

Programs for 2008

Join a community of growth and learning, where people come together to share experiences, learn new insights, develop practical initiatives, exchange wisdom and explore new ideas.

Suggested donations (negotiable) cover costs for:

- **Presenters & Conference Facilities**
- **Live-in programs:** meals and accommodation morning and afternoon tea.
- **Live-out programs:** lunch & morning & afternoon tea.
- **Full day programs:** morning & afternoon tea and lunch.
- **Part day or evening programs:** morning/afternoon tea or supper.

Regular Ministry Programs

- **D**epression
Understanding
Concern
Kindness
Support (GWAHS)
- **Work for the Dole (OCTEC)**
- **Community Service Orders (P & P)**
- **Refugees (BRSG)**
- **Aboriginal Reconciliation**



*For information or registrations please contact
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Rahamim

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*Information Brochure
&
Programs in Education &
Spirituality
2008*

*St Joseph's Mount
34 Busby Street Bathurst*

Rahamim

Ecological Learning Community
St Joseph's Mount



Brief History

The Logan Brae home was built in the 1870's by Dr John Busby for his family of eleven children. In 1909 the property was bought by Mr John Meagher and donated to the Sisters of Mercy for use as a formation house & teacher training facility for young novices. It was then named St Joseph's Mount. The property has been in constant use as a convent residence, administration centre and place of ministry and education for almost 100 years.

In more recent years St Joseph's Mount has also been the home of the Mercy & Justice Centre where much advocacy and outreach for the underprivileged and suffering in our local area has been nurtured.

In 2006 the Sisters of Mercy decided to dedicate this property to a ministry with a single focus, which would continue the traditional mercy ministries of caring for the human community, but would situate care of people within the context of care for creation. Placing the Christian/Catholic faith tradition within an ecological framework of comprehensive compassion has brought us to a new learning moment. Our desire is to grow an Ecological Learning Community, where we can share the journey with anyone who wishes to journey with us.

St Joseph's Mount offers a variety of meeting or conference rooms either in the 1870's Heritage Logan Brae home or later additions to St Joseph's Mount.

Heritage Rooms

- John Meagher Room
- Ignatius Croke Room
- Gertrude Sheehey Room
- Busby Room
- Meeting rooms for small groups

St Joseph's Mount Additions

- Conference room with technological capabilities and wheelchair access.
- Convent Chapel
- Dining room with newly renovated kitchen
- Single room accommodation for sixteen with shared bathroom facilities.
- Downstairs accommodation for one.

Other Facilities & Services

- Rahamim Office with computer and photocopying facilities
- Well equipped spirituality and ecology library
- Fiction library
- Labyrinth
- Spacious grounds
- McAuley Cottage offering B&B accommodation for retreatants or a quiet getaway

Bookings for Retreats/Meditation/Workshops, Conferences, Weddings, Funerals, Heritage Tours, Professional Development, Staff Education and In-Service, by arrangement.

Rahamim Ministry

- Sustainable Living
- Hospitality
- Education
- Spirituality
- Social justice
- Care of the Earth

Rahamim Committee

<i>Patricia Powell rsm</i>	<i>Ministry Director</i>
<i>Bernardine Evens rsm</i>	<i>Property & Finance</i>
<i>Patricia Favero</i>	<i>Office Manager</i>
<i>Pat Linnane rsm</i>	<i>Social Justice</i>
<i>Ann-Maree O'Beirne rsm</i>	<i>Communications & Public Relations</i>
<i>Paula Smith rsm</i>	<i>Education & Spirituality</i>

Rahamim: A Hebrew word for mercy. It is related to the word for 'womb' (*rehem*) and designates 'womb-love' – the love of mother (and father) for a child, the love for each other of brothers and sisters, who have shared the same womb. It implies a physical response, compassion for another, felt in the centre of one's body. This mercy also impels us to action.

Adapted from Irene Nowell OSB in *The New Dictionary of Theology* edited by Joseph A Komonchak, Mary Collins and Dermot A. Lane 1987

The cosmic "womb" is a feminine symbol for the all-nourishing abyss out of which the universe emerged: a metaphor for the life-giving, life-sustaining, all loving, all forgiving Creator.

Rahamim ministry is one response to the plight of our world at this time in our history.

Ecology is about the interrelatedness of all of creation. Sustaining life for the whole community of being is what living mercy is essentially about. Catherine McAuley committed her life and her Religious Order to helping others sustain life and live it to the full.

The logo expresses *Rahamim* and the hope and life within the harshness of the Australian landscape.

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Programs for Education & Spirituality 2008

Date	Description of Program	Available for	Presenter
February 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays Donation \$5 per session	Cosmology The Universe Story as sacred story: an exploration of the spiritual powers coursing through the Universe and each of us, drawing on the insights of Brian Swimme. Part 1 of series. 7.30 – 9pm	For All	Patricia Powell rsm Patricia is a Sister of Mercy and an educator in faith and spirituality. She coordinates the Rahamim Ecological Learning Community at St Joseph's Mount, Bathurst. 
Details to be Advised	The Big Picture In this workshop John shows how the way we think about the world affects the way we act in the world. He will look at some successful shifts in Western thinking, both positive and negative, and see what lessons we can learn for surviving climate change in our time.	For All	John Schooneveldt is the convener of Nature and Society Forum and a director of its Sustainability Science Team. He has a PhD in ecologically sustainable decision making and system design. He has worked as an independent business advisor both in Australia and overseas, in the areas of sustainable development, enterprise facilitation and community environmental health and well-being. 
February 8 Friday Twilight Gathering No Fee	United Nations and the Millennium Goals Pat has a UN Commitment to present an action toolkit for leaders and communities in relation to the Millennium Goals. She is available to speak to school staffs, Parish Councils and Community groups by appointment to suit your calendar.	For All	Pat Linnane rsm attended the Conference, "Bridging the Gap between Policy and Practice" sponsored by Mercy Global Concern in conjunction with the 60 th Annual Conference of Non-Governmental Organisations at the United Nations NY in Sept 07. 
February 12 Tuesday No fee	World Youth Day Cross and Icon Journey – Stations of the Cross. All are invited to an evening with the Cross and Icon beginning with a stations of the cross walk through the grounds of St Joseph's Mount, a bbq tea concluding with a vigil of prayer and music in the Mount Chapel.	For All	WYD Cross & Icon have been travelling the world since it left Rome in 2006 and is making its way around our Bathurst Diocese during February. They are visiting Bathurst for 24 hours as their last stop before moving to the next diocese. 
February 24 – 29 Sun – Fri Donation \$75	Retreat in Every Day Life A retreat made over a period of a week whilst life continues as normal. Taking time out for daily prayer and a meeting with your spiritual director.	For All	Patricia Nugent rsm A Sister of Mercy and an experienced Spiritual Director and Retreat Director working in the Central West and beyond Fr Carl Mackander A diocesan priest of the Bathurst Diocese, currently Parish Priest in Orange. Carl is experienced in guiding retreatants in this Retreat in Every Day Life.  
February 29–March 2 Friday Evening till Sunday Lunch Donation Live in \$145 Live out \$65	Tenderness Towards Self and Earth! The Waking Giant: Climate Change – Compassion and Action. An exploration of the impact of climate change on us and our world, and what the 'Waking Giant' sees, hears and feels. An ancient proverb says 'One who does not heed will be made to feel'. This workshop is about the courage it takes to heed and to feel. Limit of 25 people.	For All	Margie Abbott rsm Sociometrist and adult faith educator, Margie works in private practice in the areas of counselling, equal opportunity, spirituality and retreats and is the author of four books. 
Details to be Advised	Natural Sequence Farming and Autonomous Water Systems. This workshop will include practical demonstration of how Peter reads the subtle gradients, forms and patterns that determine the movement of water, nutrient and carbon on and through Australian landscapes, as well as a presentation of his concepts and insights surrounding Natural Sequence Farming. It will also focus on redesigning regional agro-ecosystems that are resilient, profitable and sustainable, and able to adapt to new climatic and socio-political realities. It will also consider options and strategies for assisting local leadership to implement such change.	For All	Peter Andrews is an Australian farmer with a lifetime experience of working the land. He has spent his life seeking insight into how natural cycles and patterns can be restored and utilized to build more sustainable ways of living. Walter Jehne is a soil microbiologist with research experience in CSIRO and extensive work in government and industry. In his work with Healthy Soils Australia, he has been involved in assisting landholders to access and implement innovative soil management and remedial solutions. He is a member of the Sustainability Science team and has a keen interest in developing autonomous water systems.  

<p>March 29 & 30 Saturday & Sunday Donation Live in \$110 Live out \$70</p>	<p>There is a Season for Everything, an introduction to ecospirituality. During this reflective experience, you will be introduced to ecospirituality as articulated by the Earth Link project during the last few years. There will be an opportunity for you to spend time listening to earth at this particular place, to explore how earth embodies the sacred, to celebrate that in ritual moments, and to make some commitment to live in right relationships with the whole earth community.</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Mary Tinney rsm Mary Tinney is the Director of Earth Link, a community environment centre, about an hour out of Brisbane. Mary uses her skills in education and facilitation to work towards turning her vision of a world where there is "respect, reverence and care for the whole earth community" into reality. You can learn more about the project at www.earth-link.org.au</p> 
<p>April 11 - 13 Fri - Sun Donation \$145</p>	<p>Weekend Silent Retreat (Limit of 12 live-in) Commencing Friday evening with dinner and concluding Sunday afternoon with mass.</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Patricia Nugent rsm As above</p>
<p>May 7, 14, 21, 28. Wednesdays Donation \$5 per session</p>	<p>Cosmology - Part 2 of series. 7.30 - 9.00pm</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Patricia Powell rsm As above</p>
<p>June 4, 11, 18, 25. Wednesdays 10am - 12.30pm Donation \$5 per session</p>	<p>"Waters of Life" Where and how do women find the waters of Life: An examination of some of the implications of this question in the story of four women from the Scriptures - Mrs Noah, Elisabeth, Mary, mother of Jesus and the Woman at the Well.</p>	<p>Women of all ages - 7 to 70+</p>	<p>Paula Smith rsm Educator and sociologist who has worked for many years with women's storytelling. In these workshops she is celebrating the ways in which women sustain life.</p> 
<p>July 26 & 27 Saturday & Sunday No fee</p>	<p>Social Analysis An opportunity to reflect, rejoice, reassess and map the journey forward, towards growing a Mercy Ecological Learning Community, through a process of revisiting the goals of Rahamim; assessing the impact of action re issues identified as critical; noting the unexpected issues that took us by surprise and how we responded; naming the challenges ahead and the gifts and talents available to meet them. Limit of 25 people.</p>	<p>For Rahamim Committee & Core Group</p>	<p>Eveline Crotty rsm Eveline Crotty is a Sister of Mercy. She has been involved with varying communities of people marginalised by society and seeking justice. Eveline has a Masters Degree from Boston in Clinical Pastoral Training and is currently involved in this training in Australia.</p> 
<p>August 4, 11, 18 & 25 Mondays 10.30 - 1.00pm Donation \$5 per session</p>	<p>Faith & Ecology - Sustaining life and Relationship with ourselves, our God, our world and each other. This journey will endeavour to explore through life experience, theology, prayer, reflection and sharing with others, what it could mean to live more sustainably in our society today.</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Ann-Maree O'Beirne rsm Educator and Parish Pastoral Assistant for many years, now in full time theological studies. Ann-Maree is interested and experienced in developing retreats and liturgies enabling participants to find expression of their own experience of God in everyday life.</p> 
<p>August 6, 13, 20, 27 Wednesdays Donation \$5 per session</p>	<p>Cosmology - Part 3 of series. 7.30 - 9.00pm</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Patricia Powell rsm As above</p>
<p>October 2 - 10 Thur 2 to following Fri 10 Donation \$530</p>	<p>"Heartland" - Seven Day Silent Retreat This silent retreat is a reflective journey through our Mercy "heartland", (our constitutions) mining the underlying riches of these sources of our Mercy life. There will be a daily focus for reflection, opportunity for spiritual direction, prayer and ritual together, and encouragement to use creative means for accessing the place within, where God and I are one. <i>Limit of 14 participants.</i></p>	<p>Sisters of Mercy</p>	<p>Madeline Duckett rsm A Sister of Mercy, teacher and spiritual director. She has a background in education, theology and spirituality. Most recently she has worked in women's spirituality and Mercy Ethos formation within institutions of the Melbourne Congregation. <i>(Please bring to the retreat a copy of the Constitutions and a journal if you have one).</i></p> 
<p>November 8 & 9 Sat & Sun Donation Live in \$135 Live out \$95</p>	<p>"Dreaming a New Earth" a workshop that explores the relationship between energy and creativity; physicality and spirituality.</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Maree Haggerty rsm is a Sister of Mercy and an educator who holds a Masters of Arts in Applied Theology, A doctor of Ministry in Creation Spirituality, is a certified teacher of InterPlay and a trained process facilitator.</p> 
<p>November 29 Saturday No fee</p>	<p>Advent Prayer Afternoon: an opportunity at the end of the year to pause, relax, reflect and wait in a spirit of openness and peace as a preparation for Christmas.</p>	<p>For All</p>	<p>Patricia Nugent rsm As above</p>