



Mercy Ministry
Companions

Connections

The Newsletter of Mercy Ministry Companions

July 2024



Reflection: There is that of God in every person

Margery Jackman, MMC Trustee Director

One of the distinguishing characteristics of Catherine McAuley's relationships was her profound respect for the dignity of each person, regardless of their status or circumstance, strengthened most likely by her long association with Catherine Callaghan and her Quaker belief that, "There is that of God in every person".

Early in Catherine's adult life, while she was still living at Coolock House, a young servant girl came to her door seeking protection from the master of the house where she was employed. Catherine tried every avenue she knew of, to find the young woman a safe place to stay but found her efforts blocked at every point by the rigid procedures and delay of the organisations set up for that purpose.

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Mercy Ministry Companions (MMC)



Mercy Ministry Companions visit Perth

In July, Mercy Ministry Companions Trustee Directors held their meeting in Perth and enjoyed the hospitality of MercyCare. The Trustee Directors were delighted to spend time with the Company Members and to hear more about their work.

The Trustee Directors also enjoyed a visit to the Perth office of MacKillop Family Services. This was an excellent opportunity to hear about the services that MacKillop provides in Western Australia and the Northern Territory and to understand some of the unique challenges faced in these regions.



Empowering Middle Leaders Program

The second Cohort of the “*Mercy Leadership: Empowering Middle Leaders*” program came together for the first time at Mary MacKillop Place in North Sydney from 21 - 23 July. Twenty one participants from across the Ministries met for this first part of the program. Parts 2 and 3 will be Zoom seminars, and Part 4 will provide an opportunity for participants to come together again in person for a day at the MMC office at Dawson Street in Brunswick.

Mercy Education



St Aloysius brings *High School Musical* to Melbourne

In June, Mercy Ministry Companions Trustee Directors Paul Linossier and Gabrielle McMullen attended the opening night of St Aloysius College’s performance of *High School Musical*. The College hall in North Melbourne was full to capacity and attendees were treated to a lively and entertaining

evening. Warm congratulations to all at the College whose dedication ensured that *High School Musical*. was presented so professionally and enjoyably.

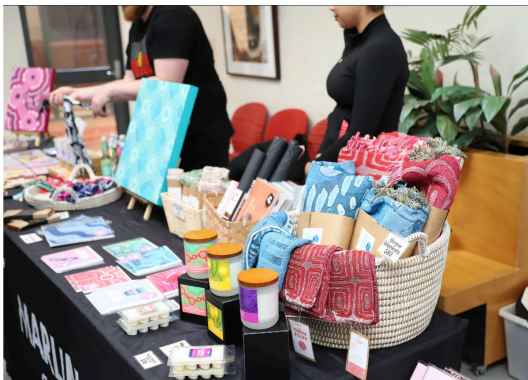
Emmanuel College Dux recognised to state award



Congratulations to Annameike Cozens, 2023 Dux of Emmanuel College in Warrnambool, who was among only six students awarded the inaugural outstanding VCE vocational major prize at the Premier's VCE Awards ceremony in Melbourne this month.

[Read more](#)

Mercy Health



Mercy Health celebrates NAIDOC Week 2024

Throughout NAIDOC Week (7-14 July), staff from Mercy Health joined a range of activities to celebrate and show their support for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians.

Staff from Mercy Hospital for Women were honoured to participate in a Smoking Ceremony and Welcome to Country. They also joined a Round Table event and supported local indigenous artists through a pop-up market. Health sites enjoyed Indigenous-inspired cuisine provided by **Jarrah Catering**, and residential aged care sites enjoyed a variety of events including NAIDOC-themed Mass services, Indigenous art displays, dot-painting and damper-making sessions.

Mercy Community Services



Mercy Connect's Trivia Night

On July 3rd, Mercy Connect hosted a Corporate Fundraiser Trivia Night, bringing together local businesses to support the "Grow a Home" initiative, creating purpose-built, fully furnished homes designed to meet the unique requirements and circumstances of vulnerable Australians. Funds raised from the Trivia Night will help to provide vital emergency and short-term respite options in regional areas and will make a significant difference in these communities.

Green light for McAuley's *Safe at Home*

This month, McAuley Community Services for Women celebrated the Victorian Premier's announcement of \$6 million in funding toward the pilot of a new initiative called *Safe at Home*.

Safe at Home is an early intervention model, transforming the default system where women 'escape' violence and become homeless. Under the program, women are instead supported to stay home or in their communities safely, while ensuring accountability for the person using violence.



[Read more](#)

Save the date

2024 Conference

Mercy Ministry Companions: Expanding Horizons

4:45pm Monday 14 October - 5:00pm Tuesday 15 October 2024

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 the 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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