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Kildare Ministries Newsletter

Issue 1 · 06 Mar 2024

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Editorial

Dear members of the Kildare Ministries community

It is definitely late in the year to be wishing you a prosperous start, nonetheless, we do that wholeheartedly given it is our first newsletter for the year. We have embraced this year's theme of **Hope- bringing a sense of purpose** to those we educate and those we serve. We have long maintained that the value of HOPE for Kildare Ministries is not about blind optimism where, as long as we think positively, do the groundwork and offer our best, all will be well. Theologically speaking, the virtue of Hope is deeper than this. Hope sustains us through difficult times when all else seems hopeless, we find it in the deep sense that justice will prevail, that we are working with purpose dreaming of a better future and that good will find a way forward. It is not something we control with our willpower, like we imagine optimistic thinking can do. It is the humble realization that we are not masters of our destiny, but we do hope that we will help bring others to fullness. Oscar Romero says it so much more poetically:

We cannot do everything, and there is a sense of liberation in realizing this.

This enables us to do something, and to do it very well.

It may be incomplete, but it is a beginning, a step along the way, an opportunity for the Lord's grace to enter and do the rest.

We may never see the end results, but that is the difference between the master builder and the worker.

We are workers, not master builders, ministers, not messiahs.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Kildare Ministries 10th Anniversary Conference 2024 is an opportunity for hope. It brings together all thirteen of our ministries, across five Australian cities with colleagues who share in our Vision, Mission and Values. We will learn from numerous notable experts in the fields of theology and social justice. Moreover, we will volunteer to share our own work for mission, to plant some new seeds of hope that will be our future work. We will listen, learn and share our responses to the new things we learn. Committed to the transformative action of God in our lives, we will encounter each other and injustice amidst the sharing of ideas new to us, faith held close, and passions pursued in our work.

We will dream of a future where Jesus' mission of living justice and peace is continued, and we will **decide together** what we need to do as a community. The quality of our speakers will set us thinking so that we might all come away from the Conference knowing that we have been led to a richer, deeper sense of our commitment to God's mission. The diversity and scope of our own Kildare Ministries presenters speaks in particular of the abounding talents and gifts that exist in our communities. We are truly blessed with amazingly generous people. We have a unique opportunity to celebrate each other's successes and reflect on what Kildare Ministries has grown to be. The excitement is building, the anticipation is immense - we cannot wait.



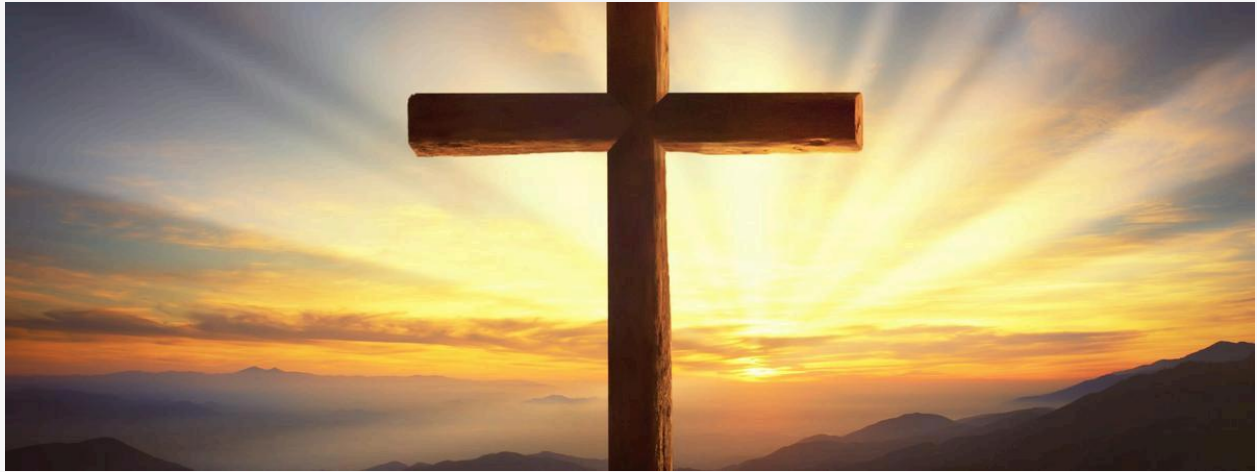
Erica Pegorer
Executive Director
Kildare Ministries



The Mission and Ministry Team 2024

Peter Houlahan, Gina Steryos, Niluka Perera, Renee Oberin, Pádraig McCahey

Mel Sherrin, Erica Pegorer, Monica Lang



Kildare Ministries Welcomes

Our New Leaders

We welcome as the new principal of Marian Sunshine West – **Angela Romano** whose Commissioning was held on Tuesday 5th March. Ms Romano was previously the Deputy Principal at Salesian College, Sunbury and has taught at Ave Maria College, Essendon, Our Lady of Mercy, Heidelberg and Academy of Mary Immaculate in Fitzroy. Angela has wide ranging experience in faith and educational leadership and before accepting the role of Principal at Marian College, had been Acting Principal on many occasions. We wish her a long and happy association with Kildare Ministries and the Marian College Community.



Maree Feutrill (Pictured center) joined Saltbush Balnarring Beach as the CEO in January. Maree worked many years in the at YMCA Camp Manyung in the Northern Territory to support Indigenous communities. Originally from Mornington Peninsular, Maree has

returned with her family to live locally. Maree has committed herself to improving the lives of people from diverse backgrounds to engage with the outdoors and enhance their wellbeing. Welcome to Kildare Ministries Maree and may you enjoy many happy years at Saltbush Balnarring Beach.



Maree with her Team at Saltbush, including the Co-Chairs of the Board

Our Incoming Chairs of Boards



Charles Reis joins Phillip Steele as a Co-chair of the Board of Saltbush, Balnarring Beach. Charles has served on the Board for the past 12 months and accepted the invitation to Co-chair. Charles has had extensive experience in senior commercial roles in the private sector; has worked for the Government sector in policy formulation and began his career in not-for-profit sectors working with child poverty and youth homelessness.

Phillip Steele and Charles Reis – Co-Chairs

Paul Desmond was appointed Chair of the KEM Board in February. Paul was the Director of Catholic Education in the Diocese of Sandhurst for nine years and its Chief Executive Officer. As an educator for over four decades, Paul is known for his exemplary educational leadership whether a teacher, principal or a system leader. We



welcome Paul to the KEM Board, and to the wider Kildare Ministries community, as he embraces this new role. We look forward to his strong and valuable contribution for many years ahead.

We are delighted to welcome **Michelle Dixon** to the role of Chair of the Board of Brigidine College, St Ives. Appointed as a Director on the Board in 2019, Michelle graciously accepted the invitation from the Trustees to Chair the Board and will commence this significant



leadership of the College in 2024. Michelle has brought expertise and professionalism to her Directorship as a qualified commercial lawyer with 23 years' experience. She also has leadership, commercial, governance and operational experience in public and private companies, and the government sector.

The Trustees invited, and **Helen Royan** generously accepted, the role of Chair of the Board, which commenced in 2023. As a highly experienced educator with the Brisbane Catholic Education Office, she was appointed Principal to a number of schools across the Archdiocese. Helen taught in two schools steeped in the Brigidine tradition and is imbued in its deep story. Further, she has worked as an area supervisor in the Dioceses of Cairns and Brisbane. We welcome Helen to the broader Kildare Ministries community and look forward to many years of her leadership of the Board.





Start of the school year around the Ministries

Brigidine College, Indooroopilly



Brigidine College, St. Ives



Clonard College, Herne Hill





Kilbreda College, Mentone





Kilbreda unveiled their new statue of St Brigid



Kildare College, Holden Hill





Killester College, Springvale



Marian College, Ararat



Marian College, Sunshine West



St. Joseph's College, Echuca



Star of the Sea College, Brighton



Kildare Ministries Conference



As you are no doubt aware, we are looking forward to the Kildare Ministries' 10th Anniversary Conference, which will be conducted one the 25th - 27th March. The Conference Committee approximately 10 times over three years, and the sub committees more frequently than that. Kildare Ministries thanks the dedication and commitment of the conference committee to bring to fruition a rich and enlivened programme. We also thank the Principals of each school for supporting our work as a conference and to the hub Principals for agreeing to host it. Everyone has been so generous in the preparation and lead-up to ensure this milestone event is a memorable one for everyone in celebration of a decade and growth in the Kildare Ministries narrative and works.

Thanks to the Conference Committee:



Back row (L-R)- Mandy Loomes (Brigidine College St. Ives), Jenni Tucker (Star of the Sea College), Loreto Cannon (Killester College), Stephen East (Marian College Ararat), Michelle Camilleri (Kildare College), Chris Shelly (Kilbreda College), Kristen Watson (St. Joseph's College), Dean Williams (Clonard College).

Front row (L-R) - Donna Rampova (Marian College Sunshine West), Lil Mader (Kildare College), Brian Loughland (Brigidine College St. Ives)

Andrew Beiers from Brigidine College Indooroopilly and Stephen East (Marian College Ararat) resigned from the committee at the end of 2023

Joining the committee in 2024 - Melissa Dever (Brigidine College, Indooroopilly) and Linda Kiernan (Clonard College)



Meet our Conference Panel Facilitator and Key Note Speaker

Dr Meredith Lake - Panel Facilitator



Meredith is an historian and broadcaster, especially curious about how Australians reckon with the big questions of life in this place. She's hosted the ABC podcast Soul Search since 2019, but following a snap decision to leave her hometown for the central Australian desert in late 2023, you can also find her on ABC Alice Springs. An historian at heart, Meredith is still mulling over the themes of her PhD thesis - to do with religion, colonialism, and the Australian environment.

Meredith's latest book is *The Bible in Australia: a cultural history* - which won the Australian History prize at the 2019 Prime Minister's Literary Awards and the 2019 NSW Premier's History awards. It was also named winner of the Non-Fiction award at the 2020 Adelaide Festival Awards for Literature, the 2019 CHASS Book of the year and 2018 Australian Christian Book of the Year.

Dr. Anne Pattel-Gray PhD DD - Key Note Speaker



Professor Anne Pattel-Gray is the Head of the School of Indigenous Studies at the University of Divinity, Melbourne Australia, and a member of the Uniting Church in Australia. She previously held the position of Executive Secretary and founded the establishment of the Aboriginal and Islander Commission with the Australian Council of Churches/National Council of Churches in Australia from 1989-1998. She had organised all the Indigenous participation in the 1991 World Council of Churches 7th Assembly in Canberra. She was responsible for the establishment of the Indigenous Desk at the WCC, and she brings a very long history of advocating on the rights of Indigenous peoples. Professor Pattel-Gray has an earned Ph.D. from the University of Sydney awarded in 1995 in the Studies of Religion with the major focus on Indigenous Religion and Spirituality. And a Doctor of Divinity from India awarded in 1997. Pattel-Gray has recently been appointed to the World Council of Churches (WCC), Commission for World Mission and Evangelism (CWME) and historically she worked with WCC from the late 80s through to early 2000s on commissions such as the Program to Combat Racism, Urban Rural Mission, and she twice presented at Central Committee on Indigenous Issues.

During her time as the national administrator with the Uniting Aboriginal and Islander Christian Congress, of the Uniting church in Australia. She organised the largest Indigenous protest march of over 50,000 people – The March for Justice, Freedom and Hope led by the Rev Charles Harris in 1988 against the bi-centenary. Professor Pattel-Gray has achieved many firsts in her prestigious life, and she is known as a trailblazer, she has opened many doors for her people. She is a recognized scholar, theologian, activist and prolific writer with several publications. Professor Anne Pattel-Gray is a descendant of the Bidjara Nation in Queensland and a renowned Aboriginal leader within Australia – nationally and internationally. She has dedicated her life to the struggle of First Nations people as a strong campaigner, lobbyist towards seeking justice, equity and equal representation for First Nations people.

[Please click here](#) to access our conference website to see the programme and read more about our fantastic speakers.



Congratulations Wellsprings!

2023 Volunteering Awards Winners Announced

The Allan Labor Government recognised the hard work of Victorians across the state who selflessly gave of their time and skills to make Victoria an even better place to live with the 2023 Volunteering Awards.

Minister for Carers and Volunteers Ros Spence presented the Awards at a special ceremony at Government House in Melbourne, hosted by the Governor of Victoria, her Excellency Professor the Honourable Margaret Gardner AC.

This year, 28 individuals and 24 organisations were nominated as finalists across eight award categories. The category winners include:

- Volunteering Excellence – Volunteer Involving Organisation of the Year Award, and Volunteering Partnerships Award: Woor-Dungin Inc.
- Volunteer Commitment Award: Tony Davis
- Volunteer Impact Award: Jean Bohmer
- Grassroots Volunteering Award: ParKanDo
- **Inclusive Volunteering Award: Wellsprings for Women**
- Volunteering Innovation Award: Association for Children with a Disability.

Wellsprings for Women provides safe, welcoming places and services that enable women to thrive.



2024 Calendar Dates

KEM Principals Meetings

7 March

16 May

15 August

KM Principals and Leaders Meetings

17 May

16 August

21 November

KEM Business Managers

27 August

TKM Business Managers

22 May (with RCOs)

28 October

KM Chairs of the Board Network

24 May

25 October



Board Directors & Stewardship Council Members Seminar Day

26 October

Justice and Sustainability Leaders

9 May

Faith Leaders

28-29 May (with Learning Leaders)

3-4 September (with Learning Leaders)

8 November

Student Social Justice Seminar

13-15 May (First Nations Immersion)

5-7 June (Amberley)

Network Zero (Amberly)

31 July-1 August

Student Leadership Retreat

27-29 November

First Nations Forum

22 July

Board and Stewardship Council Induction

4 May

New Leaders Induction - Day 2

28 August

New Staff Induction - Day 2

11 September

Senior Leadership Retreat

27-29 September

Staff Integral Ecology Retreat

29-31 October



Keep updated!

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