



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF AUSTRALIA

Keep in Touch

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A newsletter for Sisters of Charity, their families and friends, and supporters of our Congregation

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney 150th Anniversary

Representing the heritage of Ireland, a piper from the N.S.W. Irish Pipe Band gives an encore performance after the main ceremony to launch the St Vincent's Hospital Sydney sesqui-centenary.



Seated, left to right, Sisters Geraldine McGowan, Eileen Kean, Clare Nolan, Elizabeth Dodds and Helen Clarke.
Standing, Sisters Anthea Groves, Deirdre Hickey and Sesarina Bau.

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From left, Sisters Paulina Pilkington and Annette Hall, Uncle Max Eulo and Sister Leone Wittmack.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney 150th Anniversary



Uncle Max Eulo, an elder of the Budjedi People, performing a smoking ceremony.



Sydney Lord Mayor Clover Moore, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir, Governor of NSW, and Sister Elizabeth Dodds, rsc, leaving the official dias.

St Vincent's Hospital Sydney 150th Anniversary



Sister Elizabeth Dodds, rsc presents Ms Mary Foley, CEO of St Vincents & Mater Health Sydney, with a reproduction of the original land title for the hospital.



During the ceremony, Sisters of Charity who have worked or are working in the hospital were honoured.

Mount Olivet Hospital 50th Anniversary

On Friday, 16 March 2007, Archbishop John Bathersby celebrated a Thanksgiving Eucharist in the Giovanni Chapel at Mt Olivet Hospital to mark the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the establishment of Mt Olivet Hospital by The Sisters of Charity.

As staff, patients and volunteers celebrated the hospital's 50th anniversary, they reflected on the vision that inspired the hospital and is still the foundation of its daily operation.

Following this celebration, Sisters of Charity and Board Members took pleasure in welcoming past and present staff, patients, volunteers, Board Members and friends to a morning tea to mark the occasion. Many of the guests were able to renew old friendships and swap memories of the past.

FIFTY YEARS OF CARE INSPIRED BY A TIMELESS VISION

When Mother Giovanni Ackman knocked on doors throughout Brisbane to raise funds to build Mount Olivet Hospital more than 50 years ago, she literally laid the foundation for one of Brisbane's leading medical and community care facilities.

The establishment of Mount Olivet Hospital is a credit to a group of pioneering women who gave tireless service to the community. The Sisters of Charity were founded in 1815, when Mother Mary Aikenhead and five sisters came to Australia in 1838, gradually establishing schools and hospitals, especially for those who were most disadvantaged.

Their mission was given a new opportunity in Brisbane in the early 1950's by Mary Bedford, a community worker and philanthropist who shared their commitment to helping the sick

and poor. Ms Bedford, was inspired by the work of her close friend Dr Lillian Cooper to donate land for the Sisters of Charity to establish a hospice for the sick and dying.

Dr Cooper was the first woman registered as a doctor in Queensland, and became the first woman consultant in an Australian hospital in 1896. Mother Giovanni Ackman, a champion for the poor, Mt Olivet's first director, worked tirelessly to raise funds for the construction of the hospital for the terminally ill in the early 1950s.

Mother Giovanni became a familiar sight around Brisbane, going from door to door asking for money and selling raffle tickets, thus setting the direction for strong community involvement in the hospital.

This community involvement and generosity has continued through the 50 years and is still a source of great strength for Mt Olivet.

"We still operate on the same land and we are still inspired by the same vision of compassionate care that motivated our founder," said Mt Olivet Hospital General Manager, Daniele Doyle.

Contributed by Toni O'Rourke.



A special Mass was held in Mount Olivet's Giovanni Chapel. Pictured is Sister Christine Henry rsc



Celebrating Mount Olivet's 50th Anniversary: From left, Sisters Maria Carmel Cullen, Anne Mary Reynolds, Elizabeth Dwyer, Nola Riley, Patricia Hennan and Kath Munce.

Our Mission in Health and Aged Care



Sister Jacinta Fong celebrated her golden jubilee in January.

Sister Jacinta continues to be an inspiration to the staff working in St Vincent's Hospital Sydney emergency department, as well as a comforting supporter of patients and their families and friends.

After many years of fundraising by the Sirens group, the emergency department has recently installed a \$4 million MRI machine, capable of the highest quality imaging.

Seated from left; Renee McAuliffe and Cathy O'Brien.

Standing from left; Heidi Martin and Sr Jacinta.

Farewell to Margaret Laffan rsc

During the past nine years, Briar Terrace has developed under the guidance of Sister Margaret into a very welcoming place where many men and women from the inner-city have found companionship and support. Accompanied by Sister Mary Fankhauser rsc as co-manager, Sister Bernadette Culhane rsc and a committed volunteer staff, Briar Terrace is a safe, attractive and peaceful place of outreach.

So it was with mixed feelings of celebration and sadness that the Briar Terrace "family" gathered on January 12th, 2007 to farewell its founder, Sister Margaret. A delicious afternoon tea was enjoyed by all those present, and there was much laughter and reminiscing about the time shared over the years.

Michael Fewster, a long-time volunteer, thanked Margaret for her dedicated service, commitment and for being a real friend to both visitors and volunteers alike. Flowers and gifts, including a digital camera, were presented to Margaret as a sign of appreciation and gratitude.

The tributes and expressions were not confined to this one function. Ms Nicole Feely, Chief Executive Officer of St Vincents and Mater Health, visited Briar Cottage to personally thank Margaret. Our neighbours in Fitzroy Street, St Vincent's Pastoral Care Department, also held a morning tea in her honour. Many others called in to say goodbye and thank you to a very special person.

Margaret will be missed following her years of ministry to the community. She developed an awareness of the needs of the men and women, particularly their loneliness and isolation. The lives of all her Briar Terrace friends have been enriched through sharing Margaret's journey over the past years.

Contributed by Noreen O'Brien, Volunteer Staff Member

Claire Nolan Scholarship 2007

The 2007 Claire Nolan Memorial Scholarship has been awarded to Maria Condello, a member of St Joseph's Hospital Auburn Pastoral Care team. Maria has an impressive background in social work and pastoral care, and will use the scholarship to continue her studies at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. Some of the units Maria will be studying include "Exploring the Synoptic Gospels" and "New Images and Models in Mission".

Maria has already been awarded a Bachelor of Social Work from the University of New South Wales. She joined the St Joseph's team permanently in January 2005 following a six-month locum in 2004. When interviewed for Keep In Touch, Maria commented "My hope is that the studies will assist in gaining knowledge so when I encounter people I can move beyond the intellectual level and really understand their experience through the Mission of Jesus. Already the biblical studies have revealed the richness of the gospels, and I look forward to working with the Pastoral Care staff and patients with a raised awareness. Pastoral Care is much more than a bedside chat, it is an essential element in the holistic care of our patients."

The scholarship provides funds for Maria's fees, text books and travel costs.



Maria Condello at St Joseph's Hospital Auburn

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan

The Sisters of the Good Samaritan have celebrated their 100th Anniversary, inviting our Leadership Team to their celebration dinner.



Standing, from left, Sisters Carmel Pattinson, Elizabeth Dodds, Veronica Holey, Patty Fawkner, Clare Condon, Lauren Dixon and Margaret Beirne. Seated, from left, Sisters Maureen Delaney and Kerin Caldwell.



Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc and Sister Clare Condon sgs. Photographs courtesy of the Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

Our Mission in Education



Sister Colleen Mills rsc, principal of Stella Maris Primary School in Shellharbour, N.S.W., thanks year 6 student Drew for his participation in the Easter Eucharist, attended by students and parents.

SCHS Retreat 2007



From left, Deborah Green, CEO of SCHS, Br Brian Sweeney, Sr Bernadette Edgecombe SSpS and Sister Elizabeth Dodds, rsc.



Award recipients from St Joseph's Hospital and St Joseph's Village, Auburn. Left to right, Dr Jamie Berry, Ms Stella Kok, Dr Joseph Sandanam, Mr Richard Harpham (SCHS Board Director), Dr Draga Popovic AO, Ms Vicki Dean, Sr Judith Lythall sm, Mr John Georghegan and Ms Kate Hewett.

On March 8th and 9th 2007, the Sisters of Charity Health Service held a retreat for the board and executives in Brisbane. The theme was "Catholic Social Teaching - Our Challenge, Our Reality".

Following an opening address by Sister Elizabeth Dodds, Sister Patty Fawkner from the Sisters of the Good Samaritan delivered the keynote address entitled "Catholic Social Teaching - The Church's Hidden Treasure". This was followed by a workshop conducted by Sister Suzette Clark rsc and a panel discussion, both exploring the Social Teaching theme.

Before the closing remark and prayer Sister Leone Wittmack, and Ms Michelle Wilson from St Vincent's Clinic Sydney, presented feedback from the 2006 retreat "Stewardship Reporting - New Tools".



Sister Helen Clarke rsc with Mr Mark Hales of St Vincent's Hospital, finalist in the Mission Category.

For your Diary

Sisters of Charity of Australia Celebrations

160 years in Tasmania

June 20th, 2007 - Mass celebrating the arrival of Sisters in Hobart (1847)

August 18th, 2007 - Official Celebration.

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Level 1, 75 Grafton Street, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022
Telephone 02 9367 1222 Fax 02 9367 1223
email James.Griffiths@rscoffice.com

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