



AMSSA

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

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Newsletter June 2013 No. 02/13

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NOTICE RE BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING 15 July 2013

Dear Colleagues

The Association's Biennial General Meeting will be held on Monday July 15 2013, at 3.00pm, during the forthcoming Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Association Conference in Auckland. 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.

I draw your attention to the two motions of which notice is given in the agenda. The first concerns a change to Section 7 of the Statement of Purpose and By-Laws in light of changes in the sponsoring Mercy Congregations. The second concerns a change to Section 5 of the Statement of Purpose and By-Laws in light of AMSSA's need to provide for the employment of staff. I have included the Statement of Purpose and By Laws here, along with the proposed redrafting to Sections 5 and 7. The rest of the Statement of Purpose is unchanged.

At the Biennial General Meeting the Executive for 2013 – 2015 will be appointed. The procedures for this are given in the AMSSA Statement of Purpose and By-Laws.

Yours sincerely

Sr Frances Fitzpatrick (for the Executive)

**AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING
CARMEL COLLEGE, AUCKLAND
Monday July 15 2013, 3.00pm**

Agenda

1. Welcome
2. Attendance and apologies
3. Minutes of 2011 Biennial General Meeting - attached
4. President's Report - attached
5. Secretary/Treasurer's Report – attached
6. General Business
 - 6.1 Notice of Motion: that section 7 of the AMSSA Statement of Purpose be altered in light of the changed configuration of the sponsoring Mercy congregations.
The proposed wording is given in the attached Draft Statement of Purpose.
 - 6.2 Notice of motion: that section 5 of the AMSSA statement of Purpose be altered in light of the Association's need to engage executive staff.
The proposed wording is given in the attached Draft Statement of Purpose.
 - 6.3 Item for discussion:
The views of the member schools and colleges are invited concerning possible directions and involvements for AMSSA.
7. Election of President
8. Selection of Executive
9. 2015 Conference

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION
BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING – JULY 8, 2011 – unconfirmed minutes
SANTA MARIA COLLEGE, PERTH

1. Welcome

Jane Holloway welcomed delegates to the meeting.

2. Attendance:

2.1 Present:

Academy of Mary Immaculate: Andrea Luscombe, Mary Moloney. **All Hallows School Brisbane:** Lee-Anne Perry. **Aranmore College Leederville:** Jim Elliott. **Catherine McAuley Westmead:** Margery Jackman. **Damascus College Ballarat:** Geoff Martin, Paul Jans. **Emmanuel College Warrnambool:** Philip Morison. **James Sheahan Catholic High School Orange:** Paul McKie, Mark Pauschmann, Amber Calleja. **Marian College Christchurch:** Anna Heffernan, Anna Nicholls. **McAuley Catholic College Grafton:** Leon Walsh. **Mercedes College Perth:** Sheena Barber, Rosa Speranza, Loretta Wholley. **Mercy 5, Sydney:** Kate Anderson. **Mercy Secondary Education Inc.:** Eugene Lynch, John Brick, Lucy Moloney, John Shannon, Liz Monahan. **Our Lady of Mercy College Burraneer:** Gilda Pussich, Moira Loader. **Our Lady of Mercy College Heidelberg:** Julie Ryan. **Our Lady of Mercy College Parramatta:** Kathleen Guerin, Peter Grance, Vivien Brewer, Paul Whitney, Ann-Marie Herd. **Sacred Heart College Kyneton:** Craig Holmes. **Santa Maria College Attadale:** Ian Elder, Michelle Carrick. **Sisters of Mercy West Perth::** Beverley Stott, Jilyan Dingle. **St Aloysius' College Adelaide:** John Konopka, Christine Simpson. **St Aloysius' College Melbourne:** John Davidson, Bernadette Hogan. **St Catherine's College Wellington:** Jane Holloway, Jenny O'Brien. **St Mary's College Wellington:** Susan Green, Judy Houlahan. **St Monica's College Cairns:** Kristen Sharpe. **St Patrick's College Townsville:** Marcia Chock Man, Kelli Chapman, Karen Carlile. **St Joseph's College Mildura:** Darren Atkinson, Anthony Finn. **Ursula Frayne Catholic College:** John Armstrong, Peter Collins. **Villa Maria College Christchurch:** Anna Nicholls.

2.2 In attendance: Frances Fitzpatrick.

2.3 Apologies:

Academy of Mary Immaculate: Frank Bonavia Adrian Fuller, Mark Hyland. St Aloysius College North Melbourne: Brian Collins, Robert Ruzbacky. St Mary's College Wellington: Mary Cook.

3. Minutes of the 2007 Biennial General Meeting

Minutes as previously circulated were amended to correct the error in the attendance list.

Delegates from Catherine McAuley Westmead were Margery Jackman, Sr Mary White, Margaret Kingston, Peter Grace, John Neaves. The delegates wrongly listed for Catherine McAuley Westmead were from Catholic College Bendigo.

Minutes as amended were agreed to be a true and accurate record (Kitty Guerin, John Davidson).

4. President's Report

This had been previously circulated and was accepted by acclamation.

In speaking to her report, Jane thanked the outgoing executive for their support for the Association

and the Conference Planning Group for this conference.

5. Treasurer's Report

This had been previously circulated, along with notice of a motion to increase the levy. Kitty Guerin outlined the reasons for proposing to increase the quantum of the levy. The treasurer's report was accepted (Mary Moloney, Loretta Wholley).

Resolved:

5.1 Quantum of the Levy

In light of the need to make provision for an Executive Officer who is not a religious, the levy is to be increased by \$50 in 2012, so that there will be a levy of \$650 in 2012; and by \$50 in 2013, so that there will be a levy of \$700 in 2013. (Christine Simpson, John Konopka).

6. Election of President

The chair of the meeting was taken by Mary Moloney. Frances reminded those present about the notice of a motion to make an exception to the Association's Statement of Purpose and By-Laws which was given in the Notice for The BGM emailed to all AMSSA members on May 30th 2011. The office of President is set in the Statement of Purpose and By-Laws 4.1 at one term. The motion proposed an exception to this solely for the 2011 – 2013 term, to give the Biennial General

Meeting the option of nominating the current President for election to a second term.

Resolved:

6.1 In accordance with the Association's Statement of Purpose and By-Laws Section 6.6, and given that the 2013 conference is to be held in New Zealand, the 2011 Biennial General Meeting have the option of nominating the current President for election to a second term. (Lucy Molony, Judy Houlahan)

Mary called for nominations for president. Jane Holloway was nominated (Kitty Guerin, Sheena Barber). There were no other nominations.

Resolved:

6.2 Association president for 2012 and 2013 is Jane Holloway.

7. Selection of Executive for 2012 and 2013

Jane 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)
Lee-Ann Perry, All Hallows School Brisbane	Queensland
John Konopka, St Aloysius' College Adelaide	South Australia
Rosa Speranza, Mercedes College Perth	Western Australia
Sr Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate	Victoria/Tasmania
Kathleen Dedy, Carmel College Auckland	New Zealand.

8. Next Conference

Jane announced that the next conference, in 2013, will be held in Wellington NZ.



AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

PRESIDENT'S REPORT 2013

The Western Australian Schools and Colleges hosted our 2012 conference. 166 delegates, presenters or day visitors attended, from 41 of our 64 member schools. 18 of these schools are diocesan, and though no longer under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy made use of the opportunity for key staff to experience the spirituality of Mercy educators. Five Australian Mercy works also sent representatives to the conference, and there were Sisters of Mercy representatives from Perth, Adelaide, Townsville and Sydney. Students, for the first time, came to a conference specifically designed for them. They numbered 52: both girls and boys, from 22 of the member schools, with 7 of the diocesan schools finding a way to send students. A full report for the conference is on the Association's website. Those of you who attended will well remember the stunningly engaging opening and closing liturgies guided by the local indigenous elders and people; the conference Eucharist, the pilgrimage up the Swan River and into Victoria Square in the footsteps of Ursula Frayne, the first Mercy Sister to set foot in Australia; and the great depth of insight and nourishment offered by the keynote speakers and in the wide range of workshops. The parallel student conference was such a success that it has been continued at this conference, and our hope is that it will become a part of each biennial conference. It is yet another way we as Mercy educators can foster young Mercy leaders among the students in our schools. We thank the Western Australian Mercy schools for their organisation and marvellous hospitality during the 2011 Conference, in particular the principals and their senior staffs, the Conference Planning Committee and Rosa Speranza, the Conference Convenor.

2011 Biennial General Meeting

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

In accordance with the Association Statement of Purpose and By-Laws, the members of the 2011 - 2013 Executive were locally nominated/elected as follows: New South Wales: Kitty Guerin, OLMC Parramatta; New Zealand: Kathleen Deady, Carmel College Auckland; Queensland: Lee-Anne Perry, All Hallows Brisbane; South Australia: John Konopka, St Aloysius' Adelaide; Victoria/Tasmania: Sr Mary Moloney, Academy of Mary Immaculate; Western Australia: Rosa Speranza, Santa Maria Attadale.

We are indebted to the principals and staffs of the New Zealand Mercy Schools for this 2013 conference. Jane Holloway and Kath Deady, assisted by the 2012 Executive and by the conference planning group, have taken carriage of the arrangements. Late in 2012, in particularly distressing circumstances, Jane relinquished her position as president, and Kath graciously agreed to hold the chair in an acting capacity until this meeting. Thanks to Jane for the extraordinary contribution she has made to the Association during her term as president, for the care she took to support the organisers at the Perth conference for staff and for students, and for her contribution leading up to and during this present conference.

Sponsorship of the Association

Prior to 2011, AMSSA was under the auspices of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia. Following the changes to the Australian and PNG Mercy Congregations in 2011, the Executive made a formal submission to ISMAPNG, requesting that the ISMAPNG Institute Leadership Team consult with the leaders of the other Mercy Congregations in Australia and New Zealand in order to establish an authority to whom AMSSA can report.

The Executive also proposed that this Biennial General Meeting would provide an opportunity for AMSSA to ratify whatever determination the leaders made and to reword the AMSSA Charter. We have invited Sister Annette Schneider, from ISMAPNG, to be present at the meeting and to speak to us about the outcome of our request.

Principals

During the life of this Executive, a number of our Mercy principals have retired or moved to different fields of work. Their achievements in their own Mercy schools are recorded elsewhere; our acknowledgement and thanks to them is for the way their constant support of AMSSA conferences has enriched and expanded our Association. At the end of this year, three members of the Executive will be retiring: Sr Mary Moloney, Kitty Guerin and Kath Deady. We wish them well for the next stage of the journey, and look forward to an injection of fresh ideas through the members who will come on board in their place, and carry on the great work, both in our schools and in the Association. A heartfelt thanks is due to all the Executive for their commitment and contribution to the Association – thank you Jane, Kitty, Mary, Rosa, Lee-Anne and John.

The key person in the smooth running of the Association is our Executive Officer, Sr Frances Fitzpatrick, without whom we would struggle to function so effectively. Frances produces the quarterly newsletter which keeps us all in touch with the happenings across the region and provides good ideas to be adapted and emulated in our own schools; she maintains the database of membership, produces financial accounts, and both supports the Executive and keeps us on track. She is a woman beyond rubies!

Looking forward

The 2013 Conference in New Zealand marks a changing of the guard for Mercy schools in this country. With the retirement of Mary Lynch, Mary Cook, Jane Holloway and Kath Deady, four of the six schools will have newly appointed Principals. Formation in Mercy has therefore become a priority, and we are grateful to Nga Whaea Atawhai, the Sisters of Mercy New Zealand, for inclusion in their national hui, and the initiatives undertaken in conjunction with the Director of Mission, Gabrielle Huria. The biennial AMSSA conferences in the future will also play an important role in this regard, and member schools should be urged to make the most of the opportunities they provide.

Pastoral Care for our students, in an age where global connectedness brings many benefits but a concomitant number of threats to wellbeing and self-efficacy, needs to continue at the forefront for the Association; pastoral care conferences in the past, in the alternate year to the biennial general conference, have proved of great benefit to those who attended, and we should consider making them a regular commitment. It is hoped that the students who attend the 2013 Biennial Conference will take back to their schools a clearer idea of what it means to be Mercy, both for themselves and for others, and enact this in practice over their remaining two years at a Mercy school.

It has been a privilege and an enlightenment to be a member of your Executive for the last three years, and Acting President for the last five months. I look forward to hearing of the further growth and development of the Association in years to come. Floreat misericordia!

Kath Deady

June 2013.



TREASURER'S REPORT 2011-2013

1. CURRENT FINANCIAL POSITION

AMSSA continues in a satisfactory financial position, with predictable income from the levy and from our investment. The Association is now well able to employ a part-time Executive Officer who is not a religious.

Financial Reports for the years ending 30 June 2011 and 2012 are given below on pages 8 and 9.

As a result of the change of the end of the accounting year from 30 June to 31 December, the next annual financial statement will be for the period of January 2013 to December 2013. A financial statement for 1 July 2012 to 31 December 2012 is given below on page 10.

2. MEMBERSHIP

The Association has 64 financial members, of whom 46 pay the full levy and 18 provide a donation.

3. AUDITING OF ASSOCIATION ACCOUNTS

While there is no requirement for AMSSA to have its annual accounts audited, in 2012 the Executive arranged for this to be done. The auditor's report for 2012 is given in a separate file.

- 3.1 In addition to the quarterly statements, the Executive now receives quarterly financial reports against a budget.
- 3.2 Given that schools are required to report for a calendar year, the Association has begun to use the calendar year for its accounting.
- 3.3 The matter of signatories raised by the auditor will be referred to the incoming Executive.
- 3.4 The matter of insurance has been referred to ISMAPNG for their advice.

4. AUSTRALIAN NOT-FOR-PROFITS COMMISSION

New accountability requirements for the Australian Charities and not-for-profits Commission commence for the 2012-13 financial year, and AMSSA is likely to need to report in December 2013.

The ACNC Register is maintained by the Commission and is publicly available.

AMSSA is a SMALL charity (revenue less than \$250,000 annually). As a small charity, AMSSA will need to complete the Annual Information Statement (this is not yet available). However, AMSSA does not need to give ACNC a financial report, nor does it need to be audited.

AMSSA is required to keep proper books and financial records; to be able to present true and fair financial statements; its financial records need to keep track of assets; and records need to be kept for 7 years. Accounts must keep track of investments (so all bank balances are to be shown on annual financial statements).

We already comply with all these requirements.

We have asked to report on the calendar year rather than the financial year but have not yet had a reply to this request.

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2011		
Balance in NAB Business Cash Maximiser Account 31.03.2010	21,329.15	
Balance in AMSSA NAB Cheque Account 31.03.2010	5,511.38	
NAB Term Deposit \$80,000 at 6% interest (\$4,800)	80,000.00	
OPENING BANK BALANCE		\$ 106,840.53
RECEIPTS		
Levy -		\$ 29,167.09
Tax refund (GST)		\$ 111.00
Interest Business Cash Maximiser Account	920.08	
Interest Cheque Account	0.23	
Interest Term Deposit	4800.00	
Total Interest		\$ 5,720.31
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 34,998.40
PAYMENTS		
2011 Perth Conference Payments		
Conference Support	9,640.00	
Subsidy for student delegates to the conference	15,000.00	
Gifts	392.89	
Fare and Accommodation - Sr Frances	1,891.00	
Phone Conferences 10.8.10, 26.10.10, 15.2.11, 11.5.11	1,211.59	
Postage	97.45	
Subscription for Listen	25.00	
Refund St Aloysius College	60.00	
Fraynetwork (website hosting July 2010 - June 2011)	960.00	
Sisters of Mercy Chisholm - Office & phone July 2010 - June 2011	554.00	
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - stipend July 2010 - June 2011	-	
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - car allowance July 2010 - June 2011	-	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		\$ 29,831.93
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		\$ 5,166.47
Balance in NAB Business Cash Maximiser Account 30.06.11	22,249.23	
Balance in AMSSA NAB Cheque Account 30.06.11	4,957.77	
NAB Term Deposit (interest rate 6% paid 30.06.11)	84,800.00	
CLOSING BANK BALANCE		\$ 112,007.00

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS FOR THE YEAR ENDED 30 JUNE 2012		
Balance in NAB Business Cash Maximiser Account 30.6.11	22,249.23	
Balance in AMSSA NAB Cheque Account 30.6.11	4,957.77	
NAB Term Deposit	84,800.00	
OPENING BANK BALANCE		\$ 112,007.00
RECEIPTS		
Levy	29,067.60	
Tax refund (GST)	111.00	
Interest Business Cash Maximiser Account	1,107.05	
Interest Cheque Account	0.32	
Interest - Term Deposit	5,414.80	
2011 Perth Conference Surplus	18,500.00	
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$ 54,200.77
PAYMENTS		
2011 Perth Conference Payments		
Gift (Kathleen Park)	105.95	
2013 Auckland Conference		
Conference Support	15,000.00	
Phone Conferences 31.8.11, 2.11.11, 14.3.12, 23.5.12	1,518.78	
Postage	131.05	
Bank Fees	22.00	
Fraynetwork (website hosting 20.2.12 - 20.6.13)	480.00	
Fraynetwork (changes to website)	125.00	
Sisters of Mercy Chisholm - office & phone July 2011 - June 2012	600.00	
Sisters of Mercy Goulburn - stipend July 2011 - December 2011	4,942.00	
Sisters of Mercy ISMAPNG - stipend January 2012 - June 2012	4,662.00	
TOTAL PAYMENTS		\$ 27,586.78
SURPLUS/DEFICIT		\$ 26,613.99
Balance in NAB Business Cash Maximiser Account 30.06.12	31,856.28	
Balance in AMSSA NAB Cheque Account 30.06.12	6,764.71	
NAB Term Deposit	100,000.00	
CLOSING BANK BALANCE		\$ 138,620.99

AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION		
STATEMENT OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS		
FOR THE SIX MONTHS 1 JULY 2012 TO 31 DECEMBER 2012		
NAB Business Cash Maximiser Account 30.6.12	31,856.28	
AMSSA Cheque Account 30.6.12	11,349.91	
NAB Term Deposit (includes interest)	95,414.80	
TOTAL	138,620.99	
Balance in Business Cash Maximiser 2.7.2012	31,856.28	
Balance in AMSSA Cheque Account 2.7.2012 (a)	6,764.71	
Term Deposit due 30.6. 2013 (interest rate 4.65%)	100,000.00	
TOTAL	138,620.99	
OPENING BANK BALANCE		\$138,620.99
RECEIPTS		
Interest from Business Cash Maximiser Account		\$546.03
Interest from Term Deposit		\$0.00
Interest from Cheque Account		\$0.00
Tax Refund		\$32.00
TOTAL RECEIPTS		\$578.03
PAYMENTS		
Auditor's Fee		\$385.00
ISMAPNG Chisholm - office expenses 01.07.12 - 31.12.12		\$1,200.00
ISMAPNG Alington stipend 01.07.12 - 31.12.12		\$4,662.00
TOTAL PAYMENTS		\$6,247.00
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) (b)		-\$5,668.97
CLOSING BANK BALANCE		\$132,952.02
Balance in Business Cash Maximiser 30.9.2012	32,402.31	
Balance in AMSSA Cheque Account 30.9.2012	549.71	
Term Deposit due 30.6. 2013	100,000.00	
TOTAL	132,952.02	
NOTES		
<i>(a) \$4,585.20 was transferred from the cheque account the term deposit on 2.7.2012</i>		
<i>(b) The period has an operating deficit because most income is in the first half of the year.</i>		



AUSTRALASIAN MERCY SECONDARY SCHOOLS ASSOCIATION

DRAFT STATEMENT OF PURPOSE AND BY-LAWS for the Biennial General Meeting 15 July 2013.

1. NAME

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

2. PURPOSE

- 2.1. To further the Mercy spirituality and ethos for Secondary Education and to continue the tradition in a systematic way.
- 2.2. To share expertise.
- 2.3. To contribute to staff formation and encourage the interchange of staff.
- 2.4. To represent the views of Mercy Secondary Schools at the national level.
- 2.5. 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:

- 3.1. Persons who are currently involved in Mercy sponsored or co-sponsored secondary schools.
- 3.2. 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.
- 3.3. 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.

- 4.1. 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.
- 4.2. The President of the Association shall serve as Chair of the executive Committee.
- 4.3. 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.
- 4.4. The Executive Committee shall elect from among its membership a Deputy Chair and a Secretary/Treasurer.
- 4.5. Vacancies from within the Executive Committee shall be filled by nomination/election at the appropriate level.
- 4.6. Executive Committee members may serve for a maximum of three consecutive terms.

PRESENT WORDING OF POINT 5

5. ROLE OF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

- 5.1. To further the purposes of the Association.
- 5.2 To represent the interests of the Association at the national level.
- 5.2. To meet the Executive Committee at least twice a year.
- 5.3. To plan and conduct a Biennial Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Conference.
- 5.4. To call and preside at a General Meeting of the membership during the Biennial Conference.
- 5.5. To maintain a full and correct record of activities, including financial operations for presentation to members at the Biennial General Meeting.
- 5.6. To appoint special purpose committees as appropriate.

PROPOSED REDRAFTING OF POINT 5

5. EXECUTIVE OFFICER

5.1 The Executive Committee may appoint a part-time Executive Officer.

- The duties of the Executive Officer shall include:*
- Preparation for Executive Committee and general Association meetings*
- At the direction of the Executive Committee calling general meetings of the association*
- Planning and assisting in the implementation of a Biennial Australasian Mercy Secondary Schools Conference*
- Facilitating the work of any special purpose committees established by the Executive Committee*
- Maintaining a full and correct record of activities, including financial operations for presentation to members at the Biennial General Meeting*
- Meeting at least twice a year with the executive committee*
- Any other duties assigned by the executive committee to further the aims of the association*

5.2 The Executive Officer will be employed on behalf of the Association by a school sponsored by the Sisters of Mercy whose principal is a member of the association. This school shall be reimbursed for the salary and associated costs.

5.3 The conditions of employment of the Executive Officer will be determined by the Executive Committee in association with the employing school.

6. BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

- 6.1. The president of the Association shall preside over the meeting.
- 6.2. 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.
- 6.3. The President of the Association shall present a biennial report.
- 6.4. The Secretary/Treasurer shall present a biennial report of all business/financial operations of the Association since the previous General Meeting.

6.5.This report shall include a recommendation regarding annual membership subscription, which shall be, in due course, determined by the Executive.

6.6.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.

6.7.In any matters where a vote is called, a simple majority will rule.

PRESENT WORDING OF

POINT 7

7. PARAMETERS

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

PROPOSED REDRAFTING OF POINT 7

7. PARAMETERS

- 1. *The Leaders of The Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea, Sisters of Mercy Brisbane, Sisters of Mercy Parramatta, Sisters of Mercy North Sydney, Nga Whaea Atawhai o Aotearoa Sisters of Mercy New Zealand and the Chair of the Council of Mercy Partners, hereafter called the Leaders, reserve all powers pertaining to institutions under their sponsorship.*
- 2. *The association will report to the Leaders through their appointed representative, hereafter called the representative.*
- 3. *The Association will communicate with the Leaders concerning educational issues arising from the Association through the representative.*

The Spirit of Mercy transcends generations at St Patrick's College Townsville



Three generations of women, reflecting on their time as students of St Patrick's College Townsville, found that the Sisters of Mercy gave them more than the gift of a fine education. The sisters instilled in their charges a desire to live a strong life, growing in happiness and fulfilment through the support and service of others.

Ines Spina (nee Scagliotti) attended St Patrick's as a Residential student in 1953 and 1954. Among her contemporaries were Srs Marie Geddes rsm and Celcus Putney, sister of the Bishop of Townsville. Ines delighted in afternoon walks on The Strand and still cherishes the deep bonds of friendship, many of which last to the present day. The sisters were "a

dedicated group of women who worked tirelessly in the service of others". The values they lived by have been a central aspiration of Ines' life ever since.

Her daughter, Louise (Spina) Doolan who attended St Patrick's in the late 70s and later returned to teach at the College (1982-1985), echoes the same values as her mum and the Sisters. For Louise the experience of boarding school was much more than lessons from nine 'til three. "Our first move away from home is often challenging, and forces us outside our comfort zone." Nonetheless, it was "a rich and happy time, getting to know and share the school term with girls we'd never met before, girls from all over Australia and some international students too - friendships that endure still. Late night talks in the boarding school were a treasured part of my teenage years."

The formation the Sisters provided was invaluable. As brave role models they demonstrated a preparedness to move outside the social restraints of the day. "They were gentle and strong, sometimes fearless. Their example provided a solid foundation on which young women could confidently take their place in the world, while at the same time, be true to those who are disadvantaged. Moreover, they modelled courage to do something about it."

The Sisters worked diligently to achieve a higher standard of education for women. They also engaged in the wider world to promote the needs of "those without a voice". They championed the needs of those in remote communities, and partly because of their advocacy, many of the issues have now become mainstream and the accepted domain of government. "We might look back and critique, some may even deplore, the methods from several decades ago, but we need to remember the whole story, including the selfless and unrelenting work of these gallant women, who worked with few resources, little training and support, and at times hostile authorities, to empower others to a fuller and richer life." The changing decades have seen the Sisters of Mercy succeeded by lay teachers, but the ethos and Mercy spirit continue as a dominant presence in the daily life of St Patrick's.

More recently, it has been the turn of Louise's daughters Cara and Amelia Doolan to share in this spirit – Cara graduated in 2004 and Amelia in 2012. With an Arts Law degree, Cara works in Sydney in Human Rights. As Amelia embarks on her university studies, she comments on her positive experiences at the College – student leadership and the emphasis on community awareness, including fund raising activities in support of Mercy Works.

Although the Mercy sisters are no longer a physical presence at St Patrick's, the girls continue the Mercy tradition and reach out to the vulnerable, sick and disadvantaged. All three generations of Scagliotti women hold a deep pride in the notion of being "a Patty's girl". Ines admits "I still get goosebumps when I hear the school song" and the special celebration of St Patrick's Day maintains a tradition. The most important legacy of all, however, is the spirit of the founding Sisters of Mercy who were not afraid to question, confront and challenge the power structures of the day and whose spirit and energy still inspire "Patty's girls" to live a joyful, centred and courageous life.

Shalom College Bundaberg acknowledges their Mercy tradition



Shalom college was founded in 1984, the descendant of the Christian Brothers College for boys and the Sisters of Mercy College for girls. Because it enjoys a dual charism with Catherine McCauley and Edmund Rice, a part of this year's College Induction Liturgy, Shalom College formalized that association. Principal Dan McMahon invited Sister Berneice Loch, leader of the Institute of Sisters of Mercy of Australia and Papua New Guinea to the liturgy. Berneice signed with Dan a document created by the College to acknowledge their claim to the Mercy tradition.



Catherine McAuley and Mercy Partnership

Shalom College is proud and privileged to share in the educational ministry inspired by Catherine McAuley. We acknowledge and claim the tradition of Mercy which continues to inspire the followers of Catherine McAuley.

This College is committed to continuing to embed the values of Mercy, Justice, Compassion and Service that so illuminated Catherine's life and work.

The students and staff of McAuley House will continue to recall the story of Catherine. They will remind the members of this community of the need to embrace the transformative power of education which will impel the students and staff to respond to the Gospel. Additionally, they will remind us of Catherine's call to each of us who are so privileged to give of our talents to help those who are most in need.

*Sr Berneice Loch RSM
Institute Leader
ISMAPNG*

*Mr Dan McMahon
Principal*

*Mr Peter Hawe
Board Chair*