



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

February 2023

Reflection: On the journey from ashes to hope

So many stories are told, aren't they? The voices of people we have never met can become woven into the personal fabric of our lives and into the welcoming, compassionate spaces offered by our various ministries. Some encounters are gentle and practical, while others come abruptly as 'Breaking News'.

We hear and retell the stories of those whose lives are literally or symbolically 'in ashes'. We hear and retell the stories of hope and possibility, as good people do what they can to respond to the needs of others. Within Mercy Ministry Companions, our Community Service, Education, and Health and Aged Care Ministries hear and tell many stories of hope and new life, emerging from the depths of distress and disadvantage.

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Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)



Trustee Directors visit Mercy Place Montrose

In early February, the Trustee Directors held their first in-person meeting for the year at Mercy Place Montrose, Residential Aged Care Facility, at the foot of the Dandenongs.

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MMC attends Mercy Community Services AGM

In early December, MMC Trustee Directors attended the inaugural Mercy Community Services (MCSAL) AGM held at MacKillop Family Services in South Melbourne.

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MMC tour MacKillop Family Services Heritage and Information Service

In December 2022, MMC Trustee Directors toured MacKillop's Heritage and Information Display, which sits on the site of the former St Vincent de Paul's Boys' Orphanage in South Melbourne, one of Australia's oldest remaining orphanage buildings.

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MMC celebrate with MacKillop end of year dinner

After a busy day attending the MacKillop AGM and touring the Heritage and Information Service, a number of the Trustee Directors enjoyed a dinner at MacKillop Family Services, a thank you for all who contributed to Mercy Community Services throughout the year.

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MMC Mission Coordinators' Network

The Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC) Mission Coordinators' Network has been established to provide support for people undertaking 'mission formation' roles full time, or as part of other roles, within MMC's various ministries.

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Mercy Education

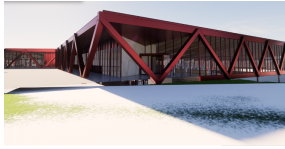


Mercy Education Deputy Principals' Seminar

In November, Emmanuel College Warrnambool and Mercy Regional College Camperdown,

hosted Deputy Principals from the Mercy Schools' Network for the 2022 Deputy Principals' Seminar.

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Green light for Emmanuel College Edmund Rice Centre

Construction work on the new state of the art Edmund Rice Centre, a \$16 million contemporary precinct for Year 9 students at Emmanuel College Warrnambool, is expected to commence this year.

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St Aloysius welcomes first intake of boys

St Aloysius College, one of Melbourne's oldest girls' schools, has welcomed its first intake of boys this month, as the College moves to a new coeducational model.

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Mercy Health



Construction underway for Mercy Health's new early parenting centre

In December 2022 construction began on Mercy Health's new early parenting centre in Whittlesea. The development will ensure that families in Melbourne's north have access to culturally safe parenting support.

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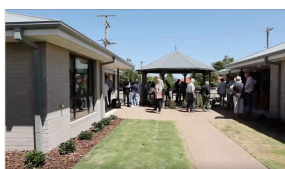
Mercy Community Services



Supporting the youngest victim-survivors

McAuley, in partnership with Paul Ramsay Foundation Strengthening Early Years Program, is piloting a program that will introduce a Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Nurse into its integrated suite of support services.

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Avondale Place Community Open Day

In early February, the Mercy Connect Team joined local Henty residents and special guests, including Justin Clancy MP, at the Avondale Place 'Community Open Day'; a new four-bedroom respite care centre and four two-bedroom independent living units for people with a disability.

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MacKillop Family Services releases second



Reconciliation Action Plan

MacKillop Family Services has launched its second Reconciliation Action Plan (RAP). Building on the success of its inaugural RAP in 2020, it is a significant step for the organisation's commitment to reconciliation.

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Putting child safety at the centre

In February, members of religious orders and laity from the Ministries, attended a special presentation by International safeguarding expert Fr Hans Zollner SJ.

Fr Zollner was visiting Australia from the Pontifical Gregorian University in Rome, where he is the Director of the Institute of Anthropology, Interdisciplinary Studies on Human Dignity and Care (IADC). His presentation addressed a way forward with respect to safeguarding children and families and the urgent areas of focus to transform the existing system. Fr Zollner also spoke of the structural and spiritual consequences of that way forward.

Presentations were also given by Lianna Buchanan, Victorian Commissioner for Children & Young People and Sr Kath Tierney RSM AO.

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Conferences and Events

THURS 2 MAR

Using the *Orientation to Mercy* Modules in mission-focused induction for staff and volunteers (via Zoom)

Presenter: Annette Schneider RSM, Formation Coordinator, Mercy Ministry Companions

[Register here](#)

MON 9 - TUES 10 OCT

The 2023 Mercy Ministry Companions Conference will be held at the Catholic Leadership Centre in East Melbourne. Further details to come.

MMC Conference – ‘Companions: Stronger together’

In December we shared with you the first of two recordings from the 2022 MMC Conference. We are now pleased to share the [video of the second keynote address](#), given by Dr Maeve Heaney VDMF.

[A resource guide](#) for using the material with groups is now also available on the MMC website.

Please share this Mercy Ministry Companions Newsletter with your colleagues and [opt-in for further communications](#).

*Mercy Ministry Companions acknowledges Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples as the First
Australians.*

*Our National Office is located on the lands on Wurundjeri Woi Wurrung people of the Kulin nation, and our
Ministries operate across the country and across a range of other indigenous lands and clans.
We acknowledge the diversity of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Peoples across this land.
We respectfully recognise Elders both past and present.*

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