



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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

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Newsletter November 2010 No. 04/10

Welcome to the AMSSA Newsletter.

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Update on the AMSSA Conference July 6-9 2011

The Perth organisers have the 2011 conference well in hand, and it promises to be a great opportunity for Mercy educators and senior Mercy students. You may like to start thinking about getting to Perth a few days early. The committee is hoping to organise a day trip to New Norcia on Wednesday July 5 for those interested. They also have lots of other suggestions – and would be most happy to hear from you about what you would like to do while in the West.

Conference Brochure

The full Conference brochure will reach schools in the next few weeks. Conference participants will be asked to nominate their workshop preferences in a separate mailout early next year.

Jane Holloway, Saint Catherine's College Kilbirnie janeh@stcatherinescollege.school.nz



Anniversary
flags line the
highway
into
Geelong

Sacred Heart College Geelong 150th Anniversary



Students dancing for joy at the 150th Anniversary Mass

Sacred Heart College in Geelong has marked its 150th Anniversary with a year of celebration and thanksgiving. Events have included a community celebration, the largest ever reunion of former students and the publication the school history.

The highpoint of the year was a community day on 18 April which was exactly 150 years since the Sisters of Mercy opened the school in 1860. On the day more than 6000 current and past students and their families arrived at the school for a Mass on the College oval. The Mass celebrated by Bishop Tim Costelloe was believed to be one of the largest ever held in Geelong.

Following the Eucharist, Congregational Leader of the Sisters of Mercy Melbourne Congregation, Sister Kath Tierney welcomed guests and invited them to join the celebration which included a harvest picnic, music and dance in the college grounds and an exhibition in the school's heritage buildings.

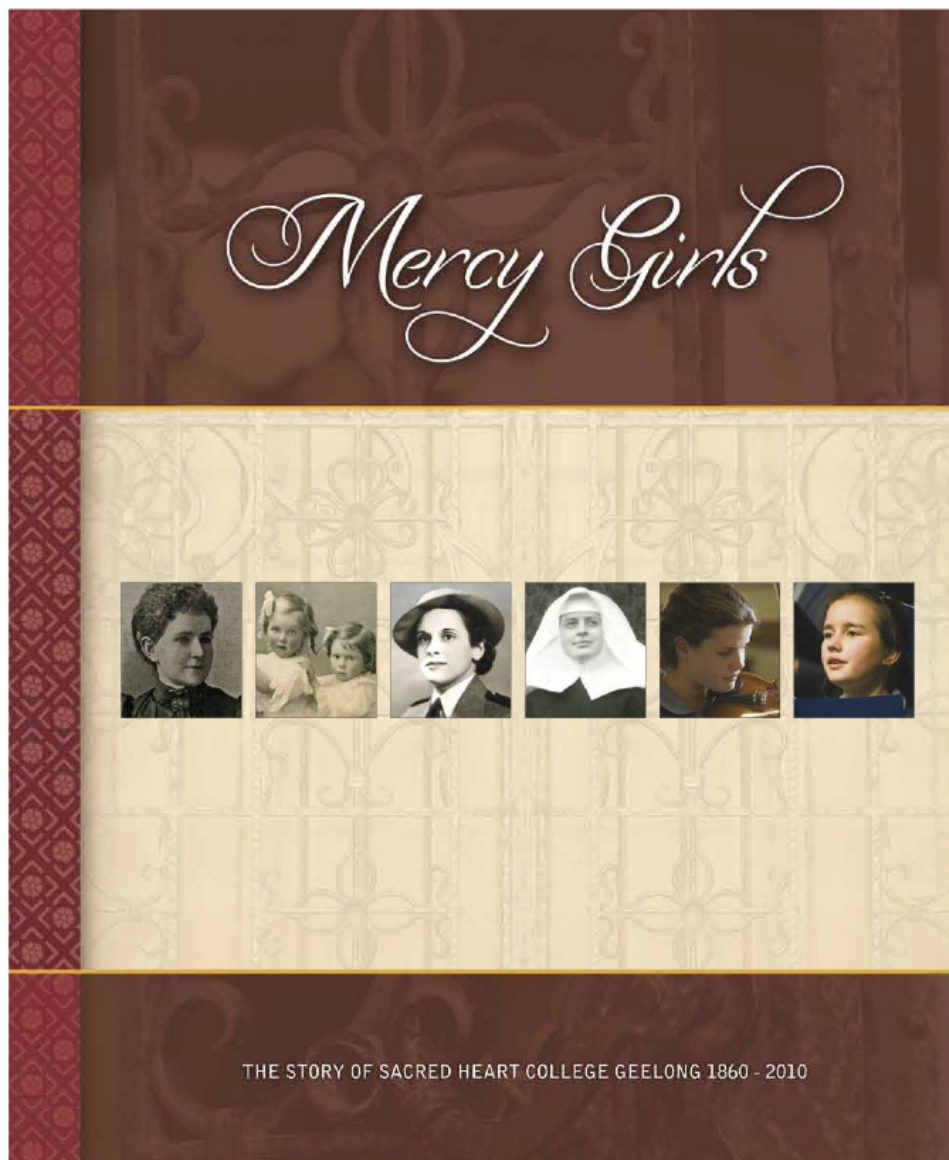


Students enjoying the fun of the day

The day was also the largest gathering of former staff and students in the history of the school and visitors came from around the world and every state in Australia to take. College Principal Ms Regina Byrne said: “Women who attended Sacred Heart in the 1930s and girls who had left just last year were among the thousands who came to share their memories of the time at the school and to renew old friendships. It was a wonderful sight to see so many people and we all felt blessed to be part of such a joyous occasion.”

To mark the school’s 150th Anniversary the school has published its history *Mercy Girls – The Story of Sacred Heart College Geelong 1860 -2010*. The book was launched by former staff member and head of boarders, Sister Madeleine Fox at a 150th Anniversary Gala Dinner in August.

As a living tribute to the foundress of the school, the Old Collegians’ Association commissioned the Xavier Maguire Rose which was planted in beautiful new rose garden created around the Grotto in the college grounds. The rose and copies of the history are available through the school website www.shcgeelong.catholic.edu.au



Young Mercy Leaders Pilgrimage and World Youth Day 2011

This is a final reminder to students from your school who are travelling to Madrid for WYD and who want to link up with the Australian Mercy Schools Dublin Pilgrimage for Young Mercy Leaders:

- * Please make contact with the Victorian Schools ASAP, and before November 15.**
- * The cost of the Dublin Pilgrimage is 300 euros for three nights**
- * Your school will need to provide a staff member to chaperone your students.**

Contacts:

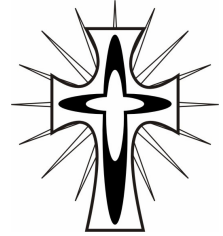
Sister Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate,
Melbourne, or
Darren Egberts, Mount Lilydale Mercy College

For more information about the Pilgrimage, see the August 2010 AMSSA newsletter or contact Frances on amssa@mercy.org.au

A MORNING OFFERING

(Adapted from Morning and Evening Prayer of the Sisters of Mercy)

Loving God, maker of the dawn, we ask for your protection this day.



You are gentle and kind, merciful to those in need:
Send the light of your abundant love to those who are lonely and suffering.

You desire freedom for the oppressed:
Shower the earth with justice for those who are imprisoned by hate and fear.

You bring healing to the wounded:
Wrap our doubts and failures in the sweet dew of your forgiveness.

You bring freedom to the captive:
Break the chains of those bound by their addictions.

You comfort those who mourn:
Lift the mist of sorrow from our hearts that we may know joy.

You bring peace to those in conflict:
Touch our confusion with quiet clarity.

God of Justice and mercy, you are our saving God. Come with your power to save, and free those held captive by oppression. Use us as your instruments of mercy and peace. Give us the courage to challenge all that enslaves the human spirit. This we ask in the name of Jesus. Amen.