

# Providence Lane



**Mary MacKillop**  
HERITAGE CENTRE

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre Newsletter No.7

Welcome to the Summer/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.

## COLLOQUIUM 'Mary MacKillop - Daughter of Melbourne'



### "Truly wonderful are the ways of God" MM 1873

150 years after Mary MacKillop wrote these words, there is still as much meaning to be gained from them, in 2023, as when they were first read by her Sisters in 1873.

The first 2023 Colloquium gave us many and varied opportunities to learn about the 'wonderful ways of God' from our Josephite Sisters and MMHC colleagues. We were provided with erudite and engaging presentations that taught us about the spirit of the congregation, about the qualities of Mary MacKillop and about humility.

We were privileged to learn the wisdom of the Sisters' history which has been passed down to us through their lives and works especially in the context of the work of MacKillop Family Services. Participants were privileged to hear about the ministry of Sr Cath and Sr Mary as mothercraft nurses. The presentation hit the heart strings and was well received. With gratitude Cath and Mary for sharing your many wonderful years of ministry to people in community.

We were privileged to learn about the inspiration from Julian Tenison Woods and Mary MacKillop. We were even able to walk in the footsteps of Mary in learning about her work in 'Little Lon'. We were then inspired to take this learning and apply it to our own workplaces and return to the essence of the Josephite Charism. We were inspired to take time for reflection "to look back a little and see what our good God has done for us" (MM 1880) with encouragement "wherever we are, whoever we are, whatever we do we are called to relieve suffering and bring hope." (MM)



*Selina (MMHC Museum Project Officer) and Ted receiving the quilt from Mary Davies a friend of Thelma who was unable to be present.*



### BY MARY'S HAND

#### Hand stitched Organ quilt cover from Anglican Church Penola linked to Saint Mary

This organ cover was presented to the Mary MacKillop Museum in October 2022 by Thelma Lucas a descendant of the Sharma family.

The organ cover was quilted for the Anglican Church in Penola by her great Grandfather, a former boot maker in Penola and Caretaker of the Anglican Church and includes detailed embroidery and tatted. The Grandfather lived in Sharma cottage located in Petticoat Lane Penola, adjacent to Mary and Julian's schoolhouse. Mary would visit Sharma cottage to participate with the sewing group, likely the makers of this quilt.



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## MADDIES EMBELLISHED GARDEN...from Trash to Art

Staff, sisters, volunteers and friends of MMHC caught up at Maddie's Garden on Sunday 2 April .

Maddie and Norm Willingham have welcomed and inspired many visitors over the years with their collection of quirky and interesting things from the roadside, transformed into creative garden-scapes. Where you can follow the various pathways to discover umpteen "rooms" each with a different theme and colour. Apart from a smattering of artwork, almost the entire garden is made up of found and recycled objects.

Devonshire teas were available along with hand-crafted goods and all proceeds go the Mary MacKillop East Timor Mission.



**MARY MACKILLOP**  
*today*  
**AUCTION & DINNER**

*WHEN*  
**Friday 18th August 2023**  
Commences 6.30pm

*WHERE*  
**Mount St Joseph Girls' College**  
133 Maidstone St, Altona

*COST*  
\$50.00pp (BYO drinks)

*TICKETS*  
Call MMHC (03) 9926 9300  
RSVP Friday 11th August 2023



## TERM ONE VISITORS

During Term 1 MMHC welcomed staff from Edmund Rice Education Australia and St Vincent's Hospital and pilgrims on Getaway Trekking Camino tours. CECV accredited education programs were delivered to staff of Our Lady of Mt Carmel Sunbury; St Mary of the Cross Point Cook; St Thomas Aquinas Norlane; and St Anthony's Noble Park. MMHC welcomed and provided educational programs to students from St Paul's Sunshine West; MacKillop Werribee; Oliver Plunkett Pascoe Vale; Mt Lilydale College; St Theresa's Albion; St Raphael's Catholic School Preston West; St Leo the Great Altona North; Mount St Joseph Altona North; Xavier College Kew; and Genazzano College Kew.

## STAFF FORMATION DAYS

Continuing to walk in the footsteps of Mary MacKillop, the first term saw the staff from four Primary Schools choose to hold their Staff Faith Formation Days at the Centre, being ably led by members and volunteers of the Education team. Here are some of their comments :

- Not only a journey of finding out more about St Mary MacKillop but a journey of self-discovery and purpose.
- I loved being together as a school community and listening to the wonderful work MM achieved.
- It was amazing to be immersed into the life of Mary through the walks and on seeing the landmarks. The building in Albert St, the museum, the stories we reflected on.
- I loved learning about Mary's mission in Melbourne and the lengths she went to protect and educate those who she came in contact with.





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## CHRISTMAS

At our Christmas gathering last year, we farewelled Anmaree, and acknowledged in their absence Eileen, Audrey, Veronica and Margaret for their many wonderful contributions. Anmaree in particular over her 12 years at MMHC has had a significant influence in the development of the culture and education programs at MMHC. We have been blessed to have a person of her organisational skills, knowledge and passion. To quote my predecessor Garry McLean, Anmaree's "Little Lon visits to the Gin Distillery will be etched into the history of the Madam Brussel's precinct".



## A BELATED FAREWELL



Sickness, COVID and other circumstances foiled our efforts to farewell a retiring staff member and two long term volunteers at the Christmas function last year.

On Monday 3 April present staff and volunteers were able to gather for a farewell and celebratory thank you morning tea.

Eileen White, retired after a long commitment to Catholic education, and five years in the education role at the Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre, bringing to her role a range of new ideas which engaged both staff and students.

Sr Audrey and Sr Veronica were long term volunteers.

Sr Veronica guiding student groups through the museum over many years, with Sr Audrey's particular interest being the gift shop and working with the pilgrimage groups.

We will miss their skills, encouragement and involvement, and wish them every blessing.

## NATIONAL PILGRIMAGE —IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF MARY

We once again welcomed the National Pilgrimage to the Heritage Centre since 2019 Covid restrictions enforced a 3 year hiatus. It was exciting to prepare again for what has been an annual event for many years. This is a unique opportunity for pilgrims to enter more deeply into Mary MacKillop's and Fr Julian Tenison Wood's stories and spirituality and to appreciate Mary's role as our first canonised Australian Saint. Sr Jose, one of the pilgrims was farewelled by Sr Betty from MMHC.





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## OPEN DAY NOVEMBER 2022

Thank to all for your support of Open Day where we had around 50 people attend the day; there was such a lovely feel.

The feedback on the talk about Julian Tenison Woods by Eileen was very well received, as was the walking tours led by Aarti, Jane, Anmaree, Anna, Rosy & Patricia and the mass and blessings by Fr Jackson. Thank you Betty, Rita and Anna for your contributions to the mass and those who worked in hospitality led by Clare and Jan. Kartika, in her first outing as a MMHC volunteer, did a fantastic job in being the official photographer with some photos attached. As always thank you Audrey and Debbie for your tireless work in the gift shop.

There will be three [Open Days](#) held in 2023 with the days aligning to other key events within Melbourne and we welcome your ongoing support:

**Saturday 13 May** - Australian Heritage Festival

**Saturday 29 July** – Open House Melbourne

**Saturday 28 October** - Victorian Seniors Festival



## TEMPORARY GALLERY EXHIBITION—‘ST MARY OF THE CROSS MACKILLOP’

This exhibition explores the significance of the Cross in Mary’s life. Visitors will be able to view objects from the museum’s collection of Josephite emblems and crosses, while activity sheets will be available for students to enjoy. The *Mary of the Cross* Exhibition will be held April - June 2023; Monday-Friday, 10am-4pm.



### MARY MACKILLOP HERITAGE CENTRE SELF-GUIDED MUSEUM AUDIO TOUR

We are excited to announce the launch of a new Audio Tour developed by Selina Wilmott Museum Project Officer. Listen to the tour which can be accessed from the MMHC Website from the comfort of your home or during a site visit using your own device and earphones. Director Ted Javernik and Sister Patricia Williams guide you through the different gallery spaces and exhibition highlights.

Access the Audio Tour here: <https://www.mmhc.org.au/museum/audio-tour/>



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