



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

<http://www.amssa.mercy.org.au>

Email: msea@mercy.org.au

Newsletter March 2008 No. 01/08

Welcome to the AMSSA Newsletter.

In this Issue:

| | |
|--------|---|
| Page 1 | A Message from our President, Jane Holloway |
| Page 2 | From Townsville to Papua New Guinea on the road to World Youth Day |
| Page 3 | Mercy at the Heart – Mercy WYD gathering on July 14 |
| Page 4 | An Easter Prayer |
| Page 5 | Mercy values alive! An important date for your 2009 Diary Financial information from the Brisbane conference |

A Message from AMSSA President, Jane Holloway

Welcome to 2008, sure to be a very exciting and challenging year with a particular highlight being World Youth Day.

There are many events leading to World Youth Day and our own day, on July 14, at Monte San' Angelo College Sydney, is shaping to be a wonderful opportunity for our young people to connect and to deepen their faith commitment. Ann-Marie Herd, the Mercy World Youth Day Co-ordinator, has sent out material to the schools which will help you as you prepare for the day.

Planning has already begun for our next conference, for which our hosts will be the Mercy schools in Perth, Western Australia. The AMSSA executive met early this term with Amelia Toffoli (St Brigid's Lesmurdie), Anne Pitso (Santa Maria College), and Theresa Gibson (Mercedes College). We have chosen July 1 – 4, 2009 so that conference participants can make the most of going to the west coast of Australia. A frequent comment in the evaluations from our 2007 Brisbane conference was how groups of staff from the same school found great value in being together at the conference. In considering professional development for 2009, you may be able to give a priority to the idea of sending a number of staff to the AMSSA conference.

So many exciting initiatives operate so effectively in our schools, a clear indication that we are, as Catherine McAuley said we should be, “as the compass that goes round its circle without stirring from its centre. Our centre is God, from whom all our actions should spring from their source.”

Let us have a year filled with Mercy and Wisdom.

Jane Holloway, Saint Catherine's College Kilburnie jane@stcatherinescollege.school.nz

From Townsville to Papua New Guinea on the road to World Youth Day

As part of the lead up to **World Youth Day**, a group of four teachers and a senior student from the **Townsville Diocese** participated in a **cultural immersion experience** with the community of the **Aitape Diocese** in **Papua New Guinea**. The experience was facilitated by **Catholic Mission**, and generously supported by the **Sisters of Mercy**.



The trip took place during the **2007 September holidays** and was aimed at building connections and friendships with the youth of the **Aitape Diocese** who will travel to **Townsville** en route to Sydney this year.

St. Patrick's College was represented in the group by Melinda Gould (Art Teacher), her husband, Mark Gould and Year 11 student, Corinne Neger. The group spent two weeks touring the villages of the **Aitape Diocese**, including remote and isolated communities and those that were devastated by the 1998 tsunami.

Thanks to the extremely hospitable and accommodating local hosts, the group engaged in a unique and potentially life-changing experience. Not only were they able to develop **insights** into the **culture** of **PNG**, but they discovered the **spiritual wealth** inherent in **non-western indigenous** communities. In addition, the group left **PNG** with a deeper **appreciation** of the work of the **Catholic Church** in **PNG**, and returned home with a new perspective into their own culture.

Corinne Neger, now a Yr 12 student at **St. Patrick's College**, wrote about her experience:

".....We had amazing sing sings (traditional dances), mud men performances, bible quizzes and drama presentations...The most memorable moments were in the village of Ningil where I sat with the young people and played games and sung songs, taught them the conga line and the Mexican wave.... Beautiful and intelligent people are what I think of when I think of the Sandaun Province....During our stay we attended many church services where it became clear that the Papua New Guineans mix their culture with Catholicism, and pull it off with a bang!.....My time in Papua New Guinea was amazing.... I would like to thank the Sisters of Mercy and the principal, Mrs Kathy Park, who made this trip possible. I strongly encourage anyone to grab the next opportunity to visit this unique part of the world."

St. Patrick's community is now looking forward to hosting number of young pilgrims from Aitape on the way to WYD08. They will stay in the Residential College and take part in the Townsville Days in the Diocese before embarking on the journey to Sydney. The students and staff are busy raising funds to assist these young people with their travel costs.

Mercy at the Heart

Our World Youth Day gathering for young mercy minded people



- The Mercy WYD website is packed with news about the **Mercy at the Heart** Day on July 14. Visit it at www.mercywyd.org.au
- Ann-Marie Herd, our Mercy Schools World Youth Day Coordinator, has sent your school the flyers for the day on **MONDAY JULY 14**.
- **Register** for the day by April 4 – see the Mercy WYD website: www.mercywyd.org.au
- Ann-Marie's email address is: amwyd08@tpg.com.au
- Registering for the week of WYD: If you intend to be involved in the WYD activities from 15 – 20 July, you need to register at the official World Youth Day website <http://egeria.wyd2008.org/>

AN EASTER PRAYER *(Adapted from Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy)*

Greeting:

Give praise, O peoples of the earth: death is overcome. *Alleluia!*

Reading: Acts 10:40-43

God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name.

Intercessions

Christ, firstborn from the dead, you triumphed over sin and set all humankind free. Risen Saviour, free us to live in newness of life as children of God.

Risen Saviour, you came to Mary Magdalene in the quiet of the garden and revealed your presence to her:

❖ *Speak to our hearts, and let us know that you are with us.*

Risen Saviour, you walked with the disciples on the way to Emmaus and set their hearts on fire:

❖ *Let our hearts burn with the desire to share the Good News.*

Risen Saviour, you burst through the bonds of death to show us the power of God:

❖ *Give us the strength to break through attitudes that keep us from serving others.*

Risen Saviour, you have a special care for the poor and suffering:

❖ *Use us as instruments of your mercy for the poor and suffering of our time.*

Risen Saviour, you rise to banish alienation and bring all peoples into unity:

❖ *Use us as instruments to bring understanding and acceptance among all.*

Prayer

Jesus, we stand in awe at the mystery of your death and resurrection. We wonder at the depths of your love for us. As your people we ask this day for the power to live in the joy of your rising. Amen.

CLAIM THE DATE

Mercy Values alive!

THE 2009 BIENNIAL AMSSA CONFERENCE

JULY 1 – 4, 2009

at the Mercy schools in Perth, WA

Further information from Sr Frances Fitzpatrick
msea@mercy.org.au

Finances following the 2007 Brisbane conference

As well as fostering stronger links among Mercy educators, and offering substantive input on contemporary issues for educators, the Brisbane conference was also a financial success.

The healthy profit of just over \$16,000 was due to the larger number of conference participants than was expected, to the fact that the venue costs were low because the main venue was at the All Hallows School, and to the choice of a simple approach to catering and to materials provided to the participants.

The surplus is for the good of the AMSSA association and so suggestions for its use are welcome. For example, there could be a subsidy offered for the next initiative we undertake (if we were to organise something like the 2006 pastoral conference).

Get in touch with any of the executive or with Frances if you have any thoughts.