From the Principal

In a recent conversation with one of our mothers, I was delighted to hear her say that she was determined that her daughter attend Star of the Sea because she would receive a “whole” education. This mother had identified something in the College that was unique and prized. I believe that it resonates strongly with the theme that has guided us in 2012: “One Step Beyond”, which encourages our students to stretch out and grasp new opportunities. This conversation also prompted me to define exactly what it is that makes this College “go one step beyond.”

Star of the Sea College has always been a community which understands the need for challenge. We encourage our young women to resist the pressure to conform and not bend to the restrictions placed upon them by society or gender. We have always taken a step beyond by constantly looking forward to the future, turning into reality the impossible, unheard of or unpopular. One of the many ways our girls have been challenged this year was by the, “You are Beautiful” campaign, initiated by our school leaders. This program reinforced the view that beauty is not a ‘one fit all’ but more often witnessed in the hearts and minds of those around us.

In providing opportunities for every student at Star, through a wealth of programs and experiences, we have taken one step beyond. Star of the Sea is a place of constant activity, laughter, enthusiasm and pride. While the heart of the College is its educational program, the pulse is the amazing array of interests, groups and activities that allow each girl to reach beyond their potential. In any one week, we might be entertained by the gift of music through instrumental performances, hear the lovely voices of Stacella, watch fashion parades, contribute to retreat and reflection days, compete in an extensive range of sports, join a debate, take in an art show, watch Irish dancing, become involved in a community project or tutor others.

The design, delivery and constant evaluation of our Curriculum keeps the learning experiences at Star relevant, accessible, engaging and driven by high expectations. Our teaching is grounded in the wisdom drawn from our College motto, “Deeds Not Words” and in knowing that we succeed only when we enable our young women to be, do, aspire and achieve.

In reaching out to those around us in support, assistance and acceptance, the community of Star of the Sea recognises the rich diversity of others and the inherent dignity which lies at the heart of all whom we meet. Stepping beyond our boundaries, we
celebrate our relationships with Isik College, the Sacred Heart Mission, students from the Kimberley and our Presentation colleagues throughout Australia and Ireland.

I am proud of the teachers of this College who are diligent, motivated and excited by the opportunity to work with their peers and alongside their students to build understanding and achievement. The manner in which staff have embraced the use of laptops in the classrooms is to be applauded. Their creativity and inventiveness has led to outstanding collaborative teaching and learning experiences. There is no doubt that we can learn from our girls, and the iTeam, our technology angels, have demonstrated expertise, confidence and patience as they supported staff through the journey with this new technology. The Year 8 Thinking Project, The Year 9 Indigenous Conference, The Star production, “Digging Down”, the da Vinci competition and the Philosothon are just a few of the ways our teachers have challenged our girls this year.

Belonging and welcome are fundamental values at Star. Our school leaders take one step beyond at every level of the College, running Music Festival, championing the Big Sister/Little Sister program, reporting to the College Board and conducting the SRC. They are responsible also for modelling the values of discipline, service and compassion that are hallmarks of Star and the way in which they are respected by their peers demonstrates that they are leading the way most appropriately.

Star of the Sea is a place filled with people who make life better each day for all of us, simply by doing their job quietly, determinedly and to the best of their ability. They take one step beyond as they tend gardens, maintain buildings, create correspondence and file documents, support teaching programs, source and provide technology, answer phones, support parents, provide food and clothing, attend meetings and contribute ideas. They are central to our work and without them we would be diminished. I particularly note the outstanding contribution and service offered by Mr Bert Quan, the College Business Manager who retired this year after 15 years of service to Star of the Sea and Mr Vin Savage who completes a term of 13 years as College Board Chair. These men have been exemplary in their respective roles and we shall miss their love of this College, their willingness to give of themselves to see it grow and their enthusiasm for the continued work we undertake.

Our past students remind us of not just who we are but who we can become. 2012 marks the Centenary of the organisation dedicated to these women, many of whom have captured our imaginations and hearts by their lives and made us proud of their achievements. This year we have been particularly inspired by the steps taken by award winning writer Anna Funder, film maker Gen Bailey and Order of Australia recipients, Shelley Reys and Margaret Beswick.

As we finish this year, I am grateful to this community for all that it has done in going one step beyond in 2012. I call you to never forget the power of your choices or underestimate the humanity of your actions. Above all, remember that you have inherited a sacred tradition, a precious gift. You are responsible for seeing that tradition continue and flourish. You belong to the story of the Sisters and you are the reason they dedicated their lives, laboured and built. They stood firm against wrongdoing, walked with the oppressed and embraced the forgotten.

The oak tree that adorns the cover of this edition was photographed by Sr Maria Lazzaro pbvm at BallyGriffin, Nano Nagle’s home. The oak is an important symbol of strength, courage and fidelity. Remember: “Where you are going And the place you stay Come to the same thing... Just one time walk out Into the field and look At that towering oak- An acorn still beating at its heart”. (Peter Levitt)

Remember their bravery and like them, always take one step beyond.

Sandra Diazas - Principal
The recent events at MLC prompted the Uniting Church mediator to comment, “Where does an elite private school fit within a faith, which focuses on justice and equity for all.” This question perhaps is one that we all might ponder. What is our moral purpose at Star? If Nano Nagle’s mission was to educate the poor, what is the need of our time?

On my recent pilgrimage to Ireland it was extraordinary to see the way in which the Presentation Sisters of Ireland have re-imagined their mission. As the numbers of Sisters dwindle they have given their convents over to low cost housing for the poor and live side by side with the needy in their communities. They have established an Ecology Centre at Ballygriffin, home of Nano, where they focus on sustainable living based on a growing interest in cosmology.

Another need that we as parents and educators see in our girls is a spiritual yearning and desire for meaning. Fuelled by the emptiness of secularism and materialism there is a demonstrable desire among our girls to nourish their spiritual life through action that leads to ‘equity and justice.’ Nano’s vision involved ‘going it alone’ and we certainly want our girls to be counter cultural in their life choices.

Our school visits in Ireland were most illuminating. The harsh economic conditions, the horrific aftermath of child sexual abuse by priests and the transition to lay leadership in Catholic Schools has, “refocused the educational enterprise of a faith school.” Typically Irish is the imperative, “to see over the parapet when things are rough.” Despite the ravages of ‘the second famine’ there is a remarkable spirit of regeneration and a contemporary re-imagining of Nano’s vision in their schools.

The most cherished aspect of the pilgrimage was to live in community with the amazing Presentation Sisters. They are women of such beauty and grace, in the truest sense. They welcomed us with cups of tea and tables groaning with soda bread, scones, cakes and tarts. The conversation was intense as they were eager to hear about our schools in Australia. Knowing there are none to come after them, they are ensuring that Nano’s mission is handed on to a new lay leadership to respond to Nano’s call, “What is the need?”

Bernadette Turner
Deputy Principal - Professional Learning
Star’s Spectacular Speaker hits the London Scene

Year 12 student and Debating Captain, Ellie Jamonts travelled to London in May this year to compete in an International Public Speaking Competition.

One of 54 contestants from countries as diverse as Ghana, Brazil and Belgium, Ellie said the highlight of the trip for her was meeting and mixing with such a wide range of people, learning about their culture and forming friendships that she believes will be ongoing.

The competition took place over two days with all contestants in round 1 presenting prepared speeches. Ellie’s topic was “The Head or the Heart”. The 2nd round involved Impromptu speeches and from these, 12 final contestants were chosen.

Whilst Ellie was not a final round contestant she said the experience was about so much more than competing. Spending 5 days with the other competitors touring the sights of London, sharing accommodation and soaking up all that was British in preparation for the Queen’s Jubilee and the Olympics, was extraordinarily special.

Ellie has decided she will take a GAP year after VCE and spend a year working in London and travelling Europe before settling back into study.

We at Star commend Ellie for her talent and efforts and have no doubt that she will continue to set and achieve great goals.

The Star Community was delighted to hear Ellie’s award winning speech at this year’s Presentation Night. To read or download her speech, go to the Star website: www.starmelb.catholic.edu.au

Star’s Winning Writer

We are proud of Year 8 student, Emma Herbold, this year’s winner of Bayside Leader Newspaper’s Short Story Writing Competition. The challenging part of this task was to write a story in 150 words or less. This requires precision, compactness and economy of words without reducing complication, tension and resolution. Judged by author, George Ivanoff, the story is reproduced below for your enjoyment.

ESCAPE

The girl creeps silently down the deserted road. She glances over her shoulder nervously. Is anyone watching? She makes no sound, her bare feet silent on the dusty dirt road, and her breathing muffled by a heavy cloth wrapped around her face. It is night and the stars shine brightly above. If only she can slip into one of those bright spots against the black, into a different world where she need not fear the soldiers that patrol the quiet city, watching for people who do not abide by the rules. If only she can escape to the ocean, where she can smuggle herself onto a boat bound for a safe country. The girl doesn’t want to know what lies inside the impenetrable walls of the Emperor’s fortress. She has reached the market place now and knows she is very close. Feeling more exposed than ever, she scans the area uncomfortably and tries not to think of what will happen if she is caught. Now, she is hurrying down a dingy alleyway. She can see the ocean, glimmering in the moonlight like a precious jewel. The girl breaks into a run, almost there! If only she can reach a boat and hide. Hurry! A dark shape looms before her! It’s only a broken crate. She jumps, soars over it, the air rushing past her, and falls straight into the waiting arms, clad in the heavy camouflage fabric, of an army officer.

Emma Herbold, 8KE

Bayside Librarian, Nan Robson; Emma’s teacher, Annette Hill; Emma and author, George Ivanoff.

Ellie at Presentation Night

Nano Nagle Centre, Ballygriffin.
A significant part of our annual Presentation Night is the conferring of awards in recognition of the contribution students make to the Academic and Cultural dimensions of the College. We congratulate the following students for their outstanding achievements.

**Night Of Stars**

**Presentation Night Awards**

In 2011 the Dux of *Star of the Sea* was shared between two outstanding young women. Both **Lucinda Patterson** and **Madison Tonkes** achieved ATAR scores of 99.35. Lucinda studied Health and Human Development as a Year 11 student and achieved a score of 49. In Year 12 she undertook studies in English, Further Maths, Biology, National Politics and achieved the Premier’s Award for a perfect score of 50 in Legal Studies. Lucinda is currently studying Arts at the University of Melbourne. Madison studied Legal Studies as a Year 11 student and achieved a score of 45. In Year 12 she undertook studies in English, Maths Methods, Literature, Classics and also achieved a Premier’s Award for achieving an outstanding score of 47 for National Politics. Madison is currently studying Arts/Law at the University of Melbourne.

**Teresa Mulally Prize for Academic Excellence**

This year the Monash Prize has been superseded by the Teresa Mulally Prize for Academic Excellence.

Teresa Mulally was an early associate and friend of Nano Nagle who established Nano’s educational enterprise in Dublin in the 1790s. Teresa placed enormous emphasis on education and harnessed her own intelligence, resourcefulness and ingenuity to establish a school near the Dublin markets in Mary’s Lane, on George’s Hill.

In a year in which we have celebrated the theme – ONE STEP BEYOND – we honour Teresa Mulally for her courage and intelligence by acknowledging two Year 11 students who have displayed outstanding academic excellence and consistent diligence in their studies.

The Inaugural Teresa Mulally Prize for Academic Excellence is awarded to joint recipients – **Caitlin Falloon** and **Isabelle Lam**.

**Past Students’ Award: Sister Raymonde Taylor Award for Art**

This student approached Studio Arts with the utmost dedication, conscientiousness and passion. She embraced the Design Process and gained a perfect score in both Sat 1 and Sat 2 of this study. Her final written Examination she received an A+.

Her final works were selected for Top Arts 2012 at the National Gallery of Victoria, evidence of the calibre of her work. She was also invited to present to VCE students about her success.

This student’s curiosity, patience and flair, together with her capacity to excel, makes **Katherine Montesano** a worthy recipient of the Sister Raymond Taylor Award for Art.

**Past Students’ Award: Mother Angela Johnston Award for Music**

This student has been a valued member of the music department since joining Stacella in Year 7. She has shown dedication, flexibility and a great work ethic in her leadership roles. Her sense of humour, encouragement of others and dedication to her VCE music studies makes her an exceptional role model.

Ave Music Captain in 2011, Stacella Captain in 2012 and instrumental in leading and directing the year 12s in their final song, the Mother Angela Johnston Award for Music has a worthy recipient in **Sahithya Kumar**.
Nicholls Award 1
Lauren Dienhoff
Lauren is caring and sensitive to both her peers and teachers. A natural leader, in her role as class captain she has been organized, encouraging and kind, earning the respect of her classmates. She has been a member of the Aerobics and Netball teams and she participated in the Drama Festival and the College production.

Lauren has demonstrated consistent and significant involvement in a range of co-curricula activities. She was a valued participant in this year’s Environment Conference, the Kimberley visit and the Isik College visits. 2012’s Year 9 Nagle House Representative, Lauren Dienhoff is a deserving recipient of this year’s first Nicholls Award.

Nicholls Award 2
Baillie Millar
Since coming to Star in Year 9, Baillie Millar has thrown herself into all aspects of life at the College. She has supported many social justice activities in 2012, including the Ministry Retreat, a seminar on asylum seekers and the fund-raiser for Genevieve Bailey’s orphanage in India. Baillie built on her role as Drama Captain in 2011 by starring as a strong single working mother in the College Production, dedicating herself to the entire rehearsal process. She has also represented the College in volleyball and AFL football.

Always positive and polite, exuberant and energetic, Baillie Millar is a deserving winner of the second Nicholls Award, for significant and consistent involvement in a variety of co-curricular activities.

Sister Philomena Consedine Award
Bridget Parsons
The recipient of the Sister Philomena Consedine Award cares about her school and peers deeply. She exudes a positive presence in Homeroom and is aware of others’ needs almost before they arise! She has demonstrated a consistent commitment to social justice issues since Year 7 and often works behind the scenes to support causes and concerns upheld by Star. This was most evident in her support of the Kimberley visitors in July, the promotion of the fund-raising film, I AM ELEVEN, and her participation in the Ministry Retreat.

Ever cheerful, generous and gracious, an ardent Stacella singer and member of the Production cast, the 2012 Fay Liturgy Captain, 2013 College Captain and recipient of this year’s Sister Philomena Consedine Award is Bridget Parsons.

Joanne Rodis Christian Awareness Award
Eleanor Duncum
This student is a down-to-earth and unassuming role model to many students. Her involvement in debating, the production back stage crew and Music Festival has demonstrated her involvement in school life and her ability to mix with and relate to others.

This student is generous with her time and always willing to lend a hand to those who need it. She is compassionate and thoughtful in her dealings with her peers and for many of her friends a great listener. She is always ready to put others at ease and make those around her feel comfortable. A warm presence in the Ave 4 Homeroom and Ave House, she is always ready to help out and make new students welcome. The recipient of this year’s Joanne Rodis Christian Awareness Award is Eleanor Duncum.

Past Students’ Association School Spirit Award
Stephanie Poynton
Stephanie Poynton has been a positive and enthusiastic member of the Star community since Year 7. She has shown herself to be a most diligent student who has earned high praise from her teachers for her perseverance and conscientious approach.

She has also excelled in sports, especially swimming, where she has represented the College with distinction. She has served as a keen member of the Sports Leadership Team and her support of younger students and staff is admirable.

As a member of the Nagle 4 homeroom, she has been a most positive influence in the daily life of the group. She engages beautifully with the younger students and remains positive even when the pressure of study is burdensome. As Nagle Sports Captain, she has worked tirelessly this year to encourage her house to participate in and at all events.

A wonderful member of Nagle House and a fine contributor to school life, the Past Students’ Association School Spirit Award goes to Stephanie Poynton.

We commend our award recipients for 2012 and also take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank the 2012 School Captain, Josephine Campbell and Vice Captain, Taylor Kayes for the work and spirit they have demonstrated this year in leading the College.
The 2012 Philosothon

‘There will be no end to the troubles of states, or of humanity itself, till philosophers become kings in this world.’ Plato

The Philosothon concept was inaugurated by Hale School in Perth, and this year a team from Star of the Sea College participated in the Victorian event jointly sponsored by Ballarat Grammar and the Victorian Association for Philosophy in Schools. The aim of the Philosothon is to promote philosophical enquiry and rigour by bringing together students from Years 8 - 11 to explore stimulus material which allows them to move beyond discussion, towards critical enquiry.

During the year, our team of 9 students practiced regularly, using the model of Community of Inquiry where the idea is not to debate but to enable the group to move towards awareness of underlying concepts that are inherent within the stimulus material, and to reach a critical understanding of different positions and arguments that arise from the dialogue around the stimulus. The girls were encouraged to ask questions, analyse, probe, clarify, explore and assess the arguments, using good reasoning, mutual respect and intellectual honesty.

On the evening of August 1st, we competed against 11 other schools, in four rounds of Communities of Inquiry, tackling thorny prompts on ideas related to knowledge, reason, ignorance and religion. It was an exciting and thought-provoking venture that deeply challenged but also inspired our students, who all thoroughly enjoyed the event. They were very appreciative of the new ideas, skills and friendships that this experience afforded them and hope to participate again next year.

Annette Hill, English Faculty

Imagine a city of the future that promotes wellbeing and harmony for all.

All students in Year 8 spent 5 days across Term 4 participating in the Imagine Project. Designed to encourage problem solving, team building, initiative and creativity, House teams of 15 were required to work collaboratively to develop their vision for Melbourne 2050. Addressing Culture, Urban Planning and Natural Resources, each of the teams were required to provide a rationale and relevant research to support their city concept and design.

To assist students in their understanding, thinking and planning, a series of workshops and guest speakers was conducted across Term 3. These included team building activities through Theatre Sports and a three-day residential camp, and presentations by Urban Planner and past student Anna Hurlimann, Environmental Engineer Sarah Watkins, Stylist James Gallichio and Young Australian of the Year, Engineering student and founder of Robogals, Marita Cheng.

A CERES (Centre for Education and Research in Environmental Strategies) workshop provided students with the opportunity to consider how their decisions and actions might impact on Australia in 2050. Teachers assigned as co-workers have observed the enthusiasm, collaboration and initiative evident in each of the teams.

We are looking forward to November 28th when each of the twelve teams will present their 2050 visions and strategy to other members of the Star community.

Kathy Smith, Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning
It was with enormous gratitude that the Star of the Sea Community farewelled Vin Savage, Chairman of the College Board and Director of Star. Thirteen years of dedicated service were acknowledged at a whole school assembly at the end of Term 3. Always a man of few words, Vin responded, “It is a great school, full of great women and great girls.”

Vin has overseen a range of responsibilities in his thirteen years on the Board, including the administration of school maintenance and grounds. A highlight was his management of the planning and construction of the FAYBYRNE Centre. He succeeded in bringing the building to completion, on time, with minimal disruption to the running of the school, and on budget. Miraculous feats indeed!

Vin’s willingness to support and assist Sandra Diafas and past principal, Rosalie Jones has clearly helped them to initiate and carry out plans with greater ease.

Members of the Board have admired and respected Vin’s leadership and manner in all his dealings. Chris Dickinson, Co-Director of the Board offered the following tribute:

“I have been working with Vin Savage as a Co-Director of the Star Board for the full duration of his time with us. What a pleasure it has been for me to know and work with him in both an official and unofficial capacity. Vin’s entry onto the Board came at a perfect time for Star as his contribution into the next phase of the Star journey has been enormous. His expertise, knowledge and input to the latest building phase has been second to none. The voluntary time Vin has spent outside official Star Board meetings has been invaluable. Added to this has been his passion for successful governance while maintaining the strong traditions of the identity of the Presentation Order in a period of transition. Vin has been an outstanding Chair of our Board and will be sadly missed, not only for his knowledge and contribution but also for his leadership, sense of humour and open mindedness. We thank you Vin for leaving an indelible mark on the Star community.”

Chris Dickinson

Star’s New Chair Steps Up

Star is delighted to welcome Kathleen Donnellon to the position of College Chair.

Kathleen kindly agreed to share a little of her background with us.

She wrote, “I started my working life as a family lawyer in private practice in the city. I was there for some years before taking on a complete sea change, and moving to the Broadmeadows Legal Centre, where I worked for about 5 years. (Broady was a great job – lots of funny stories – but also many, many sad ones). I’m a mediator, and ran the mediation section of the Legal Professional Tribunal for a number of years. The Tribunal dealt with complaints against lawyers. For the last 6 years or so, I’ve been teaching Dispute Resolution in the Melbourne University Law School.

I also sit on the board of Mercy Works Inc, which is the charity arm of the Sisters of Mercy.

My involvement in Star came about through my daughter Lizzie Donnellon Horan, who completed year 12 at Star last year.

The Board is made up of people with a range of talents and backgrounds. It’s a hardworking and dedicated group that oversees the finances; ensures the buildings and grounds are properly maintained and ensures that the school remains true to its Presentation ethos. Star is lucky to have them, and I feel very honoured to be taking on the position of Chair.”

Star of the Sea College is grateful for the wonderful job of governance that the Board ensures takes place. We take this opportunity to introduce its members to you.

Sandra Diafas, Vin Savage and Rosalie Jones.

Farewell Vincent Savage

Back Row: KevinVelthuis, Kim Burnell, Grant Arnold, Michael Holland, Chris Dickinson.

Front Row: Sandra Diafas, Mary Hawkins, Kathleen Donnellon, Sr Helen Carboon.

Absent: Mary Harney, Susanne McKenna (Board Secretary).
“We cannot effectively teach without knowing how much we ourselves need to learn.”

Current research indicates that teacher effectiveness contributes 30% to a student’s learning. The other major contributor at 50% is family background and the remaining 20% is made up of other school related factors. Therefore teacher effectiveness is the single most important way to enhance student outcomes. The professional learning of teachers is critical. Over the year the Star staff have undertaken some amazing opportunities to enhance their teaching skills and student learning. The following are some snapshots from the year.

Visual Arts

“The Visual Arts Faculty spent the afternoon with painter Trudi Harley, in a hands-on workshop using acrylic paints to create portraits. The focus was on mixing colour and included building tone and texture and some of Trudi’s secret techniques. It enabled staff to refresh and refine their own painting techniques and provided an opportunity to use some new products. Being in the role of students gave staff an insight into the learning processes experienced by students when faced with new and challenging activities.

The Visual Arts Faculty are off to MONA in Hobart in December to help inspire and renew their creative energy.”

Rehana Patrick, Visual Arts Co-ordinator

Staff Well Being

“It was the best professional learning,” cooed Bec Snape and Megan Lewis after their French Patisserie workshop on Staff Well Being Day in June. Chef and owner of Parisian Patisserie Boulangerie in Essendon, Neil McKenzie, put the staff through their paces in constructing a flourless orange cake. Neil was impressed with their skills. Many families were treated with beautiful cakes for dessert that evening!

Humanities

Peter Farrar, our senior Legal Studies teacher has been asked to participate in the LEAP Program - a social inclusion program organised through The University of Melbourne using the professions as a vehicle for engaging with school students to raise their aspirations for university and their engagement with professional careers. Peter will be working with the Legal Careers Team.

Science, Maths and LOTE

VCAA Assessors

In November we have a number of staff appointed to the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority as Assessors for the final examinations. Although demanding, Year 12 teachers know that this is the best professional learning available.

Laurel Akins – Specialist Maths
Liz Freer and Angela Stubbs – Chemistry
Miranda Ellul and Dayna Lindsay – Further Mathematics
Julie Devine and Eri Tomita – Japanese

Maths and Technology

“Olivia Porcino from 7 Carroll ran a session for the Year 7 Maths teachers on using Pages to convert data into tables and graphs. We have an upcoming Statistics Assignment and as we had not used the Macs in this way before, and the girls would be using the Pages software, we needed to learn the basics.

Olivia was absolutely brilliant. I had given her some mock data and she had prepared the graphs and worked out the best methods in advance. Her delivery was so confident and she was able to adapt the session as we asked her different questions.

This certainly saved me and the rest of the Year 7 teachers a huge amount of time trying to work it all out ourselves. We will also be utilising the two tech angels in each class in the role of teacher helpers.”

Libby Kempton, Maths Coordinator

Staff Take One Step Beyond

Art Faculty with guest artist Trudi Harley (centre front).
The Ministry Retreat Program is a two day immersion style retreat designed for senior secondary students. The Ministry retreats are planned and facilitated by members of the Edmund Rice Ministry Team. Based at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Maidstone, 24 Year 11 students were provided with a unique opportunity to engage with groups of disadvantaged and marginalised people. This experience helped the students gain insights and deepen their understanding of the pressing social justice needs of our time.

Half way through the year Star received a surprise request for emergency accommodation for a group of students from three Kimberley schools when their Melbourne accommodation fell through at the last minute. And so “Star’s B and B” came to life across a wintry week in July.

Around a hundred members of the Star community - Sisters, students, staff and parents - mobilized to transform the Star Centre into a comfy home-away-from-home for eleven Year 7 to 9 students and four accompanying staff members from Halls Creek, Kunnunura and Warmun. I enjoyed spending two evenings with our visitors, eating fish and chips, playing card games, doing art activities and just generally chatting. I am so glad I stepped out of my comfort zone to participate in the programme because I learnt all about our cultural differences and in no time we found ourselves to have a great deal in common. It was a great experience and one I won’t forget.

Ellie Cooke, Year 9

Anna, Baillie and Victoria share some of their insights:

“Anna, Baillie and Victoria share some of their insights:

“Anna Moore

“I am now a richer person for this experience. My opinions and views have changed dramatically. I now have an understanding of the complications of people’s lives, that getting a job isn’t that easy or simply the answer. They need help and support; not a judging eye. It made me think back to my own home and fully appreciate the comforts that I take for granted. I was told many times to live my life to the fullest and to make a difference in this world; a lot could be learnt from people so wise.”

Baillie Millar

“Ministry Retreat was such an incredible experience. It opened my eyes to the ways in which those who are less fortunate than ourselves live, but it also made me realise that there are things we can, and must do to make them better. Even if it just means having a simple conversation or making someone a warm cup of coffee. I not only was able to share my time with the homeless people at Flinders Street Station and the beautiful disabled children from St Paul’s College, but I also made great friends with some of the girls who I had hardly spoken to before Wednesday, over the period of the Retreat”

Victoria Hermitage

Mary Harmes - Social Justice Co-ordinator
2012 has been another busy year for the Star counselling team. This year we welcomed back Kirsty Alnwick who has been on maternity leave in 2011.

Our role within the school is primarily to enable students to develop a better understanding of themselves, the situations they face and to make clearer choices in their lives. Prevention, empowerment and resilience are the approaches that we emphasise for the young women with whom we work.

This year the Star of the Sea Counselling Team hosted the Catholic Secondary Schools Counsellors’ Conference involving over 80 school counsellors and psychologists from Victoria. The keynote address dealt with ‘The Adolescent Brain and the Implications for Counselling in Schools’. The keynote speaker, Dr Pieter Rossouw from The University of Queensland delivered a presentation outlining the latest developments regarding the adolescent brain and its functioning. Dr Rossouw was a dynamic orator and gave all of us many new ideas about the functionality of the brain and its impact on adolescent behaviour and mental health.

This year we have presented information for current Year 12 parents on ‘Life Beyond Year 12’. This was based on encouraging parents to maintain connection with their daughters, and to help them manage the stress at the end phase of their daughters’ secondary school journey and post Year 12.

We once again offered parents of Years 7 – 10 a Parent Forum where we had 3 guest speakers who presented the latest information on building resilience in young people, cyber space and the emerging trends in cyber space as well as the importance of nutrition and sleep for adolescents.

This year has also seen us involved with the girls on their Retreat days. It is always a joy to join the girls on various Reflection Days or Retreats, out of the school setting and engaged in programs that promote development of their spiritual and inner selves. These days give us and the girls an opportunity to engage and participate in activities together - a little different from our regular engagement of face to face counselling.

The Counselling Team would not function without the support of the Welfare Team: Mrs Diafas, Mr Burn and the Pastoral Coordinators. On behalf of Kirsty and Pam, I would like to extend our gratitude to them for their support.

We are sad to farewell our team mate, Pam Newman, who after 18 years of service to Star students and Staff is leaving us to go into private practice. We thank her for her commitment and dedication and wish her every joy in this new stage of her life journey.

Julianne Williams, School Counsellor

Taking One Step Beyond in Student Welfare

In July and August this year, our band, FEATHERSTONE, was fortunate to take part in the Bayside Battle of the Bands. As FEATHERSTONE, we have been performing and writing together for approximately two years and without doubt, the Battle of the Bands experience was a massive highlight.

We entered the competition with high hopes. Whilst we realized we may not win, we were certainly keen to gain experience performing. We prepared a repertoire of both originals and covers, met with great enthusiasm by both family and our most loyal ‘fans’, our friends.

At the first heat, we were delighted to win the door prize which is most people through the door to support you. We were even more delighted to hear we placed in the top three of the night, therefore qualified for the finals.

The final was just as special as the first heat. Again, we rocked the stage with both originals and covers, and received an overwhelming response from the crowd. Of course, all the other bands were fantastic and incredible to watch and talk to.

At the end of the night, we took out the door prize again, but unfortunately on this occasion did not win. Nevertheless, it was an amazing experience, and we cannot wait to try again next year!

FEATHERSTONE comprises: Nina Coombs, Belle Lam, Claudia Ohlert, Rosie O’Loughlin and Tess Shannon
Star of the Sea’s College production, Digging Down was staged in The Patricia Carroll Auditorium in August. Over three nights, the cast and crew delivered a rollicking good yarn with energetic enthusiasm, teeming talent and diligent dedication.

Written especially for Star by young playwright, Dan Giovannoni, the play was set in Diggers Drive, a suburban street where the busyness and hurly burly of everyday life can lead to its residents sometimes forgetting what is important in life. The celebration of a birthday, a chat with a neighbour, just sitting and watching the world go by can seem too hard.

It is on Diggers Drive that the audience meets old Ben McGarrigal who quietly watches what is happening in and to his neighbours. He believes he knows what Diggers Drive needs so with the help of the neighbourhood pets, Patch the pooch, Vladimir the rat, Jasmine the cat, Barry the cockie and Sadie the snake, he decides to do something about it.
Star of the Sea College was delighted to have Colonel Jason Blain address its annual Father Daughter Breakfast in September.

Currently Director of the newly formed “Diggerworks”, an Integrated Soldier Systems Development Directorate, Colonel Blain’s focus was on his experiences in Afghanistan from 2007-2010.

Awarded the Distinguished Service Cross in this year’s Australia Day Honours, Colonel Blain began by saying, “I’m not here to sell you on Afghanistan... but I am here to give insights”.

While in Afghanistan, Blain was Commander of Mentoring Task Force 1. Its aim is to prepare and train the Afghani Army and support the building of infrastructure such as schools and hospitals. The Australian presence in Afghanistan is based on the UN Charter to protect people, build their security capacity, counter insurgency and deliver stronger governance.

Accompanied by films of the region, people and actions of his Mentoring Task Force, and the Afghani people they are supporting, Colonel Blain conveyed the difficulties in reaching out to a population with a literacy rate of 28% and the highest infant mortality rate in the world. 20% of infants do not survive to 5 years.

The massive gap between the sexes was highlighted by a comment made by a leading Afghani Commander with whom Colonel Blain closely worked, “the home and the grave are the only two places for women”. The guerrilla nature of the warfare was obvious by his comment that locals can be working beside Allied troops during the day but at night be part of a local Taliban insurgency group. He believes the “Green on Blue” attacks, Afghani soldiers turning on their allied counterparts, are a result of destabilisation caused by isolation from family and region and feelings of abandonment, as Allied troops who have supported and enabled for the past decade, are pulling back.

In spite of the difficulties and tragic loss of Australian lives, Colonel Blain believes there have been significant gains. Afghanistan is a more secure and democratic nation than it was in 2001. Change has provided its people with the opportunity for a free and prosperous life. Its people are more accepting of change as they see the schools and hospitals help their people improve literacy and health.

Ultimately, he believes, it is a nation that is a survivor.

A quietly charismatic and inspiring speaker, Colonel Blain left his audience with much to ponder. One certainty was obvious. With people like Colonel Jason Blain commanding our Defence Forces, we are in good hands.

Suellen Mansour, Editor

Celebrating Father’s Day The Star Way

Principal, Sandra Diafas; School Captain, Josephine Campbell; Colonel Jason Blain and School Vice Captain, Taylor Kayes.
Grandparents’ Morning Tea at Star of the Sea

It has been said that a grandparent can be the most influential adult in a child’s life. At Star of the Sea all family relationships are highly valued and one of the wonderful traditions at Star is the annual morning tea for grandparents of Year 7 students.

Over the simple ritual of sharing a cup of tea we hope our girls’ grandparents see how valued they are in their grandchild’s life as they escort them around the Art and Design Show, visit their class rooms, introduce them to their teachers and take them on a brief school tour.

We are proud of the fact that many of our grandmothers are past students or staff of Star and we delight in the generational relevance and longevity that Star offers.
Parents’ Association

It has been another busy but productive semester for Star’s Parents’ Association.

Two big events, held early in September were great successes. The traditional Fathers’ Day Breakfast hosted over 300 dads and daughters at an inspiring fund-raiser addressed by Colonel Jason Blain, father of Eliza in Year 10. Colonel Blain kept us on the edge of our seats as he shared stories of his experiences in Afghanistan.

On a lighter note, the “All Things British Trivia Night”, with its sporting theme inspired by this year’s London Olympics, was a night of fun and frivolity. Our thanks go to sponsor Sen Radio and trivia master and host Scott Kennedy, who kept his audience entertained.

The Nano Nagle Cup, our annual Golfing Event was held at Sandringham Golf Club on 9th October. Thank you to golf pro, Henry Cussell, father of Ellen in Year 7, who prepped players for this 18 hole competition.

Congratulations to the winners of the Nano Nagle Cup 2012: John Rawlings (Husband past student Beveridge Family)

Peter Dowdney (Samantha yr. 12, Sarah yr. 7), Huw Provis (Amber yr. 7), Andrew Allibon (Friend of Star)

Longest Drive Men: Andrew Allibon
Longest Drive Women: Jodie Hurd (Future Star)
Nearest the pin: 10th Hole, Jodie Hurd
Nearest the pin: 15th Hole, Tony Hay (Elyce yr. 11)

Finally the annual Year 12 BBQ and Fun Day was ably manned and assisted by members of our Association.

Thank you for helping to make this a smoothly run and memorable day for students and staff.

Please note:
All funds raised by the Star of the Sea Parents’ Association in 2012, through the events organized throughout the year, will go towards the new Star Café!

By supporting the Star of the Sea Parents’ Association with your participation, you will be supporting your daughter at Star of the Sea!

Kylie Taylor - President Parents’ Association

Past Students’ Association

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The year 2012 has been a significant milestone for the Past Students’ Association, celebrating 100 years of commitment by past students to the College. The key event was the Centenary Celebration on May 27th when Genevieve Bailey spoke to around 100 guests who gathered to hear from a young Star woman who has made her mark in the film industry with her award winning film, I AM ELEVEN. The evening was enriching for those who attended and enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with old friends in a warm and friendly gathering.

It has been a busy year during which several new Past Student projects have been initiated. The first stage of the Chapel restoration has been completed, the Mentoring Program is operating through the Star website and the Star of the Sea Rose has proved very popular.

The Memorial Garden is in the planning stage at present, and we hope that early in the new year this will be completed – a place for quiet reflection, and a place to remember loved ones.

Thanks are due to the committee who meet regularly to plan activities, and who always offer cheerful and gracious hospitality to our guests. Thanks also to Sandra Difas, who provides wonderful support to the Past Students’ Association. And a special mention this year to thank Geraldine Carrodus, the Past Students’ Liaison appointment in the School. Geraldine has truly made it possible to achieve much more in 2012 through her enthusiasm in this role, and has been very generous with her time to the Past Students’ activities.

We welcome new members to the committee and hope that you might consider attending our Annual General meeting on February 25th, 2013. We would be very happy to see you there.

Barbara Harkin (Nankervis -1964)
Career Mentor Program

We are delighted to announce that, thanks to the generous support of many past students, the Mentoring Program is now operating through the school website. (Go to Past Students then Initiatives). Current and recent past students are encouraged to consult the website to read the career experiences of a wide range of Star women in many fields. As the program develops, we hope to be able to make many more career profiles available.

For some students, simply reading through the profiles will provide both information and reassurance. Others may wish to make direct contact with mentors, and this can be done through Geraldine Carrodus:
paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

We appreciate the support of Susan (Latham) Renouf, 1964 and Katherine (Murphy) Feddersen, 2000 who developed the idea, and Tony Jugovic who helped us to make it a reality.

Memorial Garden

A Memorial Garden, dedicated to the memory of Presentation Sisters, students, staff and all who have had a special relationship with Star of the Sea, will be completed early in 2013. The garden will be constructed on the south side of the Chapel. Any member of the Star community who wishes to have a plaque placed in the garden in memory of a daughter, sister, relative or friend, should contact gcarrodus@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

Attention all members of the Class of 1963

(Including Year 9, 1960, Year 10, 1961 and Year 11, 1962)

Please keep free the weekend of November 23/24, 2013 for our FIFTY YEARS REUNION

More details to follow in The Star, July 2013

Please supply address and email details to:
gcarrodus@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

The Star of the Sea Rose

To commemorate the Centenary of the Past Students’ Association, a special Star of the Sea Rose was developed by Ross Roses, SA. The rose has proved so popular that it will be available again next year. This beautiful rose, white with a yellowish centre and star shaped petals, may be ordered now and will be available for collection next July.

If you wish to order a rose, please contact: gcarrodus@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

We are grateful to all Past Students and members of the Star Community who have donated so generously to the Chapel Appeal. The first stage, repairing of cracks and internal painting, has been completed and the Chapel is looking beautiful. We are especially indebted to Stacey Curran (1989) who has cleaned all of the statues, candlesticks and Stations of the Cross. The next stage will involve polishing the parquetry floor and having a new carpet runner made for the central aisle.

The Past Students’ Association has taken on the Chapel Restoration as its major project over the next few years. If you wish to make a donation to the Chapel Appeal, please complete the form on the back cover.
## News of Past Students

**Anne Judell, 1958.** has been awarded the Dobell Prize for Drawing, at the Art Gallery of New South Wales. Anne’s pastel triptych, ‘Breath’ was chosen from a record number of 734 entries in the competition. Judge Guy Warren said of the work: “Although there are many works in this year’s Dobell which call urgently for serious consideration, the chosen work demands attention by calling softly. In a world of clashes and chaos this work speaks of something different.”

**Associate Professor Wilma Margaret Beswick, 1966.** was named a Member of the Order of Australia in June 2012 for “service to medical education and research through training and administrative roles, to curriculum development and clinical assessment reform and to professional associations.”

**Anna Funder, 1983.** was awarded the prestigious Miles Franklin Award this year, for her novel *All That I Am*. This is Anna’s first work of fiction and follows her acclaimed examination of the secrets of life in East Germany during the Cold War, *Stasiland*.

### Calendar for 2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Monday 25 February</td>
<td>Annual General Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 22 April</td>
<td>Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 2 May</td>
<td>Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 29 July</td>
<td>Star Women Speak</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 23 September</td>
<td>Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Thursday 17 October</td>
<td>Reunion of the Class of 2012</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monday 11 November</td>
<td>Committee Meeting</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sunday 24 November</td>
<td>Annual Mass and Open Day</td>
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All Past Students are warmly invited to attend any committee meetings or functions.

Committee meetings and functions are held in the George Reed Foyer of the FAYBYRNE Centre.
Rest in Peace

We ask your prayers for the following members of the Star of the Sea family who have died recently.

VALE Sister Raymonde Taylor pbvm, 1938.

Sister Raymonde was one of the most significant educators at Star of the Sea during the 20th century. Her passion for Art, Literature and History was infectious; hundreds, possibly thousands of Star girls were inspired to follow careers in these fields, on the basis of the knowledge and skills which Sister Raymonde so enthusiastically imparted. Long before the phrase ‘thinking outside the square’ was in common use, Raymonde made this idea one of the key elements of her teaching style.

As Betty Taylor, Raymonde spent her schooldays at Star and entered the Presentation Order in 1939, at the age of 19. In addition to her time at Star, Raymonde also taught at Sandringham, Myrtleford, PCW, Moe and O’Neill. She was Principal of Avila College from 1971 to 1973.

In her retirement from teaching, Raymonde became engaged in parish work and spent several years as a Parish Associate on Flinders Island. Never one to resist a challenge, she found that there was only one way to travel around the island and that was by car, so in her sixties she learnt to drive and obtained her driver’s licence.

Sister Raymonde, known affectionately as ‘Bomb’ for her vibrant and dynamic presence, was truly loved by the girls that she taught and the sisters and teachers who worked with her. Her important role in the educational history of Star of the Sea, and the Presentation Order is widely acknowledged by all who had the good fortune to know and love her.

The Star community prays in thanksgiving for the life and service of Sister Raymonde. May her passion for teaching and love of learning continue to inspire our staff and students. May her dear soul rest in peace. She will be sadly missed.


Josephine (Nash) Moore 1938. Josephine and her sister Norma spent all their schooldays at Star and were early members of the Star orchestra, and students of Mother Angela. In the 1940s, Josephine and her husband Bill trained the Star of the Sea Debutants. Josephine’s family has had a four generation connection with Star. Nine members of the Nash, Moore, O’Dwyer, Hickey, Brady and Meynell families have attended Star over the past 90 years.

Val Daly 1940, sister of Maureen 1940. Val was a dedicated member of the Star of the Sea Archives team and worked tirelessly for over 20 years, to help collate and catalogue the resources detailing the history of the College. She was a loyal member of the Star community.

Patricia (Curtain) Keegan, 1949.

Kate Bownas, 1997, Kate died recently in England. She is survived by her husband Stephen and her three month old daughter Lucy Rose.

Thelma Rose Anderson, mother of Ann Sharp (staff) and grandmother of Rebecca Sharp (staff), who died at the age of 97.


Henk Haslinghouse, husband of Patricia (Answorth) Haslinghouse, 1942.

Eileen Mary Ralston, mother of Pam Ralston (Staff).

Jubilee Celebrations

Congratulations to the five past students who have celebrated significant anniversaries of their professions:

Presentation Sisters
Sr. Rose Derrick 1949 and Sr Isla Kealy (was Gregory) 1948, have celebrated their Diamond Jubilees (60 years).
Sr. Felicity Corder 1955 and Sr. Patricia Hickman 1957 have celebrated their Golden Jubilees (50 years).

Family Care Sisters (Grey Sisters)
Sr. Monica Patterson 1945 has celebrated her Diamond Jubilee (60 years).
Please find enclosed $ __________

Name ___________________________________________________________ Class of _______________ (if past student)

Address ______________________________________________________________________________________
                                                                                                    Post code ________________________________

Email ___________________________ Phone ________________________________

Cheque $ ___________ (Payable to Star of the Sea School Building Fund)

OR  ❑ Visa  ❑ MasterCard  ❑ AMEX  Amount $ __________

Credit Card number:
  __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __ / __ __ __ __

Expiry date __ / __ Signature ____________________________

Please send this form attention to: PSA Centenary Chapel Appeal, Star of the Sea,
Box 7001, LPO Gardenvale Brighton 3186.

All donations will be acknowledged and donations over $2 are tax deductible. A receipt will be posted to you.
Donations over $500.00 will be acknowledged permanently on an honour board at the Chapel.