

One of our principals tells this story:

It is the Year 12 Graduation Mass. Young women in beautiful gowns begin to stream into the church with their families. In the mix you see girls from Islander families adorned with floral lei's and grass skirts; the Muslim girls arrive in highly decorative hijabs; the girls from India and Pakistan arrive in colourful and precious saris. This multi-cultural and multi-faith community join together to celebrate that which has united them for six years – the faith and heritage that has created a community that is able to acknowledge the strength that comes from diversity while celebrating the differences which make us truly human.

In such communities learning about diversity, tolerance, respect and understanding become a lived experience as community members navigate the cultural nuances that add interest and wonder to our human family. Learning about other faiths is an integral part of this experience and our multi-faith schools and community works stand as testaments to the way that society can and should be. Learning about another faith is not about measuring one against the other. It is about letting faiths co-exist and finding opportunities for one to be enriched by the other. Learning about other faiths is about coming to know something of the other and to live with the compatibility and incompatibility that surely will emerge.

This does not mean that we should not acknowledge the tensions that sit within ourselves as we grapple with the questions that our faith sparks in coming to understand the other. But learning to live peacefully with the tension is part of the learning about how faiths can co-exist.

Some of our Victorian schools have engaged in the Enhancing Catholic School Identity Project – a project which seeks to understand the elements that define a Catholic school community in an increasingly secularising and pluralising society, characteristics often mirrored within our school communities. The research behind this project reveals that cognisance of and openness to diversity are considered major strengths for enhancing Catholic school identity. Jesus himself went from place to place to encounter a vast diversity of people. He strove to build a respectful and instructional relationship with everyone he encountered, as he unceasingly testified to the love of God. Our schools and community works live Jesus' example on a daily basis.

Pope Francis himself provides many examples of the ways we

can build multi-faith communities. Over the short time he has been the leader of the Catholic church he has communicated a consistent message that only in a united way can we deal with the issues currently facing humanity: the multi-faith climate change march in 2015; the multi-faith prayer service of the site of the World Trade Centre attacks; washing the feet of a female Muslim prisoner as part of Holy Thursday services; apologising to Italian Pentecostals who were persecuted in the past by Catholics; joining with religious leaders from several different faiths in a signing ceremony declaring an end to modern-day slavery by 2020. He is quoted, "In opposing every attempt to create a rigid uniformity, we can and must build unity on the basis of our diversity of languages, cultures and religions, and lift our voices against everything which would stand in the way of such unity".

Back to the graduation mass – it is a respectful and joyful celebration from within the Catholic tradition that has nurtured young women to go out into the world living faith-filled and prophetic lives from within their own traditions. You look around the church and you see that people get that!

Rita Grima—Executive Officer for KEM

Prayer:

You asked for my hands

That you might use them for your purpose.

I gave them for a moment then withdrew them

For the work was hard.

You asked for my mouth

To speak against injustice.

I gave you a whisper that I might not be accused.

You asked for my eyes

To see the pain of poverty.

I closed them for I did not want to see.

You asked for my life

That you might work through me.

I gave a small part that I might not get too involved.

God, forgive my calculated efforts to serve you

Only when it is convenient for me to do so,

And only in those places where it is safe to do so,

And only with those who make it easy to do so.

God of mercy, forgive me,

Renew me

Send me out

To enable and extend mercy

Joe Seremane, South Africa





KILLESTER COLLEGE

Year 11 Canberra Trip



In the early morning of March the 7th, the Year 11s set off on an ten hour bus trip to Canberra. We were all very keen for the four days that were to follow. We were eager to learn and experience new things as well as build long lasting friendships with our peers and teachers.

The aim of this camp was to learn about **Civics and Citizenship** and we definitely achieved this goal during our time there.

We had the amazing opportunity to visit many significant places for Australian politics such as the **Old Parliament House**, the **New Parliament House** and the **High Court of Australia**. We were able to participate in role plays in both the New and Old Parliaments, where the students could act out a parliamentary debate. Through this, we learned how parliament proceedings progress and gained a deeper understanding of Australian politics. We were also given a tour of the High Court of Australia, where a few girls had the opportunity to sit in an actual court trial. After visiting the Parliaments and the High Court, we left with a deeper understanding and appreciation for the Australian jurisdiction.

Aside from the political landmarks associated with our nation's capital, we were also able to enjoy a lighter form of entertainment in visiting **Questacon** and viewing the night lights of Canberra. After a long day, the girls were excited to have a fun night at **Questacon- the National Science and Technology Centre**. There were some very intriguing displays and fascinating models for us to see and various little activities that we could test. This place really introduced us to the vast and captivating world of science and surpassed any experience we could have in a classroom. A highlight of the centre was the six metre free fall that we had to opportunity to try. Although many girls backed out due to a fear of heights, the girls that were brave enough, spoke of how thrilling and how much fun it was. There was also a spider exhibition on display when we were there. It's fair to say that it wasn't any of the girls' favourite aspect of the evening.

The **War Memorial** was the most insightful place that we went to. There we learned so much about Australia and its involvement in past and present wars. Just being in the atmosphere was enough to teach people the importance of remembering those who served and gave up their lives.

The **National Gallery** was such a great experience. We were engaged with the paintings and the sculptures. At the **National Capital Exhibition** we learnt about the making of Canberra and its design.

Although the trip was short and filled with action packed days, we all managed to learn and discover new things while having fun. The memories made with our friends and teachers, are definitely memories we will all cherish for the rest of our lives.

We would like to thank Mrs. Grieg and all the teachers who accompanied us and became our guardians throughout the trip. Thank you for being so patient with us and ensuring that we all had a fun and safe time. The Canberra Trip was definitely a camp to remember!

ANZAC DAY Springvale RSL Commemorative Service

Last Sunday four Year 11 school leaders participated in the Springvale RSL ANZAC Day commemorative service.



Our school representatives marched down Springvale Road with representatives from other community groups and then participated in the memorial service where they placed a wreath at the local memorial. It was a beautiful day where various community groups came together to reflect and give thanks to the many brave men and women who participated in conflicts that have played such a formative role in shaping our society today.

Our Year 11 leaders felt privileged to share in this experience and their understanding of this day has been enhanced especially after their experience in Canberra earlier this year where they visited the Australian War Memorial.

Thank you to the following Year 11 leaders for attending this service representing Killester College;
Rosemary Duong, Selena Heng, Jennifer Vongue and Jenny Lam

TRUSTEES VISIT TO KILLESTER COLLEGE SPRINGVALE: 16th March 2016



The Trustees were warmly greeted at **Killester College Springvale** and were very impressed by the breadth and depth of the subject offerings; by the innovative building designs and by the calm yet focused environment they experienced when visiting the classrooms. As always they enjoyed speaking with the student leaders and appreciated the time that the Principal, **Leanne Di Stefano** and the Leadership Team devoted to ensuring a successful visit.

TRUSTEES STRATEGIC INTENT

Below find the **Strategic Intent and Goals** for the Trustees in 2016 which is the compilation of work completed in 2015 in preparation for the next few years. This document was made available to your ministries last month



Justice
Making the needs of the vulnerable paramount

Wonder
Celebrating all that is good with joy and gratitude

OUR VALUES
Courage
Speaking and acting with integrity

Compassion
Walking with and having empathy for all

Hope
Bringing a sense of purpose

Hospitality
Welcoming all

Trustees Strategic Intent for 2016

Goal	Strategy
<p>Goal 1 To build inclusive communities through strengthening relationships, knowledge and understandings between the Trustees, the Mission and Ministry Team and Ministry Boards and Stewardship Councils and our Ministries.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Identify and implement opportunities to clarify expectations about where the Trustees and Mission and Ministry Team can dialogue personally with Directors of our Boards and those engaged in the various ministries.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Establish a communication plan.</p>
<p>Goal 2 To strengthen effective governance through clarifying roles and responsibilities of governance groups, leadership groups and Ministries.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Further clarify roles, responsibilities and authority by refining the Kildare Ministries Trustees Charter.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Develop a statement of Expectation and/or Commitment between Kildare Ministries Trustees and Ministry Boards so as to clarify formal civil and canonical requirements on the one hand and the responsibilities to develop Kildare Ministries' Mission on the other.</p>
<p>Goal 3 To support members of the Kildare Ministries community in appreciating, understanding and embracing their transformative role in the Church.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Develop professional learning and formation opportunities for all throughout our ministries to assist the community in realising its transformative role in the Church through our prophetic voice.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Organise the first Conference for the broader Kildare Ministries community.</p>
<p>Goal 4 To support a culture of risk assessment and management.</p>	<p>Strategy 1: Develop a policy on risk which includes the protection of the Vision and Mission of Kildare Ministries.</p> <p>Strategy 2: Collect and assess risk policies of all ministries.</p>

OUR VISION

A community where all people are valued, where all creation is recognised as sacred and where hope, justice and courage are our hallmarks.

Kildare Ministries is inspired by the transformative vision of the Christian story and our rich traditions.

OUR MISSION

Responding to the changing needs of our world, we strive to build inclusive communities through the provision of education and community works.



WELLSPRINGS for WOMEN Inc.



Productive Learning in Australia

Wellsprings have programs to help remove the stumbling stones from the paths of culturally and linguistically diverse women allowing them to *live their life to the full*. One such program is **Productive Learning in Australia (PLA)**. This program adopts a holistic and creative approach to support the learners into education and employment pathways. In collaboration with local retail stores, Wellsprings has successfully structured a customized program that provides both theoretical knowledge and work placement to a novice seeking her career in retail.

PLA offers participants to:

- Develop their entrepreneurial and marketing skills
- Build leadership and management capacity
- Make connections and contribute to the community
- Get involved in the retail: design, production, marketing and sales of products to give a sense of command over the industry
- Develop an understanding of what it means to be enterprising, and the skills it requires
- Make effective use of communication using a range of appropriate techniques

Harmony Day

Relish – Rejoice – Revel for Harmony Day was fervently celebrated at Wellsprings for Women. Once again, the staff and volunteers at Wellsprings gathered on March 15 to celebrate Australia's cultural diversity with scrumptious cultural food and traditional dresses. The collage of multicultural cuisine at Wellsprings reflected how our uniqueness adds to the harmony.



De-mystifying Digital

At Wellsprings we offer a tailored program which has been designed exclusively for seniors with little or no experience with computers. The program entitled **De-mystifying Digital** discusses the basics



of the computers and the internet. We take the learners through the world of social media, online banking & shopping, emailing, skype, twitter and much more. This digital literacy program fosters connectivity and advancement.

Going Beyond the four walls of classrooms



Wellsprings believes in the efficacy of Flipped Lessons and Blended Learning and continues to incorporate educational excursions, field trips, and outdoor activities in its educational programs. Our tutors strive not only to impart knowledge but also to connect the learners with the community. So whether it's a computer class in the Dandenong library, excursion to the CBD, trip to the Dandenong plaza, etc.



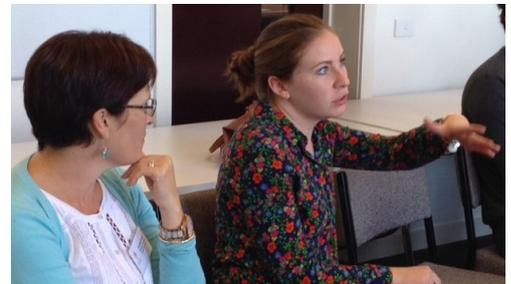
you will find an ambience of growth and vibrancy in all our endeavours on 'putting unity into community'.

Vision: A vibrant, welcoming place for isolated women from local communities to gather for social connection and to encourage lifelong learning.

Mission: As a Kildare Ministries Community Work in the Presentation tradition, we live and proclaim God's love, through empowering isolated women to live their lives more fully

Values: Welcome and Hospitality. Respect for differing spiritual values and faith traditions.

KILDARE MINISTRIES INDUCTION DAY: 4th MAY 2016



New staff to Kildare Ministries were welcomed during the **induction seminar** held at the Brigidine Ministry Centre on 4th May. Those present seemed to value the opportunity to meet each other and gained an understanding of the broader Kildare Ministry community. Apart from sharing personal journeys, participants learnt about the founding stories of the Brigidine and Presentation Sisters and were introduced to the Vision, Mission and Values of Kildare Ministries. "It was a terrific day of sharing and getting an understanding of what KM is all about", wrote one participant in her evaluation.

WELCOME TO KILDARE MINISTRIES



It is with great pleasure that we announce **Andrea Grant** as the new **Mission Leader for Kildare Ministries**. Andrea is a faith filled woman, committed to Leadership within and for our Church and has been a successful teacher and Leadership member for many years.

Andrea comes to us with qualifications and experience in senior leadership in schools as well as at the governance level where she worked as the Director of Mission with the Province of Loreto Australia and South East Asia. In her most recent role, Andrea has been responsible for developing and delivering courses, workshops and seminars in adult faith formation and supporting the Ministries in their ongoing understanding of their mission and role as transformative mediators for the Church. Andrea has a heart for social justice, spiritual growth and direction and enjoys teaching and learning with adult groups.

We welcome her most sincerely to our Kildare Ministries community and look forward to her starting with us towards the end of May.



CHANGE OF NAME

What was once the **Resource Team** will now be known as the **Mission and Ministry Team** and it currently includes the following members:-

Erica Pegorer	Executive Director of Kildare Ministries
Andrea Grant	Mission Leader for Kildare Ministries
Rita Grima	Executive Officer of KEM Board
Kate Kelsey	Administrative Assistant for Kildare Ministries
Monica Lang	Administration Officer for Kildare Ministries



From L to R: Ms Erica Pegorer, Ms Monica Lang, Ms Andrea Grant, Ms Rita Grima & Ms Kate Kelsey



WELLSPRINGS for WOMEN Inc.

Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) 60th Session, 14-24 March 2016 Women's empowerment and the link to sustainable development

The Commission for the Status of Women is the principal global intergovernmental body that is exclusively dedicated to promoting gender equality and women's empowerment.

I was honoured to be part of this significant event. As I reflect on this unique and rare opportunity, it is exciting to note that over the past years much has been achieved in



gender equality, however there is still much more that needs to be done. This CSW60 was filled with strong messages of inequality and the significant role of everyone participating in it will make it possible for no one to be left behind.



During the CSW60 Conference I was moved by the passion of delivery. Women and girls are central to

achieving the sustainable development goals. And there were hopeful times when we heard about the tireless campaigns and projects focusing on human rights for all women and girls. **Hope**, was the overwhelming emotion during the conference.

Being a participant in this CSW60 has changed my way of thinking. I have reflected on the wonderful work of **Nano Nagle**. Her vision and mission is still successful today because the Presentation Sisters and staff at Wellsprings for Women are committed in following Nano Nagle's dreams. They walk in her steps and ensure that women and girls are empowered.

To achieve the Sustainable Development Goals set out for all nations worldwide by the United Nations, women must work together as local and global partners. It is important to hold each other accountable for our actions and to maintain hope for change by 2030. All women and girls need to maintain the momentum from this conference and keep fighting for a better world where gender equality is achieved.

Rose Elias
Community Development Coordinator
Wellsprings for Women Inc.

Kildare Ministries

Calendar of Events

May 2016



Date	Event
4 May	Kildare Ministries Induction Workshop at BMC
9 May	Brigidine College St Ives Annual General Meeting
9—11 May	Trustees Meeting at Brigidine College St Ives
10 May	RE and Faith Leaders Network Meeting at BMC
11 May	Brigidine College Indooroopilly Annual General Meeting
13 May	Educating for Justice Meeting at BMC
19 May	Wellsprings for Women Inc. Board Meeting
23 May	Star of the Sea College Board Meeting
27 May	Kildare Ministries Principals and Managers Meeting at BMC