PRINCIPAL’S REFLECTION

What an extraordinary semester it has been at Star of the Sea College. In this 132nd year of the College, the theme of My Space … Our Place was a lived experience on many occasions:

• the ongoing development of The Wave project and the relocation of Year 8 classes into the new Trasna space;
• the joy-filled concerts marking the twentieth anniversary of Stacella, with both past and present choristers performing in the beautiful space that is the Patricia Carroll Auditorium;
• the College chapel was filled to capacity with past and present families attending the inaugural Mass of Remembrance in November;
• Year 7 students were enthralled to share the space of the Sisters in an afternoon of presentations, sharing and friendship;
• our fathers assembled for a Friday afternoon BBQ at the College for the annual get-together to coincide with Fathers’ Day;
• Nicky Buckley (1983) returned to our place to share her life stories with the Star community in Star Women Speak;
• our 2014 graduates returned for their first anniversary reunion in October.

How fortunate are we to be able to accommodate all of these amazing events in our place here at Star.

I am honoured to report on the wonderful service of six retiring members of staff. Each has left a great legacy at the College and we wish them well as they start the next stage of their exciting life journeys.

I hope you enjoy reading the various reports on all of the above throughout this edition of The Star.

Sandra Diafas

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DECEMBER 2015

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Presentation Night Awards honour academic & cultural achievements

At the annual Presentation Night in November, awards were conferred on the following students in recognition of their contribution to the wellbeing of the College community in 2015. Congratulations to them for their outstanding academic and cultural achievements.

1. Jessica Zuk
   TERESA MULALLY PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
   A Year 11 student who has shown outstanding academic excellence and consistent diligence in their studies

2. Isabelle Coyne
   PAST STUDENTS’ AWARD: SR RAYMONDE TAYLOR ART AWARD
   A Year 12 student who made a significant contribution to the Visual Arts Faculty

3. Tess McCullough
   PAST STUDENTS’ AWARD: MOTHER ANGELA JOHNSTON MUSIC AWARD
   A Year 12 who made a significant contribution to the Music Faculty

4. Sarah Loschiavo
   PAST STUDENTS’ ASSOCIATION AWARD: SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD
   A senior student who exhibited a generous and enthusiastic commitment to all aspects of College life, both academically and in co-curricular activities

5. Phoebe Conroy
   PAST STUDENTS’ AWARD: SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD
   An intermediate student who exhibited a generous and enthusiastic commitment to all aspects of College life, both academically and in co-curricular activities

6. Lauren Loschiavo
   PAST STUDENTS’ AWARD: SCHOOL SPIRIT AWARD
   A junior student who exhibited a generous and enthusiastic commitment to all aspects of College life, both academically and in co-curricular activities

7. Samantha Cameron and 8. Jaime Phyland
   NICHOLLS AWARDS
   Two students from any year level who make a valuable contribution to College life through a significant involvement in a number of co-curricular activities

9. Lucinda BUzza
   SR. PHILOMENA CONSEDIINE AWARD (A BURSARY OF $1000)
   A Year 11 student, welcoming and supportive of all, friendly, caring and conscientious and has a sense of humour and genuine interest in social justice issues, epitomising “deeds, not words”

10. Catherine Walsh
    JOANNE RODIS CHRISTIAN AWARENESS AWARD
    A Year 12 student known for sensitivity, empathy and respect for others

11. Rachael Beaumont
    NAGLE AWARD FOR SOCIAL JUSTICE
    A student who has made a significant contribution in the area of social justice

12. Caterina O’Brien
    PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION SPORT AWARD
Two concerts were held in September to celebrate the twenty years since Star’s choir, Stacella, came into being. Imagined by teacher, Peter Faulkner, in 1995, the a capella choir has evolved into a renowned choral act, locally and internationally.

Marking the importance of the anniversary, current students were joined by former Stacella students for the first time ever. Wearing new uniforms, current students sang beautifully with two former choirs: 1995-2004, under the leadership of Peter Faulkner, and 2005-2014, with Larissa Cairns at the helm.

There were thirty former choristers in each of the groups, with many travelling from interstate for rehearsals and the official performance. Pamela Bonney (1998) travelled from Sydney with her young son for a couple of weeks just to attend all the rehearsals. That dedication speaks volumes for the regard in which Stacella is held by past students.

It was an honour to have former principal, Rosalie Jones, attend both concerts along with many current Star staff members, former Stacella staff and parents from 1995-2013. Current leader, Tenille Kearney, coordinated the rehearsals and the concerts as well as releasing Stacella’s 7th CD - Coming Home - the 20th Anniversary edition. She also developed a new crest to mark the occasion. Congratulations, Tenille, on these achievements.

The “Golden Oldies” were very impressed with the quality of the singing from Stacella 2015 as well as with the wonderful facilities they enjoy in the Patricia Carroll Auditorium. These alumnae remember rehearsing in far less salubrious venues.

Congratulations to all performers and helpers on the night for giving Stacella supporters two very memorable reunion concerts.

A special award of appreciation was made to musician, Gavin Cassidy, for his continued support of the choir since 2002.
1. Peter Faulkner with 1995-2004 choir  
2. Larissa & Peter  
3. Peter & 1995-2004 choir  
4. Peter & Tenille  
5. Larissa Cairns with 2005-2014 choir  
6. Tenille with past & current chairs  
7. Larissa with 2005-2014 choir  
8. Proud Principal Sandra Diafas  
9. Rosalie Jones & Tess McCullough  
10. Tenille with 2015 choir  
11. Tenille Kearney with 2015 choir members  
12. Rehearsal  
13. Amelia McCulloch with 2015 choir
The Wave continues to roll through Star...

THE WAVE IN 2015 ....

Much has been said about The Wave project and its inception. It is useful to look back on the year to see how it has evolved for the students and the teachers.

Do you remember the dark, dingy, aged teaching and learning spaces for the Year 7s and 8s in the East Wing? They looked like this ...

In 2015, Year 7 students started Semester 1 in the new space known as Trasna: an Irish word meaning “crossing place”. By Semester 2, Year 8 students occupied their new spaces as well.

In Trasna, students and teachers have a greater opportunity to vary the learning experience - both in physical and virtual spaces - so that even more engaged, effective learning occurs. Students from all year levels have also utilised the Trasna spaces this year.

Year 7 and 8 students respond to Learning in Trasna in 2015 ...

... interesting every day
... free: I get to choose the way I best learn
... inspirational: the big areas and all the displays inspire me to learn
... exciting: you get to experience what everyone else is doing

Teachers respond to Teaching in Trasna in 2015 ...

... challenges me to be the best teacher I can in every lesson because I have so much more choice in how I deliver the curriculum and how students can learn
... blurs the boundaries and makes us all learners
... gives me the chance to work in spaces beyond chairs and desks
... constantly changes because we can work in many different learning configurations each lesson - it allows me to respond instantly to class dynamics

THE WAVE IN 2016 ...

As we move into the third year of The Wave project in 2016, the final stage will be realised with the development of the new Technology Hub. Contemporary Food Technology and Science areas have been overseen by Faculty Heads, Bernadette Dorning and Toula Tripaydonis. They have worked tirelessly this year to make sure that these spaces will meet the needs of current and future students and teachers. We aim to move into the final area of Trasna by the end of Semester 1.

Starting as the “brainchild” of the College Leadership Team in 2013, The Wave has gathered momentum. From those initial meetings of imagining “what could be” to the messy and often uncomfortable stages of design and development, Star has done what it always does: grabbed the opportunity and has run with it.

Mellesa McDiarmid
The Wave Project Leader
Annual Fashion Parade dazzles

A major feature on the College calendar is the annual Fashion Parade. This not-to-be-missed event kick-starts Art Week at the end of Term 3. It showcases the extraordinary design capabilities of our senior students.

This year, three Year 12 graduates have been shortlisted for the VCAA Seasons of Excellence: Top Designs exhibition. This annual exhibition, held at the Melbourne Museum, features the highest achievers in VCE design subjects across Victoria.

Congratulations to Erin Checkley, Isabelle Coyne and Kate Tripaydonis for their fine achievements.
ANN BRADY
Having been appointed by Sr Paschal Rushford to the staff in 1977, Ann is one of Star’s longest serving staff members. She has taught English, Religious Education and Texts & Traditions in which one of her students received a perfect score. She has also enjoyed Homeroom teacher roles in Year 12 and subsequently Fay House.
Ann has played a leadership role in the Victorian Association for Teachers of Texts & Traditions, organising its annual conference for many years. Ann has prepared comperes for countless Presentation Nights and has been instrumental in organising the smooth-running Graduation Ceremony for Year 12’s across the years.
In recent times Ann was appointed our inaugural Senior Studies’ Coordinator, overseeing the complex arrangements dictated by the Victorian Curriculum and Assessment Authority around VCE assessment and exams. Ann has brought great practical wisdom and compassion to this role, often supporting students with a range of social, emotional and medical needs around exam time.
With a daughter in New York, three grandchildren in Melbourne and her heavy involvement in the life of St Paul’s Cathedral in the heart of Melbourne, Ann is unlikely to slow down at all. We wish Ann and Jim every blessing and safe travels for the next phase of their lives.

LOU CHAMBERLIN
Lou’s impact on the Star community – and the wider art education community – has been immense. Lou’s art room is a living testament to her creativity, dedication and genius.
Lou has launched an interest in art among hundreds of Star students: we don’t think Lou has ever taught the same unit the same way twice! She has worked with students on amazing installations for many Presentation Night items, and shaped award winning pieces: Mary, Star of the Sea icon and the Star Crucifix. Her life-size Startuettes greet visitors at the entrance of the College; her intricate rangoli designs made from recycled plastic bottle tops have graced the perimeter of the Statue of Mary.
Lou has worked on costumes for College productions including elaborate masks - one of Lou’s specialties! Lou has mentored student and graduate teachers, slaved over countless art education textbooks, contributed creatively to network meetings and run professional seminars. Lou and her husband, Des, have supported senior students on the Vinnies’ Soup Van for many years.
An international expert on Street Art, Lou has published extensively about this art form. We know that Lou will continue to make an impact on the arts education scene in Australia for many years to come.

PETER FAULKNER
Peter was employed as an Australian Studies teacher in 1990. His passion for politics, justice and current affairs has seen him make a contribution to the Humanities and Religious Education faculties over the years. He also served as Coordinator of the Community Service Program. Another passion of Peter’s has always been singing.
In 1995, he experienced somewhat of an epiphany and, with the support of then principal, Rosalie Jones, the Stacella program was born. Stacella is a unique program that fosters a capella singing via small group classes. It is highly influenced by World Music, enabling students to experience the joys and sorrows of the rich cultures of countries such as South Africa and New Zealand. Stacella has gone from strength to strength, undertaking tours in the Pacific region, performing at Catholic Education Melbourne Gala concerts, conferences and countless liturgies. Peter’s vision for Stacella has had a major impact on the spirituality of hundreds of students and has enriched the spiritual heart of Star.
We can sum up Peter’s legacy in the words of the great Quaker song, How can we keep from singing? We promise to remember you when we sing, Pete!
Sabina has spearheaded the development of Star’s Josepha Dunlop Library across years of huge change in the areas of Library Services and Information Technology.

She has kept abreast of these changes while at the same time fostering that precious and unique gift of reading. As a Teacher-Librarian, Sabina has inspired countless students to deepen their love of reading, introducing them to different genres and honing their literary appreciation. She has encouraged many junior students to serve as Library Monitors and has generally shaped the Library into a space of welcome for all students. Under Sabina’s leadership, the Library has offered amazing hospitality to our Big Issue vendor, Clarissa, even hosting Clarissa’s 50th birthday party across the closing weeks of Term 4.

Sabina has spearheaded a dynamic Staff Book Club with staff visiting interesting literary locations and sharing thoughts on the latest novels. Sabina and her staff have fostered the Film and Literature Club, a voluntary extension lunchtime activity for student literary and film buffs. Library Week is always a highlight of the year with interesting speakers, competitive trivia games and other competitions challenging our intellects.

Sabina has helped source speakers for Social Justice gatherings and for many years, she has co-ordinated Star’s commitment to the Jesuit Social Services’ Friday Night Tutoring program. We know Sabina’s passion for justice, her family and interesting travel will lead her to encounter amazing people and places in the years to come. We’re sure there is a book or two in Sabina – maybe a Stella Prize winner!

Dru has taught Food Technology and Health & Human Development for 25 years at Star, serving as Faculty Coordinator for 17 years over that time.

Ever the consummate professional, Dru has taught students across Year 8 to Year 12, developing in them a passion for food, health and public health/human development issues. Dru’s students have achieved perfect VCE scores, had their work exhibited at Top Design and provided hospitality at many College functions. Dru is meticulous in her teaching, exacting high standards of her students; she is also a generous and collaborative professional who is highly respected by students and peers alike.

During her time as Faculty Leader in Food Technology, Dru oversaw the redevelopment of the East Wing kitchen (which is currently undergoing another transformation). Over the years, we have enjoyed the folio work of Dru’s VCE students as they have exhibited beautifully presented hampers, exploring themes such as: Raw Food, Under the Tuscan Sun and Celebrations fit for a Queen! We think Dru would be a great Masterchef judge; she has the ability to instill her passion in others. This will assist her in her new journey.

Initially a banker, Kevin came to Star in July 2004 after fifteen years in Administration, School Planning and Finance at the Catholic Education Office.

Prior to commencing as the College Business Manager in June 2012, Kevin spent more than seven years working in finance at Star with his predecessor, Bert Quan. Kevin has been Company Secretary to the College Board and has had the responsibility for the control of College finances and the maintenance of buildings and grounds. A highlight has been overseeing the transformation of the tired, 1960’s-styled East Wing into Trasna, a contemporary educational learning space. He has managed those challenges and responsibilities with professionalism, tenacity and a great sense of humour. Staff always received Kevin’s support with their various projects and the Star community will miss his friendship, sincerity and approachability.

As I reflect upon the service of Ann Brady, Lou Chamberlin, Peter Faulkner, Sabina Huggins, Dru Nash and Kevin Velthuis, I do not necessarily recall the “surface” aspects of what they have done or achieved … I am moved, rather, by the ways in which they invited our community into the deeper realities of life …

Principal Sandra Diafas
In June, the students from 7 Carroll 1 visited the Sisters. It is clear from the following students’ reflections that they all had a wonderful time talking about school, home and prayer.

Meeting the sisters was a great experience, they told us some stories about what they had done in their lives and we showed them the prayers that we had written in RE ...

**Emily Scown**

The sisters were really lovely and up for a good chat. It was nice to listen to their opinions and stories ...

**Tiana Cheesman**

I really enjoyed meeting the sisters because they were so sweet and they listened to everything we had to say and even informed us about some different types of prayers and religions ...

**Chiara Fry**

It was nice to hear the Sisters’ opinions on matters like our laptops, and the way we learn. We heard about how they learned prayers whereas we get to create our own prayers ...

**Ciara Steggerda**

I thought that meeting the sisters was a great experience. We talked about things outside of school and about our families and pets ...

**Lauren Robinson**

It’s funny but great what you can learn from others ... I remember one situation where we were talking about prayer time in primary school. I found out the most interesting fact: one of the Sisters was a principal there! Even with a small school of 180, someone will know you ...

**Mia Gojak**

I really enjoyed meeting the Sisters because they are so nice and patient – they listened to every word we said ...

**Lara Rabahi**

When we visited the Sisters, I was lucky enough to sit with Sr Patricia Carroll and Sr Barbara. They were both really friendly and easy to talk to. Our homeroom is named after Sr Patricia Carroll so it was extra special getting to talk to her ...

**Maggie McCartney**

I had lots of fun meeting the Sisters. It was nice to hear about what schools they taught at and to figure out if they taught my Mum or with my Grandma ...

**Polly Pritchard**

It was fun visiting the Sisters - they were actually really cute! It was nice to know about their history at Star and how many things have changed. It was very nice to share our prayers and say what we care about ...

**Mickey Madeira**

---

1. Sr Patricia Carroll & 7CA students
2. Anne Muirhead, students & Sisters
3. Bernadette Turner with Sisters & students
4. Sr Patricia Carroll & students
5. Regina Hooper, Sr Patricia Carroll & students
Current students challenge themselves …

**HOLLY & CHARLOTTE RECEIVE THE PRESTIGIOUS QUEEN’S GUIDE AWARD …**

Heartiest congratulations to Holly Felsenthal (Year 11) and Charlotte Keon (Year 12) on receiving the Queen’s Guide Award from Girl Guides Victoria. The Queen’s Guide Award is Guiding’s peak achievement award. The Award is similar to the Duke of Edinburgh Award – it focuses on the awardee’s personal development that will benefit the community in the long term.

The Award requires completion of the following components …

- accomplish leadership tasks and undertake courses
- community service with more than 140 hours of volunteer work
- outdoor skills including first aid training and outdoors qualifications
- cultural awareness
- working with peers
- advancing personal development including research projects from historical events to copyright law

**YEAR 8 - YEAR 11 STUDENTS COMPETE IN THE VICTORIAN PHILOSOTHON**

Eight students from Years 8 - 11 travelled to Ballarat Grammar’s city campus in September for a night of stimulating philosophical debate. The annual Victorian Philosothon consisted of four discussions, each pondered by twelve groups of students from secondary schools across the state. Initially, students discussed topics within a year-level based group in a Community of Inquiry. They then joined a mix of multi-aged students and explored four thought-provoking prompts:

*What is it to be human?*

*Do we need the arts to live?*

*Is mankind a proper steward of the environment?*

*Does the future matter?*

Facilitators guided the discussions while judges awarded points to students for the quality and originality of their ideas, use of rigorous and sophisticated justification and reasoning, and their ability to collaboratively develop the ideas of the group. Everyone quickly settled into the discussions and thoroughly enjoyed the social interaction and intellectual challenges.

To prepare for this annual competition, we attended lunchtime Communities of Enquiry where we had the opportunity to develop our skills. The team was also privileged to meet with Professor Splitter, an eminent academic who has an extensive background and understanding of Philosophy. We are especially grateful to Ms Hill for all her efforts spent on Star’s philosophy team and to Mrs Herzog-Lewis who provided support and encouragement throughout the competition.

Hannah Mackinnon - Year 11
Introducing our Music School teachers

Star of the Sea is proud of the professional musicians that teach our students at the College, contributing to its ongoing – and renowned – musical tradition.

MARC ALEXANDER – PIANO
Qualification: Bachelor of Music, University of Western Australia
Joined Star’s Music School: 2005
Marc has been teaching Piano for over twenty years and also teaches Flute. He is in demand as a community musician, working accompanying choirs and soloists.

I love ... the supreme versatility of the Piano, its immediacy, its deeply expressive abilities, its intimacy, its power. It’s also THE most ubiquitous & popular of all instruments, worldwide, of all time.

SOPHIE ANTONIOU – PIANO, VIOLIN & VIOLA
Qualifications: Bachelor of Music – Piano; Master of Music Studies – Conducting; Master of Teaching, Melbourne University
Joined Star’s Music School: 2010
Sara has performed with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Monash University ensembles, Heidelberg Choral Society and 3MBS FM. She regularly performs in orchestras for school musicals.

I enjoy ... when a student is working on a piece that they might be struggling with and it all just comes together. Seeing students enjoying playing their instrument and having fun playing in ensembles with other students across different year levels. New friendships and bonds are created doing this which is something quite special.

SARA CALIA - CLARINET, SAXOPHONE & DRUM KIT
Qualification: Bachelor of Music (Honours)
Joined Star’s Music School: 2010
Sara has performed with the Melbourne Youth Orchestra, Monash University ensembles, Heidelberg Choral Society and 3MBS FM. She regularly performs in orchestras for school musicals.

I enjoy ... seeing students enjoy playing music.

NICK BROWN - GUITAR & BASS
Qualifications: Studied with renowned Guitar Teacher, Tony Calabro; ensembles at Monash University; AMEB - Guitar and Piano
Joined Star’s Music School: 2014
Nick specialises in Contemporary, Classical, Rock, Jazz, Blues, Country and Latin styles. With over fifteen years of live performance and recording, his recent work includes Anything Goes (Melbourne season 2015), Grace Knight, Eurogliders, Dale Ryder (Boom Crash Opera), Jason Singh (Taxiide), Cairns Blues Festival, Broadbeach Blues and Roots, Deni Ute Muster and Opera Victoria. He is a regular contributor to Beat and Mixdown magazines, writing reviews, instructional pieces and interviews.

I enjoy ... seeing students discover the potential of playing guitar, working in ensembles and getting involved in Music/Performing Arts in general.

Other Music School staff will be featured in the next edition of The Star:
Alan Dinh - Bass Guitar & Guitar
Beth George - Voice
Jade Leonard - Voice
Amelia McCulloch - Voice & Stacella
Parents' Association

FROM THE PRESIDENT

The busy Semester 2 started with the PA’s major fundraising event, A Touch of Tinsel at the Royal Brighton Yacht Club. Everyone had an enjoyable night while raising funds for important College projects.

We hosted a very successful Father Daughter gathering in late August with a Friday afternoon BBQ replacing the traditional breakfast event. Guest speaker, Peter De Santo APM (Ella - Year 9) is the Commander of State Anti-Gangs Crime Division and has been a member of Victoria Police for 37 years. Not only did Peter share with us information about his work; he reinforced the need for strong communication between parents and children and encouraged young people to think about careers where they can give service to others. We are very grateful to Peter for giving us his time and insights.

All in attendance enjoyed a BBQ and were entertained by senior Music students. A special thanks to Gerard Browne for coordinating such a successful gathering.

Leanne Danielson

FATHER DAUGHTER AFTERNOON BBQ

On Friday, 28 August, the Parents’ Association hosted the annual Father-Daughter gathering. A Friday afternoon BBQ replaced the traditional breakfast event.

Guest speaker, Peter De Santo APM (Ella - Year 9) is the Commander of State Anti-Gangs Crime Division and has been a member of Victoria Police for 37 years. Not only did Peter share with us information about his work; he reinforced the need for strong communication between parents and children and encouraged young people to think about careers where they can give service to others. We are very grateful to Peter for giving us his time and insights.

All in attendance enjoyed a BBQ and were entertained by senior Music students. A special thanks to Gerard Browne for coordinating such a successful gathering.

Leanne Danielson

OFFICE BEARERS FOR 2016

President
Leanne Danielson
Vice President
Doug Clark
Secretary
Sallie Dowdney
Treasurer
Gerard Browne
Communications Officer
Joanne Baker
Class Reps Coordinator
Penny Repse
Major Event Coordinator
Linda Bailey & Jacqui Provis
Volunteers Coordinator
Francesca Lewis
General Committee
Gail Rees & Monique Bellew
Mass of Remembrance

A glorious Spring morning set the scene perfectly for the inaugural Mass of Remembrance in the College chapel on Sunday, 8 November. Co-hosted by the Past Students’ Association and the College, the Mass was followed by morning tea in the George Reed foyer. The event was very well attended by past and current families, and staff members.

The Mass featured delightful singing by Year 8 & 9 students, accompanied by Meredith Talia. A particular highlight was the stunning performance by soloist, Year 11 student, Jessica Zuk, at the conclusion of the Mass: Jessica sang Pie Jesu from Andrew Lloyd Webber’s Requiem. Past students, current staff members and Maria Lazzaro pbvm, Congregational Head of the Presentation Sisters in Victoria, also participated in the liturgy. A special inclusion was the reading out of names of deceased family members who had been part of the Star community, as requested by their families or friends.

After Mass, the congregation processed from the chapel through the Garden of Reflection where members of the Cheng family laid a floral tribute. The mood was reflective and peaceful. Many families expressed their gratitude for the commemorative Mass: it was a wonderful opportunity to recognise our loss in such a familiar and supportive place – Mum loved Star. One family reflected ... being in the Star chapel with the students in their uniforms, singing the College hymn, was so moving – we felt very close to our daughter.

1. Carole Cheng & daughter, Simone Pritchard
2. Louisa Anderson, Nella Puzsar & Silvana Van Leeuwen
3. Denise Egan & Carolyn Schofield
4. Theo Kinnaird, Joan O’Callaghan, Anne Kupais & Geraldine Richards
5. Dennis Hutchinson, Cel Curtis & Laurie Fitzgerald
6. Maria Lazzaro pbvm, Clare Curtis & Kate Fitzgerald
7. Katrina Repse, Maureen Rabi & Penny Repse
8. Sisters Barb Horin, Rosemary Drew & Joan Nankervis
9. Angela Hingston, Lexie Fox, Angela-Jane Fox, Carole Cheng & Kerry Doquile
10. Kate Wiggins, Pam Wiggins, Mariah Gibson, Beatrice White, Matt White & Greta White
11. Moira Fitzsimon, Kerry Doquile, Kris Johnston, Gabrielle Molan & Frances Tobin
12. Maria Edmonds, Sandra Drafas, Siobhan Rehill & Roger Zitzen
FROM THE PRESIDENT

As 2015 draws to a close, I reflect on another successful year, highlighted by our two inspiring Star Women Speak events. In May we showcased the challenges and achievements of past students Professor Sheila Crewther (1964), Dr Joanna Phipps (1993) and Anne Tripaydonis (2010) as they shared their challenges and achievements in the field of science. Our September event featured vibrant media identity and author, Nicky Buckley (1983) who reflected on her time at Star and the events that led her into the world of modelling and television.

In October we were delighted to welcome back the Class of 2014 for their first year reunion. There was much chatter and laughter as the girls enjoyed relaying their experiences since leaving Star.

Our inaugural Mass of Remembrance offered in the Star chapel on Sunday, 8 November was an incredibly moving occasion. Open to all members of our Star Community, the Mass acknowledged the lives of loved ones who have gone before us. It was heartwarming to see the chapel filled to capacity as we listened to the beautiful voices of our Year 8 and 9 students and soloist Jessica Zuk who gave a captivating performance of Pie Jesu. Special thanks to Fr Peter Conroy for the warm and inclusive manner in which he celebrated the Mass, to all those involved in the preparation of the liturgy and for those who participated in the various ministries.

On behalf of the Past Students’ Association, I wish everyone a joyous, safe and relaxed festive season. We thank those who have supported our events this year and encourage you to spread the word among past students so we can continue to grow our wonderful Association.

Frances Tobin (1980)

STAR WOMEN SPEAK IN SEPTEMBER: NICKY BUCKLEY

In September, Nicky Buckley gave an insight into her journey through modelling to media, family values, being a mother, parenthood, the challenges of business and of the time when she was criticised for daring to be pregnant on television. In her recent memoir, she addresses issues surrounding body image, personal values and beliefs, goal setting, confidence, resilience, leadership, gender equality and, ultimately, empowerment … the more we empower our young women to have confidence and belief in themselves, the closer we will be to a world of true equality.
Past Students' news

Christina Exie (Manusakis - 2007) - RMIT fashion design graduate and Avant Garde designer in Melbourne. Never a trend-follower, Exie’s edgy and (sometimes de-) constructed garments are created through intensive research and meticulous compositional journeys. She is applauded for her hand stitching and moulding techniques, skills which she mastered whilst working as a milliner for Mariana Hardwick. It was no wonder that her luxe-grunge-with-a-Japanese-twist collection caught the attention of Project Runway 2012 judges who crowned her the winner. All eyes were on Exie this April as she debuted her MBAFW collection in Sydney. And of course, never one to compromise for commerciality, her bold, futuristic and yet still wearable pieces provided a different type of escapism: into the realms of fantasy and sci-fi. Visit http://cecylia.com/designers-i-ve-met-and-adored/christina-exie/

Alison Barry-Jones AO (1966) has lived on the Sunshine Coast for nearly four decades. She was elected to local government from 1997 to 2004 including a stint as Mayor of Maroochy Shire (Queensland’s largest regional council). She was honoured with the Order of Australia Medal in 1994 and the Australia Day Award in 1996. Alison has successfully initiated and driven some of the Coast’s greatest projects. Her current project is the $400 million dollar Regional Arts, Convention, Exhibition and Entertainment Centre at Maroochydore. Without the arts, we are not building well-rounded communities, and are ignoring the fabric of the soul of society.

Alison remembers two amazing and wonderful nuns - Sisters Raymonde and Josepha - who attended her wedding in 1969. I also enjoyed their company for a meal at home after my first daughter was born. These were “historical” events as previously the nuns were not permitted to be seen eating let alone or going out to dinner. Josepha always kept my how-to-vote card as a book mark in her prayer book until the days she passed. Raymonde was an amazing comfort to me at school after the sudden loss of my father. “Bomb” was the first person I ran to at that time ... lovely women.

Marnie Kelly (2008) is the Vice President of a volunteer group, West Welcome Wagon, that supports asylum seekers/new residents who are setting up in the community. They provide goods, setting up households and continue with other support as the new residents settle into the community. Visit the West Welcome Wagon Facebook page for more information.

Natalie Cancino (2009) attained a Bachelor of Education (Primary & Early childhood) in 2014. When in Year 12 at Star, Natalie was inspired by a speaker from the Cagliero Project, Lauren Hichabba. After finishing university, Natalie volunteered for six months at the City of Joy in Zambia: a home for girls at risk run by the Salesian Sisters. Natalie is teaching for another six months. For information about City of Joy or to donate, visit https://fundly.com/city-of-joy-1

Lani Mitchell (2009) has been on an exhilarating artistic journey, following her heart and artistic passion to New York and back. She recently returned to Melbourne from New York where she exhibited at Parsons (the New School for Design) and agreed to open the Star of the Sea Art Show in September 2015.
Erika Geraerts (2006) studied Journalism at Monash University. After working as a copywriter and social media manager at Cassette, Erika and two friends launched Willow & Blake, a content-writing agency and rollout management, for brands like Peter Alexander, Lee Jeans, Red Earth, and Bardot Australia. In 2013, Erika opened her own café in Abbotsford, Little Big Sugar Salt (or LBSS) which she co-owns with three other friends. With four friends, she also launched frank body, a “humble coffee scrub packed with minerals and essential oils for smooth, supple skin, and antioxidants to treat stretch marks, scars, and acne”. Two-and-a-half years later, frank body is sold internationally with five distribution points worldwide. Erika is currently in America on business for frank body and has never been busier.

Erika Geraerts was the guest speaker at this year’s Mother Daughter breakfast in May. Following the presentation, Year 10 student, Mia Geraerts, interviewed her cousin for The Star …

What aspect of school do you think helped get you where you are today?

Star’s Careers’ Coordinator told me I had to go to Sydney to pursue a career in writing. I almost cried as I couldn’t imagine living away from Melbourne. He told me there was opportunity outside of home “like I would never have dreamed”.

Is there anything you wish you did more at Star?

Ask questions! I undervalued the experience and knowledge of my teachers. I didn’t use them enough as a source of encouragement or advice. It’s important to be stubborn and make your own decisions about what you value and what you believe in. However, the opinions of those around you – parents, teachers and peers – shouldn’t be ignored. Someday, someone will tell you something that will change your life.

What did you do when you left school? Did this help in your future endeavours?

I went to Austria for three months and worked as a ski instructor. It was an experience that changed my life and allowed me to gain a sense of independence and knowing who I wanted to be. When I returned, I started Journalism at Monash Caulfield, worked two jobs and moved out of home - to St Kilda. I learnt a lot about living with three boys! I highly recommend travel, working and having your own place. You cannot put a price on independence.

What was one thing you did that you feel made a big difference when preparing for exams?

I had a routine and it brought a lot of balance to my life and studies. I picked a day where I’d see my friends and have that to look forward to. I made time for the internet so that it didn’t take up all of my time.

If you could tell your “Year 12 self” something, what would it be?

Be kind, curious, patient and persistent. You are more than a number or degree. What you study at university often has little to do with the career you end up pursuing. Read more.

What’s your advice for current VCE students?

Read the commencement speech in This is Water by David Foster Wallace … and put your phone away!

Mia Campion-Curtis (2011) is interning at a charity called Onegirl. Onegirl aims to empower girls around the world by providing them with access to education and believes that educating girls has a ‘multiplier effect’, in bettering the nation. So far Onegirl has raised $31,000 in their current campaign to help educate girls in Africa. The campaign, ‘Do it in a dress’, asks supporters to raise money by nominating an activity to undertake in a school dress, for sponsorship. The campaign is in the pledge stage now and the action stage is in October. Visit http://www.onegirl.org.au/ & http://www.dotinadress.com/

Pascalle Hartog (2013) had a break after school and served 18 months in a mission for The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. She served in the Cebu Mission in the Philippines. She spent ten weeks in Utah at the Mission Training Centre learning to speak Cebuano and is currently serving in Dumagete, in Negros Island, Philippines. She loves it over there even though she has no running water, showers out of a bucket and walks everywhere.
Reunions in 2015

CLASS OF 1958

Another special day was celebrated by the Class of 1958 on 4 October. This group comprises the girls that started in ‘Bubs’ in 1946 (I was one of these little darlings) and those who came and went from then until Matric in 1958. As usual the day was great: the venue, the food, the ambiance and, of course, the company. In 2016, it will be 70 years since we started in Prep so we are looking forward to gathering again in October (see on page 17) … Carolyn Ryan (Schofield)

CLASS OF 2010

On 18 September, the Class of 2010 gathered at the Brighton Hotel for our five-year reunion. It was a beautiful evening of catching up and reminiscing. Discovering the diverse and exciting paths unfolding before each of the girls in “the real world” was particularly special and surreal. Consensus stands: we can’t wait until our next reunion in 2020! … Francesca Ohlert

CLASS OF 2005

The Class of 2005’s ten-year reunion was a fun and laughter-filled evening. We met at the Brighton Hotel to catch up on years of each other’s work, travel, lives and loves. We heard that one classmate is a talented DJ and another has been given a bus which she is renovating into a travel home. Whilst one of the Class flew in from Sydney for the occasion, apologies came from Chile and London. We look forward to seeing those distant Star girls at the next reunion … Johanna Gleeson
Family News

MARRIAGE
Sacha Pollard (2002 - Music Captain) married Shane Katzer in September 2015 at Baxter Barn on the Mornington Peninsula. Bridesmaids were sisters Katelyn (2005), Mariah (2007) and Gemma (2010), and Grace and Emily. Sacha currently teaches music at St Francis Xavier College, Beaconsfield, and Shane teaches at Haileybury College, Berwick.

BIRTH
Julie-Anne Molino (staff) & Hamish welcome Leonardo Samuel, brother for Alessandro.

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

Christine Hodges (Keogh - Intermediate, 1959) died August 2013. Loved wife of Sydney (dec); loved mother to Robbie, Jamie and Susan and grandmother of four. Christine had very strong and happy memories of her days at Star and was remembered for her fun personality.

Lois (Annie) Cantwell (1934 – 1938) died August 2015: Loved daughter of Thomas and Agnes Cantwell (both dec), she died peacefully at Princeton View Aged Care. Lois was enrolled at Star in 1934 and was a member of the Children of Mary. She worked as a telephonist at the Victoria Palace Hotel in Little Collins Street. She was a dearly loved friend of many and generous to a fault. Lois established the Past Students’ Association and was made a Life Member years later. Each year she presented the Sisters with a generous hamper that included six cooked chickens: chickens were a luxury in those days. Lois was a tireless worker for the Sisters and the Parish, and her sponge cakes were renowned at the Parish cake stalls. She was a great benefactor of both the College and the Sisters and is fondly remembered by many.

Kathleen Dunbar died September 2015: mother to Alison (1977) and Fiona (1986)

Judith Anne Friend (Diamond - 1961) died October 2015

Jenny Morrish died August 2015 - aged 30 years. Jenny taught percussion at Star for ten years. She also assisted at orchestral rehearsals every Tuesday morning and participated in the annual Performing Arts Camp.

Margaret Pallant (Heron - 1965) died in February 2015. Loved wife of Cliff, mother of Wendy, Karyn and Sally and a grandmother of thirteen. She attended Star from Year 8 in 1961 until Year 11 in 1964.

Verena Spandel died August 2015. Loved wife of Paul (dec). Loving mother of Barbara, Reg, Philip and Ursula; mother-in-law of Garry, Terry, Donna and Peter; adored Grossi of eight. After formal schooling in Bern, Switzerland, Verena attended Swiss Finishing School before training as a teacher. In 1950, she and her husband Paul emigrated to Australia; Barbara, Regula and Ursula all went to Star. In the late 1950s, she was a full-time language teacher and homeroom teacher at Star, teaching French and German. She started the first Student Representative Council, and in the early 70s, along with her peer, Anne Halloran, she took a group of students to Europe: a ground-breaking venture. In just under two decades, Verena taught thousands of students at Star.