



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

October 2023

Reflection: Claiming our identity through acts of Mercy

On Monday 9 October, approximately 100 participants in MMC's second annual Conference at the Catholic Leadership Centre, East Melbourne, were led in a Welcome to Country and a Smoking ceremony by Wurundjeri elder, Uncle Tony Garvey. Occurring in the week of the referendum on a Voice to Parliament, the significance of the occasion was recognised by those present.

The Conference theme was '**Mercy Companions: Claiming our Identity**'. In her opening address, Chair of the Trustee Directors, Margaret Bounader, invited us to consider the claiming of our identity as "holding on to something which gives life and hope". Cries for peace, justice, recognition and reconciliation are everywhere to be heard across our land and our common home. What might our 'deep listening' be stirring within us? How are we being called to be compassionate, hope-filled people in our time and place?

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Empowering Women to Lead in Mercy Global Action

As one of only four Australian women to have completed the Mercy Emerging Leaders Fellowship, run by Mercy Global Action (the international justice arm of Mercy International Association), Gaby Kinsman reflects on her experience of this transformative 12-month journey.

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Trustee Directors visit Perth

In September, the Trustee Directors of Mercy Ministry Companions visited Perth and toured Mercy Place Mont Clare and Mercy Place Edgewater, sharing morning tea with local Sisters of Mercy in Northbridge.

The Trustee Directors rotate the locations of their board meetings to incorporate visits to the many and varied ministry sites across Australia. It is always valuable to spend time at these sites, meeting the staff, residents and clients of our services and the Trustee Directors are always grateful for the opportunity to meet with local Sisters when they travel.



Mercy Education



An historic Mercy Day

Almost unbelievably, Mercy Day celebrations at Mercedes College in Perth, were opened by Ursula Frayne, the 1846 foundress of the College. Using Artificial Intelligence, the lip-synced portrait of Ursula Frayne spoke to students and staff in her own words from her letters.

Throughout the year, Mercedes College has been involving students, parents and teachers in considering how Artificial intelligence is transforming teaching and learning. Director of Innovation, Paul Reid, said “The use of AI in this contextual way acknowledges the changes over the last 177 years while maintaining a connection to the heartfelt messaging of Ursula Frayne to her students and staff. While technology and change will continue at a rapid pace, the value of narrative connection via media and storytelling remains”.

Mercy Health



Mercy Health staff receive a helping hand

A generous donation by the Wyndham Health Foundation 2022 Christmas Appeal, has enabled Werribee Mercy Hospital (WMH) to purchase a state-of-the-art, automated chest compression device, the first of its type at WMH. The Corpuls Chest Compressor delivers continuous chest compressions to patients in cardiac arrest, enabling staff to focus on treating the cause of the arrest.

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Mercy Community Services



Mercy Connect awards Sister Scholastic Scholarship for 2023

Mercy Connect is thrilled to award two secondary school students from New South Wales with the **Sister Scholastic Scholarship** for 2023.

The Scholarship, in recognition of more than 70 years of faithful and Mercy-led service by Sr Schol, is awarded annually to a female student who has high potential to thrive in the school environment. The student must also demonstrate outstanding work ethic and face challenges head on with determination and resilience. Congratulations to this year's recipients, Caitlyn from St Pauls College and Joyce from Xavier High School.

[WATCH 7NEWS COVERAGE](#)



Mercy Connect shines at Riverina-Murray Regional Business Awards

Mercy Connect has been recognised by Business NSW at the 2023 Riverina-Murray Regional Business Awards Gala, receiving a number of awards including the 'Excellence in Innovation', 'Outstanding Community Organisation' and 'Business of the Year' awards.

Mercy Connect CEO, Trent Dean, said “This incredible acknowledgment recognises the compassionate, innovative and mercy-inspired services offered, each day, by our committed front-line staff and administrative / management teams, as we continue to support people in need to live fulfilled lives.”

[WATCH A SHORT VIDEO OF THE EVENT](#)



Australians called on to help change a child's life

From 22-29 October, Australia celebrates National Children's Week. This year, with almost 50,000 children across Australia unable to live safely with their own families, and the number of active foster care households in Australia with placements declining rapidly, MacKillop Family Services is calling on the community to become foster carers, and

provide these vulnerable children with the stability and security they need.

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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 of 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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