PRINCIPAL’S REFLECTION

Being energised by change: one of Star of the Sea’s seven guiding principles.

Star of the Sea College’s Mission Statement clearly states the need for us to be energised by change as we strive to empower young women to engage in critical reflection leading to positive action for our world.

It is therefore very satisfying to present this edition of The Star with a focus on many aspects of change that have been experienced by our College community this year – changes in operations, in attitude and in approach ...

Presentation Sisters Victoria were welcomed into Kildare Ministries and therefore Star also became part of Kildare Ministries.

The new Student Leadership Team is focusing on building self-esteem through the You Matter campaign.

There was enthusiastic participation in the first interfaith Model Seder meal.

The new Garden of Reflection was blessed.

Nagle Education Alliance of Australia was formed, bringing together schools that wish to foster and sustain the Presentation charism and the inspiration of Nano Nagle.

Our past students have embraced life-changing opportunities:

- five graduates from our 2010 cohort have been offered positions in medicine following completion of their undergraduate studies;
- two past students have been appointed to senior judicial positions in both the County and Family courts;
- two past students with a passion for singing have had success with debut CDs.

I hope you are energised by The Star as we celebrate the theme for 2014: Be the Change.

Sandra Diafas
We have enthusiastically embraced our College theme for 2014: Be the Change. As student leaders, this theme has challenged us to consider ways we can bring about change to make our Star community the best it can be.

Star’s existing You Are Beautiful campaign has been transformed into the You Matter campaign. We believe the word “beautiful” has different meanings for different people. The You Matter campaign has been a great way of enhancing positivity and student confidence at the College while at the same time integrating the year levels – a task that is not easily achieved in a school as big as Star.

The College Leadership Team, along with other senior students, has run positive body image workshops with the younger students during homeroom assemblies. We have organised simple, yet effective, activities as a way of encouraging a healthy and positive attitude in the girls’ outlook. We believe that this is something that can be compromised - or even lost - during adolescence.

With older girls running the workshops, it has also enhanced companionship between the junior and the senior students.

The junior students look up to the seniors and we must be positive role models for them. We believe the You Matter campaign has the capacity to engender a sense of greater confidence in all members of the Star community.

Kate Gallagher and Georgia Beckham
On 18 February, thirty-seven Year 12 graduates from 2013 returned to the College for the annual Academic Awards ceremony.

Star’s Australian Tertiary Admission Rank (ATAR) results for 2013 were outstanding: 24% of graduates attained an ATAR over 90 and 45% attained an ATAR over 80.

Mariah Lahdo, Dux of the College with an ATAR of 99.20, addressed the student body, providing words of wisdom about setting and achieving goals.

Four students attained a perfect score of 50 in four subjects: 2013 College Captain Bridget Parsons (Legal Studies), Rosemary O’Loughlin (Maths Methods), Izbëlla Staskowski (Studio Arts) and Mietta Mullaly (Visual Communications).

Congratulations to Mietta Mullaly who won the Premier’s Award for Visual Communication Design.

In addition to recognising our VCE graduates, special College bursaries were awarded to ten students who demonstrated excellence in a variety of fields in 2013 ...
Presentation Sisters Victoria was formally welcomed by the Brigidine Congregation as the second Member of Kildare Ministries at an historical launch at Kilbreda College in March.

The Brigidine Sisters (the first Member) established Kildare Ministries, a new Public Juridic Person, as the canonical and civil governance structure for the educational services and community works with which it is entrusted.

Kildare Ministries will comprise the educational and community works formerly governed by the NSW Province of the Brigidine Congregation, the Victorian Province of the Brigidine Sisters and the Presentation Congregation of Victoria. It assumes the trusteeship of the colleges of the Brigidine Sisters in Australia and the ministries of Presentation Sisters Victoria: Star of the Sea College, Brighton, Presentation Family Centre, Balmarring and Wellsprings for Women, Dandenong.

What does this mean for Star of the Sea?
Star will keep its name, story, history, character and College Board. It will continue to educate young women in the tradition of Presentation Sisters and will be known as a Kildare Ministry school. The Sisters will continue to be part of the governance for a number of years to come. The College Board and the Leadership Team have been in consultation for a number of years with the Presentation Sisters in regard to these developments in governance.

Bernadette Keating summed up the sentiments of those present at the launch of Kildare Ministries and the commissioning of trustees: we are most appreciative and inspired by the openness and invitation of the Brigidine Sisters and the inaugural Members’ Council of Kildare Ministries to join our ministries in this new, exciting development and partnership.
The Nagle Education Alliance of Australia

After meeting at a national Presentation gathering organised by the Presentation Sisters, principals from the six Presentation order-owned schools across Australia formed the National Presentation Principals’ Group (NPPG).

The purpose of the NPPG was to foster and sustain the charism of the Presentation Sisters and the inspiration of Nano Nagle in all Presentation schools: order-owned or heritage. The original NPPG membership consisted of the principals from Iona Presentation College (Western Australia), Presentation College Windsor (Victoria), St Rita’s College (Queensland), St Ursula’s College (Queensland), St Mary’s College (Tasmania) and Star of the Sea College.

Since 2010, the NPPG has met once per term and developed a range of programs and services for schools. These include student and staff conferences, student exchanges, a social justice essay competition called the Nagle Prize, biannual pilgrimages to Ireland and a dedicated website containing an extensive array of resources.

At the 2013 staff conference hosted by St Mary’s College in Tasmania, forty-one Presentation schools indicated a desire to be part of this organisation. Subsequently the NPPG has changed its name to the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia (NEAA).

The NEAA:
• believes that the Presentation charism has lasting value with the continued relevance of Nano Nagle’s story in the way we live the Gospel;
• is committed to perpetuating the legacy of Nano Nagle in Australian education;
• provides leadership to school communities across Australia in their endeavour to identify with, express and live out the Presentation charism and mission by sharing of resources and experiences.

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The NEAA is about deepening the Presentation charism and deepening what Star of the Sea is about ...

Sandra Diafas, Principal

The NEAA held a national schools’ competition for the design of the new logo for the organisation. Two Year 11 Visual Communication students from Star, Natalie Birthsel and Evangelia Filipidis, created the award-winning logo design.
Former Liberal Senator, Judith Troeth, addressed Star’s VCE Legal Studies and Politics classes on 20 February.

Judith is the sister of long-serving Star teacher, Pam Ralston, who retired at the end of 2013.

Judith played a major role in government and opposition for almost twenty years where she expressed her opinions without fear or favour. In September 2013, she voiced her dismay over Tony Abbott’s male-dominated cabinet.

Her visit to Star preceded an article in the Sunday Age on 23 February – Liberal Wets hang out principles on asylum-seeker policy to dry ... An excerpt from that article:

Last week, Troeth gave a speech to Year 11 and Year 12 schoolgirls (from Star of the Sea College) in which she was asked about Australia’s treatment of asylum seekers. She told them: “regardless of the feelings of your electorate, you must still be a human being.”

She tells Fairfax: “I don’t see how anyone could be devoid of compassion on this. Particularly in the lead-up to the last election, it was a race to the bottom between the two parties as to who could put forward the most punitive policy and I find that very shameful.”

But Troeth allows that it is difficult for the few remaining Coalition MPs with dissenting views on asylum seekers to make a difference. “I think the gradual retirement from Parliament of people who were prepared to speak out about it, and the move into government, and the emphasis on ‘everybody has to be a team player’, and particularly as an example for the newer members of the Parliament who’ve come in since then, has made it hard when there’s such emphasis on toeing the line,” she says.

“And while there’s not overt discrimination against you if you do speak out, it’s certainly a career marker ... and I just think people are not willing to jeopardise their future career for an issue that isn’t in your face here in the electorate.

“It’s not like employment or jobs or education rates here in Australia, it’s for many people something that’s happening far, far away in another place. So it doesn’t impact on them to that extent as members of Parliament.”
Interfaith opportunity for Star students and mothers

On 1 April, the National Council of Jewish Women of Australia (Vic), together with Jewish Aid, hosted a women’s Interfaith Model Seder meal: a light, kosher, vegetarian meal incorporating some Passover dishes.

The Passover Seder is a Jewish-ritual feast that marks the beginning of the Jewish holiday of Passover. It is conducted on the evening of the 15th day of Nisan in the Hebrew calendar throughout the world.

Star has a strong commitment to interfaith dialogue and was invited to send students, accompanied by their mothers or “a significant female”. Four students of the age of twelve (Jewish bat mitzvah age) and their mothers responded enthusiastically to the invitation. The Seder meal introduced girls to interfaith dialogue as well as to sharing the richness of intergenerational relationships and the passing on of family and faith traditions. Jewish, Muslim, and Christian (of different denominations) and other faiths were all represented.

Last night, my daughter, Katrina, and I attended the Model Seder ... what an interesting and enjoyable night it was ... fascinating to learn more about Passover traditions and Jewish faith and culture.

There were about seventy people ... a mixture of Jewish girls and their mothers plus representatives of a number of other faiths and organisations. The girls and mothers ... participated with readings.

Everyone was very friendly and welcoming ... Frances Prince, who led the evening, (has) fond memories of her first teaching job at Presentation College, Windsor, many years ago when she was employed by Sister Paschal Rushford!

We had the chance to learn about, and take part in, the strong traditions of the Jewish people. Thank you very much for the opportunity to take part.

Penny Repse

Grace and I found it very enjoyable ... (we) were seated with two Jewish women and their daughters who were preparing for their bat mitzvah ... they shared some wonderful insights into their faith and traditions.

This was the first time since the inception of the event seven years ago where they have extended the invitation to twelve-year-old girls ... (it was) a great opportunity for the girls to learn about a different culture/faith and the incredible commitment to both faith and tradition (that) the Jewish community have.

Thank you so much for the opportunity to attend. We thoroughly enjoyed it.

Marg Harley
Year 10 design students inspired by “being the change”

This year’s theme for the Star community, Be the Change, was embraced by Year 10 Visual Communication Design students.

They designed an identity that could be used during the year to prompt action.

To make the theme visible, Visual Communications Design coordinator, Rehana Patrick, asked students to consider the meaning of this phrase and how it could apply to life at Star.

Collaborative brainstorming led to ideas such as “to move out of your comfort zone” and “to take risks by doing things differently” as well as “to stand out and be a leader” and “to be a stimulus to encourage change in others”.

Communicating these ideas in a graphic form was a challenging task but the students took it in their stride. As communication designers, they applied their understanding of design elements and principles to create these thoughtful designs.

Madison Boylan
“Make an impact”

Sammy-Jo Lang-Waite
“Make changes gradually and with subtlety”

Amelia Clark
“Start change, encourage others”

Tessa McCann
“Leave your comfort zone, take a risk”

Amberley Jones
“Evolve and stretch your wings”

Bridget Lord-Henry
“Stand out and make a difference”

Emma Forbes
“Be adventurous, move beyond what is familiar”

Maia Kjendle
“Stand up and make changes that will save the earth”

Casey Augustynski
“Use resources carefully, look after the earth”
From Mock Court to County Court: courtroom drama at Star

In April, two Year 10 Law & Order classes went into battle in a mock trial in the Patricia Carroll Auditorium. The murder case required students to play the roles of barristers, solicitors, witnesses, judge, assistant judges and jurors.

This subject focuses on an inquiry-learning model and students experienced the gamut of emotions from nerves, laughter and that overwhelming sense of joy at participating in such an enriching activity.

For six weeks prior, teachers Peter Farrar and Andrew Dexter oversaw students’ research into the law relating to murder and manslaughter. Also considered were scientific issues around forensic evidence and the impact of alcohol on behaviour.

Some of these students may, one day, be standing in a real court, representing real clients!

Judge Thornton was admitted to the Supreme Court of Victoria as a barrister and solicitor in 1979.

In 1988, she was appointed as a Magistrate of the Magistrates’ Court of Victoria and in 2001, she was appointed Senior Magistrate. In 2008, Judge Thornton was appointed to the County Court of Victoria.

Congratulations to Claire Quin (Bourke - 1983) on her appointment as a judge of the County Court of Victoria in February 2014.

Mrs Quin’s 16 years as a Crown Prosecutor had provided her with a breadth of experience in County and Supreme Court trials, the Court of Appeal and the High Court, said the Director of Public Prosecutions, John Champion S.C.

Judge Quin, nearly 23 years a lawyer, joined her older sister, Judge Katherine Bourke, more than six years after her elevation to the bench: “a sister act that decrees a Victorian - if not an Australian - judicial first”. Judge Quin’s work has been varied and often challenging. She completed a secondment to the Victorian parliamentary inquiry into the handling of child abuse in 2013, an experience she described as “confronting but satisfying”.

Justice Christine Thornton

Congratulations to Christine Thornton (Stewart - 1972) who was appointed to the Family Court of Australia in August 2013. Then Attorney-General, Mark Dreyfus, commented that Judge Thornton brings a strong and diverse background in the law to the Court, and (her) skills and experience will help families resolve their disputes with a minimum of fuss and delay.
Almeida Russell (1917-2012)
Wonderful teacher, inspiration & friend of Star

Star of the Sea College is indebted to Almeida Russell. Not only did she leave a lasting legacy through her passion for teaching - she was a very generous benefactor to the College.

Through a generous donation of $80,000, Almeida supports the education of current students. At the annual Academic Awards ceremony, we proudly present the Almeida Russell Poetry Award, a financial prize that encourages the recipient’s study and writing of poetry. Her donation also funded part of the refurbishment of the art rooms and boosted our disadvantaged fund.

We are very sad that Almeida is no longer with us but her legacy continues.

An edited version of Almeida’s eulogy given by her daughter, Louise Russell (1976)

Mum did her schooling at O’Neill College which was where her passion for writing, literature and history took off. Through an inspirational teacher, Sister Catherine, Mum discovered Coleridge, Wordsworth and other poets. Mum loved to write and, in her teens, was offered a job with the local newspaper reporting on parties and local events for five shillings per column.

After school, Mum started journalism - a natural career choice ... with her love of words and her inquiring mind. In her second year, her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer. Mum left her course and started looking after her mother while also running the family home ... the dream of being a professional writer was finished.

Despite not pursuing her first career choice of journalism, Mum was a passionate, inspiring and dedicated teacher. You might ask how I know this ... well, her students told me. The O’Neill students went to Star for the last two years so I was told pretty quickly how they viewed Mum!

It was probably obvious that Mum would be a great teacher when you think about her love of learning, curiosity and unshakeable belief that every student had qualities a caring teacher could unlock. This belief was, of course, severely tested in some cases!

Mum taught all over Victoria, from Stawell to Gippsland, and at Girton, Firbank, St Ignatius and Kildara.

It is Mum’s compassion, curiosity and sense of humour that I will miss the most ...

Almeida left a legacy that would foster her passion for literature and poetry. It was an honour to meet with Almeida to discuss how she wished her donation to be used.

Sandra Diafas, Principal
Star’s Garden of Reflection, an initiative of the Past Students’ Association (PSA), was blessed and dedicated on Wednesday, 14 May, 2014.

The garden is located in the south-west corner of the College grounds, between the Chapel and St James’ school. The shared brick wall required repair as part of the project.

The PSA Committee, the Class of 2011 and Frances Tobin Funerals by Women have worked together over the past three years to make this garden a reality. Many thanks to Geraldine Carrodus who, as Past Students’ Liaison Officer overseesing the project, worked tirelessly with the Committee to make it happen.

The garden was funded by the sale of the Star of the Sea roses and the generosity of Frances Tobin Funerals by Women, the PSA and the Class of 2011.

It is dedicated to all who have had a special connection with Star of the Sea: Presentation Sisters, students, staff and family members.

The garden is designed to be a space for quiet reflection and prayer. We hope that all students, staff and Star families will come to look upon it as a place to think, pray, contemplate or just sit in peace.

Plaques may be purchased and placed on the brick wall framing the garden. Email Kris Johnstone, Past Students’ Liaison Officer: paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au or visit the website for information: www.starmelb.catholic.edu.au/past-students/connecting-at-star/memorial-garden

Inspiration for the garden came from Megan Hulston and Khiara Basic, Year 12 students from the Class of 2011. They wanted to create a lasting tribute for two much-loved Star students who died during 2011: Hannah Curtis (2009) and Claire McEvoy (Year 11, 2011).

On 22 March, sixteen Star students departed for Italy accompanied by Mrs Diafas, Mrs Basso, Mrs Freer and Ms Marazzita.

Our first stop, Rome, was breathtaking. The itinerary included the Colosseum, The Roman Forum, The Trevi Fountain, Vatican City, Piazza Navona, The Pantheon, Campo dei Fiori and many other ancient and not-so-ancient places. We all enjoyed visiting Zara and marvelling at the designer shops in Via Condotti.

Next was the Amalfi Coast, Sorrento, from where we ventured to Positano and Pompeii for day trips. Ms Marazzita spoke very highly of Positano and it lived up to expectations. Enjoying gelati on the black, pebbly beach was magical.

Language school was next. With a mixture of excitement and nerves, we arrived in the small, medieval town of Orvieto where we had four days of intensive language classes. It was a new experience getting up and ready for Italian school every day. We all enjoyed improving our Italian skills as we learnt about the culture of schools in Italy and the language.

It was then time to relax in Tuscany. We travelled to our farm stay in Castelfiorentino, a beautiful place with gorgeous scenery and a home-like feel. We indulged ourselves in Italian cooking by making our own pasta, pizza and even our own dessert and apple pastry. We were very impressed with our awesome cooking skills - as were the teachers. We loved staying out of the hustle and bustle of a city, being able to just “chillax” before we descended upon Florence and Venice.

Florence was our second-last stop. Many of us were excited about the shops, the leather and the sightseeing. There was never a dull moment. We were either climbing the bell tower or the Duomo, visiting the H&M and Lindt store, marvelling at the artwork in the Uffizi Gallery, the Academia and the Pitti Palace.

Our last stop was Venice. We boarded the bullet train, ready to explore the city built on water. We ate, visited museums, watched mask making and glass blowing demonstrations and finished with a gondola ride in the Venetian canals. It was the highlight of an experience that we will never forget.
FROM THE PRESIDENT

Our major event this year was the “Glam Rock” cocktail party held at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club on 21 June. It was a fantastic night ... took us back to the 90’s! The band, Chocolate Starfish, performed to a full house with lots of dancing and reminiscing of those years of glamour and rock ballads.

The event requires many months of planning and our thanks to Jacqui Provis, Natalie Richardson and Tracy Stone for their hard work in ensuring such a successful night! Sincere thanks to Renault who was, once again, our major sponsor. We appreciate their ongoing support. Thanks also to generous members of the Star community who donated raffle and other prizes for this fundraising event.

As we move into the middle of the year, many of our Class Representatives have organised class dinners for the parents and daughters as well as coffee “catch ups” for the mothers. It’s a fantastic way to meet other parents in your daughter’s class! Events in Term 3 and 4 include the Father Daughter breakfast and a “fun night” will finish the year!

Thanks to the hardworking Parents’ Association for its enthusiasm and continued support.

Leanne Danielson

MOTHER DAUGHTER BREAKFAST

On Wednesday, 21 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, Professor Wilma Beswick AM (1966). Professor Beswick is the Chief Medical Officer at St Vincent’s Hospital and has worked there for over twenty years.

One of Australia’s leading physicians and educators, Wilma has had a profound influence on the knowledge, skills and professional perspective of thousands of doctors and through them, on countless patients. In acknowledgement of her influence, Wilma was inducted onto the Victorian Women’s Honour Roll in 2013. Having led an inspiring career, we were very honoured to have Wilma share her journey and experiences in the field of Health & Medicine at her alma mater.
Meet with Success, a careers evening for Year 11 students, was held on Wednesday, 26 March.

The event drew on the experience and expertise of twenty past students from Years 1964 to 2006. It provided a wonderful opportunity for Year 11 students to hear of the serendipitous journeys, both personally and professionally, of these women.

Discussion was lively! There was a great atmosphere in the room as students heard about careers in teaching, journalism, fashion, retail, town planning, project management, law, medicine, psychology, social welfare, nursing and more. The mentors paid tribute to Star for setting them on their career paths and spoke of the exciting and interesting twists and turns which their careers have taken.

We warmly thank the following past students for so generously giving of their time and expertise to make this a very successful evening:

Christine Carolan (1968)
Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans

Mary-Ellen Davis (1969)
Human Relations Consultant & Psychologist

Paige Dodds (2006)
Animal Science

Lucy Dowling (1994)
Nursing/Aboriginal affairs

Sara Dunne (1989)
Fashion/Charity

Lisa Gill (1981)
Rehabilitation, Aged & Community Care

Anna Holden (Curtain - 1977)
Teaching at ACU

Anna Hurlimann (1996)
Senior Lecturer, University of Melbourne

Emma McDonald (Whelan - 1998)
Zookeeper

Jessica Quist (2005)
Law/Criminology

Siobhan Rehill (1989)
Senior Development Manager, Devine Communities

Susan Renouf (Latham - 1964)
Fashion and Retailing

Penny Repse (1977)
Journalism (photo)

Adele Schocker (2005)
Education

Maryann Spottiswood (1977)
Doctor

Amanda Stokes (1989)
Fashion/Charity

Rebecca Ticli (1997)
Secondary Teacher

Kathryn Vine (2009)
Paramedic

If you wish to be part of the Mentor Program, email paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au or visit www.starmelb.catholic.edu.au/past-students/student-mentoring
Past Students' Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT
I was honoured to take up the position of President of the Past Students’ Association (PSA) earlier this year. Thanks to Barbara Harkin for her efforts during her term as President. Barbara will remain on the Committee as Treasurer with Therese Proy as Secretary.

We warmly welcome Kris Johnstone to the role of Past Students’ Liaison Officer. Kris has quickly set to work in managing and overseeing our successful Star Women Speak event and the blessing and dedication of the Garden of Reflection. Kris has established a Facebook page for the PSA which will assist greatly in communicating future events.

We hope to commence the polishing of the parquetry floor and replacing the carpet runner in the central aisle of the Chapel. Many thanks to those who have contributed to this project. We encourage others to consider a donation to ensure our much-loved Chapel is restored to its former glory. For more information, visit www.starmelb.catholic.edu.au/past-students/connecting-at-star/chapel-appeal

We are heartened by a renewed interest in the PSA by those who left the College in more recent years. I strongly urge anyone who is interested in the further development of our wonderful PSA to attend the next meeting on Monday, 28 July at 6.00pm in the FayByrne Centre.

Frances Tobin (1980)

STAR WOMEN SPEAK IN MAY
Another very successful Star Women Speak event was held on Friday, 2 May in the Patricia Carroll Auditorium. Guest speaker Felicity McGahan (Cooke - 1986) regaled us most entertainingly with tales of her school days and her career choices.

Currently Global General Manager of Cotton On, Felicity has always worked in fashion and retail. Having worked in the United States and London, she is working at Cotton On’s headquarters in Geelong. Felicity’s advice for success: “build a community of friends, family, sponsors and mentors that will become your teachers - and you their teacher”.

STAR WOMEN SPEAK IN SEPTEMBER
Gina Liano (1983) will be the guest speaker at the next Star Women Speak event later in 2014 - date to be advised. Gina’s inspiring story as a breast cancer survivor, mother and barrister, along with her recent reality television experience on Real Housewives of Melbourne, guarantees a memorable evening.


Kris Johnstone, New Past Students’ Liaison Officer
Kris Johnstone (left, with Geraldine Carrodus) has replaced Geraldine Carrodus as Past Students’ Liaison Officer following her retirement at the end of 2013. Kris is returning to Star having been the Head of Library at the College from 1995 to 2001. She has a background in teaching, libraries and information management and has worked in several Catholic secondary schools including Presentation College, Moe. Kris will be in the office every Tuesday during the school term. Telephone Kris on 9596 6099 or email paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au.
Past Students' news

A proud, foundation member of Stacella, Georgina Ward (1999) recently released her debut music film clip. Listen to it at: www.youtube.com/watch?v=L9uD4QCS30

Singing and music was always a joy for me at Star. It gave me confidence once I left school to work professionally in the music scene.

Jillian and Madeline Sands (2004 and 2007) are working with their mother, Kathy Phelan, in their international technology company, Small World Social: www.smallworldsocial.com. The company is dominated by women in leadership, staff and investors and has three studios - Melbourne, San Francisco and Berlin. The main technology hub is located in Melbourne with a specialist young team of thirty building innovative things that are used by millions of people all around the world. This is the latest project: www.smallworldsocial.com/projects/breastfeeding


Five graduates from the Class of 2010 were offered places in Medicine in 2014 following completion of undergraduate degrees in Science and Biomedicine. Four graduates accepted places at Flinders, Monash, Notre Dame and Melbourne; one declined the offer, pursuing her study of Medical Research instead.

Megan Alderuccio (Biomedicine at Monash) is studying Medicine at Monash in Gippsland.

Nicole Evans (Biomedicine at Monash) is studying Medicine at Flinders University.

Meg Hickey (Science at Melbourne) is studying Medicine at Melbourne.

Ann Tripaydonis (Science at Melbourne) was offered a place in Medicine at Melbourne but, after much soul-searching, declined the offer to pursue her passion, Medical Research. Ann featured in the December 2013 edition of The Star.

Madison Waters (Science at Melbourne) is studying Medicine at Notre Dame in Fremantle.

Claudia Geils (2012) is a serious competitor in Latin Dancesport. Claudia and her dance partner, Arthur Tan, will be competing at the National Canberra Dancesport Championships in June. They have competed together for over two years. They plan to travel overseas to compete and take lessons with top professional coaches. Here is Claudia at the National Australian Dancesport Championships 2013 in Melbourne. Photo by Karen Davison.

DATABASE UPDATE ... DO WE HAVE YOUR INFORMATION?

The Past Student Association (PSA) is working hard to update the Past Students’ database with your latest personal details and current email addresses. We have a number of exciting events planned for 2015, including our Star Women Speak series and would like to communicate with past students in between editions of The Star. Please email your latest street address and email address details to: paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au. Encourage your Star friends to do the same.

PAST STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION PROMOTING YOUR BUSINESS

The PSA is keen to increase our knowledge and promote create business networking events and celebrate the diverse work of our amazing alumnae in the areas of the arts, business, education, environment, health, science, sport and politics. We want to hear what you are doing!

We will not publish an update on you without your permission however we are keen to increase our knowledge on where past students are studying, working and volunteering. Don’t be shy about your success! Let us know if you would like to speak at future events and forums.

There will be opportunity at up-and-coming events for sponsorship and the promotion of your business. Please let us know if you are interested in assisting an event in this capacity: paststudents@starmelb.catholic.edu.au
Significant donations to the archives

Star has been delighted to receive two significant donations in 2014.

Forties to Fifties reunion - 13 October 1996
Mrs Emmeline McFadyen kindly donated a treasure trove of information on past students collected at the time of this reunion in October 1996.

Patty Johnson’s Schoolgirl Diary 1957 - 1959: Bayside Life in 1950s Melbourne
Michael Dunn, Emeritus Professor, University of Auckland, has kindly donated a delightful 148-page diary with notes and illustrations made by his wife, Patricia, when she was a student at Star in the late 1950s. Patty Johnson’s Schoolgirl Diary covers the period December 1957 to December 1959. It is a unique and charming record of schoolgirl life of the time and is a welcome addition to our collection.

Patricia’s diary was discovered among her personal papers after her death in September 2012. It had never been mentioned by her during her lifetime but had been stored in a file along with memorabilia to do with her childhood years. Michael transcribed and published the diary in 2013: it provides a fascinating account of school life at the time with many staff and students mentioned by name.

A gifted botanical artist and teacher, a commemorative exhibition of Patricia’s work was held in March 2013. The exhibition catalogue has also been donated. The diary will be of great interest to many members of the Star community: those who remember Patricia Johnson and those who are interested in a historical memoir of those years at the College and in the local community. Email Kerry Doquile - kdoquile@starmelb.catholic.edu.au - to make arrangements to borrow the diary.

Michael has created a website that includes the diary, a short account of Patricia’s life and her botanical illustrations: http://michaeldunn3.wix.com/patsydunspages. Michael said that, for him, it is important that she is remembered at Star where she spent her formative years.

We are indebted to Professor Dunn and Mrs McFadyen for contacting the College about these precious items. All members of the Star community are encouraged to consider donating items to our collection.

Mrs Kerry Doquile
Archivist
kdoquile@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

CLASS OF 1958 CELEBRATES 55 YEARS IN 2013 ...

Oh! what a day it was ... it really was such a day! Thirty-three of us met at the Victoria Golf Club in Cheltenham and what a ‘talk fest’ it was. The time went so fast. Welcoming new faces was exciting. Sadly, the numbers have started to dwindle so, for some, there is a need to reconnect. “Maybe I will catch up next year” doesn’t always work out. From the feedback I received, many left thinking “when do we meet again?”

Our next gathering is on Sunday, 12 October at the Victoria Golf Club, Reserve Road, Cheltenham from 1.00pm – 4.00pm. The cost will be about $45. A warm welcome is extended to anyone from the year of 1958. Having email addresses enable us to keep you in the loop.

Contact Carolyn Ryan (Schofield) on 9754 6130 or carolynryan@y7mail.com

Seven “beautiful boarders” - Back: Margaret Phillips, Pat de Graaf, Margaret McCormack, Betty O’Connor Front: Anne Charleston, Margaret Masters, Winnie Gibbins
Family News

ENGAGEMENTS
Clare Meehan (staff) to Rob Smith
Emma Brezezinski (2006) to Andrew Reddie

MARRIAGES
Regine Karantzas (2005) and Jack Miriklis were married at St Catherine’s Greek Church on 30 November and spent their honeymoon in the USA

Lauren Darvell (2003 - staff) to Tim

BIRTHS
Elaine Haddad (staff) Elias Haddad was born 21 April

Lucy Prideaux (McCully - 2002) and James - a daughter, Imogen Hannah, in 2013

DEATHS
Pray for the following members of the Star of the Sea family who have died recently. May they rest in God’s loving peace.

Charlie Aquilina - loved father of Josephine Aquilina (staff), died, in December 2013
Graham Coyle - loved father of Gillian Coyle (staff) and brother of Margaret Brennan (Coyle - 1952), died in November 2013


Peggy was a great supporter of Star of the Sea and the Sisters over a long period of time. A former actress, she often spoke to the students about the joys and perils of acting. Peggy produced and starred in two plays performed at the College - Two Dozen Red Roses and Bonaventure - both of which she had appeared in at St Martin’s Theatre. She also organised and compere a number of fashion parades, her efforts raising considerable funds for school projects. Peggy turned 100 in October 2013.

Katerina Karamitos - loved mother of Toulai Tripaydonis (staff) and grandmother of Ann (2010) and Kate (Year 11), died in February 2014
Murray - loved father of Anne Basso (staff), died in February 2014
Andrew Meadows - loved husband of Ann-Marie, father of Lucinda (Year 8) and Leo, died on 24 April 2014

THE STARS OF 1954
Saturday, 22 November 2014, 2:00pm
George Reed Foyer in
Star’s Performing Arts Centre
Bring: a small plate of goodies
for afternoon tea
RSVP: Patty Chaplin (Dunphy) - 9580 8748 or 0437 091 075 or pattyc@netspace.net.au
Also invited are those girls who went to Star with our group but left before Year 12.

CLASS OF 1959
Wednesday, 12 November 2014, 12 noon
Half Moon Restaurant,
120 Church Street, Brighton,
RSVP: Helen (Salt) Dalton - 02 9817 1798 or email daltons@redcroft.org;
Mary (Conquest) Kirsner - 0418 991 551;
Tonia (Weatherhead) Rogan - 0409 843 889 or toniarogan7@gmail.com - help would be appreciated.
Note: includes the Leaving Class of 1958 and the Intermediate Class of 1957

CLASS OF 1964
Saturday, 22 November 2014, 6:00pm
Il Caminetto, 284 Bay Street, Brighton - undercover parking at 1 Asling Street
Cost: $65.00 for sumptuous three course feast plus drinks available from the bar
RSVP: with payment - Friday, 24 October 2014: Mail: PO Box 7001, Gardenvale LPO, Brighton, 3186
Barbara Harkin (Nankervis) - 9572 4947 or barbaraharkin@bigpond.com

OPEN DAY FOR PAST STUDENTS
Sunday, 23 November 2014
1.00pm - College tour
2.00pm - Mass in the Chapel followed by afternoon tea
Cost: $20 per person - payable on the day
RSVP: Email Kris Johnstone: kjohnstone@starmelb.catholic.edu.au

UPCOMING REUNIONS

CORRECTION
The December 2013 edition of The Star reported the death of Carolyn Ryan (Schofield - 1958). It is with much happiness that I report that this information is, in fact, incorrect. Carolyn has advised that her health is excellent and that she has enjoyed catching up with many people since that announcement. Editor.