

"Perfection does not consist in doing extraordinary actions, but in performing extraordinarily well the ordinary actions of every day"

— Catherine McAuley

Table of Contents

04

Welcome

Message

05

Mission and

Values

06

Governance

O7

MML Ministries

08

Spotlight on Ministries 15

Members

Welcome

Message from the Chair

'Let me know when you are closely pressed and I will divide with you, be it ever so little.'

Catherine McAuley

I have been pondering the words of Catherine McAuley again recently. She continues to inspire, challenge and point me in the direction of grace. As chair of MML Board I have the rich privilege of witnessing the response to God's mission of Mercy in the ministries of sisters and centre managers, staff and volunteers.

In the following pages you are invited to engage with some of these responses as shared by sisters. Myriad responses bring to life mercy. Each is part of a bigger vision of Mercy and requires the support of each other as well as that of the board and the wider Institute.

Catherine's words, noted above, cause me to reflect on the responsibility we all share in being good stewards of resources. In a world where financial independence is valued, Catherine's words may seem countercultural. They are, however, a reminder of a humble stance of valuing and sharing what one may have with others. MML is fortunate to have the financial support of the Institute so that ministries can plan with confidence and flourish within the community they serve.

In a particular way I would like to acknowledge and thank Jenny Hildebrandt, MML Coordinator, for her steadfastness, her resilience, and clarity as we have navigated the practicalities of ministry plans, reports, finances and areas of compliance.

Our compliance processes, including finances are supported by Professional Services within the Institute.

I am pleased to be able to commend this annual report, giving account of ministry activities, compliance and financial accountability for the year 2022-2023.

Gaye Lennon RSM Chair

Message from the Coordinator

I was fortunate this year to be able to travel with Gaye to visit some of our centres and receive a small glimpse of ministry in practice. I have met with centre managers, employees and volunteers as well as some sisters in individual ministry. It is evident from the conversations and the 6monthly reports that each and every person receiving the services of MML is moved to respond to the needs of their community and that the ministries are well and truly flourishing.

2022-2023 has seen the development of new initiatives and an increase in activity, including travel, as confidence builds in the wider community. It is also encouraging to witness the resilience of each ministry as adaptations are made in response to circumstance, enabling all to contribute to the broader vision of MML.

It has been rewarding to work closely with the various professional service teams within the Institute, who are generous with their time and advice, providing excellent support for our ministries. We continue to review and adapt our processes, always striving towards empowering our ministries in the provision of excellent, professional services.

Jenny Hildebrandt Coordinator

Our Mission

The Board of McAuley Ministries exercises governance for the formal non incorporated ministries of ISMAPNG.

The Board seeks to govern, empower and enable those ministries in the provision of excellent, professional services.

Our Vision

The people and ministries in McAuley Ministries give expression to God's mission of mercy. The ministries enhance the quality of life of those who are served.

Sisters and lay people within MML serve with a strong sense of purpose, confident that they contribute to the larger reality of mercy mission.

Under the McAuley Ministries banner, Sisters and partners in Mercy provide a wide range of services that are truly spiritual and corporal works of mercy in today's world.

They are:

- ministering as educators, managers, consultants, writers, researchers, musicians, bioethicists, environmentalists, ecologists and advocates for justice.
- providing counselling, psychological therapy, chaplaincy, pastoral supervision, mediation, retreats, spiritual direction and facilitation.
- working in community development, and facilitation
- supporting rural communities
- offering hospitality in retreat, spirituality and heritage centres
- · teaching music, speech and drama.

Our Values



Justice



Hospitality



Excellence



Respect



Compassion



Diversity

Governance MML Board of Directors



Directors serving during the current reporting period:

Sr Gaye Lennon RSM

Sr Eveline Crotty RSM

Sr Caroline Ryan RSM

Sr Elizabeth Moloney RSM

Sr Maureen Sexton RSM

The MML Board has met four times in the 2022 – 2023 year.

All compliance requirements with ASIC and ACNC have been met.

Risk and safeguarding policies are firmly in place.

The completed Audit Report is available on request.

The financial viability of the Company is guaranteed by the Institute.

The Directors consider carefully and in detail the financial reports. The Board provides an annual budget to fund each of its ministries and its operations.

The Members re-appointed ShineWing Auditors for the 2022-2023 financial year.

Objectives 2022-2024

- 1. Ministries within MML are living expressions of the mission of ISMAPNG (the Institute) to embody God's mission of Mercy in today's changing world
- 2. The Board promotes the growth of MML by proactive collaboration with Mission Integration in nurturing new ministries
- 3. The organisation retains its flexibility in responding to the developing needs and demands of the Institute and the world
- 4. All ministries within MML offer professional, quality services
- 5. Each site-based ministry within MML is well managed, accountable to MML and moves through its life cycle in a way that is appropriate to the ministry and to the people it serves
- 6. Processes of communication are constantly reviewed to facilitate and ensure effective coordination and interaction between the Institute and MML.

MML Ministries

At the end of June 2023, MML engaged 33 sisters and employed 36 staff in a total of 34 ministries.

Of the sisters, 27 are engaged in full or part-time individual ministry, one manages a centre which employs professional staff (music teachers) and five manage centres where support staff are employed. Of the employees, one manages a centre and the remaining 35 employees include music teachers, support staff working in administration, program development, guest services or as cleaners, gardeners/maintenance staff or cooks. The employment status of these employees is as follows: 4 full time, 8 part time and 24 casual.

There are, as well, many volunteers who provide invaluable support at St Catherine's House of Hospitality, Tuart Hill.

As of 30 June 2023, five ministry centres, one music academy and one speech and drama centre were supported by MML. These are Mercy Hub (Carlton), St Catherine's House of Hospitality (Tuart Hill), Santa Casa (Queenscliff), Star of the Sea Retreat Centre (Apollo Bay), Seville Mercy Conference Centre (Cairns), Maclean Music Academy (Maclean) and the Magic House (Townsville).

Of the sisters providing individual services through MML, seven work on a fulltime or close to full time basis and

of those who provide services on a part-time basis, many have additional commitments to a variety of other ministries.

Sisters work from a variety of settings including from Institute owned premises, parishes, online or as visiting facilitators at other premises.

The McAuley Ministries Limited Administration Office located at Stanmore is staffed 3 days per week by MML Coordinator, Mrs Jenny Hildebrandt and the Finance Officer, Mrs Ajapa Gosh.



Spotlight on Ministry

The true value of ministry can only begin to be understood in its story. Over the following pages, five sisters who receive the services of McAuley Ministries Limited, have reflected on their current ministry and share with us how they have responded to the ministry of mercy at this time.

Adele Howard RSM

The focus of my 'Mercy Eco-Communications' ministry is education in integral ecology and its effective communication.

This ministry takes many forms, both locally and internationally and at its heart is the Gospel message as lived through the focus of Laudato Si' and Laudate Deum.

It involves writing, planning, giving presentations, sharing advisory and strategic conversations and engaging in direct online communication activities and resource creation.

Some examples of this are my recent report for the Vatican Dicastery (DPIHD) on the Theology from the Existential Peripheries Project and future possibilities. Linked with the 'Ecological Consciousness' theme of this project are the new interviews and writing for the publication of a book on 'Listening to the Wisdom of Indigenous Peoples in Oceania: An Urgent Call to Save Our Common Home.'



Adele speaking at Pontifical Academy Conference

Everyday aspects of my work involve writing, sourcing and posting relevant articles, images and links on my Mercy Eco-Communications website, as an information portal.

In addition to ongoing organisational administration, there are contributions to our Institute web platform; for the release of Laudate Deum by Pope Francis, for drawing attention to Mercy involvement in the Synod Assembly in our Members sharing area and a short testimony on support for voting 'Yes' in 'The Voice' Referendum section of the website.



Uluru Statement ACU

Advisory and planning meetings with groups in Education and Health Ministries and Religious Congregations, offer programs at The Mercy Hub, in other venues or online.

Educational programs are offered, both locally and globally, delivering online and face to face presentations on ecological theology, including speaking on Laudato Si' at a recent Pontifical Academy conference.

The need for this work in growing and there is much to be done!

Elizabeth Nicholls RSM St Catherine's House of Hospitality



Earlier this year a lady from one of five 'Grandparents rearing Grandchildren' groups approached me about a new group coming to St Catherine's House of Hospitality. The group she was representing was a group of Maori women who are rearing their grandchildren. They were in the beginning stages of looking to create a new group which would specifically look at cultural awareness for the Maori grandparents and the grandchildren they are raising.

At various stages during the weekend the women invited me in to ask me questions, and to encourage me to ask them questions about the process they were developing. One of the ladies in the group asked, "Why do you do what you do? And in 12 months' time what will be a WOW moment for you."

I began by telling them of the process we had been through in the previous 12 months in developing our implementation plan for St Catherine's and how our chairperson Sr Joan Buckham had been very strong in encouraging us to attract new groups, particularly women's groups to use our venue. I then explained that it was just 12 months since Sr Joan had died, and that even though we hadn't done a lot of advertising, women's groups and other new groups were arriving regularly. I jokingly commented that Joan was

working from heaven. "Ooh that's giving me goose bumps", was a comment from one of the women.

I then tried to answer the first part of the question I had been asked "Why do you do what you do?" I began to tell the ladies Catherine's story. Part way through the telling of the story, one of the ladies said, "Are you sure she wasn't Maori?" Her life sounds like our lives. I assured them she wasn't Maori, however when I said that Catherine had taken care of her sister's children and her cousin's children they were sure Catherine's story was part of their lives.



After lunch when I was clearing up the dining room I found a precious stone on the floor. I took it into the conference room and, not knowing to whom it belonged, I held it in my open palm in front of a couple of the ladies. One lady commented, "Oh, the stone wants to stay, you look after it, sister". Another lady looked and said, "Oh, it must have fallen out of its holder." She took the stone gently from my hand and placed it into a crocheted holder around her neck. She looked at me and said, "The stone has made the decision for us. All morning I

have been asking the question, 'Is St Catherine's the place for us?' we have our answer now, we have found our haukāinga (noun) home, true home, local people of a marae, home people."

The ladies have named their group Oranga Mokopuna – health and wellbeing of Grandchildren. One of their aims is to "Uplift the Power/status of the grandparent/ancestors" – Hikitia Te Mana Onga Tupuna.

The group presented St Catherine's with a framed hand-made cloak, which now hangs proudly on the wall outside the meeting room.

Māori cloaks are most commonly worn on special occasions, whether a significant Hui and coming together of people, or a significant graduation or birthday.

The cloaks hold stories of our history or whānau [family] and whakapapa [genealogy].



They're held in the highest regard and worn with the highest form of respect.



Kerry Gordon RSM

A reflection on 'The Magic House' by Annie O'Dowd

On entering 'The Magic House', Sister Kerry's aptly named drama studio, one could be forgiven for thinking they had stumbled into a portal and entered an entirely new land.

Once admitted by the door keeper, an enthusiastic black labrador called Dumble, the unsuspecting pilgrim enters a book-lined sanctuary, filled to the brim with a creative jumble of puppets, magic tricks, hats, costumes and towers of books— on the floor, the desk, the chair, in fact on every available surface. Tread carefully, lest you become entangled with the strings of a rack of marionettes or a pile of props! It's a creative space, where there is a sense of many projects unfolding all at once, growing and multiplying.

But props and books are only the tools, for in this fabled land, the most important things are the children- lots of them. It is the children who are the starting point of Sister Kerry's magical mission. That mission began with a promise to God, to follow a religious life for the enrichment of all who enter her sphere... especially the young. Some of her charges are as little as three and others have grown up under her tutelage and aren't children any more. Every day a trail of souls beats a path to the magical door where suddenly so many things become possible. What ever is needed, Sister Kerry provides, and often in a way that is least expected.

Perhaps you might think that I am speaking about a magician, a librarian, a nun, a puppeteer or a teacher? The truth is that Sister Kerry is all of these



things, but she is first and foremost, a Sister of Mercy. As a young woman, Sister Kerry Gordon chose to follow the inspiration of Catherine McAuley who believed that to educate is to set free. For Sister Kerry, creative teaching through literature is the ultimate expression of this mission- to bring light into the lives of her charges, to reveal the richness of the written word and to learn the skills to bring their individual talents to bear. Through the discipline of speech and drama, Sister Kerry has helped countless kiddies, teens and adults to become engaging speakers, captivating performers, imaginative thinkers and most of all, better people.

It's an exhausting business, for when the students finally leave her door in the evening, the phone starts to ring and the first of her many adult charges come for succour, to be mentored, to be supported and encouraged.

Sister Kerry's practice takes no account of race, creed or colour. No talent is needed to come through her gates. All are welcome. She has taught many with disabilities, and encouraged them to embrace their uniqueness... to let their light shine. Her example is not only tolerance, but total acceptance. So if you are passing Sister Kerry's Magic house, be prepared for a feast of creativity, a lot of attention from Dumble, plenty of cups of tea and most of all, love.



Ros Carr RSM
Sr Ros Carr shares with us her experience of transition



Despite my ambivalence at closing my psychology practice at a time when demand for mental health care is surging, the feeling of relief I also felt convinced me I was hitting the pause button at the right time in a ministry which I have been passionate about for 20 years.

It has been a privilege to accompany others as they deal with their inner struggles and find greater quality of life through therapy – what I know as God's mercy in action. Sharing their vulnerabilities has heightened awareness of my own vulnerability and gratitude for God's mercy in my life.

Holding non-practicing registration will enable me to return to clinical practice seamlessly if I want to do so in the next 5 years and this flexibility has made my decision easier. Continuing with the pastoral supervision of clergy, which has also been part of my ministry, is providing the opportunity for continued engagement professionally but at a slower pace.

I am looking forward to refreshing my skills and knowledge in this area by completing a Graduate Certificate in Pastoral Supervision in 2024 and this will also move me into a different headspace, which is where my own discernment has led.

We face multiple transitions in our life journey and, like most changes, this transition for me has required prayer, patience, and a willingness to live with uncertainty, as I wait to see to where I am being called.

Anne McGuire RSM

Since completing my study, my Pastoral Supervision 'community' has expanded. I see this as evidence of the importance supervisees are placing on their own well-being and vigilance in the context of their respective ministries. Many of the members of this small community are women working in rural and coastal settings in NSW.

My own response to this work can be framed in the following words from our Constitutions:

We must know and depend on another's mercy Before we can give and receive the mercy of God. 1.06 This 'Mercy' is evident in the sacred conversations which are at the core of Pastoral Supervision. They reflect something of the particular yearning to discern and embrace the reality that one's life is rich with meaning and purpose. What is growing in me is an appreciation, that each of us is longing to explore the treasure we each hold. We are recognising in ourselves and in each other that how we engage in the world makes a difference. I am reminded of this journey of exploration in the image of the nautilus shell.

The late Australian poet Noel Davis reminds us:

"...Discern for yourself as you pan for gold.
It is the Beloved of Life
The Divine in our midst
The beauty of Spirit alive in us
Who keeps affirming our self-worth
Stripping away the overburden
Uncovering the treasure
in the field of our story."

Noel Davis Together at the Edge: Trust Me. Pg.76



I am grateful to MML and its staff for the care and support given to me as this journey unfolds.

Members Appendix 1

Name	Ministry	Registered Trading Name
Sr Margie Abbott	Psychodrama; Supervision; Spiritual Direction and Integral Ecology Retreats	Igniting Sparks
Sr Roslyn Carr	Clinical psychologist and consultant in private practice; Pastoral Supervision	
Sr Catherine Corbett	Pastoral Services; Child Care; Family Support	
Sr Karon Donnellon	Facilitation & Change Management including Organisational Consultations & Formation facilitations; Spirituality	
Sr Madeline Duckett	Retreats; "Together in Mercy"; Spiritual Direction; Cooordinator of website Contemplative Evolution Network	
Sr Marg Endicott	Leadership and Organisational Development Facilitator and Consultant	
Sr Lizzie Finnerty	Manager: Santa Casa Retreat Centre, Queenscliff	Santa Casa Retreat Centr
Sr Theresa Foley	Spiritual Direction; Pastoral Care and Social Services	
Sr Anne Gallagher	Music therapist; Music Tuition; Manager of Maclean music academy	Maclean Music Academy
Sr Helen Glasheen	Spiritual Direction	
Sr Gwen Garland	Administration support: Along the Murray Psychological Services	
Sr Kerry Gordon	Education: Speech and Drama Centre	The Magic House
Sr Pat Healion	Ambulance Volunteer Chaplain; Mediator	
Sr Adele Howard	Ecological theology and communications Advisor and Producer	
Sr Anila Isaac	Spiritual Direction	
Sr Helen Kearins	Facilitator; Sociodramatist; Pastoral Supervision	
Sr Trudy Keur	Consultancy; Professional Supervision; Mentoring	
Sr Margaret McGrath	Manager: Star of the Sea, Apollo Bay	Star of the Sea, Apollo Bar
Sr Anne McGuire	Pastoral Supervision; Advocacy	
Sr Margaret Moore	Manager: Mercy Hub, Carlton	Mercy Hub
Sr Frances Moran	Psychologist; Music tuition	
Sr Mary Moran	Music tuition; Chaplain	
Sr Carmel Muir	Administrative Assistant: Along the Murray Psychological Services	
Sr Elizabeth Nicholls	Manager: St Catherine's House of Hospitality, Tuart Hill	St Catherine's House of Hospitality
Sr Ann-Maree O'Beirne	Spiritual Direction	
Sr Caroline Ong	GP: Medical practitioner; Consultant Bioethics & Theological Ethics	
Sr Eileen Quade	Loss and Grief Counselling	
Sr Colleen Rhodes	Retreats; Spiritual Direction	
Sr Nicole Rotaru	Workshops; Consultancy; Supervision and Counselling	
Sr Liz Rothe	Spiritual Direction; Accompaniment	
Sr Cathy Solano	Spiritual Direction; Interculturality; Program Coordination - Santa Casa Queenscliff	
Sr Noella Sullivan	Spiritual Direction	
Sr Lis Teggelove	Spiritual direction; Supervision; Retreats; Formation of Spiritual Directors	
Sr Patricia Weekes	Psychology Services - Child and Adolescent psychotherapy, Adult Mental Health	

