From the Principal, Mrs Sandra Diafas

Congratulations!
Today is your day.
You’re off to great places!
You’re off and away!

You have brains in your head
You have feet in your shoes
You can steer yourself any direction you choose.
You’re on your own. And you know what you know. And YOU are the one who’ll decide where to go.

While many of you may enjoy the trip back to childhood that is triggered by Dr Seuss, others will be wondering why it appears. In 2013, Star of the Sea College celebrates its 130th anniversary. It seems almost inconceivable that a school for girls, established by the will and commitment of a few Irish Sisters, should have endured and flourished to become the wonderful place of learning and welcome that it is today. It seems even more improbable that we, and numerous other ventures, should have grown from the heart of a single woman and her determination to bring the light of God’s love to those in need.

130 years later, we acknowledge this heritage with the theme Celebrate 130: People, Place and Purpose. We celebrate the lives and achievements of all who been educated at this great College. Ours is the continuing story of those people who moved on from us into the world, of the people that they became as a result of their time here. We recognise the places that they have gone, the places they have sought to change for the better. And above all, we celebrate the purpose with which they have crafted their lives.

While our theme provides us with an opportunity to look back, it also calls us forward. It challenges us to ask deeply important questions. What type of person will I be? To which people will I be called? How will I build my place in the world? How will I make a place in my life for those who have no other? Where will be the meaning in my life?

These are critical questions that I see being answered willingly and enthusiastically by the young women of this College. You have only to look at the pages of this publication to see the same spirit that moved those at the foundation of this College remains undiminished after all these years.

Every day at Star of the Sea College provides each one of us with the chance to steer ourselves in any direction we choose. We have the brains and the feet and we know what we know, and so the only choice now is to get up and go. Is that not the most wonderful legacy we could possibly hope for?
Graduates from 2012 returned to Star for the 2012 Academic Awards ceremony in February.

The College community acknowledged the dedication of all graduates including 39 who achieved an ATAR over 90. The following graduates deserve special mention.

The **2012 Dux, Megan Pool**, achieved an ATAR of 99.60, including a perfect 50 for Visual Communications. Megan is passionate about agriculture, permaculture and gardening and is spending her 2013 GAP year working with **WWOOF: Willing Workers on Organic Farms**. She has been at Kookatonga Nut Farm in the Blue Mountains where she collected nuts and packaged them for sale. She also surveyed the chestnut trees on the farm for nuts that had deteriorated.

**Sarah Burnell** received a scholarship from the Faculty of Engineering at Monash.

In addition to recognising our VCE graduates, special College bursaries were awarded to five students for outstanding achievements in 2012:

- **Almeida Russell Award for Poetry**: **Jessica Zuk** (Year 8)
- **Sr Paschal Rushford Award for Science**: **Caitlin Falloon** (Year 12)
- **Margaret Hayes Award for Japanese**: **Hannah Wilson** (Year 11) and **Lucy McNeill** (VCE 2012)
- **RAN Year 9 Corvette Award**: **Grace Hocking** (Year 10)

Megan will commence a Bachelor of Science at Monash in 2014 under the Science Scholars’ Program.

Two other students achieved perfect scores: **Tabitha Timms** (English) and **Benita Kolovos** (Literature).

...Principal, Sandra Diafas, recalled that the Star philosophy is to educate young women spiritually, academically, physically and creatively and to empower them to engage in positive action for our world. “We celebrate all who completed the VCE: not just those with high ATARs but those who also achieved up to, and in some cases, beyond their capabilities.”
Star’s 130th birthday was celebrated on Friday, 22 March with a sense of fun, faith and family!

The party started with a creative and colourful liturgy that tracked the Star story: from the beginning of the universe through the experiences of the local Bunurong people, Jesus, Nano Nagle and the founding Irish Presentation Sisters, finishing with the experience of a prospective student in 2025.

After the Liturgy, three generations of the Kinnaird family cut a special cake to the strains of Happy Birthday to You …

Gifts were presented to the College from each House expressing our hopes for Star into the future.

As we moved from Sebastian Hall to a special lunch, all guests received a delicious cupcake that had been made and decorated by a host of Food Technology and Hospitality students and staff. Our afternoon was spent enjoying the beautiful sunshine, eating treats and participating in activities ranging from zumba to face-painting.

A highlight for many was the live performance of a number of Star’s senior bands. The sight and sound of brilliant music emanating from the historic building’s forecourt was both entertaining and energising. The statue of Mary seemed to smile down on all of us as we bobbed to the beat and enjoyed each other’s company.

Students were treated to an early departure while staff gathered in the FAYBYRNE Centre to enjoy a celebratory 130th birthday drink, toasting the blessings of our Star experience, past, present … and the movement into a bright future.
... and those cupcakes!

When the Food Technology students and staff made cupcakes for Star’s 125th birthday celebrations in 2008, a tradition was born! Principal, Sandra Diafas, approached Bernadette Dorning, Food Technology Faculty Head, for an encore performance for this year’s 130th celebrations... the Faculty embraced the idea with gusto!

THE BRIEF...
The Food Technology faculty had the challenge of providing all Star students and staff, Presentation nuns in the convent, St James staff and Grade 6 students with an individual birthday cake for this year’s 130th birthday celebration: 1300 in total.

THE PARTICIPANTS...
Students worked with enthusiasm and pride: the school spirit in undertaking this task was palpable! Year 9 and Year 10 Food Technology students made the cakes the previous day. The VET Hospitality Unit 1 students made the butter cream frosting for the cakes and iced and decorated them: on the ‘big day’ we arrived at school at 7.30am and were quickly directed to decorate the delicious little cakes. We worked as a team to get them done as quickly as possible with the help of the teachers. We were proud of our work and loved watching the cupcakes being devoured in the playground after our liturgy!

Marla Kent, Year 10 Hospitality

THE PROCESS...
The baking, icing and decorating of 1300 cupcakes were completed in under 24 hours. The project involved all of the Food Technology staff and other staff who wanted to assist.

THE STATS...
• the production of 1300 cupcakes required the recipe to be produced forty times
• the butter cream frosting was produced ten times
• two kilograms each of red, blue and white sprinkles were used in the decorating
• one batch of gluten-free cupcakes was baked

THE RESULT...
The cupcakes were delivered on time and were delightful to behold... and delicious. They were a highlight of a memorable celebration. Many thanks to the students, the Food Technology teachers and support staff, Administration staff and other staff that made this undertaking such a success on Foundation Day.

Star’s Secret Cupcake Recipe

MAKES 36 MUFFIN SIZE CAKES

• 4 ¼ cups plain flour
• 3 tsps baking powder
• 300g butter
• 2 ½ cups castor sugar
• 6 eggs
• 1 ½ tablespoons vanilla essence
• 1 ½ cups milk

METHOD
• preheat oven to 170 cake mode
• line 3 x 12-hole muffin trays with muffin papers
• cream butter and sugar for 3 mins with electric mixer
• when the sugar has dissolved, add the eggs one at a time, beating for 1 min after each addition
• add vanilla essence and beat until well combined

• sift flour together with the baking powder
• add flour and milk to the butter mixture one-third at a time and mix with a large metal spoon
• do not overmix or the mixture will toughen
• spoon into muffin papers two-thirds full
• bake for 18 - 20 mins then cool on a wire rack

BUTTER CREAM FROSTING

• 200 grams softened unsalted butter
• ½ cup milk
• 1 tablespoon vanilla extract
• 8 cups icing sugar

METHOD
• melt butter
• add icing sugar, vanilla extract and milk
• stir until all smooth
Student leadership underpins the foundations of Star of the Sea and has definitely shaped our secondary journey as well as our final year at the College.

For us, the true motto of Star is “to give everything and anything a go” as we are constantly encouraged by our peers and teachers.

Through opportunities such as Junior Homeroom captaincies, the Vietnam Immersion Program, the coaching of sport teams, the ANZAC experience, the Student Representative Council and representing the College at conferences over the years, a certain sense of direction and teamwork is inevitably built.

Star has always encouraged academic success and much more. We are taught priceless and valuable life lessons such as how to be leaders through embracing every opportunity that Star has to offer. We are the future generation of leaders and teachers and the opportunities we have been offered allows us to develop a strong sense of independence, confidence and leadership.

In 2013, our goal is to inspire and lead our peers as past leaders have inspired us. We strive to encourage all people of our community, to care for our place and find purpose in this, Star’s 130th year.

Bridget Parsons and Kaitlin O’Donnell
In my eighth year as Principal of Star, I appreciate more than ever the support of the Star of the Sea College Board. Comprising dedicated people with a range of talents and backgrounds, the Board is committed to the governance of the College in line with the Presentation ethos. I thank the Board members for their ongoing support of and passion for Star.

Sandra Diafas

Kathleen Donnellon
Board Chair since 2012
Kathleen is legally trained and ran the mediation section of the Legal Professional Tribunal for a number of years. She has been teaching Dispute Resolution in the Melbourne University Law School for over six years. She is also on the Board of Mercy Works Inc, the charity arm of the Sisters of Mercy. Her daughter, Lizzie Donnellon Horan, completed Year 12 in 2011.

Grant Arnold
The father of two former students, Eliza (2008) and Tess (2009), Grant is in his seventh - and final - year on the Board having been initially engaged with the Parents’ Association. He has professional experience in policy and governance. As Chair of the Building & Grounds Committee, Grant was responsible for oversight of the FAYBYRNE Centre.

Kim Burnell
A property management professional with expertise in building facilities, Kim is in his second term on the Board. Daughter, Sarah (2012), and wife, Jo (1979), are past students. Before his Board appointment, Kim was involved with the Parents’ Association. Even though Sarah has graduated, he “loves the old buildings and wants to continue his involvement in their maintenance and management”.

Sr Helen Carboon pbvm
With expertise in Religious Education, Helen is Chair of the Mission Committee. She works with families - mostly in the area of Sacrament Preparation - and with parents and children in their first years at school, helping them to appreciate and understand God-with-them in the ordinariness of every day experiences. She also works in the area of Teacher / Staff Religious Education and Spirituality.

Mary Harney AICD
A current parent and graduate of the 1974 class at Star, Mary has 35 years post-graduate experience across a broad range of executive management areas within the health and agricultural industries. She is a member of the Australian Institute of Company Directors. Mary is currently CEO of the Gardiner Foundation, established in 2000 following the deregulation of the dairy industry.

Mary Hawkins MBA, BSc, BAppSc (Mathematics), Dip Ed, Grad Dip Computing
A past student and teacher at Star, Mary chairs the Finance Committee. An ICT executive for over twenty years, she consults on strategies that achieve energy efficiencies within technology. Passionate about the environment and creating opportunities for women and girls, Mary has held senior positions on boards of management. She is the immediate past President of the International Women’s Development Agency.

Michael Holland CA
Michael has been a chartered accountant in Gardenvale for thirty years. His daughters, Rachael and Lizzie, “benefitted enormously from the wonderful opportunities that were offered to them at Star”. Michael has been on the Board for six years and was reappointed for another term in 2012. He has been happy to contribute in this way “to give something back to a wonderful school”.

College Board Support Officers
Kevin Velthuis, Business Manager
Susanne McKenna, Board Secretary
House competitions in music, swimming and athletics are major highlights on the Star calendar in the first half of the year. Competition is furious between the four Houses: Ave, Faye, Nagle and Stella.

Each competition shines a spotlight on the culture of Star with students happily taking on leadership roles with genuine responsibilities and being seen as positive role models. The House Leaders work hard to transcend the year level divide, encouraging tentative Year 7s, who have only been at Star for a few months, to be a part of the team.

The House Music Festival took centre stage in the Performing Arts Centre in March.

Stars in the pool, on the stage and on the track...

The House Swimming Carnival made a splash at the Caulfield Pool in February.

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The House Athletics Carnival gathered pace at the Sandringham Athletics Track in April.

Even though there can only be one winner, each student who participates genuinely celebrates their involvement on a personal and school level. Each year, the leaders and wider student body congratulate the winning house with an overwhelming sense of true joy. Congratulations to Nagle which was the overall winner for 2013. It also won the Dance Award. Ave won the Choir Award.

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After a day of running, jumping, throwing, cheering, chanting, dancing and marshalling, Fay was proclaimed Athletics Champion for 2013. Ave won the Spirit Award.
Star of the Sea is proud of the consistent, external recognition of the artwork created by our students and staff over the years. 2013 is proving to be no exception. Star was represented in two of the VCE Season of Excellence exhibitions this year: Mietta Mullaly in Top Arts and Eloise McCullough in Top Designs. Both students were acknowledged for excellence in their subjects: demonstrating sophisticated conceptual work, produced skillfully and with flair.

Top Arts, an annual exhibition of exemplary and creatively outstanding works completed by VCE Art and Studio Arts students in 2012 was presented at the National Gallery of Victoria from March to July.

Mietta’s work comprised a series of drawings, digital photographs and installations which explore the theme Structures. A persistent and highly inventive approach in the presentation of this theme is obvious in the hauntingly beautiful images.

The work, entitled The Road Ahead, is a colour inkjet print which includes hand-made miniature models intricately formed by Mietta and then manipulated by her in Photoshop and ultimately combined in a final print.

Mietta says of her work: although we live in a world of architecture, a world of architecture lives within us too. She is a current Year 12 Studio Art student.

Top Designs, an exhibition hosted by the Melbourne Museum from March to June, featured exceptional work in fashion, graphic and product design, film, photography and much more by students who undertook relevant courses in 2012.

Eloise developed an identity, packaging and promotion for an artisan bread. In the role of a graphic designer, she used the name Milly’s to give the product a warm, quirky style that conveyed its personal, handmade quality. This thoughtful design extended to the wrapper style packaging that also carried the artisan feel of being handmade and unique, with a strong graphic as a recognition tool.

For promotion, Eloise created a set of coasters that had a dual purpose. Her beautiful illustrations and hand crafted type offered healthy suggestions for sandwich fillings while being useful as coasters. Eloise is currently at RMIT undertaking a degree in Communication Design.

Catholic Education Office Art Show Award

Entrusted with Something Precious… the theme of the CEO’s Visual Arts Exhibition in March was captured by students and staff from Star who were acknowledged for their ingenuity and flair.

Mietta Mullaly’s highly-intricate pencil portrait, The Architect, captured the gaze of her sitter in an unusual pose. Cropped tightly to the face and almost life size, the work was arresting in its realism and engaging in its concept.

This work was completed when Mietta was in Year 11 and she was awarded the Serra Portraiture Prize.
ANNA’S STORY ...

I am in my final year of Media and Communications (Philosophy) and Diploma of Modern Languages at Melbourne University.

I have had influential experiences with the Edmund Rice Social Justice Network (ERSJN), holding a number of positions at Edmund Rice camps and in asylum seeker and refugee outreach services in detention centres and in the community.

I have also spent time in East Africa, living and working in local communities with the ERSJN in Kenya and Tanzania. Our Australian group partnered with community leaders in East Africa to run Edmund Rice camps and volunteer at community development placements. The lasting impact of this experience came from working with local leaders, our counterparts in East Africa. 

Walking with those leaders and working in their local areas gave me a sense of the power of community and welcome that I have rarely felt elsewhere. I came away with a deepened understanding of material poverty in East Africa but with a far greater sense of awe in the power of people to promote positive change in the everyday if we choose to make it a priority.

Most recently, I have worked at the Oaktree Foundation, Australia’s only youth-run international aid and development organisation. My role was as part of the national team organising the Roadtrip to End Poverty campaign. This involved 1000 young people travelling around Australia, raising public and political awareness around our government’s commitments to aid in the Asia-Pacific region.

I don’t think I really knew what I wanted to do ‘as a career’ when I chose my uni course. Once I became more involved in social justice, I doubted how relevant my studies could be for the issues I care about. However, once people started asking about my volunteering experiences, I realised the importance of telling stories and telling them well.

Once I finish uni, I hope to work in media and journalism with a social justice focus, joining one of the many media and research think-tanks and agencies that do this work. I’m lucky enough to know the stories of friends who are asylum seekers or who have done it tough in some way. I’m hopeful that if more people understood these stories, the less inclined they would be to promote and vote for policies that oppress them.

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Star graduates from 2009 - Anna Cerreto and Tammy Wright -
TAMMY’S STORY …

After graduating from Star, I studied Law with no knowledge of the legal world. Some significant experiences have since shaped my life.

The Legal Education and Assistance Program for prisoners is a student initiative, assisting those in custody to understand the complicated legal system in which they exist. My contribution to the Program was to work at Parkville’s juvenile prison.

From the outset, I could see that these boys were victims, not monsters, who had never been given a real chance at life. They had fallen through the cracks. Some were looking after siblings on the street. Judges and lawyers tell me that jail is the wrong place for kids so why is jail still seen as a solution?

In January, I completed a five-week legal internship at the Human Rights Office in Cape Town, South Africa where I managed thirty-five files (ranging from refugee applications to domestic abuse), consulted on drop-in client issues and saw clients at outreach clinics. I ran sessions at a battered women’s shelter where I frequently felt ill equipped.

What do you say to a woman who tells you her only goal in life is to experience happiness before her husband finds her and kills her?

I organised a BBQ in one of the townships where the very poorest people live as a result of ongoing apartheid. I made deep friendships with these people who shared their lives and their community Church.

With rapes increasing, police corruption, corrugated iron houses and no money, they turn to God hoping that they will be rewarded for bearing such a difficult life. Never have I felt such a feeling of hopelessness as they spoke about seemingly never-ending danger, oppression, and crime. I now work at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre and will leave for Geneva in June to learn about Refugee Law from the United Nations.

I would never have understood the sentenced boys at Parkville, the township people of Cape Town or the refugees coming to Australia if I hadn’t been involved, even in a small way. I’ve come to believe that experience moves us towards a better solution. I encourage everyone to take a step into a different world every once in a while.

Read more about my experiences: http://tammyabroad.blogspot.com.au

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A learning exchange between teachers and students is not an unusual event: it happens every school day. A Professional Learning Workshop in March highlighted this dynamic when the usual learning process was reversed: the students (members of Star’s iTeam) were the experts and the teachers were the students!

The teachers wanted to revolutionise the delivery of their subjects but they didn’t have the technical expertise to implement their ideas. Their solution was to log a “wish list” with the iTeam prior to a Professional Learning Workshop.

At the workshop, the iTeam members worked with the teachers on particular projects to show how they could realise their ideas:

- making movies of particular concepts so that students can review these ideas when required and at their own pace;
- enhancing skills to develop subject Google Sites pages by learning how to embed multimedia into those pages;
- developing skills in Keynote.

The iTeam experts were enthusiastic, respectful, patient and knowledgeable, ensuring that the teachers acquired the skills they needed to implement their vision. There was much applause and appreciation for the wonderful iTeam at the end of the session.

The iTeam training service for staff is a feature of Star’s e-Learning program, the brainchild of Ms Sam Harding: a win-win for all parties!

NAGLE HALL MORPHS INTO THE NAGLE CAFÉ...

The tired, old Nagle Hall was transformed into the new, contemporary Nagle Café over the summer break. Named after Nano Nagle, the Café reflects the great emphasis placed on hospitality by Nano and the Presentation Sisters. It has quickly become a centre of hospitality, conviviality and learning amongst the staff and students with Year 12 students using it as an alternative study venue. Parents and past students have also enjoyed the ambience of the new facility.
PRESENTATION PILGRIMAGE TO WAGGA

As part of our 130 year celebrations, a group of intrepid Year 10 students and staff members ventured to Wagga to explore Star’s founding story. Mothers Paul Fay and John Byrne spent nine years in Wagga prior to the establishment of Star in 1883. Our 2013 pilgrims immersed themselves in the historical Wagga Presentation connection and also encountered local Sisters involved in rural ministry and the eco-spirituality centre, Erin Earth.

Our sessions moved us from the contemplation of a sustainable future to considering the needs of people living on the land. Students particularly enjoyed a visit to the original Presentation school building, meeting their peers from Kildare College. It was difficult to drag Star girls away from their new-found friends!

The pilgrimage increased our knowledge of the Australian Presentation story, deepened connections between Presentation-inspired schools and alerted us to the priorities of the contemporary Sisters and all Presentation people: to care for our fragile cosmos and to hear the stories of our marginalised sisters and brothers here in our land.

Anne Muirhead - Faith and Mission Coordinator

HOLOCAUST STUDIES IN JERUSALEM

In January, as a recipient of the Pauline Glass scholarship program, I travelled to Israel to study the Holocaust at the world-renowned Yad Vashem Museum and Education Centre in Jerusalem. There were twenty-seven participants from Australia including representatives from the Edmund Rice Centre, two state schools, a lawyer for International Human Rights and two Catholic school teachers.

It was an intense program with lectures from Israel’s top scholars from Tel Aviv and Hebrew Universities on a range of Jewish history topics and on the rise of anti-semitism and the Holocaust. Sr Gemma Del Duca, from the National Catholic Centre for Holocaust Education, spoke on the role of the Vatican during the Holocaust, generating a dynamic post-talk discussion. All lecturers and guests made us feel that we were the bearers of important lessons to take home, especially when listening to one of the world’s leading Nazi hunters, Dr Ephraim Zuroff.

The talks given by a number of survivors who courageously related their personal stories from the Holocaust were the most moving of all. I was privileged to deliver a short speech to Nachum and Genya Manor, two survivors from Oscar Schindler’s ‘List’ at his grave on the Mount of Olives. Given that few survivors remain, the group felt it was part of something both historic and profound.

Jerusalem was packed with Christian and Muslim pilgrims, Jewish people from all over the Diaspora and those interested in ancient history. Despite the recent political acrimony, tourists and residents alike love Jerusalem for her hospitality and diversity.

I always felt safe and welcome: an extraordinary experience that I would do again in a heartbeat.

Sandra Schneiderman - English and History Teacher
Sr Raymonde Taylor remembered...

Brilliant and creative ... gifted and infectious ... erudite and intimidating ... strong feminist convictions ... soft and loving heart ... witty, keen sense of humour ... meticulous ... extremely high standards ... inspirational and exciting ... prayerful, faithful, contemplative ... towering figure ...

... a sample of the myriad descriptions of Sr Raymonde Taylor, affectionately nick-named “Bomb” for her vibrant and dynamic presence in the teaching of art, literature and history.

As Betty Taylor, Raymonde spent her schooldays at Star and entered the Presentation Order in 1939 at the age of 19. Past students, family members and Sr Patricia Foley pbvm reflect on Raymonde’s life and on the legacy of her seventy-year teaching career where “she changed the lives of thousands of girls ...”

Raymonde lived in a rich, cultural world of faith, art, literature, history and probably much else. She was nourished and transformed by all that she loved and I believe it was this that so enriched and energised her life and work. She was an outstanding educator. Teaching was her greatest love. It was as though she glimpsed a pearl of great price in each of her students. There was at the centre of all of this a deeply prayerful, faithful, contemplative woman in Raymonde: lover of the Eucharist and lover of the Scriptures. These imbued her whole life. Smiling, she described herself … as only being “holy” in fits and starts!

Sr Patricia Foley's pbvm eulogy for Raymonde, 2012

... apparently a turbulent child ... getting into trouble both at school and at home. Upon finishing school, she went back to Star... announced that she wanted to become a nun. The Reverend Mother was astonished!

Youngest brother, Gerald’s eulogy, 2012

... Aunty Betty was the rebel ... it has been speculated that the early years in a largely all-female household contributed to Aunty Betty’s development as a feminist … She was an incredible force: of ideas, action, art, sport, politics, history, inspiration, and so much more … (her) obsession with Carlton (Football Club) even extended to the nuns naming their chooks after Carlton players.

Niece Anna Taylor’s eulogy, 2012

In she swooped ... How would I know I would never be the same or the influence that one encounter (with Sr Raymonde) would have on me? … This was my first experience of getting something right and I had fallen in love with art, paint and classical music … all at once! “Let it all go”, she continued … “keep painting even when your page is full. It is not about the painting, it is about feeling the paint. It is about feeling the music through the paint.” I got it. I can still hear her voice.

Christine Sage: One Encounter, St Mary’s Parish bulletin, Dargo, 2010

I was the perfect candidate for Sr Raymonde’s classroom. I was like a sponge trying to absorb every bit of knowledge. I can remember her rushing into the classroom as she pushed her sleeves up ready for work. I couldn’t wait for art classes … When I started boarding, “Bomb” and I had the odd altercation. Once I gave her as big a dressing down as she’d given me … she laughed! I loved her dearly … (She) was gifted to us … a brilliant educator and a truly remarkable human being. I will never forget her.

Lynne Riley (Terrill - 1969)

(Treasured guest) Sr Raymonde was her usual bundle of static electricity... She finished her speech by saying that she just wanted to say one more thing before she started!

Meredeth Kenny (Wallace - 1963), report on 25 year reunion
In 1983 I wrote to Sr Raymonde from Florence. Twenty years earlier, as my Matriculation art teacher, she shared her passion and her knowledge of Renaissance art and architecture, enthusing about Giotto’s Bell Tower, encouraging appreciation of Ghiberti’s Baptistry doors and explaining details of Brunelleschi’s Cathedral dome … I wrote to thank her. She (told) me that when she got to Florence herself she knew the old city so well that she didn’t need any maps. She knew exactly where every building was. She had walked those streets, in her imagination, many times with her students ...

I have since thought that she became an unconscious model for my own teaching of secondary and tertiary students. Conveying enthusiasm for the subject and stimulating a desire to learn are at the heart of the educational endeavour.

Sue Taffe (Judd - 1963)

When I was in Year 11 in 1969, it was announced that there was to be, for the first time, an interstate excursion for art and history. We were to go to Tasmania - on an aeroplane!

It was such a rare thing, so breathtakingly new, we may as well have been going to the moon … it is an experience that has stayed with me forever... For four days we visited houses, galleries and historical sites that had been chosen carefully by Raymonde to instruct us in the art and history of Tasmania and, in particular, the finer details of Georgian architecture. We visited houses which were fine examples of the style or where particular works of art were held. Some of these were privately owned. How did we get there? Raymonde wrote to the owners and asked if she could come, along with thirty girls. In one place, ‘Woolmers’ near Launceston, we were welcomed warmly into the parlour and offered sherry!

Raymonde’s exuberance and vast knowledge guided us throughout the four days, filling our heads with knowledge and ideas and enthusiasm for learning more. These days it would be called deep learning, engagement and powerful pedagogy. Forever it has been good teaching. Raymonde wasn’t so much ahead of her time as a teacher for the ages.

Leonie Keaney (1970)

We thank our God whenever we think of you … and every time we pray for you, we pray with joy

St Paul to the Philippians

With artwork of Germaine Greer

Professor Germaine Greer (1955), The Age, 17/11/2012

Sister Raymond, the architect of my appreciation

ON OCTOBER 30, Sister Raymond departed this world. In the latter part of her life, they added an “n” to her name, I don’t know why. She was named for a male saint, probably St Raymond of Penafort, maybe St Raymond Nonnatus. In heaven there’s no longer supposed to be any gender but Sister Raymond got given an “n” anyway. She was 82 when she was gathered to her eternal reward. That means she was barely 30 when I got my Disseration scholarship and turned up at State of the Arts Centre, Gardnersdale. She was a big, boxy, apple-cheeked country woman who was born Betty Kathleen Taylor. She taught me art.

There was plenty of art in the content, all of it. We had plaster statues of the Virgin Mary. She appeared as a Virgin, white face, appeared as Fatina (all white with a headscarf), the Sacred Heart, the Little Flower and St Theresa of Lisieux holding a crucifix loaded with roses, St Joseph, not to mention an assortment of crucifixes of greater and lesser holiness. Sister Raymond didn’t talk about any of that. She talked about great art. And how she talked. With both hands held up, stubby fingers articulated like the arms of a starfish, she would show us images of beautiful things she had never seen. “Look at it,” she would bald, as if she was calling the cows home. “It’s beautiful!” We looked. And it was.

In those days Sister Raymond wore a black habit and black veil over a starched white cotton folded like a box, held on by starched handkerchiefs and a pin or two. At the side you could glimpse the stubble that was all that remained of her hair. Her shooed bonnet was shilied from her face by a stiff white puff, starched until it shine. Around her waist was a thick leather belt from which hung a heavy rosary, its big silver and black crucifix stuck in the belt buckle like a dagger. To this cumbrous garb Sister Raymond would clump about the classroom in her sensible lace-up black shoes, enthusing us to look and wonder, until her cheeks glowed and her cap slanted over.

She loved her take medium-sized habit but where the rule changed, and she was made to uncover her head and bear her hair, and was the kind of sensible knee-length button-through dresses that might be worn by a princess nowadays. I’m sure she didn’t complain.

One of the first buildings she taught us, by the comparative method of Sister Patrice Fletcher, was Durham Cathedral, with such mixing enthusiasm that I left the side with you could glimpse the stubble that was all that remained of her hair. Her shooed bonnet was shilied from her face by a stiff white puff, starched until it shine. Around her waist was a thick leather belt from which hung a heavy rosary, its big silver and black crucifix stuck in the belt buckle like a dagger. To this cumbrous garb Sister Raymond would clump about the classroom in her sensible lace-up black shoes, enthusing us to look and wonder, until her cheeks glowed and her cap slanted over.

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PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION

On Wednesday, 8 May, the Parents’ Association hosted the annual Mother-Daughter breakfast as a warm-up to Mothers’ Day. Over 300 mothers, their daughters and friends gathered and enjoyed the camaraderie and the inspirational speaker, Peta Rooney.

Peta has been a senior merchandising executive with the Just Group for the last 17 years, specialising in leading and directing buying teams in the retail fashion industry.

President Kylie Taylor

PAST STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION

The Past Students’ Association held its Annual General Meeting in February. The current office bearers were happy to continue in their roles in 2013 and I thank them for their efforts.

The first event for 2013 of the successful series, Star Women Speak, was held on Friday, 10 May in the Performing Arts Centre. Hosted by the Past Students’ Association, it was a memorable social evening for the women of Star of the Sea whilst being inspired by Kate Kennedy (1985).

Kate has had a remarkable career working in the areas of social justice and welfare. As CEO of HAGAR Australia, an organisation dedicated to helping women and children who are the victims of human rights abuses, Kate provided an insight into the level of support needed by the women and children who have suffered from war and abuse, to affirm their futures in difficult circumstances that we can barely imagine.

The Association will be consolidating ongoing projects in 2013: assisting with funding the refurbishment of the Star Chapel through the Chapel Appeal (see information below) and the construction of the Memorial Garden on the south side of the chapel. Both projects will be assisted by the purchase of a Star Rose: see information on page 17.

All past students are warmly invited to the next Committee meeting on Monday, 29 July, in the FAYBYRNE Centre.

President Barbara Harkin (Nankervis – 1964)

CHAPEL APPEAL

Our beautiful Chapel is over fifty years old. Ongoing maintenance and refurbishment will ensure that the Chapel remains at the heart of the College for the next fifty years... and beyond.

We appreciate the generosity of many past students who have contributed to the Chapel Appeal.

We are grateful to Frances Tobin (1980) from Frances Tobin Funerals by Women, Brighton, for her recent, generous donation.

All donations are tax deductible.

For all Past Students’ information - email address changes, reunion information, donations to the Chapel Appeal, purchase of the Star of the Sea rose, notification of family news, participation in the Mentor Program - contact Liaison Officer, Geraldine Carrodus (Keaney – 1863).

Frances Tobin

For all Past Students’ information - email address changes, reunion information, donations to the Chapel Appeal, purchase of the Star of the Sea rose, notification of family news, participation in the Mentor Program - contact Liaison Officer, Geraldine Carrodus (Keaney – 1863).

gcarrodus@starmelb.catholic.edu.au or Mobile 0419 321 441
FRIENDS REMEMBER ABBIE FENNESSY (2006)

Members of Star's graduating class of 2006 gathered in February to celebrate the life of Abbie Fennessy and to raise funds for the Abbie Fennessy Cystic Fibrosis Trust.

Abbie, who died in March 2012, aged 23, was an inspirational young woman who enjoyed her formative years of secondary education at Star. She successfully completed her VCE, sometimes undertaking her exams while enduring IV antibiotic infusions and completed her Health Promotion degree at Monash University in 2011. She enjoyed an eighteen-month career as the Victorian Specialist for the medical equipment company, Technipro-Pulmomed, which she loved.

Abbie encompassed all of those special Star qualities: a love of learning, passion for her Nagle house and support of her friends. She was a truly special student who made an impact on those who were blessed to be her friends and those who had the privilege to teach her. Abbie’s mother, Beth, who taught for many years at Star, was delighted with the amazing support shown for her daughter.

HAYLEY ARENDSZ EARN A DEAN’S HONOUR

Hayley Arendtsz (2007) received a 2012 Dean’s Honour for her achievement in the Master of Applied Finance. This Honour recognises students whose academic performance places them in the top 2% of their course: an exceptional achievement, according to Professor Colm Kearney, Dean of the Faculty of Business and Economics at Monash University.

Hayley is employed in the graduate program for institutional banking with ANZ, based in the Commodities Division of the Economics Department. Hayley’s love for Economics was inspired by her Year 12 Economics teacher, Ms Leanne Hart.

After leaving Star, Hayley combined travelling with her Economics and Finance studies at Monash. In 2011, she volunteered to help teach English and build some classrooms for children in Thailand who had been trafficked into prostitution... such an eye opener, says Hayley.

AMY HILLS IS YOUNG CITIZEN OF THE YEAR 2013

Glen Eira’s Young Citizen of the Year, Amy Hills (2011), was nominated for her outstanding work within the community. Amy gives up one week of every school holidays to facilitate Edmund Rice camps.

Every week, she coordinates the St Kilda soup van and tutors children from high-rise apartments in Richmond.
JOANNE NETTING’S PERMANENT EXHIBITION AT CANBERRA’S OLD PARLIAMENT HOUSE

Somehow, my imagination steps in so that the finished product may bear little resemblance to the original picture. I idealise my subjects... depicting an ideal world.

Joanne Netting (1980) has been invited by the Museum of Australian Democracy (Old Parliament House, Canberra) to permanently exhibit her artwork, 1927 And All That. It depicts the official opening of Parliament House in 1927 and is one of a series of three commissioned paintings of Canberra historical landmarks, the others being Government House, Yarralumla, and Royal Military College, Duntroon.

Joanne is completely self-taught, in the “naïve” style. Her acrylic-on-canvas paintings, silkscreen prints and lithographs have been exhibited, collected, published and privately commissioned in Australia and in New York, London, Paris and Tokyo.

Represented and published by leading galleries in the USA since 1992, her bright, detailed art has also been licensed internationally on calendars, stationery and home wares. It has been featured on magazine covers and television programs as well as in art reference books and magazines.

Discovered in 1987 while completing her post-graduate degree in education, Joanne’s first show sold out. She still pursues her interest in education as a part-time English lecturer at Bond University on the Gold Coast where she is based, at the same time as overseeing her international art business, including art licensing and fine art reproduction of original art images from her extensive archive.

ELLIA GREEN EXCELS ON THE INTERNATIONAL SPORTING STAGE

Ellia Green (2010) attended the Pathway to Gold Rugby Sevens trials run by the ARU in 2012 and was one of five players selected to attend a training camp at the Australian Institute of Sport.

From there, Ellia joined the Australian team that travelled to Houston in January for the second round of the IRB Women’s Sevens World Series. This group features Women's powerhouses like New Zealand, Canada, England and Spain.

She has the chance to represent Australia at the Rugby Sevens World Cup this year in Moscow and at the Rio Olympics in 2016.
ENGAGEMENTS

Rebecca Snape to Adam Fletcher
Mia Duncan to Simon Garrett
Larissa Cairns to Paul Montgomery
Veronica Nguyen to Michael
Lauren Darvell to Tim

BIRTHS

Miriam Riverlea (1999) and her husband, Rory - a second son, Miles Henry John, brother for Leo
Natalie Talia (1996) and Sam Higgs - a son, Max Samuel, grandson for Meredith Talia (staff)
Michelle Sweeney and Scott McNeill (staff) - a daughter, Rose Sweeney McNeill
To Anna Mansour and James Wilson - Grace Katherine, granddaughter for Suellen Mansour (staff) and niece of Katherine Mansour (1999)
Lianne Rowlinson (staff) - a son, Daelin
Ghislaine and Paul Entwisle - a son, Alexander Joshua, grandson for Bernadette (staff)

DEATHS

We ask your prayers for the following members of the Star of the Sea family who have died recently.
May they rest in God's loving peace.

Aaliyah - precious baby daughter of Brianna Mollica (2011)
Jesse Chaplin-Burch - loved son of Robbie Chaplin (1977) and grandson of Patty (Dunphy) Chaplin

Maureen Hurley (Hynes - 1942) - loved wife of Kevin and mother of six children; gained a Bachelor of Arts from Deakin University in 1985. Her requiem Mass was celebrated by her son, Fr Brendan Hurley LC.

Madeleine Ubter (Ryde - 1963) - loved sister of Therese Mulcahy (1975), wife of Bernard Ubter and mother of Claire, Joanne and Genevieve

STAR OF THE SEA ROSE

Our beautiful Star of the Sea Rose is white, has a creamy centre and pointed, star-shaped petals. The roses are $30 each. All proceeds will fund the construction of the Memorial Garden. It will be available for collection in bare-rooted form in July 2013, ready for early spring planting.