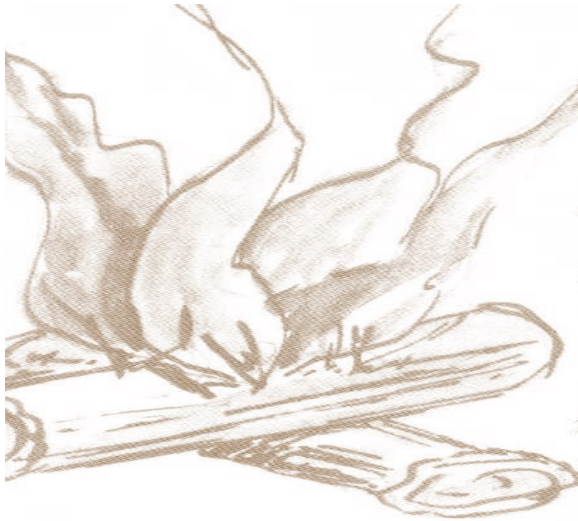


Campfire hospitality



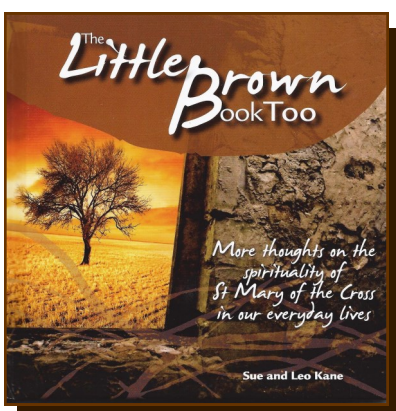
*Be kind to the
poor foreigners.
Remember that I
was a foreigner once,
and as such was
never laughed at, nor
unkindly treated* (1875)

Mary was thinking here of the South Sea Islanders working in Queensland's cane fields. Her heart went out to *people on the margins*, the outsiders who struggled to make their way in society. She welcomed the poor into her refuges, houses of Providence and orphanages. She did not overlook the needs of the newcomers to the country, sending Sisters to the Polish settlement at Hill River. Her *hospitality was all-embracing*.

Part of the beauty of our country today is the fact that we're such *mixed bunch*. God has set us down here in the midst of a cultural diversity which grows with each group of new arrivals. If Mary MacKillop were still here, she'd be rolling up her sleeves and putting on a 'cuppa' to *welcome the stranger*. Her advice to 'seek first the poorest and most neglected' (1900) challenges us to extend a welcome to migrants, refugees and others in need.

Can we make room for the displaced, the lost and the broken-hearted? Mary MacKillop knew that *the blessing of Jesus always comes to us in the poor and rejected*.

Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers. (Hebrews 13:2)



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