



Mackillop College students working for justice

During Term One, MacKillop College undertook awareness raising activities to highlight the plight of refugees and asylum seekers, particularly those who have made their way to Australia, in seeking sanctuary and a peaceful way of life. In solidarity with the Sisters of St Joseph and other Colleges which share their charism, the Feast of St Joseph marked the beginning of MacKillop College's focus. Recognising that the Holy Family had themselves experienced being refugees in a foreign land, the College prayerfully, liturgically and practically utilised some simple strategies, in drawing attention to the injustice and inhumane treatment of these most vulnerable members of the global community.

Visually using posters and statistics, students and staff had the refugee 'myths' challenged. The wearing of black ribbons, to symbolically connect the College community with those imprisoned on Manus and Nauru Islands, encouraged solidarity. Participating in a simulation activity to signify the struggle of boat people journeying to Australia, heightened its empathy.

Two key events on the annual calendar for Term One, Harmony Day and the National Day against Bullying, were also utilised to strengthen our message. Creating a mural on butcher paper, using a 'chalking' activity, MacKillop College reaffirmed its commitment to working for justice in our world. As a faith community, whose patrons are Mary, Help of Christians, St Mary of the Cross MacKillop and Venerable Catherine McAuley, we believe in promoting harmony through the recognition of the dignity and self-worth of each person. Valuing the gifts different cultures and religions offer, while standing up to bullying emphasises the practice of restorative justice as a means of building healthy relationships.

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