base of our memorial fountain. A moving liturgical dance performed to the song "My Heart will go on" followed the blessing.



What followed was the highly anticipated fair which took place on the primary oval. We were treated to stalls and activities, including an animal farm, bouncy castle, chocolate wheel and a number of food stalls, mostly organised and run by the students themselves under the

direction of staff. The entertainment provided by both current students and ex-students Sam Samuels and Ryan Trooth Samuels, provided the students with a great atmosphere.

The day ended with Mercy Idol run by the College's Arts team. Students showcased their gifts and talents of singing, acrobatics and dancing and a good time was had by all.

The Sisters of Mercy who have traditionally contributed to and supported our College have pledged the \$6,000 raised for Mercy Works, the relief and development arm for the Sisters in Australia, for the installation of water tanks in villages around Kiunga in the Western Province of Papua New Guinea.

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OUR LADY OF MERCY COLLEGE PARRAMATTA

Record Mercy Tree donations give hope to Refugees and Asylum Seekers

In September, a cheque for just over \$13,000 was presented to the House of Welcome. This amount was raised through the 2017/2018 Mercy Tree campaign.



The House of Welcome was founded in 2001 and provides holistic support to refugees and asylum seekers who are living in the community with minimal support options including housing, community living and family support, a drop-in centre (including a weekly Foodbank), skill development courses, and community connections such as a catering social enterprise and school holiday programs.

Principal Mr Stephen Walsh says this result is remarkable: "This is the highest amount ever raised through a Mercy Tree campaign and I couldn't be more proud of our community. Our students and families have shown their practical commitment to the Mercy Values and, undeniably, have made Mercy a Verb! Thank you to all for your generous donations to this important cause."

In September it was announced that the 2018/2019 beneficiary would be Women's Community Shelters (WCS). WCS works with local communities to provide more safe havens for women (and their children). They offer vulnerable women at risk of homelessness or domestic violence shelter, active case management, support, dignity, self-esteem and a chance to start anew, through the establishment, operation and/or supervision and support of Women's Community Shelters and transitional housing.

Women's Community Shelters is currently working to establish and open a women's shelter in Parramatta, which is due to open by mid-2019.

Annabelle Daniel, CEO Women's Community Shelters says: "At the heart of Women's Community Shelters is our wish to keep vulnerable women and their children safe from further harm and contribute to their rehabilitation within their local community."

Building a Better Future on Mercy Day 2018

Every Mercy Girl helped to build a better future and turn lives around through the House Fundraising activities which were a key new feature of Mercy Day 2018. Creativity and passion were on display as students worked together in their Houses to run games and fun challenges, food and sweet stalls and raffles to raise money for Mercy Works projects.

On 23 October, Kingsley Edwards from Mercy Works was invited to attend a College Assembly to accept a cheque from OLMC for \$4,500 which was raised through Mercy Day House Activities. He congratulated the OLMC community on such an outstanding effort. Below is an excerpt from his speech:



"I am accepting this cheque today on behalf of all those whose lives will be turned around and who now have a better future because of your support for Mercy Works.

To those of you in Clare and Callan Houses, who raised money for our refugee programs in the spirit of "Seeking Refuge," thank you for helping young refugees like Istella, who is currently sitting her HSC exams. Since arriving here only two years ago, she has been a student in our Mercy Connect Sydney program at a Sydney Catholic school. Istella was forced to flee Iraq with her parents and three brothers in 2014. Despite these challenges, Istella recently received an Archbishop's Award for Student Excellence.



To those members of McAuley and Doyle Houses, who raised money for our Indigenous programs in the spirit of "Friendship and Home," thank you for helping young Aboriginal children like Jack, whose mother has struggled to find employment. While she is at a vocational training course run by our centre, Jack too can learn by taking part in the "Learning for our Jarjums Early Childhood Project."

To those of you in Kavanagh and Stanley Houses, who raised money for our Papua New Guinea programs in the spirit of "Innovation and Excellence," thank you for helping young people like Eddie whose parents died when he was just 13. Alone and with no other way to support himself, he turned to crime as his only means of survival. Eddie heard about our Youth Empowerment Program and enrolled. Having completed a course in small business enterprise, Eddie is now making a living and is financially independent.

To those members of Callaghan and Mercedes Houses, who raised money for our Timor-Leste programs in the spirit of "New Beginnings," thank you for helping Melania, a young teacher. Melania grew up in Timor-Leste wanting to be a pre-school teacher, but, without our early childhood teacher training program at Sacred Heart of Jesus School, she would not be teaching today.

Each of you put your Mercy Values into practice by fundraising on Mercy Day, making it possible to change the lives of individuals and communities in Australia, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. That is Mercy in action."

ST ALOYSIUS COLLEGE

This term, St Aloysius JAM has been a part of volunteering each week at the Adelaide Day Centre. Every Monday, five to six students gave up their lunch time to help out in the kitchen, print wrapping paper and sort toys ready for Christmas hampers and offer assistance wherever else necessary at the centre. It's a really hands-on experience where the girls are able to chat to other volunteers and learn more about the ins and outs of the Centre.





On Friday 19 November, we celebrated Pink Day as a school community. On this day, our school comes together in support of the many thousands of Australian women affected by cancer. This is a fundraising day where all proceeds went to the Cancer Council and Love Your Sister, which aim to minimise the threat of women's cancers through successful prevention, best treatment, support and world-class research.

Our theme for this year was 'Pretty in Pink'. We encouraged all students to come dressed in pink with a gold coin donation. As a school we celebrated the day with a range of activities and fundraisers including a pink raffle, a 'guess the amount of lollies in the jar' and a 'ThinkPink' themed cake and sweets stall. There were also pink ribbons on sale. We created a Love Your Sister Pink village by decorating our classroom doors and demonstrating our support for the cause.

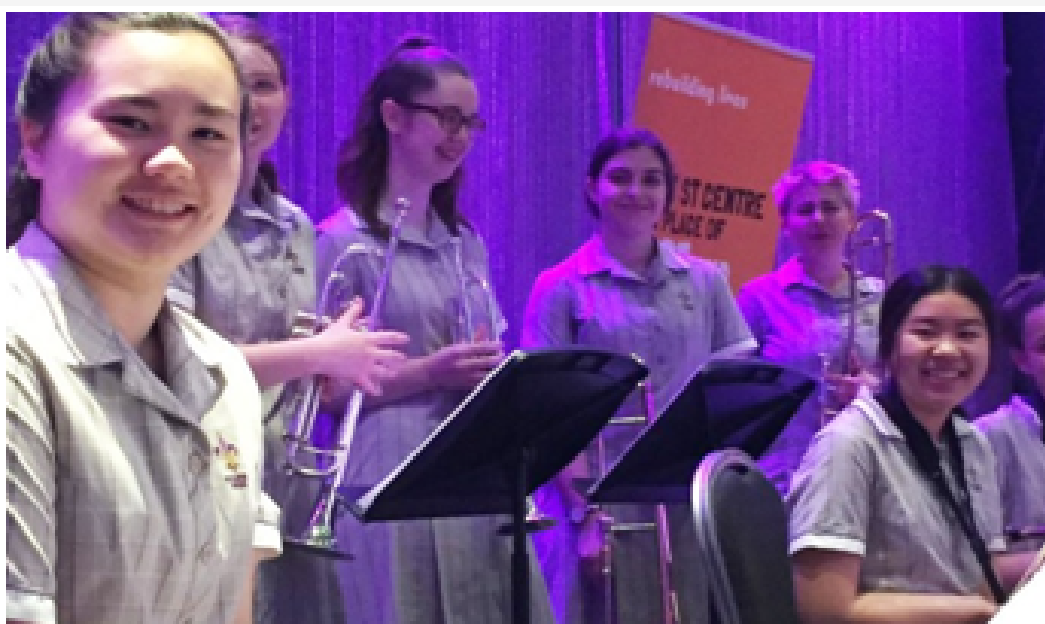
Many thanks to students, parents and teachers for their generosity, creativity and enthusiasm on Pink Day. The door decorations were truly amazing. Thank you to Year 5 & 6 students and their families for the beautifully presented delicious sweets and cakes. Thank you also to the Year 5 and 6 SRC members, JAM leaders and teachers for their assistance on this day.



The last day of Term 3 was a wonderful celebration for the SAC school community. All students participated in our Mercy Day carnival. Classes set up a variety of food and entertainment stalls, including the very popular beauty parlour, photo booth, drink stalls, food stalls, games and luckydips.

I am very proud to announce that we raised \$10,230.00. This was a wonderful effort. Once again the St Aloysius College students have been very generous in their support of Mercy Works.

The money raised will help support our commitment to Mercy Works throughout the world. Thank you to all students for your generosity.



The St Aloysius College Stage Band were invited to provide music for the Australia Day Council of SA event 'In Conversation with Change Makers' held on the morning of Tuesday 16 October at the Hilton Hotel. This fund raising event was held to support Hutt Street Centre and Catherine House and focused on homelessness and domestic violence.

The students performed to nearly 500 attendees and were inspired by the outstanding speakers, which included anti-domestic violence campaigner, Arman Abrahamzadeh OAM, Sarah Gun, Founder of Gogo Events, Taryn Brumfitt, Founder of The Body Image Movement and Corey White, a comedian whose work draws on traumatic childhood experiences.

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AMSSA Staff Conference

August 8 – 10 2019

Monte Sant'Angelo Mercy College, North Sydney

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