

# Providence La



Mary MacKillop  
HERITAGE CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Newsletter No.5

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

## THE 'AUSSIE CAMINO'

Jim Phelan recently completed the 'Aussie Camino' and shares his experience with us. The day before the Aussie Camino began, the group travelled to Victoria and some of the group stayed at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre in East Melbourne. The entire group then met at the Heritage Centre and were given an initial insight into the life and work of St Mary MacKillop. "One of the best things about doing the walk and completing Camino's overseas is that it's not just a walk – many people 'find themselves' while participating. There can be a lot of soul-searching and opportunity to reflect. One of the pilgrims completed the Aussie Camino for charity. The pilgrim raised \$10,000 for Interplast, a non-government organisation that sends teams of volunteer plastic and reconstructive surgeons, anaesthetists, nurses and allied health professionals to provide life-changing surgery and medical training across the Asia Pacific region.



SELINA

My name is Selina Wilmott and I am the Museum Project Officer at the Mary MacKillop Museum in East Melbourne.

I completed my Master of Cultural Heritage at Deakin University and Master of World Heritage at BTU Cottbus-Senftenberg, Germany. I have experience volunteering at State Library Victoria, the Australian Jazz Museum and Benalla Art Gallery. I also currently work at Montsalvat arts centre in Eltham and at the National Gallery of Victoria.

In my spare time I play football with Kew Bears and love spending time with my Golden Retriever Edie and my rabbit Burger Bun.



## DID YOU KNOW?

Did you know that Caroline Jones, of ABC fame, who died recently is the voice of the recorded introduction to the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre and explains something of its history. This recording is in the first room of the Museum in what is called "Mary's Room"

Congratulations to Eileen (*MMHC Education Team*) and her husband James who celebrated their 50th wedding during lockdown.

They were able to take part in the recent Anniversary Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral in July and received a commemorative certificate honouring the special day.



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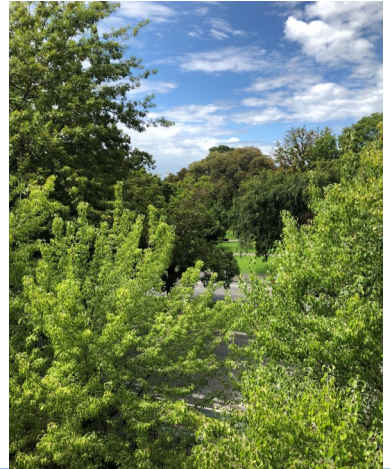
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## CONGRATULATIONS ST JOHNS ON 100 YEARS

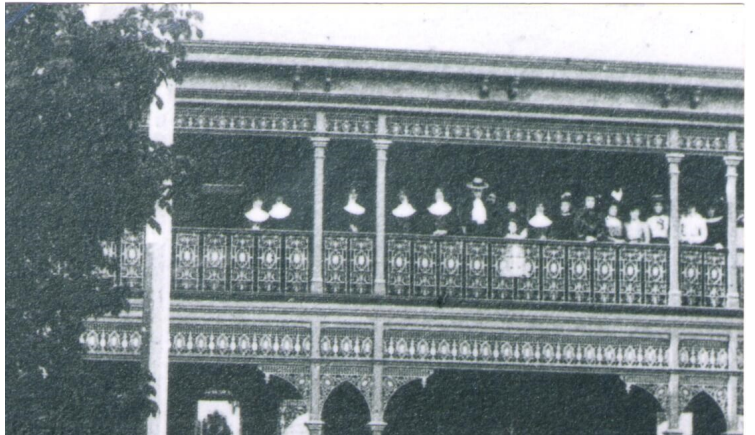
*I wanted to get in touch again to thank you most sincerely for hosting St. John's School staff for our Faith Retreat on Monday the 11th and Tuesday the 12th of July. It was a wonderful retreat and many of the staff have told me that it was a very special and spiritual experience to walk in the footsteps of Mary and be immersed in the story of the Josephites. Thank you for your partnership to make this happen for us on the momentous occasion of our Centenary Year. As a Josephite School we hope to maintain a strong connection and enduring relationship with MMHC and we value your leadership and your custodial role in making the vision and the charism of the Josephite Order visible with both a historical and a contemporary lens.*

*The beautifully spiritual experience facilitated by Rita and the efficient and welcoming support of Yuvina and Kate are so very highly valued. We are grateful in particular for that sense of welcome and of feeling included in your story and we felt the Josephite charism extended to us in the way you all made us feel. Our sincere gratitude to you all. So very proud to be a Josephite School.*



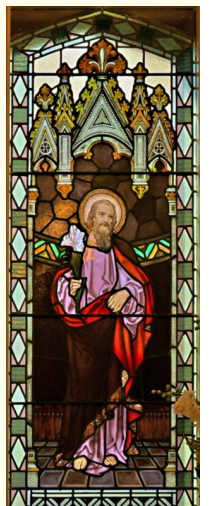

## BRUNCH ON THE BALCONY

MMHC staff had the pleasure of being guests in the private residence and enjoyed brunch on the balcony together to start off the new quarter. Dining 'up in the trees' was a an experience and while we didn't think to get our photo taken on the balcony as done in the past we will keep it in mind for next time.



**DID YOU KNOW?** That the St Joseph window in the chapel was donated by the past pupils of St Joseph's School, Cumberland Place, Melbourne. (1897- 1926).

(Also known as the "Poor School" or the "Syrian School" and was located in the street behind the first Providence in Latrobe Street).

Dear MMHC  
I loved my first visit here and wanted to come again.  
I came here on the 14<sup>th</sup> of June 2022 with my School St Patrick and learnt so much.  
Thank you for teaching me about Mary MacKillop and her life  
Love from Lauren



## ARTIST WENDY BLACK VISITS

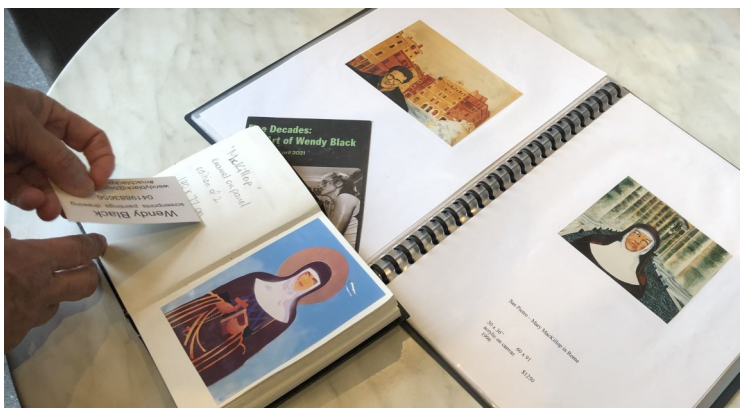
On Friday the 24th of June during the Feast of the Sacred Heart, the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre welcomed artist Wendy Black, whose artwork forms part of the Mary MacKillop Museum collection. Wendy is a highly accomplished artist who recently celebrated her 50-year retrospective art exhibition. Wendy has been a finalist in portrait and landscape art competitions within Australia, and had artwork selected for the National Gallery of Australia's book on printmaking, *Printed: Images by Australian Artists 1942-2020*.

Wendy painted "Mary MacKillop in Rome" for the Mary MacKillop art awards for the celebration of the Beatification of Mary MacKillop in 1995; organised by the Sisters of Saint Joseph. Although the painting was not selected for the prize, the Mary MacKillop Museum was fortunate to receive it as a donation in 2007 following many loved years residing with one of Wendy's in-laws.

The artwork was created using acrylic paints on canvas and is 60cm x 91cm in size. It was one in a series of piazza paintings that Wendy created between 1994-1996, inspired by her visit to Rome. Wendy's Mary is situated in the colonnade of San Pietro, with the artist intending to capture a pivotal moment in Mary's life when she had to go to Rome to speak on behalf of those she represented and cared for.

The staff at Mary MacKillop Museum are grateful for Wendy's visit; which provided great insight into the artwork. The piece in question is currently displayed in the Director's office at the Heritage Centre, with future plans for it to be placed in the museum on display to the public.

*Selina Wilmott*



**FR. PAUL KOLLMAN**, a Holy Cross Priest, was visiting Australia for the 15th Assembly of the International Association for Mission Studies (IAMS). The Assembly was in Sydney, so he visited Melbourne to catch up with friends and stayed in the MMHC apartments for a few nights. Fr. Paul and Sr Rita rsj began reminiscing about Notre Dame University, Indiana, as well as Catholic Theological College, Chicago. Fr Paul's work has focused on African Christianity, mission history, and world Christianity, and he has carried out research in Africa and in archives around the world. Thank you Fr. Paul for taking the time to stop by for a chat.

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## OUR LATEST VISIT TO THE ICON BUILDING, "VICTORIA PLACE".

For those of you who may not be aware during covid lockdowns Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre found itself surrounded by construction. We were lucky enough to have been invited to visit this building site earlier in the year when it was just an excavation site. On Tuesday 26<sup>th</sup> July we had the opportunity to be taken through the new building by Steve, the construction manager who has taken our fascination with the ongoing changes in stride.

### WHO WENT?



### WHAT DID WE SEE?



### THE RUG ON MARY'S CHAIR

During preparatory work for the Museum, one of our advisors suggested a homemade rug could be placed over the arm of Mary MacKillop's chair. The rug was made by Sr. Betty O'Donnell in 2005. She researched early handwork in the Australian colony to identify the appropriate colours and type of wool this rug required to be 'authentic' to the period. Knitted rugs were apparently made in preference to crochet at this time. Garter stitch dominated images of handmade garments. Pastel colours were not readily available but rather only natural tones made from plants and rocks. The wool for this rug came from the Bendigo Woollen Mills.

*How good God is to me  
and how much reason I have  
to be grateful.*

Mary MacKillop 22.2.1899



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