



# AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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## Newsletter June 2009 No. 02/09

Welcome to the AMSSA Newsletter.

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### NOTICE RE BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Colleagues

The Association's Biennial General Meeting will be held on Friday July 3 2009, at 8.20am, during the forthcoming Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association Conference in Perth. I have enclosed an agenda for the meeting with the relevant agenda papers.

Could I ask you to ensure that anyone from your school who is attending the conference immediately receives a copy of the agenda papers.

At the Biennial General Meeting the Executive for 2009 – 2011 will be appointed. You may wish to refer to the procedures for this in the AMSSA Statement of Purpose and By-Laws, which I have included here, on pages 8 and 9. Please note that the Statement of Purpose and By-Laws, which is also available to you on the AMSSA website, will not be printed with the Agenda Papers in the conference satchel.

Yours sincerely  
Sr Frances Fitzpatrick (for the Executive)

**AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION  
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING**

**MERCEDES COLLEGE, PERTH**

**Friday July 3 2009, 8.20am  
Agenda**

1. Welcome
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Minutes of 2007 Biennial General Meeting - attached
4. President's Report - attached
5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – attached
6. General Business
7. Election of President
8. Selection of Executive
9. 2011 Conference

**AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION**  
**BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING – AUGUST 17, 2007 – unconfirmed minutes**  
**ALL HALLOWS SCHOOL, BRISBANE**

**1. Welcome**

Lee-Anne Perry welcomed delegates to the meeting.

**2. Attendance:**

**2.1 Present:**

**Academy of Mary Immaculate:** Adrian Fuller, Mark Hyland, Andrea Luscombe, Mary Moloney.  
**All Hallows School Brisbane:** Shirley Coulson, Wendy Florey, Lee-Anne Perry, Glenda Rogers, Cheryl Stojanovic, Rosalie Toner. **Carmel College Auckland:** Kathleen Deady, Patricia Murfitt.  
**Catherine McAuley Westmead:** Mary Chalkley, Kate Fogarty, Rachel Lechmere, Darren McGregor.  
**Damascus College Ballarat:** Marie Davey, Tony Duggan. **Emmanuel College Warrnambool:** Marie Mansbridge. **Emmaus Catholic College:** Laraine Lawton, Michael Pate, Paul Ryan. **Fraynetwork:** Anne Walsh. **McKillop College Bathurst:** Stephen Todd. **Mercedes College Perth:** Denise O'Meara.  
**Mercedes College Springfield:** Tony O'Doherty, Paul Wadsworth. **Mercy College Chatswood:** Kim-Maree Goodwin, Elizabeth Kayrooz, Ray Paxton. **Mercy College Coburg:** Kevin Sheehy, Elizabeth Monahan. **Mercy College Mirrabooka:** Jennie Jago. **Mercy Regional College Camperdown:** Andrew Watson. **Mercy Secondary Education Inc.:** Eugene Lynch, Patricia Ryan, Annette Schneider. **Mercy Secondary School Yarapos PNG:** Agnes Murphy. **Monte Sant' Angelo College:** Kylie Cogger, Carmel McDonough. **Mount Lilydale Mercy College:** Michael Johnston, Victor Miles, Mary Ryan. **Mount St Bernard College Herberton:** Hadyn Flynn. **Notre Dame College Shepparton:** David Findlay, Karen Fox, Leanne Lemon, Emma Reynoldson, Wendy Watt, Peter White. **Our Lady of Mercy College Cronulla:** Christina Trimble. **Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg:** Fiona Hyslop, Karen Rivalland. **Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta:** Kathleen Guerin, Barbara McBride, Rhoda Patrick. **Paul VI College Samoa:** Malia Fetuli. **Sacred Heart College Geelong:** Jeffrey Burn, Franca Caruana, Laura Doherty, Anna Negro. **Sacred Heart College Kyneton:** John Arthurson, Elaine Dugdale-Walker, Brian Reed, Judith Staudte. **Santa Maria College Attadale:** Anne Pitos, Loretta Wholley. **Sisters of Mercy Parramatta:** Ailsa McKinnon. **Sisters of Mercy Townsville:** Marie Melville. **Sisters of Mercy WA:** Leonie O'Brien. **Sisters of Mercy West Perth:** Joan Buckham. **St Aloysius' College Adelaide:** Marian Elliott, John Konopka, Christine Simpson, Sue Holoubek. **St Aloysius' College Melbourne:** Robert Anastasio, John Davidson, Mary Dean, Michael Donovan. **St Brigid's College Lesmurdie:** Amelia Toffoli, Ivana Pardini. **St Catherine's College Wellington:** Maria Hubbard. **St Mary's College Auckland:** Patricia Adams, Sandy Pasley. **St Mary's College Wellington:** Mary Cook, Susan Green, Judy Houlahan. **St Monica's College Cairns:** Jan Neumann. **St Patrick's College Townsville:** Marg Hodgson, Linda Murdoch, Joyce Pankhurst, Kathleen Park. **St Saviour's College Toowoomba:** John Clarke, Mary Conaghan. **St Joseph's College Mildura:** Anthony Finn, Sylvia Williams. **St Mary's College Ipswich:** Karen Mulcahy. **Ursula Frayne Catholic College:** Lucio Cicchini. **Villa Maria College Christchurch:** Anna Nicholls.

**2.2 In attendance:** Anne Kelleher CEIST; Joan Smith, Mercy Works; Frances Fitzpatrick.

**2.3 Apologies:** Bernard Dobson, Mt Lilydale Mercy College; Jane Holloway, St Catherine's College Wellington.

**3. Minutes of the 2004 Biennial General Meeting**

Minutes as previously circulated were agreed to be a true and accurate record (Ray Paxton, Kitty Guerin).

#### **4. Business Arising from the Minutes**

Lee-Anne Perry spoke to matters arising, noting that action had been taken on all matters, including the appointment of an executive officer, student leadership, pastoral Care Conference, the 2006 Dublin Conference, the level for the levy and the sponsoring of Samoa and Papua New Guinea.

#### **5. President's Report**

This had been previously circulated and was accepted (Lee-Anne Perry, Kitty Guerin). In speaking to her report, Lee-Anne referred to the initiatives to strengthen communication among the schools through the newsletter and the website, and to the correction to the Association name. She thanked Frances and the outgoing executive for their support and enthusiasm for the Association and for this conference.

#### **6. Treasurer's Report**

This had been previously circulated, along with notice of two motions. Kitty Guerin outlined the reasons for keeping the levy at its present level and for invoicing the schools in Term1 of the academic year. The treasurer's report was accepted (Kitty Guerin, Loretta Wholley).

##### **Resolved:**

##### **6.1 Quantum of the Levy**

In light of the fact that the present quantum of the levy is adequately providing for running costs and other association initiatives, the quantum of the levy remain to as is for 2008, 2009 (Kitty Guerin, Amelia Toffoli).

##### **6.2 Invoicing of Schools**

Given the preference of schools to be invoiced early in the calendar year, schools to be invoiced in Term 1 of the school year, with the next invoice to be sent in Term 1 2008 (Kitty Guerin, Denise O'Meara).

#### **7. Election of President**

Lee-Anne called for nominations for president. Jane Holloway, who has sent an apology for this meeting, was nominated (Christine Simpson, Kitty Guerin). There were no other nominations.

##### **Resolved:**

Association president for 2008 and 2009 is Jane Holloway.

#### **8. Selection of Executive for 2008 and 2009**

Lee-Anne informed the meeting that the state/area representatives had met prior to this meeting and have appointed their representative to the Executive as follows:

Kitty Guerin, OLMC Parramatta	NSW (Secretary/Treasurer)
Kathleen Park, St Patrick's Townsville	Queensland
Christine Simpson, St Aloysius' Adelaide	South Australia
Loretta Wholley, Santa Maria Attadale	Western Australia
Sr Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate	Victoria/Tasmania
Kathleen Dedy, Carmel College Auckland	New Zealand.

#### **9. Next Conference**

It is hoped that the next conference, in 2009, will be held in Perth.



## AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

### PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2007-2008

Thanks to the community of Mercy schools and colleges in Perth for your wonderful hospitality for our 2009 Biennial Conference. The willingness of the AMSSA members to host the conference is a great help to us in furthering our aim of fostering Mercy spirituality and ethos in the schools sponsored or auspiced by the Sisters of Mercy. AMSSA has fifty five member schools from Australia, New Zealand and Oceania. Some, given the focus of the Sisters of Mercy on the education of girls, are for girls only. Others, either the result of a joint venture with one of the male teaching congregations, or the only Catholic Secondary School in their region, are co-educational.

In the past two years, the Association has held forums for both staff and students. In 2007 we provided **Mercy in Action**, our 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference in Brisbane for the staffs of member schools and in 2008 **Mercy at the Heart**, the WYD Gathering of young Mercy leaders in Sydney.

#### **MERCY IN ACTION - 9<sup>th</sup> BIENNIAL AMSSA CONFERENCE 2007**

All Hallows School Brisbane welcomed 120 delegates from PNG, Samoa, New Zealand, Australia and Ireland. Thanks to All Hallows School community, Lee-Anne Perry and the Conference Committee, the staff of St Saviour's College Toowoomba, the All Hallows Canteen Staff, whose hospitality was superb, and to Conference sponsor, Catholic Church Insurances. Feedback in the conference evaluations has been used in developing the 2009 Conference.

Sr Anne Hetherington, in her opening address, reflected that Catherine McAuley and the first Mercy women in our part of the globe saw education as a practical way for women to break out of poverty and its accompanying threat of moral danger. This Mercy "usefulness" is the fruit of contemplation and reaches out to others in compassion. It is our inheritance as we live it in our own lives and offer it to the students who look to us as models of Mercy in Action. Briannon Stevens, an ex-student of All Hallows, spoke about how this example of her teachers, and volunteer work while a student led to her present commitment to the homeless in Brisbane.

The students from All Hallows and St Saviour's Toowoomba gave creative expression to all that is good in educating through their hospitality and their music and dance performances. The conference prayers and Eucharistic liturgy were deep expressions and experiences for us as Mercy educators, and the Eucharist included Margery Jackman's reflection on the Beatitudes.

International guests Sister Carol Rittner and Sister Deirdre Mullan, from Mercy Global Concern, affirmed and challenged Mercy education as Mercy in Action in the present local and global context. That primary education is still not available to so many children in the world is a reproach to us all, as was their overview of halting progress towards the U.N. Millennium Development goals. Professor Erica McWilliam, from QUT, teased out what high equity schooling might be in this conceptual age. Sister Adele Howard took us into the world of Web 2.0 technology, into the new social networking places our students inhabit. Sister Jan Gray tapped into biblical and theological themes to consider a spirituality for Mercy educators.

Carol, Deirdre and Adele and a number of Mercy educators and students ran the conference workshops. The Brisbane Mercy Sisters welcomed us to their ministries in the area: the Mater

Hospital Health Services and Medical Research Institute, the Romero Centre, the Mercy Heritage Centre, and the Mercy Disability, Aged Care and Family Services.

### **Biennial General Meeting**

The Biennial General Meeting was held during proceedings and Jane Holloway, from St Catherine's College Kilbirnie, was elected president.

In accordance with the Association Statement of Purpose and By-Laws, the members of the 2007-9 Executive were locally nominated/elected as follows:

New South Wales: Kitty Guerin, OLMC Parramatta

New Zealand: Kathleen Deady, Carmel College Auckland

Queensland: Kathleen Park, St Patrick's Townsville

South Australia: Christine Simpson, St Aloysius' Adelaide

Victoria/Tasmania: Sr Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate

Western Australia: Loretta Wholley, Santa Maria Attadale.

### **MERCY AT THE HEART - MERCY GATHERING FOR WORLD YOUTH DAY**

The funds for our WYD gathering at Monte Sant' Angelo College North Sydney came from WYD grants from Catholic Church Insurances to the Australian Mercy Congregations, who used the grants to enable Ann-Marie Herd and her team to host the day for Mercy students. This was an extraordinarily generous gift from both the Sisters and CCI. Over nine hundred students and staff gathered for the day, safely navigating the winter breezes, congestion at the airport and the intricacies of WYD organisers. Quality presentations and workshops and access to staff from aid and justice agencies were a feature of the day. Students were encouraged to meet and make connections across Australia and the Pacific, and a Post WYD forum was set up on [www.mercywyd.org.au](http://www.mercywyd.org.au).

Thanks to Ann- Marie, who gave our Mercy pilgrims a rich experience of being and doing Mercy. Thanks to the staffs of the five Sydney Mercy schools who helped with the day, and to Ann-Marie's team of Belinda Antaw from OLMC Parramatta, Kylie Cogger and Joe Galletta from Monte, Genine D'Arcy from Mercy Chatswood, Sr Helen Law and Petah Foran from McAuley at Westmead, Lisa Overton from OLMC Burraneer, and Jacqui McGurren from Monte.

As a consequence of the Mercy YWD day for students, provision has been made to include student delegates at our 2009 Conference in Perth. The student programme will participate alongside the adult programme.

In New Zealand, Mercy youth from the seven Mercy schools around the country participate in Mercy Youth Days in conjunction with the biannual Catholic Education Convention held in Wellington. Thanks to the wonderful work of Sr Anna Nicholls, students from around New Zealand get the opportunity to interact and explore what it means to be young women of Mercy.

Well done for all the excellent work, in Mercy, happening in all of our regions.

A huge thanks must go to Sr Frances Fitzpatrick without whom we would not run as effectively as efficiently as we do. She is the powerhouse behind our organisation and we are very grateful for the incredible work she does on our behalf.

Yours in Mercy

Jane Holloway, President

1 June 2009

<b>AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2008</b>		
<b>OPENING BANK BALANCE</b>		\$ 76,545.25
<b>RECEIPTS</b>		
Levy		\$ 28,978.55
GST		\$ 70.00
Interest		\$ 5.23
2007 Brisbane Conference		\$ 35,308.05
<b>TOTAL RECEIPTS</b>		\$ 64,361.83
<b>PAYMENTS</b>		
<b>2007 Brisbane Conference Payments</b>		
Srs Carol and Deirdre - airfares	\$15,549.86	
Srs Carol and Deirdre - gifts	\$ 500.76	
Sr Deirdre - postage for publications	\$ 734.77	
Sr Jan Gray - travel expenses	\$ 520.00	
Sr Adele Howard and Anne Walsh - travel expenses	\$ 1,077.18	
Conference expenses - Sr Frances	\$ 943.73	
<b>Brisbane Conference Payments Subtotal</b>		\$ 9,326.30
Phone Conferences 8/05/2007, 31/07/2007, 17/10/2007		\$ 1,074.12
Phone Conferences 19/03/2008, 13/05/2008		\$ 1,045.11
Stationery		\$ 70.07
Software for website management		\$ 594.99
GST		\$ -
Fraynetwork (website hosting July 2007 - June 2008)		\$ 480.00
Fraynetwork (2006 website development - unpresented cheque)		\$ 8,000.00
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - Office Expenses July 2007-June 2008		\$ 599.80
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - stipend July 2007-June 2008		\$ 7,968.00
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - car allowance July 2007-June 2008		\$ 900.00
Travel Expenses - website training for Frances, Maureen Smyth		\$ 100.00
<b>TOTAL PAYMENTS</b>		\$ 40,158.39
<b>SURPLUS</b>		\$ 24,203.44
<b>CLOSING BANK BALANCE</b>		<b>\$100,748.69</b>



# AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

ABN 18 217 072 718

## STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND BY-LAWS

### 1. NAME

The name of the Association will be the Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association, hereafter called the Association.

### 2. PURPOSE

1. To further the Mercy spirituality and ethos for Secondary Education and to continue the tradition in a systematic way.
2. To share expertise.
3. To contribute to staff formation and encourage the interchange of staff.
4. To represent the views of Mercy Secondary Schools at the national level.
5. To facilitate the development and sharing of curriculum items and resource materials relating to Mercy Secondary Education and the traditions of Catherine McAuley, particularly the needs of women and deprived groups in society.

### 3. MEMBERSHIP

Members and voting rights will be open to:

1. Persons who are currently involved in Mercy sponsored or co-sponsored secondary schools.
2. Persons who have been involved in mercy sponsored or co-sponsored secondary schools for a period of five years or more during their ministries in education.
3. Sisters of Mercy involved in education in institutions other than those that are Mercy sponsored.

### 4. OFFICERS OF THE ASSOCIATION

These shall be a President of the Association and an Executive Committee.

1. The President of the Association shall be elected by nomination and simple majority vote of members at the Biennial General Meeting, for a two-year term.
2. The President of the Association shall serve as Chair of the executive Committee.
3. The Executive Committee shall consist of a member from each State and Territory and one from New Zealand, each member to be locally nominated/elected for a two-year term.
4. The Executive Committee shall elect from among its membership a Deputy Chair and a Secretary/Treasurer.
5. Vacancies from within the Executive Committee shall be filled by nomination/election at the appropriate level.
6. Executive Committee members may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms.



## 5. ROLE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1. To further the purposes of the Association.
2. To represent the interests of the Association at the national level.
3. To meet the Executive Committee at least twice a year.
4. To plan and conduct a Biennial Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Conference.
5. To call and preside at a General Meeting of the membership during the Biennial Conference.
6. To maintain a full and correct record of activities, including financial operations for presentation to members at the Biennial General Meeting.
7. To appoint special purpose committees as appropriate.

## 6. BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

1. The president of the Association shall preside over the meeting.
2. The executive Committee of the Association shall develop and circulate the Agenda for this meeting to all members at least one month prior to the Conference.
3. The President of the Association shall present a biennial report.
4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall present a biennial report of all business/financial operations of the Association since the previous General Meeting.
5. This report shall include a recommendation regarding annual membership subscription, which shall be, in due course, determined by the Executive.
6. Any changes, amendments or additions to the By-Laws of the Association will be notified via the Agenda and must be fully ratified by the Meeting before being adopted.
7. In any matters where a vote is called, a simple majority will rule.

## 7. PARAMETERS

1. Congregation Leaders reserve all powers pertaining to institutions under their sponsorship.
2. The Association will communicate with the President of ISMA and the National Plenary Council concerning educational issues arising from the Association.

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### **PRAYER TO THE HOLY SPIRIT** *(adapted from Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy)*

*Spirit of Knowledge, wipe from our vision  
Whatever may blur our sight and deaden our spirit.  
Let us see you in the ordinary blessings of each day.  
As we gaze on the beauty and majesty of creation,  
let us see the reflection of your face.  
As we enjoy the company of friends,  
let us taste the joy of union with you.  
As we experience the peace of solitude and contemplation,  
let us be renewed for service.  
As we extend our hands in loving service to our brothers and sisters,  
let us meet Christ in each person.  
As we bless the dying who go home to you,  
let us trust that they will join you in everlasting joy. Amen.*



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