

December 2016

# ENCOMPASS

The magazine of the Santa Sabina College community

## CELEBRATING 800 YEARS



**CELEBRATING 800  
YEARS OF THE  
DOMINICAN ORDER**

**NASA TRIP  
REACH FOR  
THE STARS**

**2016  
STEM  
EXHIBITION**

**PROCLAIM  
THE TRUTH**



**Santa Sabina College**



**DOMINICAN JUBILEE  
800 YEARS  
1216 - 2016**



**DOMINICAN JUBILEE  
800 YEARS  
1216-2016**



**Santa Sabina College**

# ENCOMPASS CONTENT



## NASA TRIP

Students travelled to the US to take part in the world renowned Houston Association for Space and Science Education (HASSE) Space School.



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Follow the passage of St Dominic

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# Welcome to the 2016 edition of Encompass

This is a truly historic year in the history of the Dominican family, as we celebrate 800 years since Dominic's Order of Preachers was formed. We have embraced this opportunity to proclaim our rich Dominican heritage with enthusiasm and imagination. This 800 year story of Dominic and his legacy was captured on film, in music, in 800 Acts of Kindness by students across the College, and in the connections we made with Dominicans nationally and internationally. What a joy it has been to celebrate this 800 year anniversary with our immediate and extended Santa Sabina College family.

We have much to be proud of in 2016. We have become an authorised school for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme, and are now a candidate school preparing to offer the IB Diploma as an alternative credential for Years 11 and 12. Our students are excelling in a range of academic, athletic and creative domains. Our amazing Music Education

program has transformed the experience of classroom music, as well as the quality of performances. Students in Years 7-9 participated for the first time in a trip to NASA in Houston Texas to learn firsthand about the science of space. Year 5 students gained second place in the Sleek Geek Science competition for original research. Year 10 students had their first STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) conference held at school, and we gained four first places in the National Mathematics Problem-Solving competition. In sport we continue to be an outstanding school for girls' volleyball, and have also seen fantastic achievements in Waterpolo as winners of the CGSSA Gold Cup.

You will read about all this and more as you turn each page of *Encompass*. This progress and success has grown from the dedicated work of our staff, students and parents who work closely in partnership with us. We hope you enjoy this edition.

**Dr Maree Herrett**  
College Principal



At the request of the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide, the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Holy Cross Congregation of Dominican Sisters in Adelaide, Dominican Education Australia was established by the Catholic Church on 28 January 2015. DEA was officially launched in Adelaide, Sydney and Melbourne during August, 2016. It will exercise oversight of the seven educational ministries that have previously been the responsibility of the three founding Congregations. These are:

- St Mary's College, Franklin St, Adelaide SA, R-12 school founded in 1869
- St Dominic's Priory College, North Adelaide, SA, R-12 school founded in 1884
- Cabra Dominican College, Cumberland Park, Adelaide SA, 6-12 school, established in 1886
- Santa Sabina College Strathfield NSW, P-12 school founded in 1894
- St Lucy's School, Wahroonga NSW, K-6 school for children with a range of disabilities that grew out of a school for children with vision impairment, founded in 1938.
- Siena College Camberwell Melbourne, VIC, a 7-12 school founded in 1940
- Catherine Sullivan Centre, Strathfield NSW, an early learning centre for babies and young children with hearing loss and their families, established in 1969.

The Trustees of Dominican Education Australia, in collaboration with each of the incorporated Boards, will ensure the educational ministries' Catholicity, fidelity to the Dominican charism, formation of Board members, excellence in teaching and learning and financial stability.

The Leaders of the founding Congregations are the Sponsors of Dominican Education Australia and have oversight of the work of the Trustees. They are responsible for appointing the Trustees, approving their formation program, ensuring that the sale of property complies with Canon Law, and approving the Annual Report prepared by the Trustees for the Holy See.

At the ceremony for each launch of Dominican Education Australia, the courage, wisdom, foresight and self-sacrifice of the generations of dedicated Dominican women who founded and nurtured the schools were remembered with gratitude. While experiencing a certain sadness at the change, the Sisters acknowledged the call to bequeath these works to equally dedicated lay leaders, so that the mission of the Gospel will continue to be carried out in their schools.

The Dominican charism is characterised by a commitment to truth explored in dialogue, a vibrant preaching of the Gospel, a critical appreciation of culture and cultures and a love of the beautiful. Our goal is to foster these values, together with a spirit of prayer and contemplation, respect for the dignity and uniqueness of each person, and the pursuit of excellence. Together we celebrate these ideals as we help to shape the future for Australian Catholic education in the Dominican tradition.

**Sue Fabian**  
Chair, Dominican Education Australia







# We need to be brave and say, “NOT IN MY NAME”

Santa Sabina College hosted a special forum on Tuesday 5 April “Not in my Name” to respond to the Refugee and Asylum Seeker debate that is happening throughout Australia and the world. It presented an opportunity to listen to those who have faced unbelievable hardships and have experienced life as a refugee.

Dr Maree Herrett began the evening by launching The Veritas Centre for Justice, Ethics, and Interfaith Engagement. The Veritas Centre speaks and stands for justice and is a way for the College to raise awareness and advocate for those who are so often disenfranchised in society.

Federal member for Reid and Assistant Minister for Multicultural Affairs, Mr Craig Laundy, addressed the audience and spoke of his experience meeting and helping refugees in his electorate. He challenged those present, but particularly the students to be agents for change in the world.

Phil Glendenning, President of the Refugee Council was the evening’s keynote speaker. His background is in education, law, political science, and overseas aid and development. Mr Glendenning shared the human side of the Refugee crisis. The startling images and statistics he presented highlighted the plight of so many people around the world. He challenged the audience to take action be that through communicating with politicians or becoming involved in practical ways with refugee communities.

Shukufa Tahiri, a Hazara from Afghanistan, shared the struggle, fear and hardship of her refugee journey. As is the case with so many refugees, she has found peace in Australia and is making a wonderful contribution to her adopted home. Daniel Tha Nya, a Karen refugee from Myanmar shared his experiences living in a camp on the Thai Burma border for 11 years. He spoke with gratitude and pride in coming to Australia in 2008.

“Santa Sabina College has always had a particular commitment to the promotion of and education for justice, as well as for academic excellence. The idea of The Veritas Centre is to encapsulate the many and varied ways that the College lives out this commitment,” said College Principal Dr Maree Herrett.

**Ms Helen Smith**  
Religious Education Coordinator



# JUST JOURNALISM

As part of the Veritas Centre for justice, ethics and interfaith engagement, the College was honoured to welcome back ex-student Monica Attard OAM to a Q&A forum with Dr Maree Herrett on May 25 2016.

Monica Attard is one of Australia's most respected and acclaimed journalists. During her illustrious career Monica was awarded an Order of Australia for her services to journalism in 1990. In 1991 she scooped the pool with three Walkley Awards for her work in Russia, including the Gold Walkley.

Monica spoke of her experiences when she was posted to Moscow as Soviet Communism was collapsing. She witnessed and reported on the coup against Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, the collapse of Soviet communism and the rise of Boris Yeltsin's 'cowboy capitalism'. During her posting to the region, she covered countless ethnic

Wars within the borders of the old Soviet Union.

Monica had fascinating insights into the "cheque book" journalism culture of some media agencies and their ways of trying to get a story.

Monica provided insights for students interested in pursuing journalism in the future and spoke of the use of social and digital media that have changed the journalism landscape.

**Dr Maree Herrett**



Planning to  
commence  
Year 11 2018



**ABOVE** Helen Bitossi IB DP Coordinator

# IB Diploma Programme

Santa Sabina College is seeking candidacy for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Diploma Programme (DP).

As we move closer to the commencement of the International Baccalaureate Diploma Programme in 2018, our Santa Sabina College Staff have immersed themselves in professional learning. Staff have gained an understanding of the alignment between the Santa Sabina College Mission and the International Baccalaureate Organisation (IBO) Mission as well as exploring the IB Learner Profile attributes.

In Term 4, all IBDP teachers were involved in a intensive two day workshop 'developing a culture of thinking and assessment for understanding'.

Our teachers reflected on the experience:

*'I now have a better understanding of the range of resources available to IB teachers and the ways to achieve inquiry-based student learning. The focus on teaching concepts and skills rather than the content was interesting.'*

*'I now have a better understanding of the role of formative assessment and various means of recording process and the importance of skills as a driving element of the programme.'*

**Ms Helen Bitossi**  
IBDP Coordinator







'There has been a  
recognisable shift  
in the children's  
confidence as they  
actively participate'

# CELEBRATING THE MARBLE RACE

at Mary Bailey House

Our Marble Race project came to a close after a six month exploration of gravity, motion, force and inertia. We trialled, reviewed, solved problems and collaborated to create one final product. After many adjustments and additions the Tree Frogs decided that they would celebrate with a grand opening.

The children worked in conjunction with teachers and educators in creating and delivering invitations, composing a song, writing speeches, making party decorations, food and constructing bow ties to wear at the event. They also allocated each other different duties to undertake at the event.

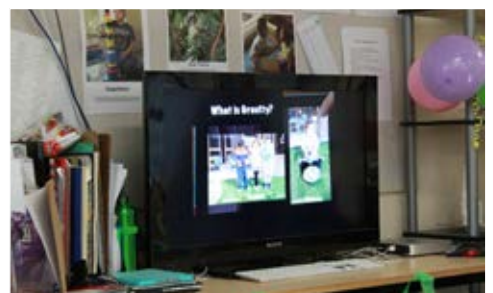
With much anticipation the day finally arrived. The rain stopped and the scene was set. Balloons were hung from the roof, a song was perfected and bow ties were donned by all. At the stroke of 10am, the guests began to arrive.

The first item on the agenda was watching a video. The video showed the project unfolding with the initial marble run experiments, investigations into gravity, motion and inertia, drawing and explanations and the 'Marble Race' song.

The guests then moved into the atelier where Marc-Felipe and Jordan welcomed everyone and introduced the piece de resistance 'The Marble Race'. The opening ceremony included Owen and Ian cutting the ribbon and Braedon on the drum roll da da da da. The moment had finally arrived, Jordan climbed the ladder and set the first marble in motion. Whoosh down it went successfully knocking down all the dominos. A cheer went up from the crowd and then silence as Ian added an extension to the marble run that would send a second marble onto the shelf. Sophia stepped up and dropped the marble in, the marble raced down the run changing direction and landing on to the shelf. The crowd roared for a second time. The success was euphoric. Once the crowd had settled they were all invited to bask in the glow of the achievement with chocolate milk and shortbread biscuits that were consumed with gusto.

What a great project by our engineers basking in the praise of the crowd. The only question left was what next??

**Educational Leaders**





# NUMERACY PROGRAM

As the Educational Leaders at Mary Bailey House began to pull their resources together with the aim of developing and implementing a numeracy program for our preschoolers, a timely invitation from the Macquarie University was received. The program, entitled, 'Enriching your Preschool Program,' was developed to guide teachers across New South Wales in implementing STEM experiences in educational settings.

Our aim at Mary Bailey House was to further our own knowledge of early numeracy learning to then be able to guide and scaffold our young learners. Associate Professor Marina Papic from the Institute of Early Childhood, shared with us her own extensive research, published papers and years of experience in mathematics teaching to give us valuable support and guidance and to further consolidate our own

knowledge and skills in teaching numeracy at Mary Bailey House.

Together with our own knowledge of early childhood learning and development, extensive research and this new information from the *Enriching your Preschool* program, we have developed what we believe to be a thorough and successful tool for our daily teaching of numeracy.

Whilst we have always immersed numeracy in the daily curriculum, through experiences in developmental free play, this intentional teaching now allows us to explicitly teach new and challenging numeracy concepts to our preschoolers. We do however continue to highly value and encourage numeracy learning through play.

Most recently we have paid particular attention to patterning, which we

acknowledge to be a powerful tool for successful numeracy learning now and in a child's later learning. Such experiences have included creating, continuing and copying patterns that are symmetrical, cyclic and ABAB patterns. As the children's skills and confidence emerged the experiences have become more complex.

Since implementing explicit numeracy activities with our preschoolers, they have demonstrated an immediate commitment and genuine enthusiasm in challenging themselves in this new learning. This interest has been on-going and we now incorporate activities from our numeracy framework that is based on the Mathematics Syllabus Early Stage 1 outcomes.

## Numeracy Working Group



## SUSTAINABILITY JOURNEY

"We don't just water plants you know." Jordan aged 4

It was about three to four years ago when MBH staff realised that our work around sustainability and the environment was quite adhoc. Sure we grew a few veggies and recycled paper, but there was no commitment, as life in long day care can be fast paced and busy, and things sometimes get forgotten or just not maintained.

One day we realised that we were just watering plants. This light bulb moment led to the MBH staff to ask the questions, 'What is our relationship with the natural environment?' 'What are our thoughts, beliefs, dreams around our respect, responsibilities, rights and advocacy on and for the environment?' and 'What is the children's role in this sustainable dream?'

The wheels were then in motion. With the support of the entire MBH staff ideas and plans came to fruition and we created a herb garden, built a frog habitat and constructed insect houses and a native bee house to capitalise on the children's interest in insects and animals they'd found in the yard. These endeavours then led to the establishment of a worm farm, a vegetable patch, a sensory garden, a bush tucker garden, the planting of native plants in the MBH yard and the purchase of two compost bins.

All the inclusions and changes were driven by two passionate staff members Kathryn Graham and Mona Raihani and the enthusiasm of the children. Kathryn and Mona have since become the leaders of the MBH Education for Sustainability working group.

### Links to Learning

We did not foresee the advantages that these changes would have on the children and how their interaction in and with the environment would evolve overtime.

The worm farm hasn't just taught the children how to feed the worms it's taught them about numeracy and how to confidently handle living things, understand creature habitats, recognise baby worms and the meaning of family.

The children's interests in insects engaged them in research and investigation and guided them to then identify, classify and record insect data. The frog habitat also taught them these skills along with hope and optimism, as we haven't yet attracted one frog to the space.

Working in the environment has also provided the children with time away from the busyness of the day. As the MBH vegetable patch is on the DM grounds small

groups of children can leave MBH to work in it at different times in the day to weed, plant, water, fertilise and check for bugs. This opportunity has made a difference too many of our children's day.

### The Future

This is the MBH learning journey so far. Our vision is to further embed sustainable practices, to teach children to respect the environment and nature, to educate children about where food comes from and to understand our interdependence with it, whilst learning from and upholding the respect and beliefs of the traditional custodians of this land, in this ever changing, fast paced, technologically driven society.

### Education for Sustainability Group

## HEAD OF PRIMARY

This year our Del Monte community has seen many highlights and achievements. Our Primary Campus became an authorised Primary Years Programme (PYP) World School. Our students have engaged in 40 units of Inquiry across the years and we had our inaugural PYP Exhibition.

This year our students have achieved academic excellence in Mathematics and Science. Three entries received first place in the State for the NSW Mathematics Investigations and two first places nationally in the National Maths Talent Quest. Two students were finalists in the Sleek Geeks Science Eureka Prize and state winners in the Young Scientist Award.

Our Music Education Program has continued to flourish with two spectacular performances, the 800 Year Jubilee Journey Concert and the Instrumental and Ensemble Journey Concert.

Our athletes have excelled in several sports including swimming, athletics, netball and gymnastics and the gala days have upheld the values of team spirit and sportspersonship.

Congratulations to all the students for their commitment to all areas of their learning and engagement this year and the way they have approached events and activities.



**Mrs Sharon Portlock**







## Prep Mini-Olympics

On your marks, get set, GO! The Prep students enjoyed an action packed Athletics Carnival - "Mini-Olympics" in Term 3. Good sportsmanship and super listening skills were observed all round. Every student took home a ribbon or two for displaying excellent athletics skills.

The carnival started with a House colour march pass, lead by the Year 5 House leaders. This was a wonderful opportunity for cross-campus interaction, with the Year 5 students showing outstanding leadership skills. After this there were many events- sprint race, egg and spoon race, discus and shot put. The carnival ended with some fun relay races, which included star jumps at each change over spot. Very entertaining, not to mention strenuous!

The Prep students had their very own personal cheer squad (wonderful parents) who cheered on each and every child. This was very encouraging for the students and created an atmosphere full of determination and persistence.

During Prep PE classes throughout Term 2 and 3, with Miss Kellie, the students had been developing and refining their athletics skills, which allowed all of the students to participate in the "Mini-Olympics" Athletics Carnival.

We have some budding Athletics superstars in the making! Watch out Rio!

**Ms Fiona Walshe**







# PYP IN ACTION

‘The school has built a stimulating learning environment based on understanding and respect throughout the school community.’ - IB Authorizing Team

Santa Sabina College was recognised by the International Baccalaureate as an International World school, authorised to offer the Primary Years Programme (PYP) in April 2016.

This global recognition reflected the significance of a rigorous challenging and relevant curriculum framework and the power of critical collaboration between all community members to transform the educational landscape on the Primary Campus!

‘The school demonstrates a strong commitment to a constructivist, inquiry-based approach to teaching and learning that promotes inquiry and the development of critical thinking skills. This is evident through classroom discussions, displays and resources, student work, teacher planning and general policies and practices within the school.’ - IB Authorizing Team

**‘Inquiry, creativity and the development of critical thinking skills...’**

Creativity and critical thinking skills are pivotal in our IB Programme of Inquiry from Prep to Year 5.

Students are encouraged to take risks, hypothesise, test ideas, imagine possibilities, innovate, design and create!

In so doing our students are highly engaged and motivated, they are experiencing the intrinsic ‘joy’ of learning and are empowered to live their learning, rather than ‘doing school’!



## PREP

Inspired by the creativity of the Museum of Contemporary Art our Prep students applied skills and techniques to create their own Prep light Installation...demonstrating an understanding of their central idea that ‘Light inspires creativity!’ ....watch out VIVID 2017!



## KINDERGARTEN

Hypothesising, observation, experimenting, discovering...

People discover new things when they test ideas...

Kindergarten students are developing scientific skills, testing their hypotheses and discovering why and how objects move.

Students are learning about the simple design process, drafting, comparing and contrasting their designs to create a toy!

## YEAR 1

Questioning... ‘but why?’

Students in Year 1 are curious about light... Why does light bend? Why can we see our reflection in the mirror? What happens when light passes through materials such as glass and plastic?

Our enthusiastic Year 1 scientists engaged in a range of investigative tasks finding out about reflection, refraction and transparency!



# Snapshots from the learning spaces... 'Cultivating curiosity...'

## YEAR 2

Perspectives, interpretations, empathetic understanding and significance....

Our Year 2 students are developing skills to critically analyse information from a range of sources. They are exploring significant historical events through a conceptual framework including empathetic understanding, perspectives and cause and effect!

Enthusiasm and interest for Ancient History artefacts was ignited by Mrs Carroll, our guest expert speaker from the Secondary Campus. Indeed cross-campus collaboration has been strengthened by the PYP!

Mrs Carroll shared a collection of Ancient History artefacts, and explained their function and how they inform us about the past.

Students' understanding of the central idea that artefacts connect us to our past was enriched by Mrs Carroll's presentation.

### Artefact A Scribe Pencil

*Form: It was found in Egypt.*

*Function: It was used for writing things.*

*Connection: They used pencils just like we do and it tells us they like writing.*

- Sarah (Yr 2)

### Artefact: Jade

*Form: It was found in Ancient China.*

*Function: It was used when people died.*

*Connection: It tells us that people liked to be remembered for being 'rich'!*

- Laura (Yr 2)

### Artefact: The Terracotta Army

*Form: It was found in China.*

*Function: It was used to guard the Emperor's burial mound.*

*Connection: It tells us that the soldiers wore dresses in the war.*

- Violet (Yr 2)

### Artefact: Hawk Pendant

*Form: It was found in Ancient Egypt.*

*Function: It was used for creation.*

*Connection: It tells us that people who were rich could only wear this pendant!*

- Adrian (Yr 2)

## YEAR 3

Knowledge, application, synthesis, evaluation...

Year 3 students engaged with a myriad of critical thinking skills as they developed an understanding that matter can be manipulated, modified and changed to meet specific need.

Students applied knowledge to synthesise properties of materials and drew conclusions about factors affecting the change in matter by testing their hypotheses in the secondary Science labs!



Creativity is  
intelligence  
having fun!

Albert Einstein

## YEAR 4

Creativity, design, inventions and innovations...

Our Year 4 students actively engaged with the Design Thinking Process applying their knowledge of forces – magnetism, friction and gravity to invent or innovate!

## YEAR 5

Our Year 5 students intrigued by the art of design, explored the connection between aesthetics, function and sustainability when designing a robots.

'We need a curriculum of big questions... We need a pedagogy free from fear and focused on the magic of children's innate quest for information and understanding.'

**Mrs Emma McAulay**  
PYP Coordinator



# DEL MONTE 2016



Athletics Carnival



Kindergarten visit the Science labs



Junior Journeys Concert



Grandparents' Day



Disco



Speech Day





Prep Cranky Bear



Chinese New Year



Fathers' Day



Splash & Dash





## COMMUNITY DAY

Community Day on the Primary Campus is an annual event which celebrates Book Week, and brings learning and community together. The theme for 2016 encapsulated our sense of International Mindedness and global citizenship at the heart of both our College Mission and all IB Programmes. The community gathered to share stories of our indigenous heritage,

our own family heritage and the heritage of others. Monty Boori Pryor, indigenous author and storyteller facilitated workshops with the students. They also enjoyed visiting the College's Museum, drama, dance and Gymbaroo as well as a buffet lunch.



## SHARING STORIES

Sr Sheila Flynn OP, joined the Year 2 and 3 students on the Primary campus to share stories of South Africa and the stories of the women of Kopanang Community with whom she works. She told stories of the elephants coming down to the water hole to drink, and the bird whose head is always turned looking back yet always moving forward. She said that reminded her that we learn from the wisdom of the past as we move into the future.

Sr Sheila shared the beautiful embroidery and beading of the women of Kopanang who tell their stories through their sewing.

She told us that women come to Kopanang to share their hopes for a different future.

The children sang and danced the stories of South Africa and the joy of the land and its people echoed throughout the classrooms

**The Liturgy Leadership Team, Primary Campus**





# STUDENT LEADERSHIP

Our identity as Santa Sabina students impels us to seek the truth. On numerous occasions, our active involvement as a school community in confronting the injustices in our society, has fostered collective consciousness on 'reaching out' to the wider community.

At the core, our Dominican education fosters the ability to think big and transcend boundaries. It is important to realise that in a world experiencing hostility and misunderstanding, there is always an opportunity for us to bravely hold up our torches and illuminate values of humility, compassion and service.

Leadership was captured in the thought provoking actions of the students who empowered our community to stand up for refugees and asylum seekers amidst controversial opinions emanating from populist outlets.

A record breaking \$14,000 was generously raised over *Santa Fest* a week of fundraising, with students running, eating, dancing and singing to raise awareness and funds for the education of girls - not only in the South African Montebello community, but worldwide.

These are fundamental examples of the power within our community, as girls, boys, staff and parents. May this community always demonstrate servant leadership, which works towards equal opportunity, advocacy and justice.

**Michelle Mutyora and Nina Kerwin-Roman**  
College Leader and College Deputy Leader





On Monday 15 August, 12 students and teachers were granted the opportunity to be a part of the live audience of the popular ABC show, 'Q and A'.

The panellists on the night were the famous rock star, physicist and award winning Science broadcaster Brian Cox, Minister for Industry, Innovation and Science Greg Hunt, Shadow Minister for Human Services Lindsay Burney, QLD One Nation Senator Malcolm Roberts and Mathematician and co-presenter of SBS TV's *Letters & Numbers*, Lily Serna.

The panel, led by Tony Jones, discussed issues such as climate change, indigenous stereotypes, CSIRO funding, the treatment of refugees on Nauru, and the physics of time, as well as combining Science and the Arts. This episode contributed to the celebrations and events of National Science Week 2016, and was a truly enriching and engaging experience for the students.

### **TIME ISN'T AFTER US, SAME AS IT EVER WAS**

MADELINE YOUNES asked:

'In my Year 11 Physics class we were talking about a possible picture of time in which every event is happening at the same time. In other words, it sounds like the answer to the question "which came first the chicken or the egg?" is they were both always there and always will be there.

Could you explain this concept of time further?'

### **SCIENCE AND MUSIC**

KAITLAN MERHI asked:

'Last Friday our school had our first Year 10 STEM conference and one of speakers, Dr Jennifer MacRitchie, spoke about being both a scientist and a musician, and how the two don't have to be mutually exclusive. Her research allows her to study both. Brian Cox, we know you're a legendary scientist but you were also a musician, so how do you maintain a passion for music as well, and what opportunities have you found to combine both fields?'

### **CLIMATE OR OLYMPIC SPEND?**

ANASTASIA TEECE asked:

'How is it that the current government sees it sufficient to award only \$37 million to climate research over the next 10 years, when the government has also just spent \$40 million of Australian taxpayers' money on the 2016 Olympics, for the swimming team alone?'





# STEM

Science, Technology, Engineering & Mathematics

# EXHIBITION

The importance of being scientifically literate whilst growing up in the 'digital age' was challenged during a day dedicated to STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) for Year 10 students. Dr Alex Bannigan began the day by sharing her journey from high school to her PhD as well as her experiences with her own mentors and as a mentor herself. Dr Bannigan presented a view that was sustained throughout the day, that if you love Science and/or Maths, you can go just about anywhere.

Panels of ex-students followed, each one providing us with diverse stories for inspiration and their own personalised repertoire of wisdom to share. The panellists included Margaret Lui (class of 1998 and current lecturer at UTS in Sustainable Urban Development), Jacqueline Melvold (class of 2005 and currently undertaking a PhD in Infectious Diseases) and Ellese O'Sullivan (class of 2003 who is an Environment and Sustainability Manager). The three of them told numerous stories of not only challenges and learning experiences but also stories of their success.

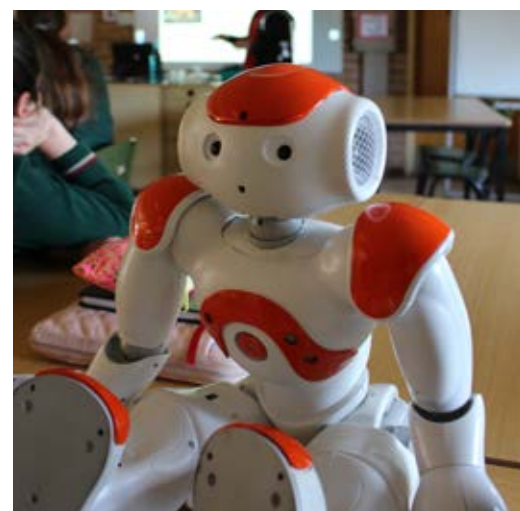
We then had the opportunity to create a bionic hand with the help of Engineering students from UNSW or a bridge that wouldn't collapse under its own weight, in the fight to solve traffic flow problems. We then chose to learn more about programming in the language of Python, astrophysics from Dr De Marco, forensics or human credence within robots from Dr Chris Stanton from the University of Western Sydney. It was during these sessions that girls



were able to explore their areas of interest and see where their current interests can take them on a career path towards the field of STEM.

Coming back together as a group we heard from Christie McMonigal from the UTS Science Outreach program and Dr MacRitchie from University of Western Sydney. Ms McMonigal not only promoted the importance of a Science degree but also boasted its diversity in the workplace, emphasising that Science teaches you attention to detail and provides skills in data analysis. Dr MacRitchie further promoted the diversity of Science by creating a connection between scientific discovery and music, by demonstrating the findings of her research for us to not only discuss and learn from but also to use our own peers as means of demonstration.

The day gave us the opportunity to witness our peers and friends both involved and invested in STEM, but also the privilege to encounter inspirational women who are passionate about their field and are making major contributions to their scientific fields and society. And to think that they too once walked



the same halls and attended the same classes as we do now..

**Alexandra Haggerty**



# REACH FOR THE STARS



During the June holidays, 12 Santa Sabina students from Years 7-9 joined eight other Alliance of Girls' Schools to form the largest group of Australian students ever to travel to the US to take part in the world renowned Houston Association for Space and Science Education (HASSE) Space School.



This two-week program provided opportunities for students to experience space exploration through mission simulation training and science and engineering activities. These hands-on educational experiences empowered students to develop their problem solving skills, critical thinking and teamwork.

Over the course of the two weeks students heard from inspirational astronauts, who in sharing their journey, have positively encouraged students to achieve more and to see the world in a different way.

Each astronaut had a common story to share and the key message was that it takes a lot of hard work and passion to achieve your dreams. Amber Gell, a rocket scientist, engineer and astronaut, who is currently working on the Orion shuttle, inspired girls to push boundaries and redefine what is possible. Her words encouraged girls to dream big, pursue STEM, giving them hope and a desire to be the first generation of females to explore Mars.







Students visited Galveston Oilrig where they were given an engineering task to build a derrick, the Health Museum where they completed a Forensics Course and they performed experiments in the DeBakey Cell Lab.

Dr Melanie Johnson, President and CEO of The Health Museum, who had previously held the position as Director of Education for NASA's Space Center Houston, asked students if they knew the motto of NASA, and one student courageously put her hand up to answer responding with "failure is not an option". Dr Johnson challenged the girls to rethink what it means to fail. Failure can bring positive change, a desire to improve and further develop skills.

In the second week, students were immersed in a range of space exploration activities. Each activity incorporated real-world applications of STEM education. Through these hands-on inquiry activities students

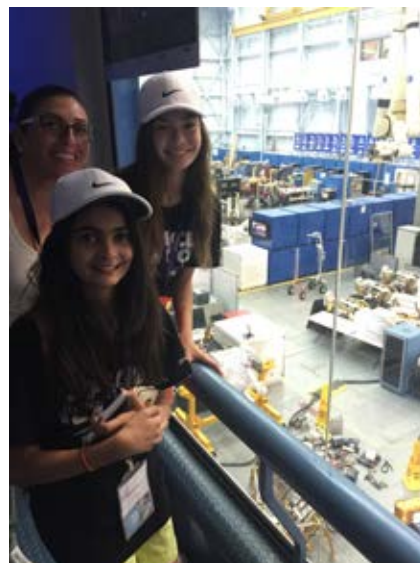
developed a set of critical thinking, reasoning, teamwork and creative skills.

Students completed exciting challenges in the simulated Space Station Mission Control complex. They applauded triumphantly when the shuttle landed successfully-evidence of education at its best. They took a simulated walk on the moon in the gravity chair and gained an understanding of what it would be like to work in a microgravity

environment. In teams, students built and launched a rocket by applying mathematical calculations. They were also equipped with modern space flight knowledge to become the next generation of space leaders and explorers.

We are educating the generation that will go to Mars and explore the red planet, and through these experiences we are equipping students with the motivation to innovate and create.

**Rosanne Sukkar**  
TAS Teacher





# ENVIRONMENT

“What is the use of having developed a science well enough to make predictions if, in the end, all we’re willing to do is stand around and wait for them to come true?”  
(F. Sherwood Rowland)

Our environment is constantly being threatened by our wasteful lifestyles and the money-driven attitudes of corporate companies. As a result of this, the first 10 000 environmental refugees are predicted to come from a neighbouring island to Australia, Tuvalu. The future of my generation, and the generations after that, are teeming with prospects. But how long will it take to realise that this future has already begun?

Considering the ratio of actions to prevent the rapid effects of climate change, to the number of tweets addressing the public’s reaction to climate change is approximately 1:10 000, it is safe to assume that slacktivism is the preferred approach to such prominent issues.

Clearly, our environment is a topic that is constantly avoided, and has been distanced from conversations to the extent that many people have lost sight of the integral role that it is currently playing in our lives. And so, the combination of my passion for the environment and the lack

of empowerment that our youth have in such matters, drove me to enter an essay competition held by the Inner West Council. The competition required students to respond to the statement “Young people in Sydney’s Inner West play a powerful role in inspiring and motivating a love and care for the environment amongst friends. For this award, please share your proposal on how you think young people can positively impact the local environment, its preservation and the area’s strong sense of place”.

In doing so I had the opportunity to propose several ideas that involve youth integrating themselves in both council, school and home involved occurrences that concern the environment. As a result of submitting my essay, named ‘Regenerating the Three R’s’, I won the competition, as well as the Anne Nguyen Young Enviro Champs award (15-18 years category), and a prize of \$250.

**Gabrielle Younes**



## CONGRATULATIONS WESTS COMMUNITY AWARDS RECIPIENTS

Isabella and Adelaide Highfield (Year 12) were this year's recipients of the Community Citizenship Award for high school students at the annual Wests Community Awards. The purpose of the awards is to recognise and reward students and schools who play an active part in creating a more caring and benevolent community.

Isabella and Adelaide have volunteered for the past five years to bake goods, prepare food and serve for the Ephpheta Centre at Punchbowl. The Ephpheta Centre is an organisation that supports deaf people and those with hearing loss in the community and the girls volunteer in their "Deaf Café". The Café particularly supports group meetings, functions and runs before masses, allowing for deaf Catholics or religious or local community members to have a place for support and meetings.



**ABOVE** Isabella and Adelaide Highfield receiving award



In the 1990s a group of women from various parts of Sydney formed the Women's Reconciliation Network to promote understanding between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Australians. They crossed all boundaries of geography, age, religion, social class, and worked towards a fairer Australia.

In 2006, Santa Sabina hosted a gathering - called a Spirit Event for this group. This year we were invited to a special Spirit Event: the WRN's celebrations of their twenty years, at the Redfern Community Centre.

Three Legal Studies students met up with Aunty Ali Golding, a respected elder of the indigenous community. Aunty Ali has visited the College many times and when she recognised the uniform she called "her Santa Sabina girls" over to talk. She was delighted when Arian Rees, Caitlin Bromage and Elysia Maroochi, remembered her from visits when they were at Del Monte.

The girls enjoyed being part of Aunty Ali's Acknowledgment of Country and Smoking Ceremony, the recount of past years and shared reflections, and meeting people over lunch. Many of the original members, in sharing their memories, also shared their reluctant realisation that as they now reach into their eighties, the cause of reconciliation needs to be taken up by younger members of the community, not let to die out.

We will continue to be part of the impetus towards reconciliation, continuing our College's commitment to the ideals of a more open and equal Australia, and encourage our students to take these ideals into the world as they graduate.

**Jane Sulis**

The Tallong Campus is an extension of the College itself in that the mission, values and faith of Santa Sabina College underpin its operations, planning and programs. As an outdoor education and retreat centre, located on 97 hectares of bushland in Wodi Wodi country in the Southern Highlands of NSW, the site becomes a "school-away-from-school" for the students, staff and families of the College community not just whilst students are enrolled at the college but for a lifetime.

The existence of such a centre enables young people to become aware of, appreciate and live with nature; to learn to rely on their innate resources in addition to technology; to experience nurturing of the spirit and personal reflection; to develop self-responsibility, efficacy and self-esteem.

This year has witnessed a consolidation of previous programs and activities and the introduction of some new ideas.

School holiday camps (open to any student aged 8-12 years)

"Tallong Goes to Del Monte" day where the outdoor education leaders spend the day at Strathfield facilitating activities with Years 2 and 3 students.

The Father/child weekend where dads spend time with their child/ren engaging in outdoor fun and games.

Year 12 "Bush Retreat" where the retreat activities are conducted after hiking out to a bush location

Year 9 students to utilise their annual camp as a practice run for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze award.

A forum where Middle School students can provide verbal feedback on their Tallong experiences to both teachers and Tallong staff. This evaluation is used in the consideration of future planning.

## 2017 Open Day

You are invited to attend our Open Day and explore our campus in the Southern Highlands.

When  
Sunday 5 February  
10:30am – 3:00pm

- Tours of Campus & Outdoor Activities
- Morning Tea & Lunch provided
- All family members welcome

Book Now

[www.trybooking.com/249284](http://www.trybooking.com/249284)

for more info Email [tallong@ssc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:tallong@ssc.nsw.edu.au) or call (02) 4841 0439







# AUSTRALIAN MUSIC DAY

Santa Sabina College, in partnership with Limelight Magazine and Richard Gill OAM, presented Australian Music Day, a composition workshop on Tuesday 19 July 2016.

Over 200 students from Santa Sabina College and other schools across the state, including a large contingent from Tamworth, worked alongside professional musicians and experts in the area of composition, to bring contemporary works to life. The experience inspired students to find their own music voice.

Richard Gill, Australia's foremost music educator, instigated this event in collaboration with Limelight Magazine. In his dynamic manner and with the assistance of Tim Hansen, Santa Sabina College's Composer in Residence, they delivered an astounding compositional development experience for high school music 1 and music 2 students in years 8, 9, 10 and 11.

Composition is a major component of the elective music program and is the best way to learn how music functions on all levels. Composition is taught from the earliest years through improvisation. In the elective course, students continue to explore composition and use a variety of tools to write for various ensembles.

Two major works were analysed with live performances by a professional string quartet. These works contained teaching points and were models for students to create their own works. All elective students had composed a piece to be performed by the string quartet on the day.

Composing, performing, listening and critical thinking are all part of being a good musician as well as a successful self directed learner. Santa Sabina students are privileged to work in partnership with Australia's best music educators and professional musicians. Combined with sharing musical ideas and learning from like-minded students, this experience will highlight that students are part of a much bigger music world. Santa Sabina College is proud of these partnerships and being a centre for musical excellence.









"Journey", the Dominican Jubilee Concert, was celebrated at St Brigid's Catholic Church Marrickville on Thursday 21 July. The beauty of the music, the professionalism of the hundreds of students, Years 5-12, who took their place in chamber and massed choirs and in the full symphony orchestra, chamber orchestra, flute ensemble, brass ensemble, Taiko ensemble, and the level of quiet staff involvement, left the audience in awe.

The passage of St Dominic and those who continued his footsteps across Europe, into South America, Asia, Australia and the South Pacific was commemorated with joy and some courage as students readily moved, without words in front of them, into Latin, Italian, French, Pidgin, Spanish, Swahili and Vietnamese.

The concert included six new pieces commissioned for the occasion from some of Australia's leading composers, Tim Hanson, Paul Jarman, Carlos Villanueva, Tony Wheeler, Mark Lewis and Luke Byrne and added special voice to the Dominican story.

New compositions about Dominic included *Veritas*, by Tim Hanson; a piece by Paul Jarman, *Isle of Beauty*, in honour of the *Australian Sisters* and their Irish forebears: and *Wings of Light* by

Mark Lewis celebrating Dominicans as 'Guardian Angels of the Word'.

The final anthem *Rosary of Stars*, by Luke Byrne, was a magnificent climax, drawing together the 800 years, and then with cinematic space music charting the story into the future. Dominic, patron saint of astronomers and Mary, Protectress of the Order, were especially commemorated.

Congratulations to Artistic Director, Mrs Karen Carey, for her passion and courage to attempt such a venture, and to the College Music Department and other staff members who made it possible. Most of all we give thanks for the gifted young people who will carry the Dominican story into the future with such joy and understanding.

**JOURNEY**  
Dominican Jubilee Concert

# USA *enrichment* TRIP

As a Dominican educator and leader, I have been inspired and enriched by the celebrations of the 800 Year Jubilee of the Dominican Order this year. It has provided a unique opportunity to learn more about our heritage, our history and our connections both within and beyond Australia.

A particular highlight for me was connecting with two Dominican schools in the USA during a period of enrichment leave at the end of Term 3. The first was Dominican Academy (DA) in New York, a 9-12 Girls' School located on the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Led by Sr Margaret Ormond OP and Dr Nicole Grimes, the school is innovative, highly academic, and alive with the spirit of our Dominican charism. The students have written their own Dominican pledge that is recited each morning, straight after the oath to the American constitution and flag. While committed to preparing girls for the highly competitive American College system, DA is based on those four Dominican pillars of Community, Service, Study and Prayer, ensuring an holistic education that we would certainly recognise as similar to that at Santa Sabina.

DA looks nothing like a school from the outside. Indeed it was once the private residence of Colonel Michael Friedsam, the former president of B. Altman and Co. and one of the premier art collectors in America at that time. The six-story building, fashioned in limestone, now houses classrooms, Science labs, a library, small chapel, and accommodation for the Dominican Sisters who work there. With New York at the doorstep, the school takes every advantage of the cultural life on offer, including a partnership with the nearby Frick Museum, and regular 'lessons in the

city' each semester. The trip was not just to observe other Dominican schools, but to explore how we might build connections to enrich the education of our students. Senior DA students had just returned from an immersion to Zambia while I was there, and they are very keen to meet with our girls who have been on immersion in South Africa.

While in New York I also re-connected with some Santa Sabina ex-students who are now living and working there. It was the highlight of the trip as I caught up with these highly successful women involved in a variety of professional fields, including finance, business, law and humanitarian work. They spoke so genuinely about the impact of their Santa education well beyond their HSC marks, and the messages about being strong, independent women, with a commitment to social justice that continue to resonate for them.

My next visit was to Pasadena, Los Angeles, where I was the guest of the Dominican

sisters and staff of Flintridge Sacred Heart Academy. I was welcomed so warmly by Sisters Carolyn and Celeste (President and Principal), as well as by the whole school body of staff and students. I stayed at the school for over a week, and quickly learned about the Sisters' devotion to baseball, with the Rosebowl Stadium on the school's outskirts. I observed classes, attended staff meetings, joined the Sisters for prayer in the mornings, attended Mass at Cathedral of Our Lady of the Angels in LA, as well as met with parents, students and Principals of two neighbouring girls' schools. Flintridge and Santa Sabina will definitely stay connected – hopefully through student exchange, and shared learning projects.

While much separates the American and Australian schooling systems, the links between Dominican schools in each part of the world are evident in the shared commitment to Veritas and the pillars of Dominican life.

**Dr Maree Herrett**





# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA IMMERSION

Seventeen students from Years 9 and 10 had the opportunity to experience the Central Australia Immersion this year.

I began this journey with excitement as well as nervous anticipation as I, and many others on the journey, found leaving home for nine days, with no technology or contact with our families or friends a little daunting. Not to mention sleeping in swags under the stars, with a forecast of rainfall. We were a long way from our comfort zones. Little did I know this would be one of the most incredible journeys of my life.

We arrived at Ayers Rock Airport surrounded by red earth with the magnificent Uluru in the background. Our first camp site on the Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara (APY) Lands was the community in Docker River, only eight kilometres from Western Australia. Within this small community we got to know some of the most humble, generous, caring and joyful people I have ever met. We spent time at the school, both the secondary and primary campuses, reading with the children, sharing their learning experiences, helping with maths skills and learning Pitjantjatjara.

We visited Docker River Aged Care and the community encouraged us as we sang the Maku song which celebrates the gift of maku (witchetty grubs). As we began to sing and dance, other residents appeared on the verandahs and were soon clapping and singing with us. This was an amazing experience to talk with and listen to people who have lived through so much in their lives.

Docker River, although surrounded by a beautiful landscape, was also confronting and challenging to see a way of life so different from our experiences. It allowed us to appreciate the challenges within remote communities as they struggle to access health facilities, education, employment and affordable healthy food. We saw the difficulties in accessing these basic necessities balanced with a strong connection with and need to be part of the land.

Stanley, the traditional custodian of the Tjukurpa (stories, lore and land) at Cave Hill, welcomed us onto his homeland. He was a gently spoken Elder who patiently demonstrated ancient tools and how they were used to collect kooka (meat) and mai (seeds). Stanley led us through part of the Seven Sisters Songline. It was amazing to hear this ancient story evidenced within the landscape itself. Knowing the songline, allows you to know where to find food sources, shelter and water. The songlines are like road maps guiding and leading the way across the desert.

Cave Hill is also home to one of the largest sites of ancient artwork in Australia. This artwork has been dated at more than 20,000 years old and we were able to sit within this cave and see this artwork for ourselves. We climbed to the top of Cave Hill and had a 360 degree view of the most beautiful sunset I have ever seen, and felt the remoteness, beauty and isolation of this sacred place.

This was a truly once in a lifetime opportunity. Not only were we privileged to see and know places that are not accessible to everyone, but we received the most precious gift of all..... Time. Time to meet people, time to create memories, time to sit with, time to listen, time to reflect and time to get away from our busy daily schedules and learn from and be part of this ancient and extraordinary land.

**Anna-Rosa Harman**  
Year 10





# SOLOMON ISLANDS IMMERSION



The Solomon Islands Immersion challenged and enriched students beyond expectations and broadened their understanding of the human family more than they thought possible. Two weeks sharing daily activities with students, families and Dominican Sisters was a privilege and a joy.

Where there were challenges they were minor, including reliance on tank water and avoidance of mosquitoes. The overriding experience was our common thread, interactions based on openness to new experiences, learning from one another, shared interests and hopes.

In every location. Gizo, Loga, Honiara, Visale, Auki and Lilisiana, we were warmly welcomed as part of the Dominican family and faith community. Along the way, students learned how to tie-dye sarongs, how to select a good coconut, buy fresh fish at the market, how to climb in and out of boats of every shape and size, how to make a picnic table from a few branches and a table cloth of leaves. And the ability to feed whoever turns up for a meal.

We also experienced prayer which was so rich, joyful and full of song.

We are so grateful for the generous welcome of the Dominican Sisters and Friars and the students from Wagina, Gizo, and Alligegeo Provincial High School.

We look forward to continuing to build connections in the Solomon Islands and broadening the understanding of Dominican family further.

**Ms Sharon Fajou**





# ITALIAN STUDY TOUR



Every two years, our students of Italian in Years 10 and 11 are offered the opportunity to participate in the Italy Study Tour during the April holidays. The 2016 Italy Study Tour did not disappoint and was a truly unforgettable experience for students and staff.

The tour began with five nights in Rome where the students attended the Dante Alighieri Language School. Each morning they were immersed in the Italian language for three hours and had the opportunity to engage in authentic conversation and revise key grammar and vocabulary which would help them feel more comfortable communicating in Italian throughout the tour. In the afternoons, we experienced the chaos of Rome as we caught metros to visit the famous sites including il Colosseo, i Fori Romani, il Vaticano and of course the beautiful church of Santa Sabina.

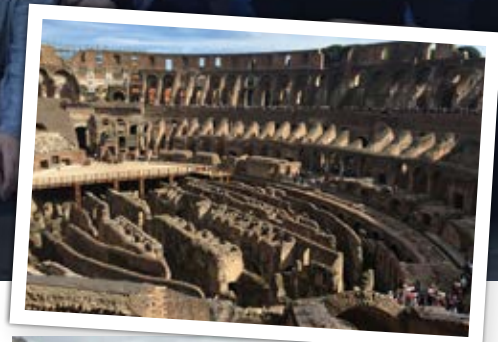
After a wonderful week in Rome we left for Siena, via a visit to the Perugina chocolate factory in Perugia to sample some traditional Baci chocolates. We had a brief but wonderful stay in Siena where the students felt they were experiencing the real Italian life and culture of a smaller city. This was followed by three days in Florence to explore and experience the great art works and history of Florence at the Galleria Degli Uffizi, the Accademia (to see Michelangelo's Davide), the Ponte Vecchio and much more. Since our group were such great climbers

(we took on five towers in the two weeks) we also had a day tour to Pisa so we could experience the wonder of the Leaning Tower first-hand.

Next stop was Venice, via Verona so we could visit Arena di Verona and La Casa di Giulietta and take our obligatory balcony photos. Since Venice was our last city, we took the opportunity to really soak up the local life. We had a brilliant experience on the island of Murano, where we watched a display of traditional glass-blowing and even tried our hand at creating a work of art with glass. Our gondola rides were certainly a highlight on our last day as our tour came to an end.

Amidst all the pizza, pasta and gelato and the sore feet from exploring these incredible cities, the students never missed an opportunity to practise the language and engage with the local people. Both students and staff have returned home motivated and inspired from this wonderful learning experience.

**Ms Lydia Bentivoglio**  
Head of Languages







**DOMINICAN JUBILEE**  
**800 YEARS**  
**1216-2016**

**In 2016, Santa Sabina College  
is celebrating 800 years of the  
Dominican Order.**

As part of the celebrations and to acknowledge Harmony Day, 1400 members of the College community including Dominican sisters, Board Members, Staff, and students from the ages of 3-18 created an 800 on the back oval.

Harmony Day is a State Government initiative celebrated in March every year. The 2016 theme 'Everyone Belongs', tied into the Dominican Jubilee celebration. This Harmony Day, Santa Sabina celebrated cultural diversity and being inclusive.

"It was an amazing opportunity for our whole community to come together, celebrate our cultural diversity, acknowledge our 800 years Dominican history and embrace our culture" said College Principal, Dr Maree Herrett.





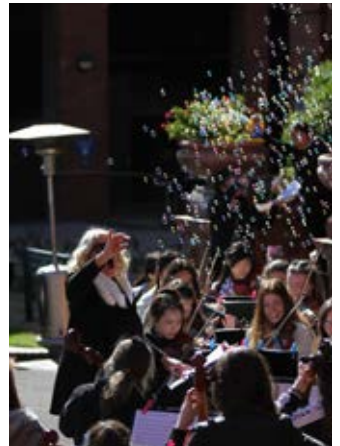




**DOM'S  
DAY**



Our 2016 St Dominic's Day was a joyous occasion for our community. In our 800 year Jubilee, members of our community including students, staff, parents, Sisters, Board Members, ex-students and representatives from other schools joined in celebrating the life and legacy of Dominic.





# SPORTS

## A YEAR IN REVIEW



There have been many wonderful achievements in sport at Santa Sabina College in 2016. We have managed to encounter a number of firsts across a variety of sports, which demonstrates the improved skill level, dedication and camaraderie among the students. Some key highlights include;

Our CGSSSA teams performed very well and each year we have improved. Our Senior Hockey was awarded joint premiers.

Dance Troupes were awarded second overall .

Football (Soccer), Cricket, Athletics and Cross Country were awarded runners up respectively in their championships.

Bridget O'Malley, Mikaela Stevens, Alex Molloy, Laura Marshall, Sophie Palmer, Angelina Smerdely, and Brigitte Vanderham were selected in the Junior Australian team for Volleyball.

A number of our primary students have been awarded places in their sporting disciplines. Both Emilie Johnston and Nicholas Macher were selected to participate in the PSSA swimming championships and Antonella Khodr-Chah and Oliver Saade in the Athletics championships.

Mikaela Stevens was awarded the much-coveted Pierre De Coubertin award by the Australian Olympic Committee, while some of our other students represented their country: Sabah Chamoun

(Weightlifting), Nicole Samsa (Bocce), Lauren Donnellan (Baseball).

This year a further 21 students were selected as NSW representatives in a variety of sports.

This is by no means the extent of our students' achievements in 2016. We congratulate all those who have represented the College in sport and look forward to further achievements in 2017.

**Mr George Ayoub**  
Director of Sport





6



8



9



11



12



7



10



13

1. Lauren Donnellan: 2016 Australian Open Women's Baseball squad and 2016 SSC Senior Sportsperson of the Year
2. CGSSSA Athletics team: 3rd overall
3. IPSHA Girls Touch Team: undefeated all season
4. Olivia Porter: U15 National Cricket Team & NSW State AFL representative
5. IPSHA Gymnastics team.
6. Alice Tyree: performed with Imperial Russian Ballet on their 2016 Australian tour
7. CGSSSA and CCC Water Polo Champions
8. U17 Gold Medal Team at the inaugural NSW Volleyball Schools Cup
9. CGSSSA Senior Hockey Champions
10. Sabah Chamoun: Holder of 12 National U15 and Youth (U17) records and competed in Youth (U17) World Championships and the Commonwealth Championships
11. Antonella Khodr-Chah: Huge PB in shot put at the State Athletics championships
12. Emilie Johnston: State level representative for Swimming and Futsal and 2016 Primary Sportsperson of the Year (Girls)
13. Nicholas Macher: 2016 Primary Sportsperson of the Year (Boys)

# SANTA SABINA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

## 2016 Report on Giving

The Santa Sabina College Foundation aims to promote a positive culture of philanthropy in the wider College community. We encourage direct involvement in the advancement of the College mission and recognise our donors as lifelong supporters of Santa Sabina College.

Through the generosity of ex-students, current and past parents, staff, board members, and Dominican Sisters, the Foundation offers students who otherwise could not benefit, an opportunity of a Dominican education. The Foundation also helps develop and improve the standard of facilities at Santa Sabina College.

The Building Fund is an important contribution to the costs of maintaining the buildings across the College, though it meets only about a quarter of our regular annual costs. Thank you to

the over 340 families who responded to the request sent out at the start of the year and contributed a total of nearly \$280,000 to the tax deductible annual appeal. With Holyrood requiring very significant repairs to its heritage façade, it was a feature of our annual giving campaign. We raised about 20% of the costs of the Holyrood repairs and significantly, two-thirds of the contributions came from ex-students. No doubt they remembered their times inside and outside Holyrood. The costs each year of maintaining the College buildings are significant and the continued and increased support through the Building Fund reduces our reliance on tuition fees to meet these costs.

The continued support given to the Foundation Scholarships program enables the College to offer a senior student a Santa Sabina education. Donations to the Scholarship Fund this year were just under \$10,000. If you make a donation to the Scholarship Fund

it is a personal donation to the Dominican education of a young women. We seek to grow this fund substantially over the coming years through the support of our community.

We are very grateful to those donors who contribute annually or more frequently throughout the year and those who have made one-off contributions. I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all our donors for your heartfelt generosity, your support of our mission and your passion for education. We encourage you to remain active with your gift giving and continue to make a difference.

**Mr Tony Woods**

Santa Sabina College Foundation Chair



## THE DOLORES LENIHAN PERPETUAL SCHOLARSHIP

The Dolores Lenihan Perpetual Scholarship for 2017 has been generously awarded to Evie Younan.

Dolores Lenihan was a Dominican student, educated and inspired by the Dominican Sisters at Moss Vale, and the scholarship has been donated by Dolores' husband and daughter. The Scholarship entitles the successful applicant to piano tuition at the College for one year.

**LEFT** Evie Younan





Mother Mary  
Bertrand Walsh

## THE BURSARY FUND

In recognition of Mother Mary Bertrand Walsh's Diamond Jubilee in 1930, the then All Dominican Old Girl's Union presented her with a gift of £25. She gave this back to the Union and asked that it be used for a scholarship - thus the idea of the Bursary Fund was born. The initial money was invested and the interest was used to maintain the Bursary.

With the breakup of the All Dominican Old Girls Union in 1965, the Santa Sabina Ex-Students' Association was formed. The Trustees of the Bursary Fund took control of the investment of the funds and directed the funds to the various Dominican schools in Maitland, Mayfield, Moss Vale and Tamworth as well as Santa Sabina College.

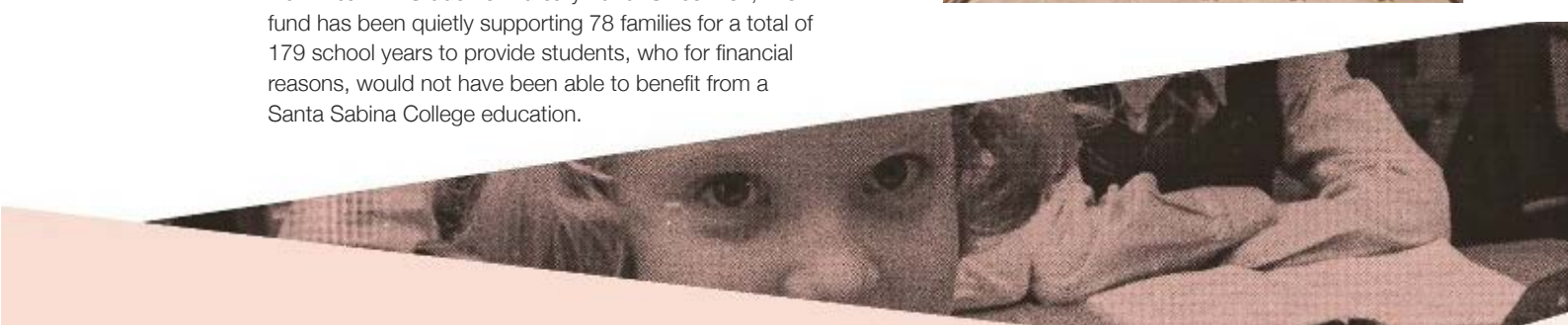
The criteria for awarding Bursaries broadened over time to include not only daughters of Dominican ex-students but also to students with a close relative who was a Dominican ex-student and to current Dominican students who were experiencing financial difficulty.

In 2000, with no further Dominican sisters at the various Dominican schools throughout NSW, the Constitution and name of the Bursary Fund was updated to The Dominican Ex-Students' Bursary Fund. Since then, this fund has been quietly supporting 78 families for a total of 179 school years to provide students, who for financial reasons, would not have been able to benefit from a Santa Sabina College education.

Holyrood has defined the landscape of The Boulevard Strathfield for over 125 years. In 2016 it required extensive renovation to save the sandstone facade.

The Victorian Italianate house was built by wealthy industrialist, Charles Hoskins, in 1890. Its unique feature was its façade which had graced the front of the City Bank in Sydney until the bank had burnt down, leaving only the façade intact. Hoskins had its blocks numbered, removed and carted to his new home and then reconstructed.

William Adams bought the house in 1911 and named it Holyrood. He made a number of alterations including the metal gates topped by seafaring lanterns and a conservatory. It was offered for sale complete with furnishings in 1936 to the Dominican Sisters who had been neighbours since 1894. In 1937 they moved in and since that time the house has had many different uses. Kindergarten classes, senior boarders' dormitories, the Dominican Novitiate office, hearing-impaired students, art classes and cooking and dressmaking have all had their time in Holyrood. In 1990 repairs both internally and externally were carried out and it became the permanent home of the Music Department from 1993. It was listed on the Register of the National Estate in 1991.





# THANK YOU

## To our 2016 Annual Giving Donors

- |                                     |                              |                          |  |
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| ■ Ms Sabina Donnelly                | ■ Mrs Helen Jackson          | ■ Ms L Quach             |  |

We also thank those families who wish to remain anonymous

## To our 2016 Building Fund Donors

- |                                      |                           |                                   |   |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|
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# P&F



**Santa  
Sabina  
College**

**Parents and  
Friends'  
Association**

In 2016 our generous P&F continued to support the College. The Welcome Masses, Easter celebrations, Mothers' and Fathers' Day Masses and events, the Annual College Dinner and the Annual Fathers' Golf Day, saw our P&F provide hospitality with energy and enthusiasm. Our dedicated class and year reps have also organised dinners and morning teas to engage the community.



Father & Child Weekend



Fathers' Day Breakfast



800 Year Dominican Jubilee Ball



Mothers' Day High Tea



Fathers' and Old Boys' Golf Day



# AROUND THE PLOT



**Santa  
Sabina**

Dominican  
Ex-Students'  
Association



## MOTHER MARY BERTRAND WALSH MUSEUM LAUNCH

### BEYOND THE HSC

Insight into life  
after the HSC

### THE CIRCULAR CORRIDOR

Sr Diana Woods OP recounts  
her memories of the Circular  
Corridor at Santa Sabina

### WHERE ARE THEY NOW

A look at a range of  
ex-students from  
across the years





# PRESIDENT'S REPORT

President	Sharon Sirris (Crowe - Mai ) 1975
Vice President	Elizabeth Pooley 1971
Secretary	Sue Bell (Wilkins) 1974
Treasurer	Trudie Rogers (Burton) 1968
Committee	Margot Clements (Kenny ) 1974
	Elizabeth Mulchay (Linley) 1974
	Stacey Bannon 1985
	Julie Erskine 1968
	Mary Cruickshank (Glover) 1969
	Lorette Quinlan (Burland) 1974
	Olga Giuffre (Pastroudis) 1977
Dominican Liaison	Sr Rosemary Lewins

For any members wishing to join the Association committee please forward your expression of interest to [m.black@ssc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:m.black@ssc.nsw.edu.au) or 02 9745 7050

The Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association continues to play an active role within the College. The Association facilitates and assists the College in numerous events, for current and past students, throughout the year. This year, the Association was actively involved in assisting with the 800 year Dominican Ball, the Beyond the HSC careers night, the Year 12 Picnic, the Golden Girls and Boys Reunion and the inaugural Networking Breakfast for the law profession. A committee member attended the Year 12 graduation dinner and the Year 4 Boys Moving Up day. At both of these events the graduating students received a gift from the Association to mark the occasion.

The Association continues to support the annual presentation of the Sr Marcia Hall Award for a Year 10 student at Speech Night.

We continue to organise the annual Melbourne Cup luncheon at Angelo's on the Bay at Cabarita that is well attended by past students, their family and friends.

We look forward to many 2017 events including the 92nd Debutante Ball, another country reunion and further career networking events for ex-students.

The Association continues to financially support a wide range of College and Dominican initiatives including The Trustees of the Dominican Ex-Students' Bursary fund, Catherine Sullivan Centre, Santa Sabina College Foundation and The Solomon Islands immersion for ex-students of the College. For any ex-students who wish to join the Ex-Students' Association you may contact the College for the details. On behalf of the committee I wish all Santa Sabina College students past and present well in the coming year both personally and professionally. Hold true to your Dominican values, even in times of uncertainty. These values will guide you through life's many challenges.

**Sharon Sirris (Crowe – Mai) Class of 1975**

President Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association



## RHYME TIME & PLAYGROUPS



Jane of Aza Playgroups and Rhyme Time events are held throughout term time on the Primary campus. The playgroups welcome all children and carers to play, laugh, read, sing, support and enjoy the experience of getting together.

## DEBUTANTE BALL



**The 91st Annual Ball** with Débutantes from Year 10 & 11 was held at the Pullman Hotel Olympic Park, with our Guest of Honour Suzie Stenmark Class of 1972.



## ARCHIBALD PRIZE 2016

Ex-Students were guided on a private tour of the prestigious Archibald Exhibition in September - an exclusive viewing before the Art Gallery opened to the public. Morning tea followed and was enjoyed by all. An annual event, all guests are welcome.



## MELBOURNE CUP 2016

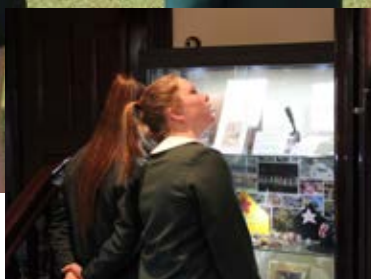
**RACE DAY** was celebrated by many ex-students and friends, enjoying sweeps, raffles and live coverage of the race. The Ex-Students' Association hosted the Melbourne Cup Luncheon at Angelo's on the Bay.



## ENCOMPASS MUSEUM OPENING



## Mother Mary Bertrand Walsh MUSEUM



**ABOVE** College Archivist Jenny Allison, Alumni Coordinator Peta Magee and Dominican Archivist Sr Elizabeth Hellwig OP

Mother Mary Bertrand Walsh was one of the founding Sisters of our great school.

Ellen Cecelia Walsh was born in Ireland in 1847. After profession she chose to come to Australia to work with the Sisters at Cabra in South Australia in 1874. In 1877 she was made Superior at the new school at Tamworth and then in 1883 at Maitland. She was Superior General of the Order six times and was the first Superior at Santa in 1894. She alternated in this role with M. Pius Collins for almost 20 years. It is fitting that the museum be named in her memory.

Sister Bertrand was noted for her energy, business acumen, foresight and zeal for souls... she was always ahead of her time in every educational improvement.

In 1905 the Circular Corridor was built, linking the 1894 building to the new extension which became the Chapel. The ground floor corridor is now a permanent exhibition of our Santa Sabina College heritage. It is our living history. It is filled with the stories of the past and of those that have gone before us and have shaped our present.

The primary reason for

creating the museum is to organise, preserve and make accessible the history of Santa Sabina College.

It is a unique environment in which to collect and display images and artefacts relating to Santa Sabina College for students, staff, alumni, prospective families and the wider College community.

The museum is now a source of knowledge, ideas, stories and memories. It is intended as a community resource to inspire, educate and inform the community and visitors and to contribute to the conservation of Santa

Sabina College's history and Dominican education.

It has been a great privilege to work with our College Archivist Jenny Allison to bring this living exhibition to life and showcase Santa Sabina College and its rich and diverse living legacy.

**Peta Magee**  
Alumni Relations





# The Circular Corridor

Sr Diana Woods OP reflects on the Museum opening

What an evocative experience it was last Friday to be invited to the Circular Corridor to inspect its recent conversion into an impressive College Museum!

As I stepped into the now peaceful, quiet and beautifully arranged space, memories of my past, both as a student and as a Sister, came flooding back. In those days the Circular Corridor fulfilled a very vital but different function. It was a time before the Community and the College were fully separated. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say that the Circular Corridor was then the throbbing heart of the working establishment. The main cloister outside was always crowded with someone wanting someone! Just inside the cloister door was access to the bell rope and tower. The bell was used not only to summon the Sisters to prayer, its primary purpose, but also to alert Sisters when they were needed to greet visitors, to take telephone calls or for any other number of important and not-so-important reasons. For Mother Prioress General the toll was a stately ONE, for the local Prioress it was TWO, while the rest of

us were assigned a number in descending order of rank and importance! For a junior Sister it was likely to be something like NINE AND A TINGLE! The tolling of the bell was very constant and could be heard all over Strathfield. I know because, growing up, I lived in Strathfield! As far as I am aware no resident in those days complained of the noise, even though there were many, I'm sure, who would not have agreed with those of us who romantically regarded the sound as melodious.

It was in the Circular Corridor that the main telephone was located and it seemed to ring incessantly. A vivid and precious memory for me is of our wonderful Sr. M. Rita Wynne who, in the sixties, was the chief telephonist. With infinite patience, and always with an unflappable and gentle courtesy and beautiful smile, Rita attended the telephone and conveyed countless messages. For me Rita was a model of the kind of person I aspired to be. Sadly I still fall far short of the high standard she set!

Another function of the Circular Corridor was to serve as a passageway for Sisters coming from their rooms on the upper floors of the Convent en route to the classrooms or for those crossing from one side of the campus to the other. Only at night did it become a place of peace and silence.

What a remarkable gift memory is! Last Friday I was truly transported back to a world now past. I was there as a student, standing outside on the cloister looking in and waiting for my needs to be attended to – and curious about what might be happening on the inside. As a Sister, on the inside, I was caught up once again in the hustle and bustle of what seemed, in those days, to be our equivalent of a busy Martin Place. If only walls could speak! Indeed I felt as if they did speak to me.

## **Sr. Diana Woods OP.**

Santa Sabina Student : 1940 - 1949

College Principal: 1963 - 1967 and 1973.





The Santa Sabina, Beyond the HSC – Careers Networking Evening was held at the College on Tuesday 10 May. More than 200 students and parents from Years 10, 11 and 12 were treated to a wide range of 'careers experiences' that were organised by the Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association in collaboration with the College. The evening commenced in the College Hall with a question and answer session with a panel of four special guests from the Santa Sabina Community, each with very different professional backgrounds. After its completion, all those in attendance adjourned to the College library where over 40 ex-student mentors generously gave their time to speak with students and parents providing valuable insights to their professions.



In addition to the presence of the mentors, the student ambassadors from the following universities were also in attendance and able to answer pertinent questions: Australian Catholic University, Macquarie University, Notre Dame, University of Sydney, UTS, UNSW and the University of Western Sydney. Experiences like this, where so many career and educational professionals gather in the one location with the specific intention to provide assistance for young people is rare. For those able to attend, such an experience was extremely valuable.



# FELLOWSHIP TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

## TESS CORKISH (2010)

In June I was lucky enough to travel to the Solomon Islands as a recipient of the Santa Sabina College Ex-Students' Fellowship to Solomon Islands. As a guest of the Dominican Sisters, I spent two weeks in Wagina, a small island in the Choiseul province and one week in Auki, the capital of Malaita. I flew in on a sunny Thursday afternoon, relishing the warmth in Honiara after the cold of a Sydney winter. I was met by Sr Teresa and two of the novices who brought me to their house for a shower and some lunch before Sr Teresa showed me around the island a little. The sisters from the other house on Honiara came over for mass and a shared meal.

Early the next morning I headed to the airport for my flight to Kagau where I would meet Sr Rebecca, my host in Wagina. To her confusion, I was not the only young white woman on the plane, but I spotted her immediately when we touched down, in her blue.

It was an experience that definitely pushed my boundaries, with no shower, flushing toilet or even a fridge. I was living a much simpler life than I was used to. As a vegetarian I tried fish, seafood, chicken and wild boar, awoken every morning by a rooster crowing or some of the wild dogs fighting. I was not Sr Rebecca's only guest, as a local girl, Janet had been staying with her so she was not alone (there are usually at least two sisters together but illness has left Sr Rebecca on her own), and every night Janet would teach me some Gilbertese and I learnt a fair bit, some of which I tried out on Maria Tiimon Chi-Fang of the Edmund Rice Centre upon my return.

I met so many new and wonderful people, from Fr Tony, the visiting priest, to Christina, one of the older women and sister of one of the other sisters. I had the opportunity to head out for a picnic where I snorkelled above huge clams and danced with and for the locals, much to their amusement. I met the young women who were interested

in becoming novices and at their insistence took ridiculous selfies together on my phone, and then the very next day stood up at mass to speak to the community about 'Laudato Si'. I was offered turtle curry which was a little bit out of my comfort zone and I politely declined, but I enjoyed chewing on the sugar cane and the fresh taro from one of the local farmers.

I also spent four days in Auki, the largest city on the island of Malaita. After the weeks of quiet in Wagina, the busy town was a little bit of a shock to the system. I stayed with Sr Loretta there and spent my days exploring with her or being showed around by Bishop Chris, the local Bishop who is also a Dominican (Bishop Chris was recently installed as the Archbishop of Honiara). He took me around particularly to the town of Lilisiana, a small, very poor town on the water's edge who every day sees the inundation of its whole cemetery. They are overdue for a cyclone. As we walked through, greeting all the members of the community and blessing a boat on the way past, he asked the young people of the village what they had seen happen with the seas, "Is it getting better?" their answer was blunt: it's getting worse.

Although my days in Auki were clouded by a family tragedy back home, I was held in the arms of a community who care about each other deeply and passionately and I returned renewed and refreshed, even more passionate about ensuring that I fight to protect the Pacific from climate change.







## FELLOWSHIP TO THE SOLOMON ISLANDS

### NADINE KING NEE MCNULTY (1986)

If the communities I visited in the Solomon Islands value my visit half as much as I value the time I spent with them I will be thrilled.

I am indebted to my dear friend and fellow ex-student Catherine who suggested I apply for the Solomon's Fellowship and stayed on my case until I did. The Fellowship took me to places, geographical, physical and mental I could not have imagined. I was constantly challenged and delighted by the people, their lifestyle and beliefs (kastom and wontok are fascinating).

I spent three weeks in total in Solomon Islands, travelling as a solo volunteer between convents in Honiara, Gizo, Moli and, possibly the most remote place I have ever visited, Sirovanga. I have now met most of the Dominican Sisters resident in the Solomons and am immensely grateful for the opportunity to meet such a hard working, devout, wise and hilarious group of women who bring stability and joy to their local communities. I have learned a lot. Not least the value of community and how little is enough.

The scenery was, as expected, breathtaking. I snapped crazily from plane windows and motor boats in an effort to capture for posterity the glorious colours and calm of unspoilt jungle and crystal like waters. I ate a new and exotic array of vegetables, my favourite, fern with coconut milk and tuna. At times I wondered at my skin care regime, improvised ablutions in the absence of limitless running water combined with layers of sunscreen and RID in the heat feels a little nasty (thankfully temporary).

The fellowship took me outside my life as a working mother of teenage sons. I reconnected with latent skills and talents (might be an overstatement but you will hopefully never hear the song or read the poetry I wrote for the primary schoolers). I have experience doing voluntary work (Zonta International and St

James Ethics Centre) but nothing I have done to date has been as satisfying as helping in Solomon Islands.

While I was in there I was fortunate to:

- Tutor the sisters (Honiara)
- Facilitate workshops on women's issues (such as domestic violence) with women's groups in Lunga and Moli
- Hold an evening on 'Children's Rights' (their subject of choice) at St Josephs' Secondary School (Moli)
- Facilitate a youth group workshop on finding voice, identifying and responding to challenges (Moli)
- Prepare a submission advocating against the renewal of a liquor licence (Moli)
- Prepare a report to funders on the application of funds and asset utilisation (Moli)
- Develop teaching/ literacy aids (Moli, Sirovanga)
- Develop a funding proposal for the construction of a piggery on Loga
- Develop a strategy for identifying and approaching potential funders (Moli)
- Work with Sunday school teachers and their students

One of the absolute highlights of my trip was celebrating St Dominic's 800 year jubilee in Honiara with the sisters, Bishop Chris and a procession of priests and deacons from across the globe. I celebrated in good company, hundreds of people from across the islands spent the day dancing, singing and feasting. We made front page of the *Solomon Star*!

## Felicia Mendes Monteiro 2012

Felicia attended University of Technology, Sydney, and graduated with a Bachelor of Design in Interior and Spatial Design with a sub-major in Performative Spaces

Currently, Felicia is working at an interior design firm, ODCM as well as completing a Bachelor of Design in Architecture at the University of Sydney. She has hopes of beginning the Master of Architecture course next year.



## Jacqueline Mendes Monteiro 2008

Jacqueline attended UTS Insearch and graduated with a Diploma in Visual Communication (2009-2010) She then went on to the University of Sydney and graduated with a Bachelor of Design in Architecture (2011-2013) and a Master of Architecture (2014-2015) Jacqueline is employed at an architectural firm, Baini Design, and is working towards becoming a registered architect.

## Sabrina Crouche (Sr. Anne Miriam, RSM) 2005

Sister Anne Miriam Crouche, R.S.M. entered the Religious Sisters of Alma in 2014. She has completed her Bachelor of Education (Primary) and Masters of Arts (Philosophy) at the University of Notre Dame in Sydney. In 2013 she began a Masters in Philosophy (Theology) while working as an elementary school teacher. Sister Anne Miriam has worked both in Catholic and Public Schools in Australia. Sister is currently a novice in the community and has been assigned to Knoxville, for her year of mission as a Religious Sister of Mercy of Alma. Sister Anne Miriam will be providing administrative assistance in support of the Bishop's office.





## Ellese O'Sullivan 2003

Ellese O'Sullivan (nee Evans) has 11 years experience in the Environmental Management and Sustainability Sector, having commenced her career at Sydney Water Corporation after being awarded a cadetship. She was primarily responsible for the writing of "Review of Environmental Factors" reports, soil sampling and soil classification for Biosolids application, project management for various SWC Assets and maintaining compliance with SWC in-house environmental guidelines and operating licence. In late 2008 Ellese moved into the contaminated lands industry as an Environmental Scientist, and in 2010 she moved to the construction industry.

Since joining Downer Group, Ellese has obtained extensive experience in the provision of onsite supervision and support of major infrastructure projects, Her work has taken her to far reaching places of this amazing continent.



## Margaret Liu 1998

Margaret Liu is an architect and academic. She lectures on sustainable urban development in the Faculty of Design, Architecture and Building at UTS.

Margaret completed B. Architecture (First Class Honours) at the University of Sydney and recently submitted a Ph.D. in sustainable architecture at the same university. Her Ph.D., titled "Energy Efficiency Retrofits in Tertiary Education Buildings: An investigation of case studies in New South Wales", studied the efficacy and long term energy outcomes of retrofits targeted at improving energy efficiency of existing buildings. Her research interests include energy efficiency in buildings, sustainability issues in the built environment and energy performance assessment.

After completing her undergraduate studies, Margaret worked as an architect in private practice and as a project manager of construction projects at the University of Sydney.

Her academic strengths in art, mathematics and physics initially developed during her time at Santa Sabina. The choice of architecture as a field of study came easily, as it is a combination of all three subjects.



## Lauren Finger 1997

Lauren is a managing editor in book publishing in London. She has worked in publishing since graduating with a BA from the University of Newcastle in 2000. Lauren worked for a successful Australian publishing company for many years, and also gained an MA in Creative Writing from UTS, before moving to the UK in 2011. She had the privilege of working with the organising committee for the London Olympic and Paralympic Games before taking up the managing editor role at an independent publisher. In October this year she will start at an up-and-coming digital publisher in a similar role. Lauren loves working with writers to help make their books the best books they can be, and believes that she is lucky to have worked in an industry that is filled with so many talented and inspiring women. She writes a blog, that is mostly about books and reading, and has had a small number of stories/articles published in the past. Lauren enjoys living among the history-filled streets of London, travelling around the British countryside, and has somewhat acclimatized to the weather. She met her British husband a few weeks after arriving in the UK and at the moment they spend most of their time caring for their 2-year-old twins (a son and daughter). They plan to move their family to Australia in the next few years.



## Jenni Hickson 1997

Jenni studied a BA in English and Performance Studies at Sydney University. She took up a position with the St Vincent de Paul Society as a Youth Coordinator, coordinating activities for young people in the Broken Bay Diocese (Chatswood to the Central Coast). She first encountered the work of Vinnies when she went out on the Night Patrol service in Yr 11. She learnt a lot about issues of local poverty and social justice and completed two study trips with the Edmund Rice Centre to India and Sri Lanka.

After 4 years at Vinnies, she took on a role for the Australian Jesuit Province and Australian Ignatian Women as their Director of Formation and Program for World Youth Day 2008. The Program was called Magis. After WYD, she stayed on as National Director of Magis before taking a break due to ill health. After marriage she began studying a Bachelor of Theology at the Catholic Institute of Sydney. Whilst studying part time she took a role at the Mater Hospital North Sydney as their Mission Integration Manager. During this time Jenni kept up her connection with the St Vincent de Paul Society serving with her husband as the Spiritual Advisors to the National Youth Team.

Jenni completed her Bachelor of Theology earlier this year, she is now in Germany with two small children trying to traverse life in a foreign land. Germany, in particular, is welcoming thousands of refugees and the society as a whole is grappling with how to respond to the "outsider". Jenni looks forward to observing and engaging with these issues as best she can in the coming years. She feels grateful for the foundations her time at Santa gave her, it helped shape her desire to bring about a more just and compassionate world.







### Carolyn Gatt 1986

Carolyn studied at UNSW and completed a Bachelor of Science and Mathematics degree (majoring in Pure and Applied Mathematics and Economics). She currently tutors children in Mathematics and works for a financial institution. She has been on three major overseas trips since leaving school mainly to Malta, UK, Singapore, Italy, Dubai and France. Carolyn is happily married and has two beautiful children.

### Donna Hensley 1976

Donna studied teaching and had a wonderful career in a range of teaching situations and locations. Perhaps her most fulfilling was as an Adult Literacy Teacher where she was privileged to work with people from all walks of life. In 1999 Donna was a recipient of the NSW Education Minister's 'Award for Excellence in Teaching and outstanding contribution to the Profession of Teaching'. She was honoured to receive this for the work she had undertaken in a large council where she introduced a training system for workers. In 2001 Donna received a national scholarship from the Australian Government to investigate new and innovative ways of learning and was funded to travel overseas for her research. For the past 10 years she has been working as an educational consultant and has worked in the professional development of teachers in various countries including Papua New Guinea, Fiji, South Africa, Namibia, Lesotho and Vietnam. Some of these projects have been through Donna's work as a Conjoint Senior Lecturer in the School of Education at the University of Newcastle. She is now semi-retired and enjoying being with family and volunteering with various charities.



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## Megan Haire 1976

Megan completed a BA and Dip Ed at Sydney Uni, then married and raised a family in Walgett in north western NSW on a remote farming property. She has three daughters who went to boarding school at St Vincent's Potts Point. They are now adults living and working in Sydney and Orange. When Megan's last child left for boarding school, she went back to study, through Charles Sturt Uni distance education initially and did a psychology degree. In 2006 she relocated to Sydney and completed a Master of Clinical Psychology at the University of Western Sydney. Megan is currently working in her own private practice at Strathfield and in another private practice in Bella Vista. In her spare time she paints and does ballroom dancing. Megan regularly catches up with a handful of her Santa classmates and has been to each decade's reunion since leaving school including the 40th reunion in November.



## Liz O'Sullivan 1974

Liz left Santa Sabina in 1974 when the boarding school closed down. Her family lived in Port Moresby PNG at the time so she moved to St Vincent's at Potts Point to complete her senior years. Liz attended Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College at Waverley. Liz has enjoyed many travel adventures, exploring Europe, Scandinavia, Russia, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Greece, Egypt and Israel, working in kibbutz Elot down by the Red Sea, picking melons and pruning & pollinating date trees. She was an extra in the movie "Sahara" starring Brooke Shields. Upon returning to Sydney in 1983 she met her now husband Terry and moved to Coffs Harbour in 1984 and became the Director of Toormina Pre-school, where she taught for 17 years. Liz and Terry enjoy life in Coffs Harbour with children and grandchildren.

## Jane Stapleton 1969

Professor Jane Stapleton, educated in Sydney, Adelaide, ANU & Oxford was appointed the first female and first foreigner - Master of Christ's College Cambridge, UK on September 1 2016. Jane holds Doctorate qualifications in both science and law and became 38th Master of Christ's College, Cambridge.

The college is renowned for educating some of Cambridge's most famous alumni, including Charles Darwin and John Milton.

"Women of my generation, we tend to notch up these things all the time, it's like the first Jew, or the first person of colour, it's because there are centuries of prejudice and when this starts to crumble, there are going to be people there at the right time who get these notches, but it doesn't mean that there haven't been hundreds of thousands of women who shouldn't have been in the running for these jobs – it's just that there's been prejudice against them," Professor Stapleton said. She said it was perhaps more remarkable that she has taken the role as the first foreigner.

Professor Stapleton was the first woman to be elected as an Honorary Fellow at St John's College Cambridge and has held positions as Visiting Professor at Oxford and Emeritus Fellow at Balliol College, Oxford. While Jane was a Fellow at Balliol College, she was instrumental in the establishment of the Balliol Day Nursery.





# BIRTHS



27 January 2015  
Charlotte Victoria & Ryan Tyler Nguyen  
Vivien Nguyen (nee Leung) (01) & Thanh Nguyen



8 May 2015  
Arianna  
Christina Cavasinni (nee Caltabiano) (09) &  
Daniel Cavasinni



29 September 2015  
Ruby Barbara  
Annabel Archer (nee Brown) (01) & James  
Archer



30 November 2015  
Scarlett-Rose  
Rebecca Patterson (08) & Brett Kemp



10 March 2016  
Matthew William Francis Partlin  
Sally McGhee (1999) & Scott Partlin



2 April 2016  
Augustus Alan Olivier McGhee  
Rebecca McGhee (nee Dilley) (2006) & Andrew  
McGhee



5 May 2016  
Eadie Kathleen  
Erin O'Neill (nee Sawyer) (02) & Tony O'Neill



20 May 2016  
Edward Fred  
Catherine (nee Lamb) (01) a little brother for  
Alexander



1 June 2016  
Alexander Ronald  
Rachael Middleton (nee Weaver) (01) & Ben  
Middleton



1 July 2016  
Eleanor Mercedes Adelaide Dann  
Lisa McGhee-Dann (2001) & Adrian Dann



25 July 2016  
Hudson James  
Elicia Long (nee De Martin) (01) & Peter Long,  
a little brother to Archer

# MARRIAGES



9 January 2016  
Alicia Raneri (08) & Jason Hartfield  
Bridesmaids: Nadia Verduci (08), Nicole Adaley (08) & Samantha Raneri (05)



13 February 2016  
Stefanie Sgroi (05) & Stephen Velovski



20 February 2016  
Rebecca Riley (01) & David Wilson



27 February 2016  
Amanda Pereira (08) & Nestor Tsioustas



6 March 2016  
Myrna Taouil (05) & David Daoud



19 March 2016  
Theonie Trianta (04) & Anthony Ingogneri



8 May 2016  
Sarah Vaccari (07) & Daniel Younan



12 June 2016  
Elicia Macpherson (01) & Daniel Mendonca



28 August 2016  
Lauren Price (09) & John Ryan-Thomas



11 November 2016  
Colleen Fogarty (07) & Aiden Synnott  
Bridesmaids: Alison Fogarty (02), Vanessa Giannuzzi (07) & Kathleen Fogarty (98)

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# Jubilees 2015

We congratulate the following sisters who celebrated the anniversary of their profession

10 January	Golden	Helen Cunningham Lynette Eastmure
25 January	Diamond	Patricia Barrett Mary Britt Margaret Cameron Helen Ryan Philomena Thomas
23 May	Diamond	Rose-Marie Taranto
4 June	Golden	Rosemary Lewins
12 November	Golden	Elizabeth Hellwig Helen Merrin
8 December	Platinum	Helen Rankin



SR BETH EGAN O.P.

10 April 2016

Beth was a Santa ex-student, and was Provincial in the early 70's - a time of change and of challenging decisions, such as closing the boarding option in Dominican schools.

In her 'retirement', Beth choose to live amongst the poor, at Mt Druitt, ministering to the locals in diverse ways: walking the neighbour's dog, advocating for refugees and asylum seekers as they navigated the appeal and review processes, and on occasion, taking in women running from domestic violence.

She balanced the Dominican virtues of contemplation and action: Beth spent much time in prayer, singing and at the office morning and evening, even when there were only two members in the community, and lived a life of action for others. At her vigil, messages to the sisters fondly remembered her skill as a music teacher, who inspired life long commitment to music in many of her former pupils.

May she rest in peace.

# Deaths

## Dominican Sisters' Deaths

Sr Beth Egan (M. Bertrand)	10 April 2016
Sr Noelle Magree (Paul Francis)	7 September 2016
Sr Margaret Cameron	9 November 2016
Sr Clare Quinn	10 November 2016

## We Remember

Therese Gleeson (Class of 44)	12 July 2015
Beverly Southwell nee Herring (Class of 55)	2 October 2016
Beverly Vine (Class of 65)	19 March 2016
Mary Rooney	2 March 2016
Therese Neil nee Ferrari	29 May 2016
Therese boarded at Santa in 1960/61. She was the niece of Sr Marie Vincent Ferrari OP. Wife of Peter, beloved Mother, sister of Lawrence Paul Michelle & Leonie. She lived in Ballarat Vic.	
Bridget Whelan (Class of 91)	11 May 2016
Michael d'Arbon (Del Monte Class of 62)	24 August 2016



## BRIDGET MARY WHELAN OAM

16 April 1974 - 11 May 2016

Bridget Whelan was awarded the Order of Australia Medal (OAM) announced in the 2016 Queens Birthday Honours List, for service to community health as an advocate for people with cancer.

Bridget was an outstanding Santa Sabina student and an outstanding person. She started at Santa Maria Del Monte in 1977, finishing her HSC at Santa Sabina in 1991, and demonstrating excellence throughout. In life after Santa, Bridget lived the school's mission: she achieved personal excellence, acted with justice and compassion and embraced her future optimistically, even when facing ovarian cancer over the past six years.

Bridget studied Economics and Law at Sydney University and excelled. She worked in employment law early in her career and later as a senior ministerial adviser in state and federal governments, where she was known for her practical approach to complex problems, her work ethic and her commitment to fairness.

Along with her family, travel and music were central parts of Bridget's life. She loved to travel and learn about the history, art, music and culture of a place and to do a spot of shopping too. She especially loved New York, which she visited often. Despite her absolute dedication to her career, Bridget was the first to encourage people to see life beyond work and always believed you had to have your next holiday planned.

In 2010 Bridget was diagnosed with ovarian cancer. She continued working for a year while undergoing treatment and then, knowing the odds of this devastating disease returning, retired to focus on living well.

She invested her time not only in her own health but also in becoming an unrelenting advocate for improved awareness of and treatment for all women with ovarian cancer. She took the

same skills and formidable intellect that had served her well in her career and applied it to this new field of endeavour, working on a voluntary basis with numerous organisations including Ovarian Cancer Australia, Cancer Voices, ANZGOG and Cancer Australia.

Bridget put aside her naturally private nature and spoke publicly about her plight through media interviews and via meetings with government to advocate for greater awareness and funding for research, treatment and support.

In recognition of these efforts, she won a number of awards, none so poignant as the OAM. The decision to award Bridget this Honour was made on May 11, the day she died.

The Whelan family is well known to the Strathfield community. Bridget was the much loved daughter of Paul and Colleen Whelan and sister of Catherine (Santa 1988), John (St Pats 1986) and Stephen (St Pats 1993). She was the loving aunty of Catherine's daughters, Santa girls Isabella and Kate Morgan, their sister Emily; John's sons' Jack and Liam and Stephen's children Brodie and Patrick.

Santa Sabina was a significant part of Bridget's life where she made life-long friendships with Anna Howarth, Helen Graham (Noyes), Ann-Maree Mulders (Ryan), Anne-Louise Biddle (Gray), Monique Stuckey (Simpson), Sarah Healy (McLaren), Roberta Rivett-Carnac (Fox) and Marysa Boland (White).

Throughout her life, in sickness and health, Bridget was sure of one thing: life was for living, and she did so with fervour and grace. Vale Bridget Whelan.

For more information about ovarian cancer, go to [www.ovariancancer.net.au](http://www.ovariancancer.net.au)





## REUNION NEW YORK

The inaugural New York city Alumni Reunion was held on Saturday October 9 at the STK Rooftop bar in the Meatpacking District. Dr Maree Herrett was in attendance, and the gathering included ex-students from different year groups. I was lucky enough to be flying into New York that day, and as an ex-student and current teacher, it was wonderful to hear the varied stories from our alumni and their lives in New York including work, travel, families, engagements and favourite New York places! The confidence and vitality of our Australian Santa Sabina ex-pats in New York was obvious.

Marysa White (Class of 1991)

## ONE YEAR REUNION YEAR 13







# REUNION GOLDEN GIRLS & BOYS





**CLASS OF 61-65 REUNION**



**40 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 1976**



**40 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 1975**





**30 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 1986**



**25 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 1991**



**15 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 2001**



**10 YEAR REUNION CLASS OF 2006**





# 2017 DATES

## Term 1 2017

Friday 17 February - Jane of Aza Playgroup

Friday 3 March - Rhyme Time Playgroup

Friday 10 March - Information Morning (P - 5)

Friday 7 April - Rhyme Time Playgroup

## Term 2 2017

Friday 28 April - Jane of Aza Playgroup

Tuesday 16 May - Beyond the HSC

Friday 19 May - Rhyme Time Playgroup

Friday 26 May - Golden Girls & Boys

Friday 16 June - Rhyme Time Playgroup  
&  
Santa Sabina College P&F & Ex-Students' Association Dinner

## Term 3 2017

Friday 21 July - Ex-Students' Archibald Prize Private Viewing

Friday 28 July - St Dominic's Day

Friday 4 August - Information Morning (P - 5)  
&  
Rhyme Time Playgroup

Friday 18 August - Jane of Aza Playgroup

Friday 1 September - Rhyme Time Playgroup

## Term 4 2017

Friday 20 October - Rhyme Time Playgroup

Tuesday 7 November - Melbourne Cup Luncheon

Friday 10 November - Rhyme Time Playgroup

Friday 24 November - Jane of Aza Christmas Playgroup

## STAY IN TOUCH

To find other students and keep on top of  
upcoming events please join our  
Ex-Students Online Community or like our Facebook page.  
Visit [www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/ex-students](http://www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/ex-students)

Please contact Community Relations  
☎ 9745 7035 @ [communityrelations@ssc.nsw.edu.au](mailto:communityrelations@ssc.nsw.edu.au)

[www.ssc.nsw.edu.au](http://www.ssc.nsw.edu.au)