



The Aussie Camino

The MacKillop / Woods Way

for pilgrims everywhere



HAPPY 173rd BIRTHDAY!!

www.aussiecamino.org



January 15th is of course the birthday of Mary MacKillop so it gives me great pleasure in sending this newsletter out today.

So much has happened over the past few months with interest being generated from many unexpected places.

Most satisfying was the wonderful time spent out on the camino with a lovely group of 24 pilgrims including 8 clergy. Getting a week off duties is hard enough for most priests, and just before Christmas even harder. Tee Ping Koh from Adelaide kept a wonderfully detailed blog, along some others that I have included in the Testimonials section of the website

The Aussie Camino has also gained some great press from local papers. This is most encouraging as caminos are inherently owned by the local community. As well as this I have had interviews with **La Trobe University** and **Australian Geographic Magazine** both of whom showed an interest in the economic and social benefits of an Australian camino trail. I have also had my first enquiry from overseas; Canada.

An interesting aside was the exhibition and sale of the Mary MacKillop iron cross that was made for her gravesite. The cross has a colourful past and was bought by an 'unidentified catholic organisation'. My sources tell me it may appear near her birthplace in Fitzroy shortly. Read the full article from **The Age** on page 3.

It was also nice to hear from the Pallottine Community (see attached flyers) which conduct retreats, walks and workshops for the Camino de Santiago in and around Melbourne.

I am also calling for registrations in this newsletter with a closing date of February 15. I have been overwhelmed by the interest and I feel I will fill the two groups of 20 very quickly. If this is the case then it will have to be done on a first-come, first-serve basis. If pilgrims are flexible with dates it will help enormously. Hope to see many of you then.

Buen camino!
Luke



Pilgrims from the December group in their final stages reaching Penola. Great weather and a terrific bunch of pilgrims made for a memorable camino.



With Mary MacKillop's iron cross in the Caulfield North gallery.

"Do all you can with the means at your disposal and calmly leave the rest to God."

Mary MacKillop (1891)

IN THE MEDIA



Some of the terrific news coverage the Aussie Camino has received in the local papers. Top left. Warrnambool Standard. Top right The Pennant - Penola Bottom Left and right. The Portland Observer. Centre right, The Border Watch (Mount Gambier)

Mary MacKillop gravesite cross stands tall among Australia's cultural icons



Slice of history:
Gallery
manager Ruth
Lovell with the
former grave-
site cross.

Date

November 10, 2014

The Age

Debbie Cuthbertson and Louise Bellamy

An ornate cast-iron cross that cost an Adelaide man a few dollars at auction in the 1970s could turn out to be one of Australia's most important cultural artefacts.

The hand-made cross once adorned the original gravestone of Australia's first saint, Mother Mary MacKillop, and is now on display at a Melbourne auction house while its private sale is negotiated.

Caulfield North fine art dealer Lauraine Diggins, who is handling the sale, has compared its value to Ned Kelly's armour or the taxidermied body of 1930s racehorse Phar Lap.

Former Art Gallery of South Australia director Christopher Menz agrees, saying he considers it one of Australia's most significant cultural artefacts.

Diggins says its singularity makes it difficult to estimate its worth. "It is not about commercial value, it is something profoundly meaningful beyond commerciality," she said.

The cross, which stands 169 centimetres high and weighs 47 kilograms, was first created along with a marble headstone in 1909 to adorn MacKillop's grave at Sydney's Gore Hill. The two items were removed after MacKillop's grave and remains were transferred to a secure tomb in 1914, five years after her death, after souvenir hunters struck.

Both the cross and headstone are thought to have then been returned to Joanna Barr Smith, a lifelong friend of MacKillop's, who funded the two items as well as the vault where she now rests. Devoted to supporting Australia's underprivileged, MacKillop was canonised by Pope Benedict XVI in 2010. The cross and headstone remained at the Barr Smith family's Adelaide home until a public auction in 1972.

James Elder bought them for a few dollars. He broke them in two, in order to repair the cross, "because of its beautiful rendering of the Virgin Mary".

Elder then sold the headstone to Adelaide art collector David Roche, who placed it in his Adelaide garden, using it as a plinth to hold a statue on top. It wasn't until the 1990s, when his gardener noticed the inscription on the marble – which reads 'I.H.S. IN LOVING MEMORY/OF/ MOTHER MARY/OF THE CROSS/(McKILLOP)/ WHO DIED AUG. 8. 1909/ AGED 67 YEARS – that he began to understand its significance. (The missing 'a' in MacKillop was common at the time, Menz says).

Elder, an auctioneer and antiques dealer, says he wants a public institution to purchase the work "so that it can be seen by the public at large, rather than an individual".

Menz, who included the marble in a 2008 exhibition at the AGSA of the late David Roche's collection, said both the cross and the headstone were items of great cultural significance.

"When I first saw it [the marble], I thought this is absolutely fantastic," he said. "This, we thought, was such an important thing because of the subject." The cross was of "fabulous quality" and showed "great skill". "Tailored with the MM in the monogram, [it] is something really special."

One can't help wonder what MacKillop would think about the splitting asunder of the two items from her grave.

However, Diggins is optimistic the two parts will be reunited one day, possibly on loan from the Roche Foundation.

"I would be quite optimistic for that to happen," she said. "It would be wonderful if they can."



Pallottine Camino

"the love of Christ urges us on"

Vincent Pallotti



Pallottine Camino Information Session

7.30pm Tuesday March 3rd, 2015
St Christopher's Parish, Doon Ave, Syndal.

BRING:

- BYO lunch for the first day
- Daypack for holding items required while walking
- Mobile phone & water bottle
- Sturdy walking shoes & socks
- Symbol to place at cross during final liturgy
- Sheets, towels, pillowcase, toiletries, clothes & personal items

Luggage transferred to Pallotti College from St Christopher's on the first day

COST:

Camino:

\$220 (includes registration, transfers, 2 nights accommodation and all meals except lunch first day)

Optional retreat after Camino:

\$160 (includes meals, accommodation and retreat Program)

Additional Night:

\$80 (after Camino, if required)

Please note:

This walk covers 20+ km per day. Training and a good fitness level are required. Walkers participate at their own risk.



Pallottine Camino

"The love of Christ urges us on"

A pilgrimage walk from St Christopher's Parish Syndal, to Pallotti College Millgrove.

April 25th to 27th, 2015

Approximately 65km over three days.

A time of sacred pilgrimage between two significant sites of Pallottine Spirituality & Mission. Meditate on your experience of God in nature while walking in fellowship & friendship with others.

Saturday April 25th

- 8am: Pilgrim Commissioning & Mass at St Christopher's
- 9am: Commence walking east on High St Rd. to join the Dandenong Creek corridor of beautiful walking trails.
- Transfer to Pallotti College at conclusion of day's walk & evening prayer/reflection

Sunday April 26th

- Morning Mass and transfer to previous day's end point
- Walk to join the Warburton Trail near Mt Evelyn, then along the Warburton Trail
- Transfer to Pallotti College & evening prayer/reflection

Monday April 27th

- Morning Mass and transfer to previous day's endpoint
- Complete walk to Pallotti College along Warburton Trail and O'Shannassy Aquaduct
- Liturgy & placing of symbols at foot of cross
- After dinner transfer to St Christopher's Syndal OR optional Retreat "Encounter with Infinite Love" until Wednesday April 29th.

Join this beautiful walk along Dandenong Creek, the Warburton Trail and O'Shannassy Aquaduct to Millgrove.

All Welcome

Contact Lorraine on 0402 217123 or lorraine613@bigpond.com to register for the Information Session, or for further information.



Pre-Camino Retreat

This retreat is an opportunity to:

- Listen to God and to what you are being called to on your Camino,
- Reflect on how you might encounter God while walking,
- Plan and develop some spiritual practices for your training and walk
- Pray for your pilgrimage and for those whose intentions you will carry with you as you journey.
- Share with others
- Walk the beautiful trails around Millgrove

BRING:

- Daypack & walking poles
- Mobile phone & water bottle
- Sturdy walking shoes & socks
- Sheets, towels, pillowcase, toiletries, clothes & personal items



Are you planning a Camino in 2015?

Would you like time to prepare Spiritually for your Pilgrimage?

It is easy to get lost in the details of training and gear, and neglect to spend time preparing for a sacred encounter with God

Friday February 20th, 8pm to
Sunday February 22nd, 4pm

Pallotti College, McNamara's Rd. Millgrove.

Cost: \$180

includes meals and accommodation in private room with shared bathroom facilities.

Explore & deepen your Camino preparation through prayer, music, journalling & graphics

Facilitated by Lorraine McCarthy

Lorraine is the Pallottine Faith Formation Worker and is a Spiritual Director trained in the contemplative tradition at the Heart of Life Spirituality Centre. She walked the Camino de Santiago Frances Route in 2013.

All Welcome

Contact Lorraine on 0402 217123 or lorraine613@bigpond.com for bookings or for further information.

Union of the Catholic Apostolate
founded by St Vincent Pallotti as a way of bringing people together for the spreading of faith and love in the world



Pilgrims' Tales

¡Buen Camino!

Jane and Stuart Fraser set off to Russia for a cruise from St Petersburg to Moscow then to Salzburg for a 10day walk around the Salzburg Lakes followed by 9 day Camino walk from Burgos to Leon in Spain.

This photo was taken at Villamarco about 35km from Leon.

Jane assures me that she will be well trained for the upcoming camino in Easter. Look forward to meeting you then.

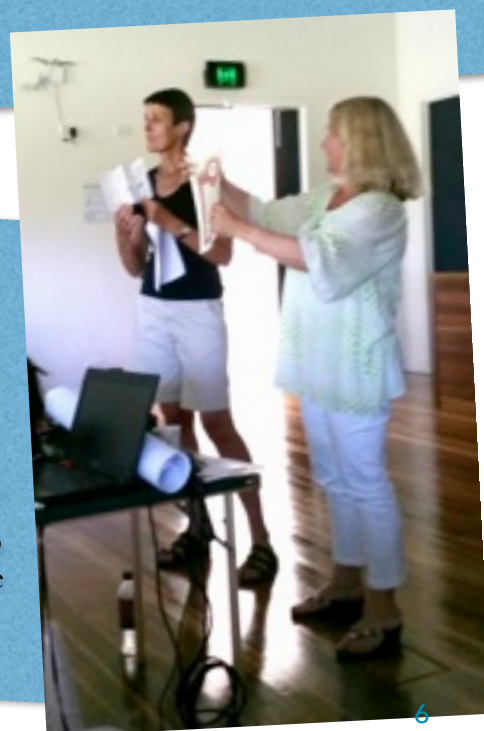


Here's a chance to put one of my own entries in. I was lucky enough to have an interview with Natsumi Penberthy from the Australian Geographic Magazine in the Woods/MacKillop Schoolhouse in Penola. Natsumi is completing a profile on Penola and saw Mary MacKillop as a good way of showing its history. Keep an eye out for it in coming issues!!



On the Camino Hustings

On the recent December trip I was lucky enough to meet Jill Edwards (*left*) and Kalee West (*right*). Both from Brisbane, they were good enough to respond to a request from the Sunshine Coast Camino Club and talk to club members about the Aussie Camino. We can now look forward to having a seasoned bunch of Queenslanders on the Easter trip. In return Jill and Kalee will no doubt be in touch with club stalwart Karen Davidson for some advice when setting off overseas to Santiago.



Registration

Aussie Camino ~ The MacKillop /Woods Way **Easter 2015**

I am asking for registrations from interested pilgrims who would like to go on the Aussie Camino at Easter 2015. For ease of accommodation I will try to make groups with a maximum of 20 people. Please indicate which group would suit you best.

Please note that numbers are limited. Whilst I will fill the groups on a first come first serve basis, flexibility with groups and sharing accommodation will assist enormously. Registration costs are \$30 and they will formally **close on February 15th** or when groups are full. I will also plan to have a group going out in September so if you are interested in that then please let me know.

Itinerary

Both groups would follow the same programme one day apart.

Day 1	Meet 10: 00am	Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre 362 Albert Street East Melbourne
	10:30am	Registration and pilgrims' farewell mass in Chapel
	12:00pm	Depart to Portland by cars (arrive around 5pm)
Day 2		Portland - Cape Bridgewater
Day 3		Cape Bridgewater to Bridgewater Lakes
Day 4		Lake Mombeong to Nelson
Day 5		Nelson - Port MacDonnell
Day 6		Port MacDonnell - Mt Gambier
Day 7		Mt Gambier - Kalangadoo
Day 8		Kalangadoo - Penola
Day 9		Penola return to Portland (bus departing 11:30am)

Important:

- Registration fee (\$30) will entitle each pilgrim to a bag tag, a pilgrim's passport, a guide book of maps and reflections and admission to the Mary McKillop Museum, Penola. Pilgrims will also receive a certificate of completion in Penola.
- Transport fee (\$80) will entitle each pilgrim to have luggage transported each day, two short bus trips to cover a long section of the camino and a return trip back to Portland from Penola. It **does not** include transport between Melbourne and Portland before and after the camino.
- Registration **does not** include meals and accommodation. Although a place will be found each night each pilgrim will pay for his/her meals and accommodation.
- Forms maybe emailed to lukej.mills@bigpond.com or Luke Mills,

11 Barkly Ave,

Richmond VIC 3121



REGISTRATION
Aussie Camino - The MacKillop / Woods Way
Easter 2015
Please return by February 15th 2015



NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE / MOBILE _____

Email _____

GENDER MALE / FEMALE

Please tick

Group 1 – Monday 6th to Tuesday 14th April _____

Group 2 – Wednesday 8th to Thursday 16th April _____

Are you able to change groups if required? YES / NO

Are you coming with other pilgrim(s)? YES / NO

List name(s)

I am happy to share a room (same gender only) YES / NO

I will require a lift to Portland on the morning of departure YES / NO

I will be able to drive my vehicle to Portland on the morning of departure YES / NO

I will be able to take _____ passengers to Portland and return to Melbourne.

I have paid \$30 Registration fee to L.J. Mills YES / NO

BSB 063-167

Account Number 1051 3784

I will bring \$80 on the departure day for transportation of luggage and bus transport. YES / NO

DVD Review

Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago

Director: Lydia Smith Review by Luke Mills



On our second night with the December group we were lucky enough to have a copy of a recently released DVD: ***Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago***. It follows various pilgrims, from ages three to 73, as they attempt the Camino de Santiago on foot - with only a backpack, a pair of boots and an open mind.

The motivation for each pilgrim starts a little unclearly mainly because the pilgrims may not even know for themselves. The camino experience provides many opportunities for the pilgrims to reflect on their past lives and prepare them for the uncertain future. What becomes most obvious is that each of the pilgrims gain wisdom, understanding and grace well beyond their own expectations and from completely unexpected sources.

Whilst ***The Way*** has become the go to movie for would be pilgrims, ***Walking the Camino: Six Ways to Santiago*** may just become the go to documentary.

What I really enjoyed about the doco was the very sincere approach by Smith who gives each pilgrim the freedom to express him/herself without in anyway sensationalising or going for cheap takes. The wide cross section of pilgrims; male - female, old - young, and cultural differences allows for the viewer to at least identify closely with one's own personal experience to those the pilgrims.

This DVD may be a little hard to get a hold of as I had to buy it online from overseas at an inflated price. Nevertheless, it is a most uplifting documentary and together with the bonus material makes it a real worthy entrant in the canon of camino literature.

Highly recommended!!



Lydia Smith: Filmmaker