



## FROM THE CO-CHAIRS: MAREE MARSH CSB AND MRS ANNETTE SCHMEIDE

It is now almost four months since the launch of Kildare Ministries, a significant moment for the Brigidine and Presentation Congregations and also for the church in Australia. The collaboration and participation of colleagues in Kildare Ministries reflects the response to the call of Vatican II for religious to re-think the sharing of mission and to recognise the call of all the baptised to contribute to leadership in the church. Kildare Ministries remains attentive to the call of the Gospel and the lived traditions of Brigidine Sisters (NSW and Victoria) and the Presentation Sisters (Victoria). Their generous and indefatigable holding of the flame inspires all in Kildare Ministries to continue nurturing this sacred light.

Since the launch of Kildare Ministries, a new Members' Council has been formed representing the two congregations. **Louise Cleary csb**, **Anne Boyd csb** and **Chanel Sugden csb** are the Brigidine representatives, and **Bernadette Keating pbvm** and **Mary Power** represent the Presentation sisters. We express our appreciation to **Anita Murray csb**, **Helen Toohey csb** and **Jane Keogh csb** for giving their time, energy and wisdom to the initial Member's Council. Anita and Helen were also part of the journey of establishing Kildare Ministries from 2007. We thank them for their generous commitment to this journey.

Several activities have taken place over the past few months as the ministries adjust to the new governance configuration:

- The incorporated boards are developing or revamping their Constitutions to reflect the new structure;
- Representatives from the twelve ministries gathered to reflect and discuss how to develop a vibrant, interactive website;
- Members of the leadership teams of the individual ministries come together to celebrate the "harvest of memory, spirit and dream that has long preceded us and will now enfold, nourish and sustain us."

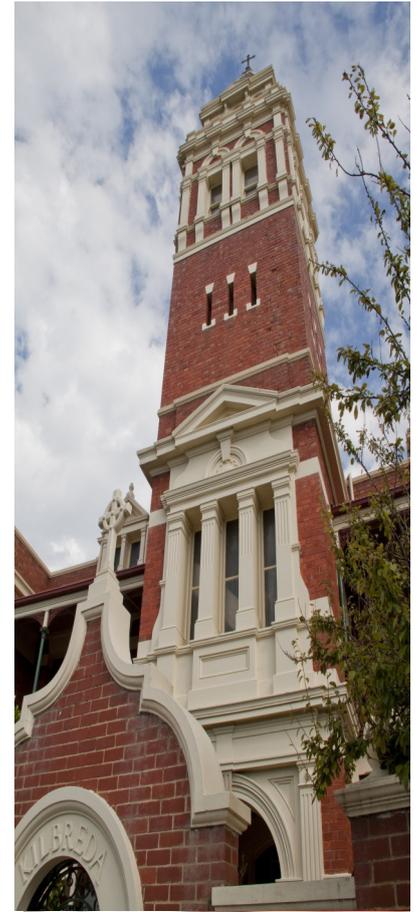
(John O'Donohue, *Benedictus*, p.14)

## FROM THE RESOURCE TEAM

### EXECUTIVE OFFICER – ERICA PEGORER

What an exciting venture we have undertaken with each day helping us realise this new and dynamic governance structure. There is an abundance of good will and sheer determination to bring vitality and direction to Kildare Ministries ensuring we stay faithful to our mission of creating and developing inclusive and socially just communities characterised by:

- Strong Catholic identity and practice of Christian values
- Pastoral care and right relations with God, others and creation
- Welcome for the marginalised and vulnerable
- Practice of the gospel value of stewardship to ensure that the spiritual and material resources are used for the common good
- Commitment to speak and respond to issues of justice



*Kilbreda College Tower*

### WELLSPRINGS FOR WOMEN

This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary since **Sr Ann Halpin pbvm** and **Sr Margaret Bellisimi pbvm** opened the doors of their convent home to become Wellsprings for Women. See link for images

<http://vimeo.com/76957338>

### SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST

- **Marian Sunshine West hosts Brigidine Music Festival**
- **Clonard celebrates opening of The Delany and Tullow Centres**
- **Marian Ararat grand opening Trade Training Centre**
- **Brigidine Indooroopilly 85th Anniversary Celebrations**
- **Brigidine St Ives Jubilee Celebrations**

## SCHOOLS CELEBRATE

A number of our schools are celebrating significant anniversaries this year and we congratulate each of them for their significant contribution to education, especially to girls' education. Others have celebrated significant Openings of buildings with **Ararat College** opening its *Applied Learning Centre* on 20 June providing now a wonderful resource for the senior students as they undertake exciting pathways. The honouring of the work and vision of the Brigidine sisters was symbolically captured during the opening of the *Tullow and Delany Centres* at **Clonard** on 27 June. Former Brigidine Principals were invited to participate in the opening and all Brigidines present were honoured by the special liturgy by the new oak tree. Invited guests were moved by this respectful honouring of our Sisters and their perseverance and commitment to education and the marginalised over 100 years. In our schools we celebrate a rich and vibrant history and our contribution to many communities.

## PILGRIMAGE 2015

There is a small committee planning the pilgrimage experience for 2015. We are expanding the experience to include both the Brigidine and Presentation stories. Details will be released in due course.

## THE WORK OF THE TRUSTEES

The Trustees have met four times now and they have made this year's priority getting to know and meet as many people involved in our works as possible. This includes Chairs of Boards and Stewardship Councils and their Members; Principals and Managers of community works, teachers and practitioners associated with all the ministries. It is an ambitious goal and the first invitation has been made to Chairs of Boards and Stewardship Council, Principals and Managers for 10<sup>th</sup> October. We will gather at the Brigidine Ministry Centre. In addition, our co-chairs, **Maree Marsh csb** and **Mrs Annette Schmiede** are planning to visit all the Boards within the next 12 month period and in the meantime our Trustees have made presentations at our Principal Meetings, Leaders Day and induction seminar, have met with some Board

Chairs and have joined other gatherings when they have been able.

*Left to Right:*

*Louise Cleary csb- Members Council*

*Rosemary Copeland- Trustee*

*Annette Schmiede- Trustee Co-Chair*



## PROFESSIONAL LEARNING FOR TRUSTEES

An important mandate for the Trustees is Professional Learning. Fortuitously, there will be an important conference for all Public Juridic Persons in August in Brisbane. The Trustees are attending the conference, the focus of which will be to share experiences with other PJPs and to begin developing a support network of people of like minds with similar challenges.

## THE WORK OF THE BOARDS

As the Chair of the newly formed Kildare Education Ministries Board, **Mr Michael Doyle** has negotiated a number of significant issues, including the employment of staff in our schools. This issue is coming to a close and the packed agendas for the Board meetings have focused on updating policies, familiarisation of the strategic development of each school, reviewing processes and practises, developing terms of reference for the finance committee and the review of the Stewardship Councils. The Board meets on the first Thursday of each month and each Director participates in one Stewardship Council.

We congratulate **Stephen Walsh and Kitty Guerin** as the two new Chair of Boards for Brigidine College Indooroopilly and Brigidine College St Ives respectively. We thank them for agreeing to lead these vibrant educational communities.

*From the Archives:*

*Marian College  
Sunshine West  
Students 1957*



Our First Intake of Students in 1957 at Marian College

## WORK OF THE RESOURCE TEAM

The Resource Team has certainly gained momentum as the year has progressed and while it has been a steep learning curve for us all we have enjoyed the intimate space of our little office. It has allowed us to get to know each other and to plan our work. We have tried to be an effective resource for the Trustees and the newly formed Kildare Education Ministries Board as well as maintain some services of the former BSSC. We are now in the process of organising our move to the *Brigidine Ministry Centre* across the way as well as developing an active webpage where we will be able to communicate with you all on a more regular basis.

No doubt you already know who the Resource Team is but just in case you need clarity we are

Kate Kelsey – Administrative Assistant to the Resource Team

Marguerite Buckley – Development Officer

Erica Pegorer – Executive Officer



*Star of the Sea College Choir in the Chapel's Loft*

*It was heartening to have reflected to us from an external validator that our schools “do a very good job on their mission!”*

## DEVELOPMENT OFFICER- MARGUERITE BUCKLEY

In this period of transition into Kildare Ministries, some aspects of the work to support schools continues. A sample of these fall into the areas of educating for justice, religious education & formation and School Improvement processes.

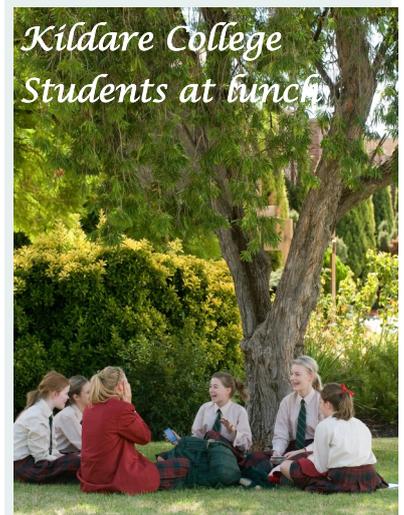
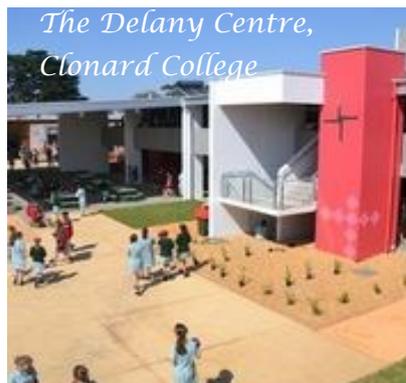
### Justice and Democracy Forums

One of the Core Values that all Brigidine schools have adopted is ***image and practise justice and service***. There are numerous ways in which school communities achieve this. One common way is for schools to operate **Justice and Democracy Forum** groups. These groups are formed of senior students who share a passion for social justice, a love of enquiring into the burning issues of our times and who yearn to act for a better world. These students are accompanied by equally compassionate teachers.

Teachers were offered a Professional Learning day in February and students from all nine Brigidine schools gathered in Melbourne for a two day seminar inspired by this year's theme,

*Taking Responsibility for Justice*. The keynote speaker was a former Kilbreda student, Laura John, a 2014 UN Youth Ambassador. Her message was loud and clear: stand up for what you believe in and have faith in your ability to make a difference.

A second student Seminar Day was held late in July with students learning about the different ministries of Kildare Ministries as well as engaging in an enjoyable activity to learn about and promote peace. A third student Seminar Day will be held in October to allow students to share their work over the year.



*JDF Commissioning*

*Ceremony March 2014*



## KILDARE MINISTRIES

We congratulate **Kilbreda College** (110 years); **Brigidine College Indooroopilly** (85 years) and **Brigidine College St Ives** (60 years). Brigidine College St Ives paid tribute to **Sr Anita Murray** at their recent opening of their Anita Murray Centre, honouring her many years as Principal of the College and her continued strong affiliation and Association. Brigidine College Indooroopilly honoured the memory of Mother Brigid Foley, the first principal of the College with the Blessing and Opening of the Foley building for middle years learning. Kilbreda College Mentone has celebrated their 110 years with a number of significant events and will host a cocktail party in August.

*We take great joy in the celebration of these schools and their tradition of educating girls over many years but also in the celebration of the achievements of*

Kildare Ministries  
52 Beaconsfield Parade,  
Albert Park, 3206  
03 9682 2973  
Calendar Term 3

- 25 July: Kildare Education Ministries Principals Meeting
- 29 July: Brigidine Music Festival
- 7 August and 4 September: KEM Board Meetings
- 8 August: Feast of St Mary of the Cross Mackillop
- 15 August: Feast of the Assumption
- 18 August: Leaders' Day
- 24 August: PJP Canonical Stewards
- 25 August: Trustees Meeting Brisbane
- 1 September: Brigidine Indooroopilly Board Meeting



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NETWORK

The religious education leaders across Brigidine schools are supported by a network, the Kildare Ministries' Religious Education and Faith Leaders Network. This group usually meets once each term. The first meeting in March had as its focus the issue of mentoring teachers and supporting teams. Plans were discussed about future meetings and members expressed interest in exploring Celtic and Brigidine spirituality and examining our founder and inspiring figures for our contemporary circumstances. Ideas for Liturgy might be another focus for a meeting later this year. This group draws support from colleagues and can use Marguerite as an assistant in the areas of review, evaluation and/or planning.



*Marian College Ararat  
2014 Leaders*

## SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT

For **Kildare Education Ministries Ltd** schools the School Improvement processes have been conducted in partnership with the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office since 2009. This year our schools are focusing on the areas of Pastoral Wellbeing, including OH&S and Stewardship of Resources. Each school undertakes a sound process of guided self-reflection, seeking enlightenment from sources such as surveys, focus groups and other data. This self-reflection is directed by Sandhurst CEO developed materials which have then been personalised for our schools. Schools assess their progress in a number of areas, guided by information under Quality Indicators for each section. Once this process has been completed to the satisfaction of the school a team of Validators visit the school, meet with key personnel and learn about the process undertaken by the school, the findings of the self-review and the goals set by the school in these areas for the future. These findings are tested by interviews with school staff, careful perusal of documentation and observations of school operations.

Three schools have completed the process this year and four will compete theirs in the coming months. The final Validation reports are made available to the Kildare Education Ministries Board and the Director of the Sandhurst Catholic Education Office, fulfilling compliance requirements. It was heartening to have reflected to us from an external validator that our schools "do a very good job on their mission"!



*St Joseph's College Echuca*