Additional information about the Ursula Frayne Video from 1996 to 2026

The video docudrama of Ursula Frayne was first commissioned by the Mercy Education Board in 1995 to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of Ursula Frayne and the Sisters of Mercy in Australia in 1846.

We researched, wrote and produced this video for our Mercy Schools, particularly those in Perth and Melbourne.
Extensive work was carried out with the Mercy Archivists in Perth and Melbourne, as well as the Heritage section of the Battye Library in Perth and the State Library and the Catholic Archdiocesan Archives in Melbourne.

Fundraising began and the film script was completed by late 1995.

Locations were sourced in Fremantle, Perth, the Swan River, Guildford, Melbourne, Warrnambool, Port Fairy and the coast of the Southern Ocean and the cast members were located, chosen and rehearsed.

Professional camera and sound operators, editors, narrators, musicians, voice-over artists, composers and performers of the soundtrack and theme song, an audio engineer, art director and costume specialists were all involved in the production and post-production of the Video.

Actors and teachers of drama and volunteers provided the cast and extras of over 100 people in 16 locations.
The original video was 54 minutes in length.

The script was based on Ursula's Memoirs called *'Sketches of Conventual Life in the Bush'.*
It is complemented by the overall script written to provide continuity in the story.
Historical images, portraits and relevant works of art were also filmed (on Betacam SP)as 1996 was at the beginning of the analogue to digital transition.

This new version of the video is a remake of the original 1995/6 video - (30 years old)!
It is a resource to mark the celebration of 180 years of Mercy in Australia in 2026 and for the 170th anniversary of the arrival of the Sisters of Mercy in Melbourne which will be marked throughout 2027.
It was able to be re-edited extensively and enhanced slightly - both visually and with audio levels and quality.
The new length is 35 minutes.

Please remember to adjust your settings, when viewing it on YouTube or Vimeo, to a better **resolution of 720p or 1080p** in the **Settings** drop down or up menu.

Adele Howard. Nov 17, 2026
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