Presentation people from across Australia gathered at the recent Nagle Education Alliance Association conference in Melbourne.

One of the speakers, Brigid Arthur csb, demonstrated how the Gospels emphasise Jesus embracing “outsiders”: the Samaritan who was good, the shepherd who seeks out one missing sheep, the patriarch who celebrates the return of his prodigal son. These stories turn our perceptions upside down by illustrating that all human life is precious: no-one is more important than another. This message resonates loudly at Star, evidenced by the myriad actions staff and students undertake each week to stand with “outsiders” including refugees and our friends at the Sacred Heart Mission.

The College theme in 2015 is My Space ... Our Place. We reflected on both the transience and permanence of that phrase with the visit of Peg Wood, a boarder at Star 80 years ago. Peg lunched with current students and recounted “vivid memories” of cold baths and Latin masses. Dominant in Peg’s reminiscences was her gratitude for the education provided by the Presentation Sisters. A fascinated group of students enjoyed Peg’s stories which deepened their understanding of their place at Star.

The Past Students’ Association is also embracing a new way of honouring those who have also shared this place. A new initiative, the Mass of Remembrance, will take place on Sunday, 8 November in the Star chapel to commemorate those community members who have died. All members of the Star community are warmly welcome to attend.

Bernadette Turner

THE STAR
JUNE 2015

ACTING PRINCIPAL’S REFLECTION

FRONT COVER

Alumna Peg Wood (1931-1932) was the guest of honour at a lunch with College leaders to celebrate her 96th birthday. Student leaders, Olivia Turner and Bridie Mannion, enjoyed Peg’s company. Read about Peg on page 16.

PUBLISHED BIENNIALY
NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 2015
Student leadership is integral to the framework of the Star of the Sea community. It has given us the opportunity to leave an impact on this community in our final year at Star.

Where our aim for 2015 is to make My Space ... Our Place, Star provides a number of opportunities for individual voices and talents to shine in a cohesive environment where a success for one is, in a sense, a success for all. Leadership opportunities, beginning as early as Year 7, alongside co-curricular programs such as the Vietnam Immersion Program and GSV Sport, give us the skills to work cooperatively in achieving the goals we, as a community, feel are important.

When participating in these activities, we are reminded of the powerful influence we can have when we come together, and the importance of diverse skills and ideas in creating a wonderfully broad means of reaching success.

The evolution of learning spaces through The Wave project, particularly the development of areas such as Trasna, allows for the College to cater for a range of student learning styles, adapting to the needs of a new generation of students. While we do not forget the importance of the past, and the strong preservation and celebration of history in Star’s one hundred and thirty-second year, we are not afraid to look to the future. We must consider the best methods in providing future students with the unique education offered by Star of the Sea.

With glimpses to the future, and consideration of our past, Star will become a place of comfort for all, making My Space ... Our Place.

Ella Robinson & Lauren Dienhoff
On 17 February, Year 12 graduates from 2014 returned to the College for the annual Academic Awards ceremony.

Star’s Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) results for 2014 were excellent: 12.8% of graduates attained an ATAR over 90; 28.3% attained an ATAR between 80 and 89.95.

Hannah Wilson, Dux of the College with an ATAR of 98.85, addressed the student body, providing some strategies to assist current VCE students in achieving their goals.

Special congratulations to Alice Zuzek who attained a perfect score of 50 in English, and to two students who received a Premier’s Award: Laura Coburn (Classical Studies) and Sara Eggers (Italian).

In addition to recognising our VCE graduates, special College bursaries were awarded to four students who demonstrated excellence in a variety of fields in 2014:

Invitation to Mass of Remembrance
Sunday, 8 November 2015

We are delighted to announce this new initiative for the Star community – a collaboration between the College and the Past Students’ Association.

A Mass of Remembrance will be held on Sunday, 8 November in the Star of the Sea College Chapel to commemorate those community members who have died.

The Mass of Remembrance will replace the Past Students’ Annual Reunion Mass and all members of the community are warmly invited to attend.

Loved ones’ names will be acknowledged in the Prayers of the Faithful. Morning tea will be provided at the conclusion of the Mass in the George Reed foyer.

We believe the Mass of Remembrance will unite the Star Community by offering support to the bereaved and paying tribute to the lives of loved ones who have gone before us.

If you and your family members wish to attend this Mass, please email Kris Johnstone, Past Students’ Liaison Officer: kjohnstone@starmelb.catholic.edu.au or telephone 03 9596 6099.

If you want your loved one’s name included in the Prayers of the Faithful, please advise Kris Johnstone – see above for details. They can be from any year, not just those recently deceased.

Sandra Diafas
Principal

Frances Tobin
President, Past Students’ Association
In 2004, the Presentation Sisters were considering succession planning, seeking to answer the question:

**How will the Presentation story survive in Australia with fewer or no sisters in these schools?**

2005 Presentation Society President, Sr Kathleen Tynan, invited the principals to Sydney: there was a profound desire at this gathering to continue educating in the Presentation tradition.

2006 Discernment and dialogue: the grassroots National Presentation Principals’ Group (NPPG) was formed from six secondary schools: St Rita’s, Brisbane; Iona, Perth; St Ursula’s, Yeppoon; PCW Melbourne; St Mary’s, Hobart; and Star of the Sea, Brighton.

2007 First student conference at St Mary’s College, Hobart: a direct outcome of the desire articulated in 2005 to forge an ongoing and practical link between Presentation schools.

2008 First staff conference in Brisbane; a commitment from the principals of the majority of the then order-owned schools to form a Presentation principals’ collective.

2009 NPPG met once a term with discussions centred on sustaining the Presentation charism in the schools; second student conference in Melbourne, hosted by Star and PCW Melbourne, open to all Presentation secondary schools.

2010 NPPG met once each term, assembled resources and established a collegial network.

2011 Second staff conference in Perth, hosted by Iona College, open to all Presentation primary and secondary schools (106 participants from 38 schools); first pilgrimage to Ireland, led by Sr Maria Lazzaro: five principals walked in the footsteps of Nano Nagle and visited each of their colleges’ founding houses.

2012 Second pilgrimage to Ireland; NPPG employed an executive officer; third student conference in Sydney, hosted by Domremy College (80 students from 15 schools); Iona College hosted website to share programs, projects and resources among Presentation schools; 700 copies of *Heart Aflame* sold to forty-five schools, indicating an active interest in the Presentation story.

2013 Third staff conference in Hobart, hosted by St Mary’s (124 participants represented many schools and organisations including congregational representatives); *Presentation education is vital and must be preserved in our schools*; encouraged by the number of schools wishing to be part of the group, NPPG proceeded to move to a broader-based membership group – the NEAA; Nagle Social Justice Essay prize introduced; student exchange successfully trialled; two-day strategic planning meeting at Iona College.

2014 Incorporation of the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA); a new executive established with a focus on inclusivity and sustainability: elections for the executive with representatives from primary and secondary schools and from all states with a Presentation presence; logo and mission statement developed; enhanced website provided valuable resources; expressions of interest for student exchange sent to all secondary members; primary school activities developed - Nagle Art Prize; fourth student conference in Yeppoon, hosted by St Ursula’s (53 students from 17 schools).

2015 Fourth staff conference in Melbourne; a short film contest became part of the Nagle Prize for secondary schools; third pilgrimage to Ireland being organised for 2016, open to all member schools; fifth student conference being organised for 2016, hosted by Avila College, Mt Waverley; Executive Committee continues to meet each term: its work is constantly evolving and supporting members to maintain the Presentation story, values and ethos.

Nagle Education Alliance of Australia...
... a grassroots organisation with a powerful story

From the initial six schools, NEAA boasts an alliance of 36 schools and growing, working to sustain and grow the Presentation mission within Australia. The Presentation Sisters have always been pioneers, going to where there was a need for education. Each one of us has, as part of our history, stories of courageous women with vision and hope. We want to continue their life’s mission to write the next chapter in the Presentation Story.

Principal & NEAA President, Sandra Diafas, opening the fourth NEAA conference in Melbourne in April 2015.
Sr Patricia was born in Mudgegonga in 1927. The eldest of five children, she worked on the family farm during the war years before entering the Presentation order in 1946. Her long association with Star of the Sea began in 1949 when she came to Star and taught in outlying schools.

In 1965, Patricia established Avila College in Mount Waverley. Patricia was Principal of Star in 1971 and 1972, and again in 1979. She was an active member of the College Board until 2013.

During the 1980s, Patricia was Principal at Presentation College, Moe where she taught history, maths, Italian and French. After ten years at Moe, Patricia was responsible for Property Management and Community Quality Assurance for the Presentation Sisters. She has made a significant contribution to the administration pertaining to the Star of the Sea Convent where she has spent most of her years as a Presentation Sister.

Sr Patricia’s reflection, A Call for New Times:
In 1883, Mother John Byrne and Mother Paul Fay brought Nano Nagle’s legacy to Gardenvale and established Star of the Sea College. Facta Non Verba, Deeds not Words, Love in Action have been in the heart of the work of Star of the Sea Presentation Sisters, Staff and Students for 134 years. Truly a new chapter is opening in our lives and yours, in new and vital ways, giving fresh impetus to new life and mission.

In the words of T S Eliot: With the drawing of Love and the voice of this calling, we shall not cease from exploration and the end of our exploring will be to arrive where we started and know the place for the first time. May all Staff and Students be guided by the spirit of Nano Nagle and generations of Presentation Sisters, Staff and Past Students in upholding the legacy of our founding grace and the Presentation life of love in the years ahead.

Facta Non Verba - Deeds not Words - Love in Action are as relevant now as they ever were.

JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS IN 2015
2015 marks Jubilee celebrations for some former Star students who entered religious life

Presentation Sisters
Golden Jubilee - 50 years
Michele Kennan (1961)
Robyn O’Donovan (1960)

Diamond Jubilee - 60 years
Bernadette Whitty (formerly Sr Andrew)
Josephine Hoare (formerly Sr Simeon)

Ursuline Sisters
Golden Jubilee - 50 years
Frances Boston (1958) - in Botswana

Patricia Carroll pbvm
A Call for New Times

Sr Patricia at the opening of FayByrne Centre in 2011
Celebrating student diversity: Archery, Writing, Sharing & Designing

Madeline Critchley McSwain (Year 8) was selected by Archery Victoria to feature in a recent article by The Age on girls in archery. Madeline has been shooting for two years and has won many state and national tournaments as well as breaking records. She has represented Australia twice: in the trans-Tasman challenge in Brisbane in 2014 and at the World Junior Youth Archery Championships in Yankton, South Dakota USA in June 2015. Madeline is one of five Victorians on the Australian team of twelve archers. She is the youngest female compound archer to be selected and had the highest female qualifying score.

Gemma Cooper (Year 10 and sister of Rosie - page 15) attended Parliament House in February to receive the regional finalist award in the Premier’s Spirit of Anzac prize. Gemma’s short story on the ANZAC spirit, written when she was in Year 9, competed with over 700 entries in this competition. Gemma has been invited to join a study tour to Canberra later this year.

Students bag Christmas cheer for Vinnies
For many years, Star’s Social Justice students have collected goods and packed Christmas hampers for Vinnies’ volunteers in Gardenvale to hand-deliver to families and individuals. In 2014, bags overflowed with gourmet Christmas goodies and gifts to delight the hearts of the disadvantaged in the local community. Students also helped Vinnies by carrying the bags to the store.

Year 10 Design students & My Space...Our Place

Charlotte Griffin  Grace Cullen  Niamh Anstee
Victoria Coyne

Gyd Barket-Peak  Gabrielle Matterson  Meg Halpin
Tanya Murphy
A new initiative at Star in 2015 is the appointment of the Student Advisory Panel comprising representatives from each year level.

A new senior leadership position - Student Communications Captain - was created at the end of 2014. In this new role, Olivia Turner chairs the panel which meets with the Principal on a monthly basis to discuss issues that students believe require attention.

The inaugural meeting with Ms Diafas in February focused on an area of interest to many students: the selection of food items in the Nagle Café. Following the meeting, Ms Diafas presented the suggestions to the Café Manager and changes were implemented.

Issues raised at subsequent meetings included feedback on the assessment feature of the student management system (SIMON) and the roles of Year 7 to 10 leaders. Future topics will include Trasna, the new Year 7 and 8 centre, and the winter menu at the Café.

Star students are high academic achievers and are active participants in social justice events. They can sing, dance, design and play sport. They are also passionate about communicating effectively and professionally with College Leadership and putting their words into action. The Student Advisory Panel is further proof of that fact: Facta Non Verba.

Star welcomed back former student, Kate Kennedy (1985), CEO of Hagar Australia, to speak to Year 12 students in May. Dedicated to helping women and children who are the victims of human rights abuses, Hagar aims to halt human trafficking in our world. Kate traced her journey from her time at Star to her passionate engagement in one of the most pressing justice issues in our world today. For more information about the work of Hagar: www.hagar.org.au
Commemorating the ANZAC Centenary at Star

Every year, students in Year 9 at Star are privileged to host a commemoration service with the residents of Vasey ANZAC Hostel and the clients of the ANZAC Day Therapy Centre. The ANZAC Day service is a shared experience where all members of the community participate together in the ceremony. Students run the service and invite the elderly residents and clients to share it with them.

In speaking to the students, he spoke of his work as an “escapologist”!

Even though 2015 marked the centenary commemoration of the landing at Gallipoli, each year our ANZAC service is a special event where we remember and pay respect to the men and women who have served our country.

Year 12 student, Monica Kerin, played the Last Post on the afternoon of ANZAC Day at the Brighton East Football Club. Prior to that, Monica, who is a Cadet Sergeant (CSGT) with 417 (City of Bayside) Squadron of Australian Air Force Cadets, led the catafalque guard at the Caulfield RSL. She then travelled to the city for the march where she carried the banner for 31 SQN RAAF. They flew their aircraft in the defence of Australia and the South West Pacific area during World War 2.

Ms Kym Hardeman
Year 9 Pastoral Coordinator

We are very fortunate to gain such a personal and first-hand insight into the many and varied experiences of our guests. This year, one resident spoke of his six great escapes as a POW in World War 2.

YEAR 9 STUDENT ELLI MURPHY REFLECTS ...

Several Year 9 students attended the dawn service at Green Point. It was amazing to think that so many members of the community had come to commemorate the sacrifice, courage and bravery displayed by the ANZAC soldiers. The service was very moving. With the waves on the beach in the background, it resembled what the landing must have been like on the Turkish coast at Gallipoli for the brave soldiers. It certainly was a memorable morning for all of us and was something I will treasure as part of my experience at ANZAC House.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

2015 started with the revelation of an oasis in the West Wing. Funds raised in 2014 by the PA enabled the transformation of an asphalt car park into a cool, green lawn with a shade tree for enjoyment by the senior students.

It has been a busy first semester. We hosted a fabulous Year 7 & 8 parents’ evening at Bensons in February. It was a great success with lots of chatter and laughter. This event was followed by our traditional Mother Daughter breakfast featuring guest speaker, Erika Geraerts (2006). The PA is now preparing for its major event on Saturday, 25 July at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club: A Touch of Tinsel. Visit the College website for ticket information.

Thanks to the PA committee for being so positive and supportive. Our meetings are always upbeat and productive! All welcome!

Leanne Danielson

MOTHER DAUGHTER BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, 6 May, the Parents’ Association hosted the annual Mother-Daughter breakfast. Over 300 mothers, daughters and friends gathered in the Patricia Carroll Auditorium to hear guest speaker and young entrepreneur, Erika Geraerts (2006).

Erika spoke about her adventures from starting a journalism degree to co-owning communications company, Willow & Blake: a content writing and social media agency now in its fourth year of trading. Willow & Blake has also created its own product, frank: a coffee scrub that targets those universal problems such as cellulite and acne. It is sold internationally with five distribution points worldwide. Erika also owns Little Big Sugar Salt café in Abbotsford.

Sharing her experiences as a writer and business woman in the digital age, Erika provided good advice about career choices, study and taking chances. Her experiences resonated with students – she spoke of blogging, brands and being brave enough to believe you can do whatever you set out to do.
Meet with Success in March was a night to remember. With many Year 11s researching and exploring possible careers options, we jumped at the opportunity to listen to a panel of former Star students who are very successful in their chosen careers. From a journalist to a paramedic, we gained an insight into an assortment of careers from a variety of people.

The MC for the evening was Communications Captain, Olivia Turner. Each member on the panel of former students had to answer one question: what’s one piece of advice that you would give Star students about their future? This was a truly informative question as the panel members had years of experience and provided valuable advice. Afterwards, students sat with each member and asked questions. This experience has enhanced many of the Year 11 students’ knowledge of what is available for them to do when they leave Star.

We appreciated the time and effort made by the former students:

- Andrea Cincotta (1989) - Education
- Mary Ellen Davis (1970) - Psychologist
- Paige Dodds (2006) - Animal Science
- Siobhan Rehill (1989) - Property Development
- Penny Repse (1977) - Journalism
- Susan Renouf (Latham -1964) - Fashion & retailing
- Frances Tobin (1980) - Funeral Director
- Fiona Turner (Molloy -1983) - Education
- Kathryn Vine (2009) - Paramedic

Martine Kaliny, Year 11 student

If anyone would like to become a mentor for current students, email Kris Johnstone, Past Students’ Liaison Officer: kjohnstone@starmelb.catholic.edu.au or telephone 03 9596 6099.
Senior students flourish in Star’s VCAL program

The Victorian Certificate of Applied Learning (VCAL) is an accredited senior secondary certificate of education that sits parallel with the Victorian Certificate of Education (VCE). The VCAL aims to provide students with the skills, knowledge and attributes to make informed choices about career pathways to work and further education. During the first week of Term 2, several VCAL students attended work placements related to their vocational interests and TAFE studies.

Three of the students have been offered ongoing employment.

Star is very grateful to the following businesses for providing this opportunity to our students:

- Colour Your Soul, Ormond
- NV Hair, Sandringham
- St Kilda Venues: Encore, Republica & Captain Baxter
- Cochrane’s Gym, Moorabbin
- Mentone Park Childcare & Preschool,
- Mentone

Matilda Millar (Year 12) - Colour Your Soul, Ormond

In VCAL we learnt about communication. I thought this really related to me and helped me at the hairdressers. Communication is a very big thing at the salon because if you’re not talkative or friendly, customers may not return.

Tia-Dora Diamataris (Year 12) - NV Hair, Sandringham

Work experience was a really great way to test my communication skills. I was very confident because in VCAL we learnt how to communicate well by asking questions. I felt so brave and took risks outside of my comfort zone. VCAL has helped me by highlighting the importance of speaking and making conversation with other employees and clients. I now feel like I can do anything and not hold back from talking to anyone anymore.

Demi Brereton (Year 12) - St Kilda Venues: Encore, Republica & Captain Baxter

VCAL has helped by giving me the opportunity to work in an amazing place with great people. It was the best experience I have had and I thoroughly enjoyed it. This work placement was completely different to other ones I’ve done in the past because I was actually working with the staff and was part of the business.

Kristy Blackman (Year 11) - Cochrane’s Gym, Moorabbin

From working at a gym, I learnt how to train people, one-on-one, and to keep encouraging them. I also learnt what was involved with a personal training course. VCAL has taught me to be more confident when I speak and how to keep a conversation going with clients.

Holly Felsenthal (Year 11) - Mentone Park Childcare & Preschool

In VCAL I learnt how to work better with others and how to use good manners. I had more knowledge at the childcare centre and I asked questions. Eye contact is an important part of communication. I took a risk and spoke clearly.
Past Students’ Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It has been a busy first half of the year for past students. Some participated in the annual Meet with Success event for Year 11 students. I would encourage all past students to consider participating in this beneficial mentoring program. Email your interest to Past Students’ Liaison officer, Kris Johnstone: kjohnstone@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

Star Women Speak in May celebrated fifty years of women in science. It was a fitting recognition of the success of three of our past students as well as the work of the Science faculty at the College and the inspiration it has provided to hundreds of students across the years. The next Star Women Speak on 2 September features media identity, Nicky Buckley (1983).

In conjunction with Principal Sandra Diafas, I warmly invite all members of our community to the inaugural Mass of Remembrance in November. This mass replaces the annual mass and open day at the end of November. Please forward names of deceased family members for inclusion in the Prayers of the Faithful to Kris Johnstone.

Frances Tobin (1980)

STAR WOMEN SPEAK: CELEBRATING 50 YEARS OF WOMEN IN SCIENCE

The Past Students’ Association celebrated the accomplishments of three past students in the area of medical research. The panel spoke with passion and honesty about their careers and the hurdles they encountered:

Professor Sheila Crewther (1964) is currently a lecturer at the School of Psychological Sciences at La Trobe University. Her research interests lie in understanding how vision drives and organises behavior

Doctor Joanna Phipps (1993) is currently working in the Department of Anatomy and Neuroscience at the University of Melbourne where she is developing skills in retinal neurobiology

Anne Tripaydonis (2010) worked as a researcher at the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute of Research (WEHI) and is currently studying Medicine at the University of Melbourne

They all spoke about the importance of Star nurturing their passion for Science. They remembered their teachers fondly, as well as the limitations that they experienced in terms of the equipment and the laboratories in which they were taught. The audience heard about how they overcame the subtle discrimination against women in the workplace. It was a wonderful night with honest conversations and questions from the audience that fuelled great discussions.

Toula Tripaydonis
Science Coordinator


NEXT STAR WOMEN SPEAK - WEDNESDAY, 2 SEPTEMBER

Nicky Buckley – a Memoir gives an insight into her successful media career as well as a behind-the-scenes look into a life in the spotlight. Nicky talks about family values, being a mother, parenthood, the challenges of business and of the time when she was scrutinised for daring to be pregnant on television! This is another not-to-be missed Star Women Speak event.
Collins Street. As a passionate campaigner for stopping violence against women, Phil Cleary praised Maureen’s work as “an authentic description of the many challenges facing a woman escaping the horrors of domestic violence”.

Jan Wallace (Carruthers – Dux 1975) is a GP in Wantirna. Her second expedition to Antarctica as the only Antarctic Medical Officer, wintering for at least nine months at Davis Base, was profiled on the ABC’s Catalyst program in February.

Nicky Buckley (1983), professional model for thirty years and hostess on Sale of the Century, spoke with Year 9 students in May as part of their Wise Girl course on body image and self-esteem. Nicky spoke about the importance of empowering young women in this age of digital media so they can discern “what’s real and unreal”. She also advised about letting go of things that you can’t control. She recently launched her autobiography - Nicky Buckley: A Memoir. Nicky will be the guest speaker at the Star Women Speak on Wednesday 2 September.

Following undergraduate and postgraduate training in Psychology, Comparative Physiology and Education at the University of Melbourne, Professor Sheila Crewther (Gillard - 1964) spent three years in Pasadena, California at Caltech studying Psychobiology. In 1978, Sheila took up a Senior Research Officer position at the National Vision Research Institute in Carlton. In 1983, she moved to the School of Optometry at the University of NSW where she worked as a half-time Senior Research Fellow, completed an Optometry degree and raised three small children. Sheila was made an Adjunct Associate Professor in 1994. In 1996, Sheila took up a lectureship in the School of Psychological Science at La Trobe University. Her research interests lie in understanding how vision drives and organises behaviour. Sheila spoke at the recent Star Women Speak which featured 50 years of Women in Science.

Author, broadcaster and former Federal MP, Phil Cleary, launched Stay with Me, the latest work by Maureen McCarthy (1970) in April at the Reader’s Feast Bookstore in

Sarah Jones (1993) completed a Bachelor of Business Accounting at Monash University. She was accepted into the Arthur Andersen cadetship program during this time. After completing her degree, Sarah relocated to London for ten years. She qualified as a Chartered Accountant and worked for a number of large corporate companies including Diagio, Shell and Cadbury. Sarah currently lives in Elwood, Victoria and is the Head of Finance and Operations for a growing, not-for-profit organisation, Social Traders: http://www.socialtraders.com.au/index.cfm Sarah and her husband, Paul, have two children: Georgia (6) and Pippa (4).

Sophie Rudolph (2000) is currently completing a PhD at the University of Melbourne, investigating how the majority of Indigenous students continue to suffer discrimination and disadvantage within our education system despite many years of policy attention and good intentions. She first became interested in these issues when she was Social Justice Captain at Star. She has continued to engage in social justice issues through her work as a teacher, researcher and volunteer. She has taught
Past Students' news

Dominique Logan (2010) commenced a Bachelor of Arts degree at Melbourne University with a double major in Philosophy and Ancient World Studies after graduating from Star. In the second year of her BA, Dominique decided to add the Diploma of Global Issues, allowing her to take politics subjects from six universities around the world. She is now studying the Juris Doctor at Melbourne University and is currently enjoying working at a commercial law firm. Her passion for refugee and asylum seeker rights has fuelled her enthusiasm for studying the law.

Brooke Swierzbiolek (2010) enrolled in a Bachelor of Behavioural Neuroscience at Monash University. The university community was much larger than the close-knit community at Star and it took Brooke a while to find her feet in such a different environment. After completing a Bachelor of Psychology (Honors) at Monash, she hopes to complete her doctorate in Clinical Psychology:

"Uni requires a high degree of self-motivation so studying something you’re really passionate about makes the process easier."

Rosie Cooper (2011) spoke to Year 10 students on International Women's Day about her involvement with Sacred Heart Mission and Friday Night Tutoring that began at Star. She now coordinates the Edmund Rice food van and their schools' retreat program. Rosie also volunteers in the education program at the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre. She completed her Bachelor of International Studies (International Development) and has worked with Edmund Rice Organisation in Tanzania.

Marianne Hevern (2005) went to Monash University and studied a Bachelor of Science (Genetics and Zoology). She then completed a postgraduate diploma in Agricultural Science at La Trobe University. In 2015, Marianne is completing her fourth and final year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Melbourne. She will then qualify as a vet:

"something I've dreamed of being since I was six years old."

Erika Geraerts (2006) topped the 2015 list of Australia's top 50 female entrepreneurs under forty years of age. Erika recently spoke at the Mother Daughter breakfast at Star: see report on page 10. Erika and twin sister, Rowena, enjoyed their years at Star immensely: a strong education with an emphasis on developing independent and caring women who were not afraid to be leaders in their area. Rowena gained her Bachelor of Communications (Distinction) from RMIT. After extensive travelling overseas, she is an established and very popular yoga teacher in Melbourne.

Erika Geraerts (2006) topped the 2015 list of Australia's top 50 female entrepreneurs under forty years of age. Erika recently spoke at the Mother Daughter breakfast at Star: see report on page 10. Erika and twin sister, Rowena, enjoyed their years at Star immensely: a strong education with an emphasis on developing independent and caring women who were not afraid to be leaders in their area. Rowena gained her Bachelor of Communications (Distinction) from RMIT. After extensive travelling overseas, she is an established and very popular yoga teacher in Melbourne.

Marianne Hevern (2005) went to Monash University and studied a Bachelor of Science (Genetics and Zoology). She then completed a postgraduate diploma in Agricultural Science at La Trobe University. In 2015, Marianne is completing her fourth and final year of the Doctor of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Melbourne. She will then qualify as a vet:

"something I've dreamed of being since I was six years old."

Erika Geraerts (2006) topped the 2015 list of Australia's top 50 female entrepreneurs under forty years of age. Erika recently spoke at the Mother Daughter breakfast at Star: see report on page 10. Erika and twin sister, Rowena, enjoyed their years at Star immensely: a strong education with an emphasis on developing independent and caring women who were not afraid to be leaders in their area. Rowena gained her Bachelor of Communications (Distinction) from RMIT. After extensive travelling overseas, she is an established and very popular yoga teacher in Melbourne.

SEEKING VCE GRADUATES FROM 1996 - 2014 FOR STACELLA’S 20TH ANNIVERSARY CONCERTS …

- Friday, 11 September at 7.30pm - graduates from 2005 - 2014, directed by Larissa Cairns
- Saturday, 12 September at 7.30 pm - graduates from 1995 - 2004, directed by Peter Faulkner

There are two three-hour rehearsals at the College: Sunday, 30 August & Sunday, 6 September.

If you know any past students who sang with Stacella, please advise them of these reunion concerts.

For information about rehearsal times or other information, email Tenille Kearney: tkearney@starmelb.catholic.edu.au
Star's 1933 Alumna is 96 Years Young

Margaret (Peg) Wood (McGuigan – 1932-1933) celebrated her 96th birthday in April. She visited her alma mater for lunch with College leaders and a walk down memory lane.

Hailing from French Island, Peg started boarding at Star when she was twelve, the year after her mother died. The Depression kicked in the year she gained her Intermediate Certificate – her family could not afford for her to continue with her education. Peg returned to French Island after two years boarding to cook and care for her father, brother and two school teachers who boarded with the family. Peg’s one regret is not being able to continue with her education all those years ago.

Of the fourteen boarders in her year, her close friends were Kath McCarthy (grandmother of Kelly O’Dwyer), Leonie McCarthy and Nell Cullinan who joined the Presentation Order. Peg remembers “Nell cried for a week after becoming a boarder and she admitted to crying for another week after she entered the noviciate”.

Peg’s “vivid memories”...

- practising for an entire year to sing the whole Mass in Latin for Star’s Golden Jubilee in 1933: she can still sing parts of the Te Deum...
- sleeping on the cold balcony in the dormitory run by Sr Stephanie
- fond memories of Mother Sebastian, Sr Lawrence and Sr Leonard
- being corrected for saying she was “sick” when she should have said “ill”
- receiving doses of Epsom salts that were administered every Saturday morning
- saying the rosary every night in the dining room
- always being hungry to the point of eating lemons off the tree
- playing the piano at night while the other boarders danced
- being good at maths and receiving a prize for algebra
- having only cold water for washing; wearing a dressing gown so no flesh could be shown when washing; bathing once a week
- boarders “looking down” on students who were “only day girls”

STAR’S LADY GOLFERS PLAY METROPOLITAN FOR A GOOD CAUSE

Star of the Sea was well represented at the 86th Women’s Inter-School Golf Challenge Cup by Pam Benstead, Lynda Hayes, Jill Peppard and Tricia Blakeslee. The event was played in beautiful autumn weather at Metropolitan Golf Course in April. Thirty teams of past students of member schools competed in an 18-hole Stableford event, raising funds to support Cottage By The Sea at Queenscliff. The event will be held again at Metropolitan Golf Course on Monday, 11 April, 2016. If you wish to participate in the 2016 event, email Mary Hawkins:

mhawkins@labyrinth.net.au

L-R: Pam Benstead (Devine), Lynda Hayes (Brown), Jill Peppard & Tricia Blakeslee (McEwan)
Deaths

We remember in our prayers these members of the Star community who have died recently...


Adrian Callil died May 2015. Loved father of Nicole and Jodie (1980s) and brother of Carmen Callil (1944)

Sunny Cheng died March 2015. Loved husband of Carole, father of Jacqui (1981), Simone (1986) and grandfather of Polly Pritchard (Year 7)

Margaret Hanlon (1963)
Francine McNiff (1965) died April 2015. Francine graduated B Juris, LL B from Monash University then did graduate work at the University of Edinburgh (Diploma in Criminology). She returned to teach in the Law School at Monash for ten years and was Sub-Dean Graduate Studies. Francine was admitted to practice in 1980. In 1983, she was appointed a Children’s Court Magistrate – the first woman Judicial Officer in Victoria. Francine practised as a barrister from 1987 for 23 years. For the last years, illness prevented active practice. She was a major benefactor of the University of Melbourne, funding Chairs in Human Rights (Law School) and in Criminology (Arts) and a Scholarship Fund for doctoral researchers in medical jurisprudence.

Gayle Meiklejohn (Campbell - 1974) died August 2014. Loved daughter of Val, wife of Dave, mother of Matthew and David, grandmother of Riley and Chloe and sister of Jenny (1970). Throughout her life, Gay was strengthened by her faith and her beautiful nature, kindness and quiet courage in the face of all that came her way truly affirming the values of Star - Facta Non Verba

Carmel Oliver died December 2014. Loved mother of Mary Wilhelm (staff) and grandmother of Holly (Year 10)

Margaret Hanlon (1963)

1958 Reunion
Sunday, 4 October 2015
Contact Carolyn Ryan: carolynryan@y7mail.com

1965 Reunion
Saturday, 21 November
Contact Helen Sullivan: sully@pac.com.au
Kathy Howell: Kathleen.howell61@gmail.com

2005 Reunion
Contact Johanna Gleeson:
johanna.gleeson@gmail.com

2010 Reunion
Friday, 18 September
Details Hotel Brighton, 286 Bay Street: 7.30pm – 11.30pm, nibbles provided
Tickets purchase online at www.eventbrite.com – search for Star of the Sea reunion

Note change of date: Reunion of 2014 graduates will be held at the College on Tuesday, 20 October, not 15 October as advised in the December 2014 edition of The Star

UPCOMING REUNIONS

The Stars of 1954 celebrate sixty years on ... Patty Chaplin

It can’t be sixty years since we were only 17 and treading the paths of learning at our alma mater Star of the Sea ... but it is! For our 2014 reunion, ‘old girls’ met in the cloisters of our beloved Star: how time has flown, how many stories to tell and memories to share from way back then. Our numbers have sadly dwindled a little. We remember with love those who unfortunately are no longer with us. We may not be able to leap up and down the many stairs as we could in our heyday (two at a time of course!) but we still have plenty of joie de vivre and energy to make the most of every day. How could we forget our matric class of 1954 with our much-admired Mother Eymard at the helm! She was our guiding light who instilled the Star spirit into all of us. Facta non Verba will always stay with us: a great motto not just for our school years but for life itself.