

Welcome from David Penny

Hello everyone,

I trust you have all had a good start to 2018. I know many of you took the opportunity to have a break over Christmas and into January and I hope this was a time of rejuvenation for you all.

A major focus this year for Sisters, staff and our ministries will be to deepen our understanding of the 2017 Chapter Statement and to embrace the challenges that it offers in all that we do as part of the wider Institute.

The statement says:

***At this time of global vulnerability
God's transforming mercy
fires out hearts anew with
deeper reverence for all creation.***

***Disturbed by
the despair and suffering of many peoples
and the degradation of Earth
we are impelled to reflective action for
gospel justice.***

The Chapter Statement will shape the direction of the Institute over the next six years and it is something which I hope will not only become familiar to you all, but also that you enthusiastically embrace. Paying homage to its title, the statement was developed at the 2017 Chapter in August, following much discernment, prayer, research and collaboration. There will be opportunities this year and in the coming years to explore more closely the Chapter statement and what it means for your work for the Institute.

There will also be time for you to consider how you might like to embrace its principles in your everyday life. To assist with this, I have sought below to begin to unpack some of its main themes.

The Chapter statement commences with recognition of the vulnerable times in which we live on this Earth. I am sure you have all heard of Pope Francis' 184 page Encyclical, 'Laudato Si', in which he spoke of our connectness not only with one another but with the whole of creation:

The universe unfolds in God, who fills it completely. Hence, there is a mystical meaning to be found in a leaf, in a mountain trail, in a dewdrop, in a poor person's face. The ideal is not only to pass from the exterior to the interior to discover the action of God in the soul, but also to discover God in all things .(223).

Understanding that we are all connected and that God is in all things, should fire our hearts anew with a deeper reverence for everything. Many years ago, it was wrongly thought that the Earth was here for our sole use. This mindset led to resources being used as if they were infinite and the widespread destruction of forests and other important habitats. Recognising a new paradigm, brings with it a recognition that every living thing is sacred. It should also mean that we become deeply disturbed by the suffering and degradation of the Earth, so disturbed that we are propelled into 'reflective action for gospel justice'.

The Chapter statement just doesn't say impelled into action, it says 'reflective action' which means action always informed by evidence, knowledge, our wisdom traditions and where appropriate in dialogue with those who may be displaced and marginalized and also with those who may have a different point of view. →

The concept of justice is at the heart of the Gospel, evidenced most strongly in the witness to God’s love modelled for us by Jesus and his acts of concern for the vulnerable, the excluded, and oppressed. As people working for a Christian organisation, all of us are seeking to follow Jesus’ example in how we undertake our work and in so doing hopefully contribute to a more just world.

As mentioned above, there will be times to more closely unpack, reflect and act upon the Chapter Statement during the coming years. In the mean time, you might like to place the Statement in an accessible place and every now and then reflect on what it means and the contribution you are making towards its fulfilment.

Sincerely,

David Penny

Executive Leader, Operations.

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Mercy Matters feedback survey

On Tuesday of next week you will be invited to undertake a short survey for ISMAPNG employees compiled by the Human Resources and Communications Teams to get your views on this newsletter, Mercy Matters. It should only take around five minutes of your time to complete. It will assist us in ensuring that communication with you continues to be relevant and accessible. As this is an anonymous survey you aren’t required to put your name on it.

Thank you in anticipation of your participation in this survey. The link to the Mailchimp survey will be sent via a separate email. We would appreciate your responses by Friday 23rd of February.

New Appointments

- **Mary Casella** – Personal Carer, Ballarat
- **Anne Pate** – Programs and Activities Facilitator, Mercy Hub Melbourne
- **Christine Battese** – Personal Assistant to Community Leader North

Current Vacancies

- **Mercy Associates Network Facilitator** – North Queensland
- **Young Mercy Links** – Project Coordinator

All vacant positions are advertised on the ISMAPNG website. On the home page www.institute.mercy.org.au you will see it under the heading become involved or follow this link <http://institute.mercy.org.au/become-involved/employment-opportunities/>

For further information please contact Human Resources on 02 4964 6400 or humanresources@ismapng.org.au

Mercy Matters

If you would like any further information on any of the topics, have heard something that has not been communicated that you would like clarification on, or have an article that you would like to see published in Mercy Matters please email mercymatters@ismapng.org.au

Farewell lunch for Elaine Wainwright

On Wednesday last week we officially gave gratitude to Elaine Wainwright (Central B) with a lunch at Lewisham as her position as Executive Leader, Mission and Ministry was brought to a close. It was an appropriate acknowledgment for all Elaine has achieved in this position over the past two years which includes - establishing the Mission and Ministry Team; coordinating the MIRP process for MIA across the globe in conjunction with others, overseeing the establishment and implementation of our Sustainable Living Policy; and, the review of ongoing formation for Sisters, staff and ministries. Elaine was also a valued member of the former Executive Leadership Team offering wise and considered counsel.

We wish Elaine all the very best as she embarks on the huge task of writing a new book.



Photo – Caroline Ryan and Elaine Wainwright

ISMAPNG Office in Townsville

Dear Sisters and Staff,

As indicated in an email from Sr Berneice Loch late last year, it was decided not to renew the lease on the current Townsville ISMAPNG office site which falls due on 30 March 2018. This decision directly impacts the role of Personal Assistant to Community Leader North, which will relocate to Rockhampton alongside the Community Leader's Office.

It is with pleasure that I inform you that we have successfully appointed an internal candidate to the Personal Assistant position in Rockhampton. Christine Battese has accepted this position and will commence on Monday 29 January. Christine will work Monday-Thursday and will provide support to Sr Helen whilst also being a key interface to sisters in the northern community.

Christine's appointment has prompted us to provide Anna Ardill with her formal notice. As such, Anna will finish her employment in Townsville with ISMAPNG on Friday 16 February. I take this opportunity to thank Anna for her contribution to ISMAPNG and wish her the very best for the future.

Christine and Anna will spend the week beginning 29 January together in Townsville, as Anna imparts her knowledge and hands over the responsibilities of the position to Christine.

Please join me in congratulating Christine on her appointment to this position and provide her with the support required as she settles into this role.

Yours sincerely,

Human Resources Team

Greetings from Rahamim

For those who haven't heard of us before, Rahamim Ecology Centre is ISMAPNG's environmental education, spirituality and advocacy ministry. The name of the centre, "Rahamim", is a Hebrew word meaning compassion which is felt deep within one's very being.

Based in Bathurst, 3 hours' drive west of Sydney, Rahamim is situated in the historic (1877) Logan Brae house, which has been a Mercy convent, administration centre and ministry since 1909. Logan Brae sits on 10 acres of land which include a food forest, arboretum, comprehensive urban water management system including swales and leaky dams, bee hives, a frog sanctuary, fish ponds, chook forage beds, community gardens, views over Bathurst and towards the Blue Mountains, and more. The buildings house a conference room, chapel, dining room, commercial kitchen, library, meeting rooms and accommodation (including kitchen for self-catering and common living room) for up to 25 people.

In 2017 we shifted our focus from the Central West of New South Wales to supporting ISMAPNG's implementation of its 2016 Sustainable Living Policy.



Photo - Children and adults join Rahamim's Sustainability Educator, Jen Ringbauer, for a workshop about water wise vegetable gardening at the annual Rahamim film festival.

We are now proud to have a number of [scheduled](#) and [on-demand](#) education and formation programs (able to be delivered at Rahamim or anywhere in Australia or Papua New Guinea), and a range of [resources](#), to support ISMAPNG's practice of care for our common home (Pope Francis' 8th spiritual and corporal work of mercy) at all levels from kindergarten to board room.

Other highlights from 2017 include:

- The commencement of our Online Educator, who will be working with ISMAPNG to build tailor-made programs and resources which can be accessed by anyone with an internet connection
- The addition of a Sustainability Educator, who is overseeing the management of the land at Rahamim and looks forward to developing practical programs to support care of Earth at ISMAPNG and Mercy ministry properties across Australia and PNG
- The recruitment of a new Hospitality Coordinator, who prepares beautiful seasonal, organic and ethical food for Rahamim's events, both in Bathurst and elsewhere
- Development of our website to include stories of Mercy in action from Rahamim, ISMAPNG and across the Mercy world
- The building of a specialist library of hard-copy resources of books, DVDs and CDs which can be viewed from anywhere in ISMAPNG via our [online catalogue](#) and items borrowed by mail.

In 2018, and now with our full complement of staff, we are looking forward to continuing the work we began last year, in partnership with you all.

If you'd like to stay in touch with Rahamim, you can do so by:

- [Signing up for our newsletter](#)
- [Liking our Facebook page](#)
- [Visiting our website](#)

Ellen Geraghty

Executive Officer
Rahamim Ecology Centre

Tech Tips



Outlook Web App

Did you know, you can access your ISMAPNG emails from any web browser on any PC with 'Outlook Web App'. This can be handy if you are out of the office.

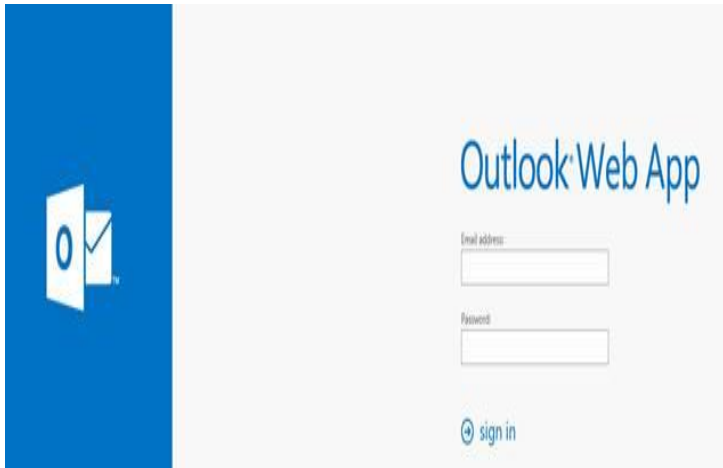
Additionally, the Outlook Web App is very feature rich and has the same functionality as Outlook.

The website is:

<http://outlook.ismapng.org.au>

With the Outlook Web App, you can also access your email archive and any shared mailboxes you normally access.

To do this, click on your name on the top right and then chose 'Open another Mailbox' then type in the name of the shared mailbox.

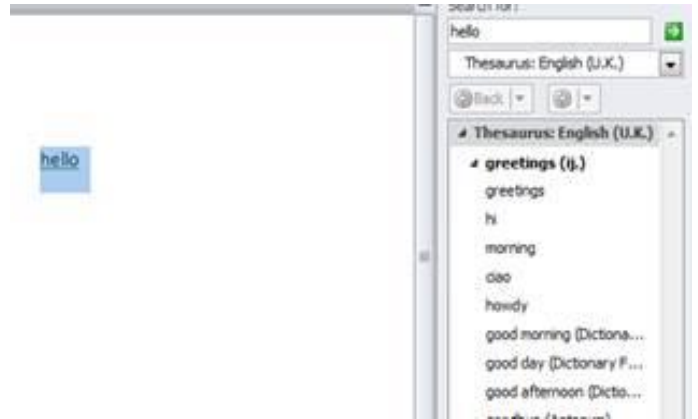


Keyboard Shortcut of the Month

Shift + F7 to lookup a word in Microsoft's thesaurus.

In Microsoft Office documents such as Word or an Outlook email, you can highlight a word and press Shift + F7

Example:



Technology

03 9490 6600

WHS - Workplace Safety Inspections

Welcome to 2018!

As you are aware, one of the many ways we ensure our sites are safe is through regular quarterly inspections.

Our first inspection is due this month.

Workplace inspections use a checklist to help identify hazards. Once hazards are identified, solutions are required to be put in place to ensure the hazard is controlled or eliminated.

We want everyone to be active in ensuring their workplace is safe and hence need all to be involved to help complete an inspection when required.

And if you see a hazard in your day to day job then please report it straight away to your site manager and ensure no one else enters the area. Under the legislation we also have a duty of care to others.

Stay Safe.

Peter Byrne

WHS Advisor – Tighes Hill

