

Hub Highlights



And the winner is team.. 'Hi Barbie'

A big thank you to everyone who came out to the Mercy Hub for such a fun night of trivia. This fund raising event was one of just a few more planned to help Young Mercy Links (YML) get to Cambodia.

The group will be staying with Sr Denise Coghlan at the Meta Karuana Reflection Centre in Siem Reap, which is run by the Jesuit Refugee Services.

The Trivia night received very generous donations from the Sisters of Mercy and other supporters of the Cambodian House Building Project. The YML organisers were also surprised at the generosity of the people who could not attend but were committed to supporting the project. Approximately \$2,000 was raised with 100% of the funds going to the Project.

Again, a big thank you to all!

What is the capital of Libya?
???



Retreat to re-emerge

Young Mercy Links Vic (YML) came together at Cape Woolamai on Phillip Island for their annual retreat.

This time was for reflection, connection and planning with existing and newly-inducted members.

As well as reflecting on the values of Catherine McAuley some highlights of the three day program included a smoking ceremony; Forest Caves Beach Cultural Tour led by Steve, of Millowl Dreaming, a proud Boonwurrung man.

Throughout the weekend we were helped to be still and to listen to the wisdom of the land in the moment.



The Mercy Hub acknowledges the traditional custodians on land in which we work, the Wurundjeri people of the Kulin nation. We pay our respects to their elders past and present.

Refugee Week at the Mercy Hub



Speaking to a refugee girl who had just finished her studies, she commented on how she would love to see more stories of resilience in the Refugee sphere.

Breaking the bias through cultural cooking & sharing ...

With this in mind, we decided to host a cultural cooking and sharing activity. We shared the culture of Maria K, an Afghani woman who came to Australia as a refugee. Maria's story is one of great resilience .

We invited different Mercy schools and social justice groups. We shared individual experiences, realising we all come from diverse backgrounds, cultures and traditions and none of these made us less worthy of equal respect and dignity.

While cooking we shared much of the Afghani culture and traditions, the idea of unity through diversity. "...we need to think of ourselves more and more as a single-family dwelling in a common home" (Pope Francis, 2020) and a clever way to do it is by learning, understanding and experiencing other cultures and views of the world.



Art from the Heart

With the support of the Bendigo Community Bank every Wednesday we provide art classes to a beautiful group of students. Thanks to the wonderful teacher Phil our art classes are thoughtfully designed to inspire and nurture artistic expression, providing a welcoming and supportive community environment for all participants. This is a very popular activity.



Earth Connection logo and design for our 2023 Earth Connection Program



MercyHub

Earth Connection is inspired by Laudato Si' goals, a call to action for all human beings to care for our common home – The Earth.

This program provides a space to create a community to raise awareness, learn and act on the information acquired to improve society in the environmental scope.

Session 1: Cry of the Earth

During our first sessions we worked on our first goal – ‘Cry of the Earth’, addressing the ecological issues our planet is facing, emphasizing that caring for the environment is not only an ethical and moral imperative but also a matter of justice.

Learn: Environmental Threats: ‘The rights of nature... the rights of rivers’

On July 16th we shared an impactful talk guided by Cathy Solano RSM. During the talk we discussed and reflected about the threats faced by the rivers and how many rivers suffer extreme exploitation such as extraction, pollution, damming, loss of water quality, alteration of natural flow all caused by human activities. This plays a huge role in biodiversity loss and climate change. Rivers are living entities, are entitled to fundamental rights and entitled to legal guardianship.

Act: Tree Planting Day

After learning about the desperate Cry of the Earth with Cathy Solano, and the essential role trees play in the conservation of the rivers and the entire ecosystem, we went to act on those learnings. With the TreeProject Inc., we went to Healesville to plant a tree corridor that will help birds hide from their predators. Also, the trees planted were native to Australia, regenerating its biodiversity. The activity was encouraging and meeting people with the same desire to work for our common home is motivating and inspiring.

The logo was inspired by the connection with the earth's elements in our hearts – the wind, water, land, and sun. With these colors, we aim to transmit positive energy, joy and happiness inspired by the colors of a rainbow. It is a reminder of how we can see these colors everyday of our lives, not combined in one specific place, rather disperse on every single living thing in this world. This shows the connection between animals, nature and humans.

‘We have forgotten that we ourselves are dust of the Earth; our very bodies are made up of her elements, we breathe her air and we receive life and refreshment from her waters’ Laudato Si’



We're excited to invite you to the third session of our Earth Connection Program – Ecological Economics: Money as Mercy.

We are delighted to have Jemima Welsh with us to share her knowledge and experience working with alternative approaches to traditional economics that incorporate the concept of Mercy into economic decision-making.

When: Wednesday, August 16th

Where: 607 Nicholson Street, Carlton North

Let us know if you can make it, RSVP here:

<https://forms.office.com/r/jMBw21HyWE>



Earth Connection

Inspired by the **Laudato Si'** goals

Learn & Act



July: Cry of the Earth



July: Cry of the Vulnerable



October: Ecological Education



August: Ecological Economics



November: Ecological Spirituality

Mercy Hub welcomes and provides hospitality to our interstate visitors, Ministry Groups and our McAuley Ministry leaders.



ISMAPNG Ecological Fellowship group 2023 gathered at the Hub prior to their immersion program. (Co-ordinator Sally Neaves Integral Ecology Animator).



Mercy Connect Co ordinators with Sally Bradley, rsm, Director, gathered at the Hub for their training day. The day was facilitated by Margaret Endicott rsm.



Gaye Lennon rsm and Jennifer Hilderbrandt, Co-ordinator, McAuley Ministry (MML) visit the Hub on their Victorian roadmap visit. Pic L - R: Margaret Moore rsm, Gaye Lennon rsm, Jennifer Hilderbrandt, Rosemary Patterson rsm and Adele Howard rsm.

Comfortable Cuppa



Come join us at the Mercy Hub for a Comfortable Cuppa each Wednesday and zoom in on the last Wednesday of the month.

Our Comfortable Cuppa gathering on July 26th was truly very special. Thank you to Cynthia Mullholland who prepared and guided us through the reflection 'Changing your heart through storytelling!' You can access the zoom link which is now available. See latest Institute News for video link. What's your story?



Coming up at the Mercy Hub

August 16th, Earth Connections Ecological Economics – Money as Mercy
Guest speaker: Jemima Welsh (MGA Graduate)

August 30th, Comfortable Cuppa via Zoom (10.30am)
Guest speaker: Claire Renkin (Yarra Theological Union)

Intersection of visual art, theology and spirituality



Farewell to Sibling



We bid a sad farewell to our neighbours at Sibling Cafe by Kinfolk.

We thank them for their wonderful work, especially in their training of young vulnerable people in these years (particularly during the difficult time of COVID). They have been an inspiring part of Mercy in their outreach.

We wish their management and staff every success in their new projects.

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