



ACAULEY MINISTRIES
LIMITED



Newsletter 4 August 2018

“A Better World”



Thank you too for the many messages of appreciation. The quality of the event reflected the quality of your participation.



There was strong support for a 2019 gathering. We will do some work on dates and venue and get the information to you so that you can put the dates in your diary for next year.



For those not able to be with us this year, the Communications team have posted on line [some videos](#) and images and there will be further items in the next Just Mercy newsletter. Those who provided the *vox pops* will see themselves featured!

We are grateful to the Institute Communications team for their support.

At our gatherings we are able to celebrate the rich variety of ministry and service that is MML.

Gathering thank you

Thank you for your enthusiastic participation - we had a great two days and your thoughtful evaluations will be helpful for planning of the next gathering.

Sustainability

Chris Hill, Environmental Sustainability Manager, and Ellen Geraghty, Executive Officer Rahamim, have provided materials following on from their session at the MML gathering:

Feedback from Sustainability / Rahamim exercise

Thanks to all for participating in our activity at the recent MML gathering. The individual responses have been collated and the following actions stem from the thoughts and ideas that were offered based on the 43 responses received. Attached to this newsletter are the collated ideas [pp. 4-11].

What will happen now?

In response to this feedback, Chris Hill will:

- Continue the roll out of solar installations across the ISMAPNG communities
- Assist the Professional Services team with a review of vehicles within the ISMAPNG fleet
- Develop a “dashboard” for reporting – this will flow from the agreed targets that will be included in the Environmental management Plan
- Coordinate the advocacy as an Institute for issues such as renewable energy, Investment / Divestment, waste considerations

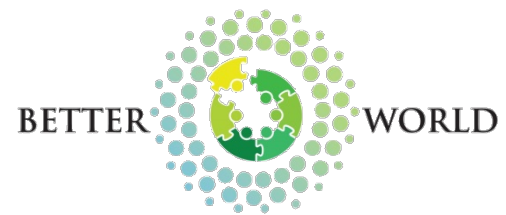
Rahamim will:

- Provide Sisters and other stakeholders with education, formation and opportunities for discussion and shared learning which bring care of Earth into dialogue with our sacred stories, including the Mercy story
- Improve its communication of programs (including school programs) and resources to ensure all are aware of opportunities which are available, particularly as the number of online programs grows
- Expand its online offerings, including the use of social/multi media

- Grow its partnerships with Mercy ministries and vulnerable communities, including indigenous Australians and farmers
- Explore opportunities for using MML facilitators and sites for its programs

We thank you for sharing what you are already doing in your lives and communities, and your ideas for how we might move forward together to show mercy to our common home, and in so doing, build a better world!

Chris Hill, Environmental Sustainability Manager, and Ellen Geraghty, Executive Officer Rahamim



Zoom Conferencing

Anne-Maree O’Beirne has offered to assist people to learn to use Zoom Conferencing.

Zoom is an alternative to Skype for video conference calling and can be an effective tool for interest groups to network; for supervisors and spiritual directors to meet with clients who are in remote locations and not able to travel to meet face to face; and for a useful means for Sister’s own Supervision and Spiritual Direction if needed.

Please contact Ann-Maree directly if you would like to learn more about [Zoom](#). Her email is anmaree.obeirne@mercy.org.au

Professional Development Opportunity

Transforming Practices have advised an upcoming workshop that may be of interest to supervisors and spiritual directors in the Sydney area. The details can be found on <http://transformingpractices.com.au/>

[Vulnerability as Gift in Pastoral Supervision](#) with Rev Dr Michael Paterson will be an exceptional opportunity for pastoral and ministry supervisors, educators, formators and spiritual directors.

Saturday September 8, 9.30am - 3.30pm at Good Samaritan Centre, 2 Avenue Rd Glebe
Cost: \$250 (TP members \$150)
PD hours: 5

Morning tea and light lunch provided

Payment by Sept 1: to

Direct debit: BSB 802-084 Acc No 106471

Please put your surname and 'Paterson' in the description line

Registrations are essential by September 1. Places are limited, so you are advised to register and pay as soon as possible to ensure your place. Registrations with payment will get first places.

A Resource

Colleen Rhodes has alerted us to the website of the **[Australian Ecumenical Council for Spiritual Direction](#)** where there is information about mandatory reporting. The Council provides helpful resources via their website and their annual conference.



MML Office is moving



You may have read in the recent Institute newsletter that the MML office is moving to the Institute building at 1 Thomas St Lewisham which has recently been vacated by MercyWorks. This move is at the request of the ILT.

We move on Tuesday 4 September and we will be based on the first floor. The offices are bright and modern overlooking some magnificent trees. If you are in Sydney please come and visit us.

We do not yet have our new telephone number. We will advise you once we have it – as you know Telstra is not a rapid responder!

The email and postal addresses remain the same.

Until the number has been provided please continue to use the Stanmore office number 02 9572 5400. The Stanmore staff will be able to assist you in linking with us.

McAuley Ministries Limited

1 Thomas Street Lewisham NSW 2049

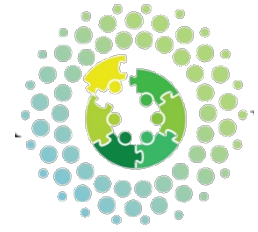
(PO Box 284 Petersham NSW 2049)

E mcauleyministries@ismapng.org.au

Appendix

Attached is the appendix (8 pages) with the Gathering feedback from Chris Hill and Ellen Geraghty.

Appendix



Feedback from Sustainability / Rahamim exercise

MML Gathering – Sydney - August 6th to 7th

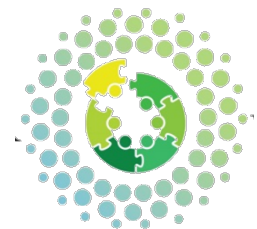
Thanks to all for participating in our activity at the recent MML gathering. The individual responses have been collated below.

How can we work together for better care of the world? What are you already doing? What actions are already in place?

Common thoughts were very much aligned to the suggestions and hints from the “Simple Daily Gestures “ booklet – and this is likely to be from a combination of common existing behaviours already in place coupled with an increased awareness of other possibilities that are now becoming part of your normal routines. The full list is provided below as perhaps this may spark a new interest for you after hearing what others have raised.

- Garden by the moon – making use of the rise and fall of moon energy, Can also apply to other human activities
- Composting – very careful of waste
- ‘war” on plastic bags – proactive with local shops /supermarkets
- Water conserving as far as possible
- New bins – recycling /composting for Stanmore office
- Increasing awareness of plastic and efforts to overthrow it
- Chemical reductions and using sustainable chemicals
- Water savings
- Energy Savings
- Sort rubbish – no plastic bags where possible
- Have a backyard garden – composting
- Buy local where possible – fresh food
- Recycling
- Not flushing toilet
- Turing off lights not in use
- Using public Transport when possible
- Recycling our use of plastic for food storage
- Recycling as much as possible focusing on ensuring wat we dispose of is uncontaminated
- Replacing our garden vegetation with plants that are more drought resistant and are natives which attract fauna
- Using ethanol mix for our vehicles
- Simple Daily gestures
- Inviting others into an increasing awareness of the interconnectedness of the whole of creation
- We have borrowed videos and shared at school service
- We have advertised the resources to primary and secondary schools

- Simple Daily Gestures – Recycle / Compost / Organic and free range food / Consumption consciousness
- Grateful contemplation of creation – research and writing
- Solar panels in place
- Recycling soft plastics – Awareness of plastic use...attempting to be more practical
- Belong to online book club – conversations and sharing's (Along the Murray)
- Composting and growing flowers and vegetables at home
- Care of cemetery garden
- Gardening at one of ISMAPNG ministries Viz Mercy Services
- Harnessing the green areas
- Organising the back garden in such a way so it cools the whole house
- With the assistance of the community to gather the straws – all outlets have been contacted
- Recycling batteries
- Almost moved to paperless office environment
- No plastic in office kitchen – reusable coffee / tap water etc
- More creative use of food , less wastage, more careful and planned purchasing
- More thoughtful use of power e.g. dress warmer to avoid continues use of heating
- Using undercover clothesline so dryer use can be kept o a minimum
- Trying to reduce plastic waste
- Trying to reduce carbon footprint
- Public transport use
- Buying locally
- Plastic free as much as possible
- Taking containers when I am buying in bulk
- Turning off power switches when not is use
- My council allows food scraps to go into green bin
- Consciousness raising about use of energy etc. leading to action
- Actively reducing waste in whatever ways I can
- Actively appreciating the beauty and complexity of this beloved earth through contemplation, leading to taking action to be responsible / accountable / informed.
- Mercy creek development – Seville in cairns
- Mercy scripture scholars and theologians writing in this area
- MML promotion of rainforest retreat
- Garden in Stanmore
- Recycling focus in Alphington
- Oversee greater focus, develop understanding in offices
- Part of Stanmore initiatives – plastic free, composting, vegetable garden
- Recycling on site
- Program of student events using recycled materials
- Offer only fair trade coffee
- Growing own vegie garden and fruit trees
- Sharing produce with others
- Using moon chart for planting crops / watering / harvesting



- Keep cups for travel
- Rugging up in winter. Curtains / door snakes at doors etc.
- Use up all of the produce from our fruit trees to make into items for sale e.g. marmalade/ jams
- Recycling
- Simple daily gestures implemented
- Recycling
- Composting
- Growing our own produce and using for meals
- Conserve electricity – turning lights off, fans, air conditioning when not at home.
- E newsletters not mailing
- More online / like governance forum
- Burn rather than poison in yard
- Australian natives....
- Moving with others to a more seasonal plant based diet (involves growing and sharing produce)
- Now have no land – fill bin and put recycle bin out every six to eight weeks
- Tanks linked to toilet, laundry, garden (need to link to shower)
- Our office and my house – recycles as much as we can
- I grow my own vegetables and we share one another’s produce in season
- I have a sustainability corner in my newsletter
- I use eco friendly cleaning materials
- Water tanks for garden
- Tried composting - but RATS!
- Recycling / attempting to reduce plastic
- Recycling
- Reducing plastic use
- Free range eggs
- Conscious recycling / reuse
- Solar hot water in place – turn off boost in water weather but not on -5degree days!
- Walk rather than drive
- Trying hard to minimise waste / food , water, power
- Recycle what is possible
- Composting – Not yet doing but investigating possibilities
- I have a “no dig” vegetable garden to share with people living in my village of units
- Travel by train where possible
- Collect bananas from my uncle that he throws out and share them with elderly people and the needy
- Getting a worm farm
- Home composting
- waste management
- vegetable gardens
- no heating or cooling via air conditioning
- tank water for watering
- no red meat

- public transport
- Working with friends of the earth on climate justice with special focus on the pacific and Torres strait
- Member of ARRCC Qld and work through NUAA Qld
- Support for Climate council
- Reducing waste (household)
- Minimising use of plastics
- Being aware of heating / lighting necessary / unnecessary
- Food waste not suitable for my worm farm goes into my collection bin
- Turing heating down to a very low setting on cold nights because I tis less expensive to heat space on the following day when some heat is retained
- Use public transport when possible
- Recycling , reducing use of plastic bags
- Garden beds awaiting use in new home
- Use Vinegar to kill weeds between tiles / bricks
- Teaching Laudato si in various forms as a way of contributing to a lived theology/ specialty / practice of sustainable living
- Growing vegetables
- Maintain a compost bin
- Recycling
- Using tank water more creatively for garden

What insights have you learned or what possibilities do you see that excite you?

These responses were very pleasing to read as there is a clear indication that Sisters are very engaged and supportive of our sustainability focus and are keen to know how our consumption patterns are tracking. Outreach to many of our stakeholders is also a common theme, be it focused on the youth or through the wide variety of people who are supported by our ministries.

- Interested in school programs
- Changing of attitudes is “on the way” – we are much more conscious
- The diversity of the places where this expresses itself
- Continuing appreciation for Laudato Si – core message is Ever-New
- Solar
- Batteries
- That we have an enthusiastic and competent sustainability team
- That there is a real movement towards integrating ministry for mission
- The continuing roll out of solar panels to reduce our dependence on energy consumption of carbon based fossil fuels
- I’m very grateful to hear of the proactive steps being taken by ISMAPNG n the area of alternative energy production and reducing carbon emissions
- You have done wonderful work in such a short time particularly in education and spirituality resources and programs

- I appreciated the levels of consciousness chart and practical methods of using it to further respond to the cry of the earth
- Good to hear these things this morning but not any great new things or insights for me
- Valued the explanation of tiers of consciousness
- Ministry partnerships are exciting
- Ensure that what has begun will be followed up and encourage with the help of others that care of the river
- Demonstrations to farmers and indigenous groups sharing together
- Cross Ministry Collaboration
- Tailoring of Rahamim program offerings to suit different organisations
- Opportunity for deeper connection with multicultural staff because “care of the earth” is a common and recognized value
- Learning more about solar power
- Good news of how the institute has decreased its extravagance in terms of power and water usage
- Energized to be even more alert to responsibilities
- More use of “pool cars” if available when holidaying interstate
- Use solar energy, water tank – making informed decisions about these
- Being aware of motor vehicle usage, and of what are the best vehicles to use, especially as I age
- To be informed about what personal responsible steps can be taken that contribute to the whole
- Use of MML sites for education
- Use of MML facilitators
- The professional approach of Rahamim to program development and delivery
- The progress we are making in implementation of sustainability goals
- Partnering with other ministries is a very exciting prospect e.g. cooking classes for homeless
- Develop onsite garden with participation from students and staff and visitors
- Develop this into larger activities or projects
- Develop prayers / activities that connect Catherine / eco/ God for students
- Getting further information as you research usage etc. to share with sisters
- Benefits of having one account – savings etc. – joint responsibility for use of resources
- Responsible use of resources – saving - conserving energy – conserving safety and health
- Encouraging children / schools to grow own gardens
- I found the information on the cars most interesting
- Working together can make an impact
- Possibilities for education and integrating into all aspects of the workplace
- Daily efforts
- Moving to greater collaboration within ministries
- Learning all manner of things form “war on waste” (Battery disposal etc.)
- Bringing learnings etc. into dialogue with our sacred stories
- I believe in and support solar electricity
- Continuation of MIRP – especially Advocacy
- Not flushing the toilet each time
- Compost food scraps
- Need to advertise more, let us know what is available

- Solar power – when is it coming to us?
- Sustainable Investments
- The balance between action and reflection – need both
- Bring into daily conversations – be part of the daily solution
- Range of activities already underway at Rahamim
- Move to Impact Investment (Chris) take to Finance advisory council
- Online programs – I feel motivated to investigate and take on board
- I support the motor vehicle research
- Want to explore more about whole ‘consciousness’ issue and whether its upward or regression
- Online access to resources
- At Institute level, how much work / research goes into increasing Sustainability
- Movement towards solar energy
- Use less paper – use computer
- War on waste suggestions re moving to sorting waste for re use
- Online programs, websites, use of media
- Good to be aware of the range of possibilities at Rahamim
- Encouraged by Chris H’s work through different levels of the institute

What are the impactful next steps that you or your teams can action?

Many of the identified ideas below were based on some of the initiatives that we are already working on – e.g. Solar and Transport considerations, along with a real push for recycling and waste opportunities. Requests for more information and sharing of data also arose as a common theme and this certainly links in with one of the guiding principles of our Sustainable Living policy to “measure our change” and this is still a work in progress as we capture existing and future consumption data that we will then assess against targets as part of the development of the Environmental Management Plan. It is also clear that there is a desire for the development of some “fact sheets” to help communicate and educate Sisters with a variety of sustainability related topics – Watch this space – they are coming!

The ongoing support of Rahamim and the continued development of structured education programs is a definite area that you and your team can link in with to help you spread the word of ecological conversion.

- Get solar installed
- Recycle more (commercially)
- Try to reduce the amount of waste paper and plastic
- I’m wondering if our organisation could be “a voice’ in a call to action for National action in the area of recycling of waste
- We will continue to advertise the programs and education to schools and also to the parish where I live
- Continue to rework my retreat programs that open others to conversion in this area
- MAZE bags – Bunnings
- Mainly keep being (involved / informed) as I’m already doing this in my local area
- My question would be – coming to gatherings via various transports / fuel costs / easier to do / what is the impact on the environment?
- Faith

- Meat free Mondays - continue to the end of the year
- Monthly discussion of care of our common home post MIRP
- Invite Sally or another Rahamim speaker to present at FW
- More conscious efforts to recycle and use waste products to renew the soil
- More considered catering – no need for extravagance in wastage
- I would like to request information sheets being sent out to us from Chris’s team to help us make energy efficient decisions. E.g. Is it more energy efficient to turn our central heating off at night or keep it at low overnight? I have raised this with Chris before and he said it varies from place to place. If we could get information about what energy would be needed to raise from varying temperature sheets it would be helpful. **Chris response** – this can be difficult due to the wide range of heating and cooling options that may be in use across our institute. As a general response, if you leave your heating or cooling on 24/7, rather than turning it off when not required, you will typically end up using more fuel in a like-for-like situation. This is because some heat / cooling loss will always occur due to the difference between the temperature outside your house and the temperature you are trying to maintain on the inside. So, if you have your heating or cooling on all of the time, your system will be using energy on an ongoing basis to maintain the inside temperature.
- Talk more about what I already do in terms of waste
- Continue to use public transport if possible
- Making deliberate connections between the spirituality underpinning the action for a better world and the actions themselves
- MML managers working together to plan sustainable practices for their ministry sites
- Explore “rainforest” retreats to offer at Santa Casa (Victoria). Can include great ocean road and Apollo bay. Also explore potential retreats for similar venture in Perth
- Continue to find data to link with measuring changes in behaviour
- Develop a dashboard approach to promote changes to all sites
- Have liked Rahamim Facebook site and will look at what’s on offer and have conversations with staff about what we can do
- Share and promote Rahamim site and actively support the social media
- A badge system – that shows an accreditation of eco friendly practices – for example within MML. “Stars” for attaining “We recycle”, “we use fair trade”, “We are vegetarian”
- Awareness at gatherings of sustainable materials – paper bags for take away – acknowledge the people who prepared and also other than human resources used to make event happen
- Water tank for garden
- Encourage children to not use so much plastic etc
- Can review the chemicals used at the singleton convent
- Keeping ALL as sacred / ALL is independent and inter dependent / ALL is one
- Educating each other
- Pushing ministries
- Ecological efforts as part of our ethos
- Recycle batteries etc rather than garbage
- Solar panels please
- Hybrid cars please
- More use of public transport / less air travel
- What do I do with batteries and toner cartridges?

- Household alternatives to plastic bags for throwing out rubbish
- Get solar power
- Buy an Aero bin
- Collaboration amongst ministries
- Support the town community garden
- Tend my vegetable garden
- Use my craft collection before buying more fabric
- More political advocacy, working on bi / multi lateral approaches
- Working with new coalition at UQ on climate change and human rights
- Purchase less clothing of good quality so it will last
- Direct work in Spirituality to a more ecological framework
- Continue to keep in touch with sustainable initiatives in our local mercy communities and nationally
- Using public transport