



THE SISTERS OF CHARITY OF AUSTRALIA

# Keep in Touch

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

August 2007  
Volume 8 Number 2

## *Sister Marion Corless rsc Learning Resource Centre Opens at St Vincent's College*



On Thursday August 2nd, St Vincent's College Potts Point opened its new Sister Marion Corless rsc Learning Resource Centre. It was a wonderful occasion, with the College welcoming Bishop David Cremin DD and Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc to bless and open the Centre.

Many ex-students, Sisters of Charity, relatives of Sister Marion and parent representatives joined staff and students in the celebrations.

Story page 2.

From left to right: Ms Michele Hugennot, Principal of St Vincent's College, Mr Peter Hennessy, College Board Chairman, Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc, Congregational Leader, Lizzie Ingleson, College Captain and Bishop David Cremin DD at the opening of the new Sister Marion Corless rsc Learning Resource Centre.

### Inside this issue:

- 2 Sister Marion Corless rsc Learning Resource Centre
- 3 Jubilees
- 4 World Youth Day Cross visits St Vincent's Campus Darlinghurst
- 5 Walgett Wellness Weekend
- 6 160th Anniversary Celebrations in Tasmania
- 8 Missioning Sisters for East Timor



A Break from the Drought, and Time to Share:  
A "Wellness Weekend" for women from the Walgett district of NSW was supported by the Mater Hospital, Sydney. Story page 5



# Sister Marion Corless rsc Learning Resource Centre

Relatives of Sister Marion Corless rsc attended the Opening Ceremony.



At this ceremony special tribute was paid to the parents, the College Board and Foundation Board whose vision and generosity have allowed this dream to come to fruition. The skilled women and men whose professional expertise is reflected in its design and construction were also acknowledged.

Sr Marion Corless rsc will continue to inspire our young women and all who use this new Learning Resource Centre well into the future.

The following is an extract from a Reflection prepared by Mrs Evelyn Waygood, Director of Studies at St Vincent's College, for the students.

“During Socrates’ time and the time of Plato and Aristotle one person could know all the available information about our world. Since Leonardo da Vinci’s time, science has made so many discoveries that it is impossible for one person to know

everything and our information has had to be recorded – to be accessed instantly through Google.

Our Learning Resource Centre makes it possible for you to access any information you need. There are qualified, talented staff not only to help you access the information but to assist you in constructing knowledge from it which builds your understanding and leads to academic success.

Treat your Learning Resource Centre with the respect it deserves – both the space and the concept. When you enter the space it will appear to be bounded by walls, but there are no real walls in the Learning Resource Centre, no constraints to the learning that is possible there. It allows you to access your past, experience academic success in the present, add your scholarship to that of all those who have gone before you and – it is your vehicle into the future.”



From left; Congregational Archivist Mrs Patricia Jacobsen, Sister Anthea Groves rsc and College student Louise Groves.



Sunshine and singing. A wonderful celebration.



# Jubilees



Above: Sister Mary Freeman rsc celebrating her Platinum Jubilee at St Joseph's Village, Auburn.



Above: On the occasion of their Diamond Jubilees, Congregational Leader Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc presents (on left) Sister Eileen Thynne rsc and (on right) Sister Marguerite Molony rsc with their Papal Blessings.

Below: The Essendon Community celebrating the Diamond Jubilees of Sisters Eileen and Marguerite. (from left) Sister Margaret Beirne rsc, Sister Eileen, Father Gary Walker, Sister Colleen Bell rsc, Sister Marguerite, Sister Margaret Costigan rsc and Sister Judith Christy.





# World Youth Day Cross



Mr Leo Tucker, Director of Pastoral Care, Ms Kerry Stubbs, Executive Director of St Vincent's Hospital, Sister Anthea Groves rsc, and Mr Stephen Rubic, Executive Director of St Vincent's Private Hospital lead the reflection and prayer sessions that celebrated the World Youth Day Cross visit.

World Youth Day is a coming together of young people from around the globe to create a connection and build friendship and hope between continents, people and cultures. It is a week long series of events attended by the Pope and hundreds of thousands of young people from around the world. Sydney has been chosen to be the host city of the 23rd World Youth Day in July 2008.

The World Youth Day Cross was presented to the young people of the world by Pope John Paul II in 1983, with the request that the Cross be 'carried throughout the world as a symbol of Christ's love for humanity'. It is often compared with the Olympic Torch, due to the way it travels around the world before each World Youth Day. On Palm Sunday, 2003, the Pope added a new element to World Youth Day: an icon of Our Lady, Salus Populi Romani,



which would accompany the Cross on its pilgrimage around the globe. The Cross and Icon arrived in Australia on the 1st of July, 2007, after a pilgrimage through Europe, the Americas, Africa and Asia. As part of the Australian journey, the Cross came to the St Vincent's Darlinghurst campus on July 9th.



## Walgett Wellness Weekend



Sister Helen Clarke rsc conducting a session on stress management at the Wellness Weekend.

With the support of the management, doctors and staff at the Mater Hospital, Sister Helen Clarke rsc recently conducted a Wellness Weekend for 22 women from Walgett and the surrounding towns of Coonamble, Collarenebri, Brewarrina, Lightning Ridge and Gulargambone. Walgett is a small town in North-Western New South Wales, approximately 640km Northwest of Sydney, and nearly 600km inland from the coast. It has a population of 1970, and its primary industry is agriculture. During the last 6 years, Walgett and the surrounding region has been suffering from an unprecedented level of drought, which has resulted in a lot of depression, particularly for the women because they are trying to hold not only themselves together, but their partners and families as well.

The women in the region are very isolated, not only from Sydney and the medical facilities and specialists available there, but also isolated socially from their community and from one another.

Doctor Rosemary Pritchard-Davies, a General Physi-

cian working at the Mater Hospital Sydney facilitated the womens health sessions, with Sister Helen conducting sessions on stress-management, relaxation and life balance.

Sydney's Mater Hospital saw an opportunity for outreach by sponsoring a Wellness Weekend for women in the region. The weekend would be similar to a retreat, with a focus on raising awareness about women's health and well-being issues.

In an interview for a soon to be released DVD, Helen said "It was a wonderful weekend and so rewarding for everyone involved. It couldn't have happened if it hadn't been for all the people who gave generously at the Mater Golf day, and all the people who gave up their time and put in so much effort. In the future, I think that, along with focusing on women, similar programs should be available for younger women with children and also for men."



Time for the women to connect and reflect.



"Nolan's on the Barwon" Conference Centre, 6 km from Walgett township.



# Tasmanian 160th Anniversary Celebrations



Above: A special Mass was celebrated at St Therese's Moonah on June 20th, the anniversary of the Sisters of Charity arriving in Tasmania. Pictured are Sister Barbara Brown-Graham fcj and Sister Margaret Beirne rsc leading the Responsorial Psalm.

The Sisters of Charity invited Tasmania's women and men religious to a celebration dinner that evening.

Right: Sr Pauline Ransom LCM and Sister Sue McGuinness ssj, Vicar for Religious, Fr Brian Nichols (Hobart Cathedral) and Sister Gwen Dooley ssj.

Below Left: Sister Carmel Hall mss, Archivist of the Hobart Archdiocese with Sister Margaret Beirne rsc.

Below Right: Sister Jill Dance ssj, Archbishop Adrian Doyle DD and Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc.





# Tasmanian 160th Anniversary Celebrations



On Saturday, August 18, a visit was made to the site of the Cascades Female Factory. Mass was celebrated in St Joseph's Church before a dinner at Wrest Point Conference Centre. During the dinner, a book written by a Hobart Sister of Charity, Josephine Cannell rsc, "To the Beckoning Shores", was launched by Archbishop Doyle.

Other events included a visit to Mt Carmel College.

Representatives of the facilities of the Sisters of Charity were Mr Mark Hales, Director of Mission at St Vincents and Mater Health Sydney (Health), the Leadership Team from St Columba's College Essendon (Education) and staff from Devonport Outreach (Community Care).

A special pictorial edition of KIT is being prepared dedicated to the 160th Tasmanian Anniversary.

Above: Sr Eileen Kean rsc and Sr Mary Kennedy rsc enjoying lunch at Cornelian Bay. Left: Sr Catherine Meese rsc and William prepare for the Sisters' visit to Mt Carmel College. Below: Sisters gather for the Liturgy of the Word at the Pioneer Sisters' Graves at Cornelian Bay.





# Missioning Sisters for East Timor



On 24th July, before Srs Adele Cottrell-Dormer rsc and Colleen Mills rsc left for East Timor, they were welcomed by Sister Elizabeth and the Congregational Councillors at the Offices at Bondi Junction for a special missioning.

The ceremony began as Elizabeth donned the prayer shawl. Readings, prayers, acknowledgements of the sisters and blessings for Adele and Colleen were shared and finally their missioning was symbolised by the two East Timorese stoles placed on them.

Over lunch Sisters Elizabeth and Laureen shared, amidst much laughter, the experience of their visit to Zumalai last October.

The Sisters left for East Timor the next day and a few days later, we received word of their safe arrival. They have a visa for approximately one month, and the purpose of their visit is to raise awareness of the plight of so many East Timorese and to help the Congregation discern re the possibility of future partnerships with the Carmelite Fathers and Sisters.

Above: (from left) Sister Laureen Dixon rsc, Sister Colleen Mills rsc, Sister Adele Cottrell-Dormer rsc, Sister Margaret Beirne rsc, Sister Maureen Delaney rsc, Sister Gaye Reynolds rsc, Sister Elizabeth Dodds rsc and Sister Pauline rsm (a friend of Sister Adele's). Below: Sister Elizabeth leads the Prayers for the Timor-bound Sisters.



KEEP IN TOUCH is published by the Congregational Office of the Sisters of Charity of Australia.  
Level 1, 75 Grafton Street, Bondi Junction, NSW 2022  
Telephone 02 9367 1222 Fax 02 9367 1223  
email [James.Griffiths@rscoffice.com](mailto:James.Griffiths@rscoffice.com)

PRIVACY STATEMENT The Sisters of Charity have a privacy policy statement detailing how personal information is managed, pursuant to the Privacy Act 1988 and the Privacy Amendment (Private Sector) Act 2000. People receiving this newsletter via mail will have their names on our database. This list is not used for any other purpose and will not be given to any other organisation. If you would like your name removed from this list, please contact the Congregational Office.