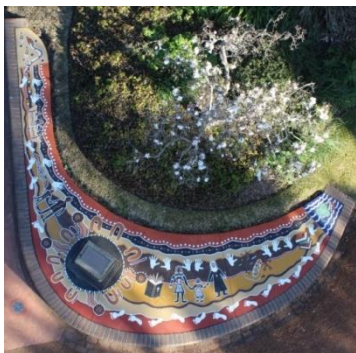


MERCY GLOBAL ACTION NETWORK

JUSTICE REPORT – Sisters of Mercy Parramatta

Aboriginal Recognition

This Saturday the 13th October we are having an Aboriginal Ground Painting Ceremony. The aboriginal artist **Danny Eastwood** painted a boomerang shaped mural around a stone that names the religious orders that have ministered in the Parramatta area.



Representatives from *The Sisters of Charity*, *The Good Samaritan Sisters* and *Sisters of Mercy North Sydney*, *Bishop Vincent Long* and political leaders will be present.

The ceremony will commence with a smoking ceremony followed by Danny Eastwood explaining the symbols he used in the painting and will conclude with a Commitment Statement being read by all present.

It will acknowledge 60,000 years of Indigenous presence in Parramatta and the Burramattagal people of the Darug nation, as the traditional occupiers of the site. Aboriginal caterers will provide morning tea to coincide with the event.

Climate Change

- We are involved with Catholic Coalition for Justice and Peace www.ccjpoz.org On Sunday 20th October we will be hosting a seminar at Parramatta. Students from Catherine McAuley College and the Presentation School, Domremy are invited to discuss their thoughts and attitudes to climate change and the actions they are taking in response.
- The Congregation of the Sisters of Mercy Parramatta is a member of *Towards an Intercongregational Voice on Climate Change and the Pacific*. This group is organising an evening on 25th October with **Anote Tong**, former President of Kiribati.
- A Submission into Australia's aid program and climate change action was presented by the group at a Public Hearing of Joint Committee of the Australian Parliament in September.
- A project that has been ongoing is **Climate Change - Is not a Joke**. At the Mercy Day celebrations at Parramatta which brought together Sisters of Mercy living in Sydney from the various Congregations each member participated by having their photos taken with the poster *Climate Change - Is not a Joke* <http://pacificclimatewatch.com.au/>

Earthkin

- Ecology group – ecological education seminars held every three months at Parramatta . The last one for the year is on October 27th There will be two sessions: Session 1 *Science, Evolution and Spirit of Trees* Session 2: *The Lure of Trees for the Artist* by Patrick Shirvington whose work is found in several Australian and overseas museums

Mercy Futures

- Raising awareness for justice issues within the community. This year's theme is *Sustainability* with the group meeting every three months. The final session to be held in Parramatta will be on November 7th '**The Earth my Mother**', to be led by guest speaker Peter Rutherford who currently manages the Eco House & Garden Education Centre – Kimbriki. Peter is also the author of numerous publications, books and videos and is also known as a guest/presenter on ABC's Gardening Australia

Strategic Partnerships

Establishing partnerships with organisations whose goals and activities meet our Chapter initiatives:

- **Refugees** - House of Welcome, Jesuit Refugee Service,
- **Domestic violence and homelessness** - Women's Community Shelters.

Other

- Membership - Catholic Religious Australia Social Justice committee.
- Letter writing campaigns eg. Children Out of Detention
- Subscribe as a Congregation to other organisations advocating for justice eg World Vision – Kids off Nauru.
- Big Issue - On each Sister's birthday they are gifted with a subscription to Big Issue which employs homeless and disadvantaged women. The issues that are sent out by mail are packed and wrapped by homeless women.