



Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Newsletter

Welcome to the Winter edition of 'Providence Lane', Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre's quarterly newsletter. Mary MacKillop established us as a house of providence, a place of hospitality and care and, as the audio in Mary's Room states "all people are welcome here as in Mary's time." We hope our newsletter will reflect that ongoing welcome.

### THE NAMING OF PROVIDENCE LANE

The Newsletter for the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre has been named "Providence Lane". This name acknowledges the lane that runs alongside the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre and was unnamed for many years, that is, till Sr Maureen Beha contacted the Melbourne City Council in the late 1990's/early 2000's and suggested that it should have a name.

*Maureen explains how it was named:*

"While living at East Melbourne, I became aware that the laneway between Albert Street and Lansdowne Street was unnamed, although constantly used night and day by cars, couriers and council trucks.

After discussion with the community who thought it was a good idea, I contacted the Melbourne city Council who agreed that the lane could be named. The Council was provided with information about Mary MacKillop's involvement in the convent adjoining the lane and Council suggested that Mary's name could be included, however because "Providence" was the original name of the Convent, this name was suggested and accepted.

Communication with the council was very helpful and after a short time, the "Providence Lane" signage was erected.

The post has been, on several occasions, damaged by wayward trucks, but always re-erected in a short amount of time."



The People you meet in Providence Lane

### AN AFL LEGEND IN PROVIDENCE LANE

Our football mad MMHC staff recognized a famous face as he managed traffic in Providence Lane. The AFL legend Doug Hawkins, ever the gentleman, has been assisting the sisters navigating the works in the lane and even parked their cars for them when they were concerned about access with the diggers and trucks. Doug joined us for a photo to commemorate his time in Providence Lane.

For those of you unfamiliar Doug Hawkins made his VFL debut for Footscray as a teenager and by 1984 Doug had made his first appearance in the VFL team of the year and in 1985 won the Charles Sutton Medal. Doug was named Captain of Footscray in 1990 and captained the club until 1993.

In his final season with Footscray he became famous as he broke another AFL legend, Ted Whitten's long-standing club record. For those in the west you might also be familiar with Doug Hawkins statue on Ballarat Road.



*"Be eager in your desires but humbly patient in their accomplishment."*

- Mary MacKillop

### SPOTLIGHT ON THE GIFT SHOP

'Little Lon' was home to recently arrived immigrants from Ireland, Italy, China and Syria.

In 1897 Mary MacKillop and Sr Gertrude opened the Catholic Poor School to provide a basic education for children from the nearby slums.



**\$25**

For all merchandise visit the MMHC Gift Shop, order by email [admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au](mailto:admin.mmhc@sosj.org.au) or phone 03 9926 9300.

# Providence La



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE

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## JOSEPH RETURNS

When you next visit the Heritage Centre, you will notice Joseph has returned and is standing in a corner of the Temporary Gallery. We are grateful to Ursula, Mary and Kath O'Connor from Malvern who gifted us with this lovely statue of St. Joseph on March 17th 1982. These ladies were good friends of the Sisters.

Fr. Fitzgerald blessed the statue at its installation and for many years it stood in the corner of the garden at East Melbourne. It was damaged during the redevelopment of the site and needed to be repaired. We have had the statue restored and repainted by our conservator Samantha Hamilton. It is intended that later in the year, we will hold a special gathering to acknowledge relocating Joseph into a secure and permanent place in the garden.



Farewell Jackson

## GOODBYE TO OUR GARDENER

After being responsible for maintaining our gardens at MMHC for a number of years, staff had the chance to say a fond farewell to Jackson during a special morning tea, where Jackson was presented with a gift and certificate of appreciation.

Ted our Director took the opportunity to thank him for his support of the Heritage Centre and his diligence with the garden maintenance program.

It was lovely to see Jackson leave in a Mary MacKillop signature beanie as a gift to remember us by.

## DID YOU KNOW?

Mary accepted and educated, without distinction, those who could pay for their education and those who could not.

When the Governor's son wished to enrol his little boy he requested that the child might have a seat beside her desk. Mary refused to make any distinctions. Although upset at the time, the Governor's family soon realized Mary was right in refusing the request. Mary, talk to the sisters, North Sydney, 1901

## THE APARTMENTS FRESHENED & REJUVENATED

Over the years MMHC had issues with excessive rainwater flowing into the entrance of a couple of the apartments on the lower level. This left discolouration in the carpets. Recently, with the assistance of our newly appointed maintenance guru Malcolm, he removed the stained sections of carpet at the doorways and replaced them with tiles as shown in the photo below.

With thanks to Maria our Hospitality and Facilities Co-Ordinator other refurbishing's that have been undertaken in the apartments include the replacement of sheer curtains with sunscreen roller blinds and a fresh coat of paint in the bathrooms and kitchens.

Although small these changes have freshened and rejuvenated the apartments.

Maria & Malcolm



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Heidi, Anthony, Martin and Dave (& Heidi's pink boots!)

### CONSTRUCTION CREATES INTEREST

During the demolition and rebuilding of the site of the old NAB Bank building near us, there were trucks and tradespeople everywhere. It was a fascinating hive of activity and our staff enjoyed viewing the ongoing progress and chatting to the workers on a regular basis. We invited some of them to visit us at the Centre and, during the week leading up to Mothers' Day several did come in and purchase gifts, especially Ethica products. Lots of scarves went off the shelves that week and we heard back that the Mums loved them.

Recently Stephen, the site Manager, took our staff on a tour of the build where we were privileged to a "bird's eye view" of the work from up on the scaffolding. Stephen answered our questions about the progress and preparation for the new structure. The site was previously a Service Station prior to the Bank Buildings which housed one of Australia's 1<sup>st</sup> ATM's.

The new foundations were commenced in June of this year and will be 10 meters lower than the original site and the completed building will be one floor higher than James Gould House's 11 floors.



### ST LEO'S STAFF REFLECTION

We were greeted by MMHC staff on arrival and made to feel so welcomed. The facilities at The Mary Mackillop Heritage Centre were fantastic, such a beautiful and inviting building and the morning tea provided was delicious. Our staff at St. Leo's is still talking about our wonderful time there and the staff that we had met.

Upon our arrival (we were a lively bunch) we had been introduced to Ted and he certainly has left an everlasting impression with us all. He greeted us most sincerely and brought humour into our meeting. Upon him leaving he had promised that one lucky staff member would win a one night stay at one of the apartments. (you can imagine the staff enthusiasm now!!!)

Once again thank you and we look forward to our Grade 4 and 5 students attending their Sacramental day on 8 and 9 of September. Fingers crossed it all goes ahead without any restrictions in place.

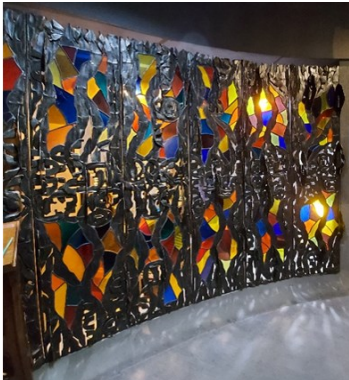


St Leo's the Great



*"We must teach more by example than by word."*

- Mary MacKillop



## ARCHEOLOGICAL DIG ADJACENT TO MARY'S BIRTHSITE

On a quiet Friday morning at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, a sudden phone call came from Julie, a staff member at St Vincent's Hospital and a MacKillop Today committee member, who said: "If you want to see the archeological dig at the birthsite come NOW!" Anyone free to go and interested bolted immediately.

On arrival we walked into the aged building, soon to be demolished, through to a small Chapel. Upon entering the Chapel, the first thing we noticed is the beauty of the stained glass illuminating the space along with the peace and tranquility.

We then walked towards the archaeological dig. We were astonished to find that the "Dig" was in the carpark behind the wall at Mary's birthsite - we had had no idea that this was happening! The archeologists Brendan Marshall and Lisa Rosas had been working there for some time and were finishing their work that day hence the urgency of our visit. Brendan and Lisa had hoped to find something of Marino Cottage where Mary MacKillop was born. They were out of luck with that BUT what they did find was the stone footings and a cellar of a dwelling called Como which was there when Samuel Gillott bought the block in 1864. He built Edensor in 1865 and in 1899 demolished Como to allow extensions on Edensor (now Dodgshun House). It appears Marino Cottage was demolished at this same time.

Lisa showed us a collection of artifacts they had found on the site, now carefully bagged and labelled, including perfume bottle caps, toothbrushes and the Frozen Charlotte dolls. A quick google search showed that these bisque porcelain dolls were used as bath toys or even baked into Christmas cakes as charms. Knowing how Mary was a big advocate for children's education and providing a safe place for those in need, my immediate thought was about the children that played with the dolls. The findings of these dolls not only give us an insight into children's lives in the late 19<sup>th</sup> century but further solidifies Mary's connection with children.

The archaeological work is preparatory to the buildings that St. Vincent's Hospital is planning to construct on the site to extend the facilities of the hospital. There is a plan showing how the birthsite will be incorporated into the overall landscaping of the site when completed. For the next two years the monument that marks the birthsite will be relocated approximately 10 metres from its current position, just till the works are completed.



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