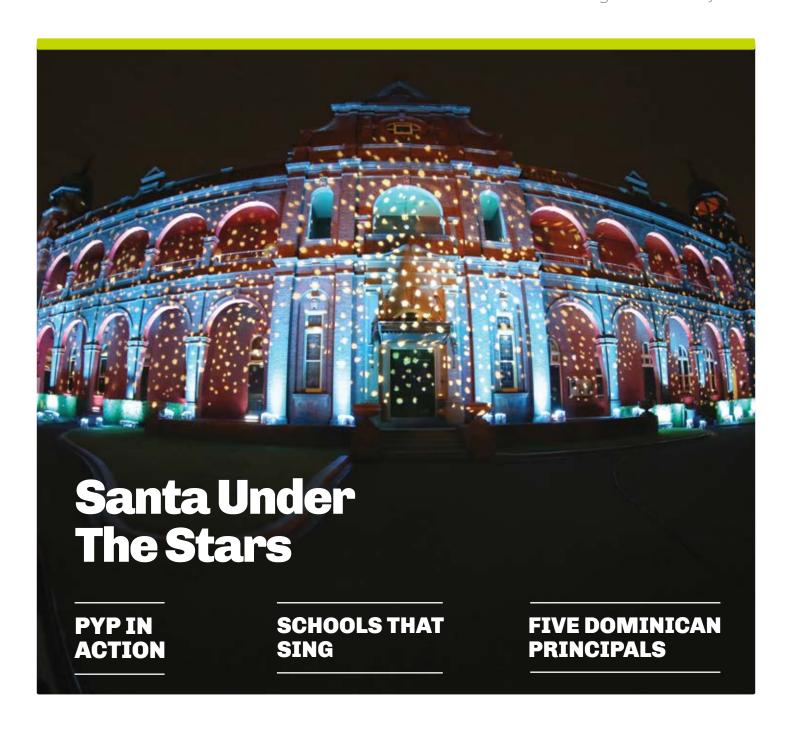
# ENCOMPASS 2014 Santa Sa



October 2014 The magazine of the Santa Sabina College Community



#### **PLUS**

Kids Stuff@Mary Bailey House · Del Monte - A Year in Review · Middle School - Student Action Teams · Immersion · Where Are They Now?

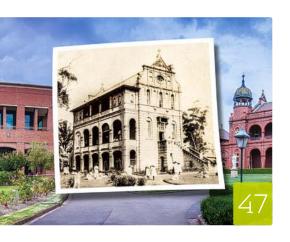
#### **ENCOMPASS**

# CONTENT



#### **PYP IN ACTION**

The introduction of the PYP has been a wonderful addition to life on the Primary Campus



#### **AROUND THE PLOT**

Celebrating 120 years of Santa Sabina College

#### **5 COLLEGE FOUNDATION**

This foundation aims to generate philanthropic support for the College

#### **10 LOOKING FOR LEARNING**

A tour of over eighty classes held over Term two

#### 14 MARY BAILEY HOUSE

A look at the creative learning environments @MBH

#### **20 DEL MONTE 2014**

A snapshot of the many celebrations and activities held on the Primary Campus

#### 23 PREP YEAR

Get a great start at Santa Sabina Prep.

#### 24 MAKEY MAKEY

Tinkering and engineering in Middle School

#### 28 LANGUAGES TOUR 2014

Students travelled to Italy to immerse themselves in the Italian culture

#### 30 MEET THE TEACHERS

A profile of our senior language teachers

#### 32 LANDS OF DOMINIC

Dr Herrett's reflection on a pilgrimage following the footsteps of Dominic

#### 34 DOM'S DAY

A celebration of our 120 year story

#### **36 CENTRAL AUSTRALIA**

Students travelled to the APY Lands to immerse themselves in Aboriginal culture

#### 38 **SCHOOLS THAT SING**

Angelic performance by young choristers at Angel Place

#### 44 SPORT

A selection of our top performing athletes

#### **48 PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Ex-students' Association President reports on 2014 activities

#### **50 GOLDEN GIRLS & BOYS**

The class of 1964 and before came back to school

#### 52 **BEYOND THE HSC**

Careers Networking evening with university experts and ex-student mentors

#### **54 5 DOMINICAN PRINCIPALS**

Celebrating 120 years with memories from the past Dominican Principals

#### 58 **DOMINICAN TRADITION**

Dominican Sisters praying for Year 12 students

#### **60 WHERE ARE THEY NOW**

News from our Alumni

#### 67 **REUNIONS**

A snapshot of ex-student reunions

Written permission must be sought from the College Principal before any material for this publication, either in whole or in part, is published, broadcast, recorded, photocopied or otherwise reproduced in any way, for any purpose whatsoever. Encompass is published by Santa Sabina College, 90 The Boulevarde Strathfield 2135. Phone: 9745 7000. Website: www.ssc.nsw.edu.au.



# College Board Farewell Mary Neely

Santa Sabina College was incorporated as a Company limited by Guarantee in 1987, following the decision of the Dominican Sisters to encourage more active involvement of lay people in the governance structure of the College. As the fourth Chair of the Board, Mrs Mary Neely retires at the end of 2014, having served as a Director of the Board for eleven years, nine of them as the Chair of the Board.

I am delighted on behalf of the College to pay tribute to Mary's leadership during this past decade. Today, the constant theme of adaptation to change plus the many external forces that influence the direction of education require leadership that is visionary, yet focussed on the underlying principles and values that have shaped a Catholic college like Santa Sabina for 120 years.

Mary's leadership, underpinned by her own background as an educator has been marked by a strong sense of purpose and commitment.

**BELOW**Mrs Mary Neely



BELOW Mr Tony Woods



Her spirit of teamwork, of building the capacity of the College Board to exercise its role with foresight and dedication has been invaluable and the example of her generosity remarkable. Few would be aware of the endless hours of planning, discourse and meetings which go into addressing the issues which in these challenging times come to the agenda of the governing Board of the College.

The philosopher of ancient times, Lao Tzu said that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step". Mary's association with the College, begun as a parent with two daughters and later as the Board Chair has meant that for many years she has entered into the community life of the school through the

family's support of numerous community events and cocurricular activities for the students. Her ease of manner and warm spirit of welcome and hospitality has encouraged other parents to be involved in college life and resulted in the development of lasting friendships.

As Mary prepares to complete her service on the Board I express, on behalf of the College and the Dominican Sisters our profound gratitude for the role she has played in college life. May God, the source of all our blessings, watch over Mary and bless all her future endeavours.

Part of Mary's vision for the future is that succession planning should be a critical component of the work of the Board. Thus it is that in 2015 we welcome Mr Tony Woods to take up the role of Board Chair. Tony is well known in the College community and will bring to his role insight and wisdom to assist the College to move forward with confidence into the next exciting decade of challenge and opportunity.

Sr Judith Lawson OP
Prioress of the Dominican
Sisters of Eastern Australia and
the Solomon Islands

# SANTA SABINA COLLEGE FOUNDATION

Santa Sabina College is pleased to announce the creation of the Santa Sabina College Foundation.

The foundation is significant in fostering a culture of philanthropic support for the College.
Vital programs supported by the foundation will

initially include a scholarship and a public ancillary fund which will provide a means of making tax deductible donations. The Santa Sabina College Foundation aims to be a vibrant organisation that will encourage participation, nurture College-related support groups and make a real difference in the future of the College.



#### LEFT

Hilary & Maura Wilcox

THE ARNOLD
AND
DOROTHY
WILCOX
SCHOLARSHIP

Maura and Hilary Wilcox (classes '44 & '46) wish to endow a scholarship for a student going into Year 11 2015, who otherwise would be unable to attend or continue at the College for financial reasons. The scholarship will support this student throughout

Year 11 and Year 12. The scholarship is in memory of their parents Arnold and Dorothy Wilcox, both of whose professional lives were dedicated to education. It is requested that the chosen student will be interested in both mathematics and science. The College

acknowledges the continuing benefit of this very generous donation to the recipient of the scholarship.

Applications are to be made to College Principal Dr Maree Herrett. Closing Date 31 October 2014.

## Nicoll/Skelly Bequest

SANTA Sabina
College along with
the Dominican
Sisters acknowledge
Mary Noelene Skelly,
class of 1956. Mary's
generous gift has
been invested to
ensure initiatives
and opportunities
can be embraced
by our students of
today and tomorrow.
At Mary's request,
the bequest is to be

known as the Nicoll/ Skelly Bequest. In times of increasing financial pressure on families and the operation of the College, bequests such as this gift from Mary will assist the College in advancing its mission and in continuing to provide a Dominican education to a wide range of students.



LEFT

Mary Skelly as a young student

## **BEQUESTS**

A bequest is a way for you to make a lasting gift. If you would like to discuss making a gift to the College please contact Margaret Molloy, Director of Community Relations on 9745 7050 or m.molloy@ssc.nsw.edu.au.



#### ABOVE

Hall concept design - orientation toward St Dominic's Plot

# COLLEGE HALL PRECINCT

The project will redesign, reorientate and repurpose the 1950's College Hall.

BELOW Hall concept design - South View

esigned to meet the demands of a 21st century learning environment, the proposed College Hall Precinct project is consistent with the College Strategic Plan - to provide innovative structures and learning spaces to support transformative pedagogy.

#### **COLLEGE MASTER PLAN**

In recognition of the challenge of the College site, characterised by a mix of heritage and more recent buildings that lack cohesion in

terms of style, orientation and traffic flow, the College Master Plan envisages a progressive realignment, with orientation towards the heart of the school - St Dominic's Plot.

#### **AQUINAS CENTRE**

The first step towards realising this vision was the construction of the Thomas Aquinas Centre in 2004 which was achieved through the generosity and vision of our community.

The next step is the redesign of the College Hall Precinct, focusing on "St Dom's Plot".



# THANK YOU

#### To our 2014 Annual Giving Donors

Mr & Mrs Ray & Badra Abraham Mr Paul Afonso Mrs Frances Aguggia Ms Bianca Andreacchio

Mr & Mrs Phillip & Olympia Angelidis

Mr Eddie Bachalani

Mrs Margaret Bartlett Mrs Kathleen Belford

Miss Joyce Blomley Ms Marie Brady

Mrs Jill Brooks

Mr & Mrs Ian & Michele Bullock

Mrs Sharon Burden

Mrs Patricia Burke

Mrs Mary Caruana

Mrs Jeanette Carroll

Miss Grace Conaghan

Mrs Patricia Connolly

Mrs Kathleen Crowley

Mrs Mary Cruickshank Ms Julienne Curteis

Mrs Margaret Dawes-Smith OAM

Mr & Mrs Lucio & Maryanne Di Bartolomeo

Mrs Margaret Doherty Dr Soo Kim & Ms Judy Lee

Ms Robyn Duncan

Mr & Mrs Yussef & Sandra El Masri

Dr Julie Erskine

Dr & Mrs Robert & Denise Fasanella

Mr & Mrs Kevin & Miriam Fernandez

Mrs Virginia Fitzgerald

Mrs Rosemary Francis Miss Madeleine Fraser

Mrs Judith Freckman

Mr & Mrs Stephen & Lisa Gilchrist

Mrs Yvette Graniero

Mrs Diane Hanley

Mr & Mrs Raymond & Suzanne Hassarati

Mr & Mrs Bernard & Vanessa Hayes

Mrs Karen Hayward

Mrs Margaret Healy Mrs Judith Hiatt

Mrs Madeline Howell

Mrs Helen Jackson

Jaramas Foundation

Ms Marie Jenkins

Mr & Mrs Kanaan & Kilda Kanaan Dr Alexander & Mrs Rhonda Kaye

Mrs Shirley Kennedy Ms J Kerpan & Mr V Rego

Ms Wendy Keys

Mr Young Kim

Dr Soo Kim

Ms Helen Ledwidge

Ms Rebecca L'Estrange

Miss Pieta Lind

Mr Tom & Mrs Cathy Loncar

Mrs Peta Magee

Mr & Mrs Richard & Emma Marshall Mrs Kathleen McCamley

Mrs Betty McKay

Mrs Rita McLaughlin

Mrs Margaret McMahon

Mr & Mrs Roger & Joceyln Merhi

Mr & Mrs Ken & Ann-Marie Miranda

Mr & Mrs Daniel & Maria Moiso Mr & Mrs Gary & Margaret Molloy

Mrs Shirley Moran

Ms Patricia Moran

Mr Paul Afonso Ms Ana De Matos

Mr Ri Ming Li & Mrs Ai Zhu Xu

Mr Xiang Ming Wang & Mrs Yan He Mr Young Joon Kim & Mrs Jeong Hui Yun Mrs Anabelle Murray

Ms Judith Newman

Ms Marie O'Connor

Ms Elizabeth O'Hara Mrs Christine Pahlow

Mr & Mrs Roberto & Joanna Pavan

Mr Curtis Payne

Phillips Family Foundation

Mrs Leanne Quach Mr John Randall

Mrs Marea Rayment

Mr & Mrs Christopher & Nola Rees

Ms Cecilia Rice

Ms Trudie Rogers

Mrs Margaret Ryan

Mr Gerard Seeto Mr & Mrs Peter & Adrienne Sleiman

Dr Susanne Storrier

Mr Hui Chao Su

Mr Mark & Mrs Judith Taylor

Mr Andrew Teece Mr & Mrs Bruce & Elizabeth Thompson

Ms Jennifer Tilyard

Traden Pty Ltd

Mr & Mrs Alex & Briony Tyree

Mrs Helen Tyree

Mr Xiang Wang

Ms Sandra Walsh

Mrs Jean Wellwood

Ms Lauren Whateley

Ms Marianna Wong

Ms Rosemary Woods Mr & Mrs Ian & Colleen Yum

We also thank those families who wish to remain anonymous.



# **LEVEL 1** DESIGN

**LEVEL** one will be a contemporary, technology rich learning environment that will include diverse, flexible spaces to maximise learning opportunities. This will enable students to work in a variety of ways,

independently, in small groups, online and in large cohorts. A Senior Student Centre will include careers advice, mentoring, study and performance spaces. A hospitality kitchen will expand VET opportunities for senior students.

# **LEVEL 2**

**LEVEL** two will be a flexible, agile group space providing opportunities for exams, celebrations, drama and music ensembles,

exhibitions, and group gatherings of different sizes and for community uses. With the significant IT infrastructure upgrades over the

last year, learning will be transformed through seamless technology.



# Santa Sabina College

## **VISUAL IDENTITY**

Our new style guide unites all campuses with consistent visual identity.

AS part of the College's Strategic Plan, Part 3: Growing and Transforming, the College has reviewed our visual identity. In consultation with representatives from around the College and an integrated school marketing and communication specialist, we have developed a consistent, integrated visual identity that is modern and contemporary, whilst staying true to our heritage.



#### 120 YEARS

**SCHOOL** colours have come and gone and school uniforms may have changed but our crest has remained largely unchanged.

# HISTORY OF THE CREST

The logo may have changed but the crest remains true to our Dominican heritage.

**THE** College crest is that of the Irish Dominican Schools. Black and white is the traditional colouring of the seal of the Dominican Order. The College, and the Order's motto, 'Veritas' – truth - is found at the top of the crest. An early legend says that Jane, St Dominic's mother, had a dream in which her son

represented by a dog, lit up the world with truth. There is also a play on the Latin words: 'Domini - canis' which translate as 'hounds of the Lord'. Dominicans are faithfilled, loyal members of the Church, upholding the truths found in the Gospels and applying them to the needs of new times.





1894

1967

1997



Professor Andrew
Martin

# MOTIVATING STUDENTS FOR SUCCESS

Enhance achievement, reduce anxiety, and broaden the definition of success.

embers of the Santa Sabina community were privileged to hear from two outstanding educators on how to switch students on for success, both inside and outside the classroom.

#### **ANDREW MARTIN** is

Professor of Educational Psychology at the University of New South Wales, specialising in motivation, engagement and achievement with a key focus on personal best, academic resilience and academic growth. Ranked in the Top 25 Internationally Most Productive Educational Psychologists, Andrew defines motivation as "a student's energy and drive to learn, work effectively and achieve". It's up to both parents and teachers to create a climate that encourages learners to take risks, to focus on learning and not just performance, and to not be afraid of making mistakes.

#### **SANTA SABINA'S**

Artistic Director, Mrs Karen Carey, has inspired students and teachers for over 30 years, nationally and globally. She believes that 'music is a fundamental part of what education is about'. As a passionate educator, Karen spoke from her experience about the power of music to transform students' learning.

The evening was part of the College's 'Santa Speaks' series, providing a forum where intellectually challenging discussions grounded in research can take place.



Mrs Karen Carey motivating music students



#### ABOVE

#### Dr Herrett with Year 4 students

# LOOKING FOR LEARNING

Eighty different classes visited across K-12. Six teachers and sixteen student researchers accompanied the Principal.

ollowing on from the Principal's
Listening Tour held in 2013, the "Looking for Learning" tour was conducted in Term two. Dr Herrett, accompanied by students and teachers from the Siena Innovation and Learning team, gathered a snapshot of the learning environment across K-12 classrooms.

The "Looking for Learning" goal was two-fold. The team was literally looking at the learning in classrooms while also learning the ways in

which learning happens here at Santa. The snapshot was of the environment and people, with a focus on behaviour and interaction. The knowledge of the way things happen here will inform future professional learning and influence classroom teaching and learning.

The team witnessed engaged, curious, and knowledgeable students across the campuses from K-12. Collaboration between students and teachers was particularly evident and demonstrated the ability to share knowledge

#### **BELOW**

Year 7 French students presenting in class and understanding and solve problems. There was demonstrable mutual respect between teachers and students that was reflected in the conversations heard, the protocols operating in different classrooms, the encouragement 'to have a go', and the recognition of effort as much as achievement.



# VERITAS TREE

**BELOW** 

Bridgette O'Brien placing a plaque next to "The Veritas Tree" in the Secondary library **BELOW** 

Condell Park students visit as part of the Coalition of Knowledge -Building Schools



In 2012, the
College worked
on a document to
encapsulate all
that a Dominican
education offers.
Our foundation
is the College
Motto – Veritas,
ever-grounded in
the Gospels; living
in integrity and
authenticity with

God, each other and ourselves. The four pillars of a Dominican education "Community, Learning, Service and Prayer" support our quest for the truth.

Bridgette O'Brien, a Year 11 student, was able to capture the imagination and dreams of our community in "The Veritas Tree".

We will always be grateful to Bridgette for her powerful and beautiful design and for demonstrating the transformation that the image represents.



# SCHOOL PARTNERSHIPS

Schools flourish when they work with professional partners to share expertise and resources.

#### **SANTA SABINA**

recognises the value of professional partnerships beyond our community. In 2013 we joined the Coalition of Knowledge-Building Schools, a crosssectoral group of schools committed to action research, particularly involving students as researchers. **Emeritus Professor** of Education, Susan Groundwater-Smith, convenes the Coalition. As a candidate school for the Primary Years Programme we benefit from the global connections offered by the International Baccalaureate Organisation

(IBO). We are also members of the Alliance of Girls Schools with our Secondary students participating in the 'Student Alliance Network'. We are enriched by partnerships with individual outstanding educators. Australia's foremost music educator, Richard Gill, is working in liaison with our Artistic Director, Mrs Karen Carey, to expand opportunities for music education for our students, as well as students from other schools. His orchestra '1788' will be performing at Santa Sabina College on various occasions.

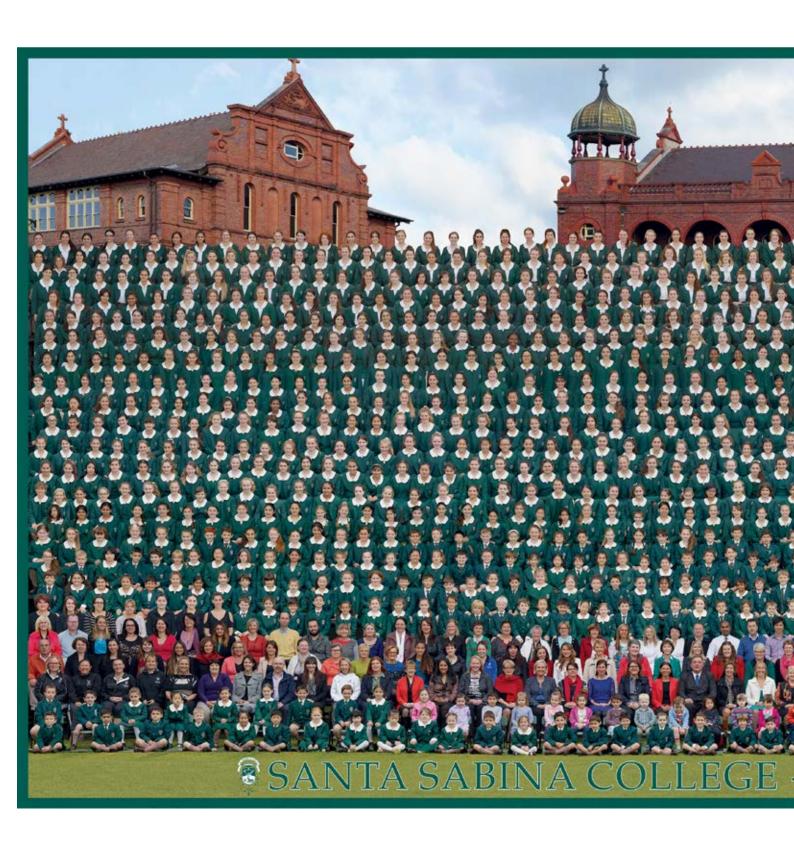
#### **TECHNOLOGY**

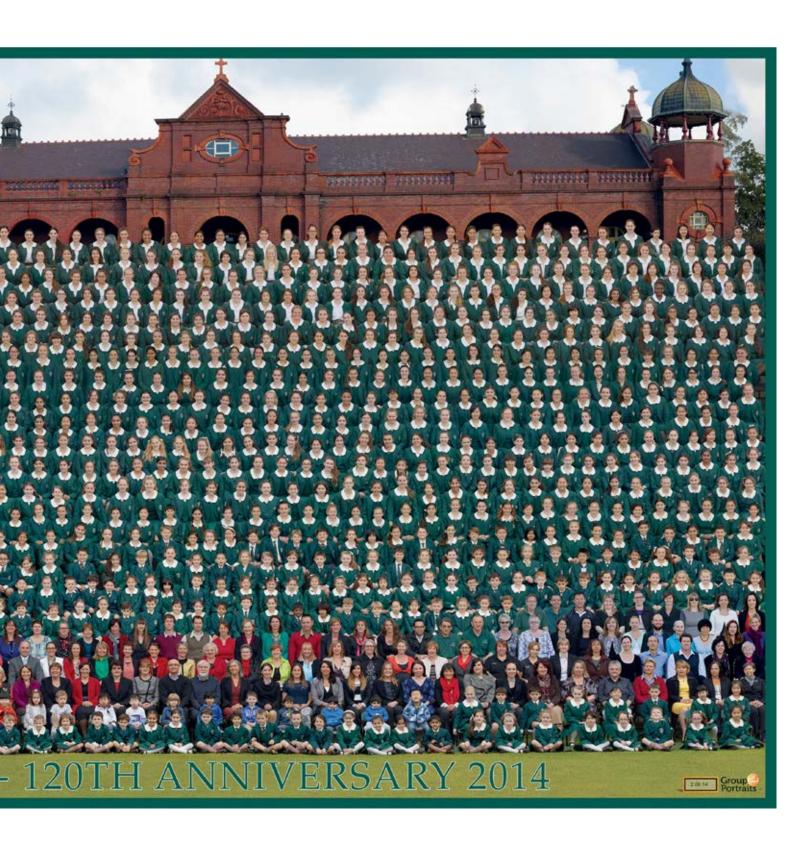
The significant IT infrastructure upgrades that were completed at the College during 2013 laid the groundwork for transformative learning in 2014, changing the way we think about a class. It no longer needs to be in a physical room or at a certain time - a class is a learning community that operates anytime, anywhere.

The introduction of our learning management system, Haiku, enables us to create a blended learning environment where students move seamlessly between classroom and home and are in touch with their teacher and peers. This also allows flexibility in offering subjects offline. Parents will gain access to Haiku

next year allowing them to "peer into the classroom".

Going Google this year has allowed for cloud storage of our emails and calendar systems allowing for anytime access. The range of Google apps means our students have access to many learning platforms.





#### **BAKERS**

Selling cupcakes on R.S.P.C.A Cupcake Day

# KIDS STUFF

R.S.P.C.A CUPCAKE DAY FUNDRAISER



**DESIGNERS** 

Posters to advertise Cupcake Day



LOUD AND CLEAR Invitations



The children at Mary Bailey House have participated in the annual R.S.P.C.A Cupcake Day Fundraiser for nine years now. It is an event that all the children across the three rooms have the opportunity to take part in, in various ways.

During the lead up to this event the Treefrog children are involved in discussions about why the fundraiser is held, how the money raised will help sick and injured animals and how we care for animals. These discussions are explored through pictures, brainstorming experiences, stories and drawings. The children also participate in the making of signs for display and making and decorating the cupcakes.

As always during this time, we observe the children demonstrating their developing empathy skills towards animals, their sense of empowerment and commitment in

contributing to this worthwhile cause and their willingness to be part of a team and work together on this project.

On the day, the children help to set up the cupcake table, along with posters, balloons, and all of the colourful cupcakes and of course wait eagerly for their families to come along to purchase a cupcake in exchange for a gold coin.



## BUSH TUCKER GARDEN

**THIS** year at Mary Bailey House we knew we wanted to take part in Planet Ark's Plant a Tree Day. But how?

Our children aged from one to five years had been keen environmentalists, caring for our worm farm, frog habitat and vegetable patch. We had also planted local native grevilleas and set up a dirt patch. So what kind of tree would suit our space and situation? After a long hard think we

decided to plant a bush tucker garden, which coincided with the introduction of the Mary Bailey House Aboriginal Reconciliation Action Plan.

The children were very excited and keen to be in alignment with the first custodians of our land. They helped plant a lemon myrtle tree, a midyan berry bush, wild current bush, a pepper bush and warrigal greens. They were curious

about each plant and there was discussion about fruits, cooking leaves and peppery dishes.

We had a great time connecting with nature and we now have a wonderful bush tucker garden decorated with a sea of hands for Aboriginal Children's week to help us remember our heritage and to learn from and respect those who walked before us.

#### **BOOK WEEK**

To start off Book Week we had a visit from our favourite storyteller, Sue Kersley.

Sue told a number of stories all starting with her drawing pictures using a magic brush. Some of the stories were 'The Magic Brush', 'A Pile of Clothes' and 'A Lion and a Mouse'. To continue with our interest in storytelling and our production of the 'Three Billy Goats Gruff' we performed our play for the Gecko and Billy children. The children showed great confidence

as they performed the play. We also had book character dress up day where we had both literary and fantasy characters come to visit for the day, including Tinkerbell, Superman, Spiderman, Elsa and Madeleine.

> Re-enacting 'Three Billy Goats Gruff'





# PYP ACTION

The Primary **Campus** of Santa Sabina College became an IB candidate school for the Primary Years Programme (PYP) at the commencement of the 2014 school year.

he attributes of the 'International Baccalaureate Learner Profile' resonate with College values service, learning, community and prayer.

The learner profile attributes enrich our college values, and this is beautifully depicted in the image of the College Veritas tree, which takes pride of place as you enter the Primary Campus.

#### **BRIEF OVERVIEW OF THE PROGRAMME**

The PYP is a curriculum framework where authentic links are made between subject areas to enrich each of the PYP themes:

- Who we are
- Where we are in place and
- How we express ourselves
- How the world works
- How we organise ourselves
- Sharing the planet Each of the themes is taught

**BELOW** 

The Veritas Tree with the PYP Student Learner Profile

every year, allowing students to build upon prior knowledge, concepts and skills, and so students are more readily able to make connections with their learning.

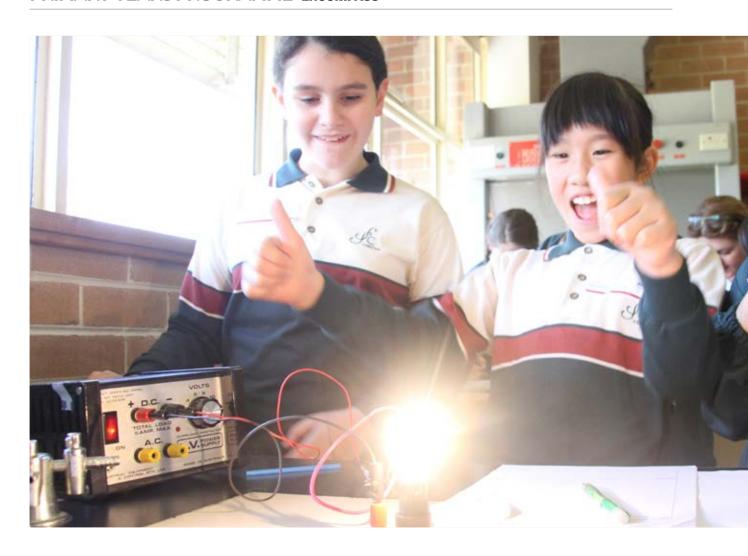
Furthermore the PYP framework is giving all parents, students and staff a common language to communicate our learning,

challenges, and discoveries.

The PYP has united us as a community of learners and we are energised as we engage in learning experiences that are relevant, challenging and significant to our lives.









## SNAPSHOTS FROM THE LEARNING SPACES

#### Kindergarten

Theme: How the world works Central Idea: All animals grow and change during their life cycles.

Students investigated the life cycles of different animals, with a focus on insects.

This unit of work was initiated by a field trip to the Imax Theatre, to view 'A Bug's Life'. Students enjoyed using a variety of multi-media forms including painting, constructing three-dimensional models and digital technology to depict features of insects and life cycles.

Kindergarten students also had the opportunity to work with Drama specialist staff from the Santa Sabina Drama Department on a weekly basis. During these sessions students learnt about and used a range of drama techniques to

enhance their understanding of living things.

We also used this unit of inquiry as a springboard for a Maths investigation, titled 'A carnival of centipedes'. We enjoyed exploring number,





77

The PYP is more than just an abstract concept; it's a tool that will help broaden my daughter's education, giving her depth of knowledge and exposing her to international ideas.

Carol - Parent





Mrs Emma McAulay PYP Coordinator

pattern, length, and space concepts in a real life context. We were awarded first place in the Maths Association of NSW for our Mathematical discoveries!

#### Year 5

Theme: How the world works Central idea: The choices of humans impact on the future of the universe.

The Year 5 students engaged in a 'reflective thinking routine', developing their metacognitive (thinking) skills to communicate their understanding of the central idea at the end of the unit.

Enjoy reading some of their reflections below and viewing some of their creations from

their learning walk.

Thinking Routine: 'I used to think...Now I know'

'I used to think that oil spills didn't affect the environment... Now I know through research that oil spills affect a lot of marine life, animals and many food chains'.

'I used to think that water was in abundance in every country... Now I know that in some countries water is very scarce and in third world countries some people (women) have to walk for hours to obtain this basic human need!'

'I used to think that stewardship had something to do with friendship...Now I know stewardship means humans have a role as global citizens to take responsibility to look after the environment and earth'.

#### **LEARNER PROFILE**

At Santa Sabina College, as learners we strive to be:

- Inquirers
- Knowledgeable
- Thinkers
- Communicators
- Principled
- Open-minded
- Caring
- Courageous
- Balanced
- Reflective

#### **COMMUNITY DAY**

'It's a small big world' was the theme for Community Day 2014. A celebration of our cultural diversity, our growing sense of international mindedness and our connection to the arts.

DELMONTE
2014



DANCING DOM'S PLOT Kindy students celebrating the start of their Santa Sabina journey.



here has been much
to celebrate at Del
Monte this year. The
many special events
and opportunities
that the students have been a
part of include Grandparents
Day, Community Day, Beyond

the Classroom, Literacy and Numeracy week events, Health Group and Safety group initiatives, busking, gala days, recitals and performances, just to name a few. The commitment and dedication of each and every member of this community has enabled the students to participate in these wonderful opportunities. ■

Mrs Sharon Portlock Head of Primary

**YEAR 5 LEARNING EXPO** 

Students in Year 5 showcased their human rights projects.



#### **GRANDPARENTS DAY**

Our special Grandparents and Grandfriends were welcomed to school with performances and classroom visits before enjoying morning tea together.

#### **SWIMMING CARNIVAL**

Great swimming and great spirit were on display at this year's carnival.



BETTER BUDDIES
Students buddy up and learn the values: caring for others, friendliness, respect, valuing difference, including others and responsibility.





#### **BEYOND THE CLASSROOM**

Students enjoyed participating in a range of learning experiences promoting creativity, curiosity, physical and social well-being.



LEFT
Cassandra Gibbs
presenting to
Years 6-12 during
Reconciliation Week



# CASSANDRA GIBBS

**We have been** priviledged this year to have Cassandra Gibbs, parent and Kamilaroi woman, take an active part in the life of the College.

assandra is well known to the Del Monte community both as a parent and for her work with students last year as artist in residence. During Reconciliation Week, Cassandra visited students from Mary Bailey House through to the Secondary Campus. Cassandra challenged us all to be people who walk with the power of two feet, like St Catherine of Siena – one step, to reflect on our current circumstances and the second step to act in response.

As a guest speaker at our Year 6-12 Assembly during Reconciliation Week, staff and students alike, could not help but be moved by Cassandra's honesty, passion, challenge and call to action. Those present will not forget that the future for all Australians, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal, requires us to work and walk together.

'Let us look back with courage; see the truth and speak it. Let us look around with compassion; see the cost and share it. Let us look forward with hope; see what can be and create it'.

Cassandra, with the assistance of Danielle Dent, a fellow Kamilaroi woman, and students, is currently transforming the new undercroft area 'Warami' on the Primary Campus. By skillfully connecting the ancient traditions of storytelling and art through symbol and colour, she has brought the area to life. Cassandra has enabled our students to have an insight into the richness of Aboriginal culture to enable them to value diversity in Australia.

Cassandra and students making over Warami



# PREAR PARENTS

#### Commencing Term two 2015.

Located on the Primary School Campus, Santa Sabina Prep is designed for pre-kindergarten children.

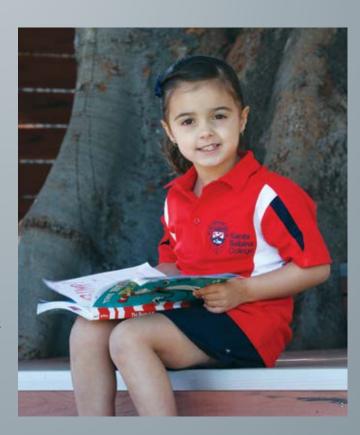
rep Year children will engage in rich, holistic learning experiences that address Early Stage One Learning Outcomes. As a candidate school for the International Baccalaureate Primary Years Programme (PYP), our approach to early education is inquiry-based and child centred. The cognitive, social, emotional, physical and spiritual development of each child will be supported.

#### THE BEST PLACE TO START

Prep children will engage in early stage 1 learning experiences in reading, writing and mathematics. With a sound introduction to fundamental literacy and numeracy, our Prep students will be prepared for school with a solid foundation and love of learning. Hands on exploration and experiences across several disciplines will enable children to become independent learners with global awareness.

#### **SPECIALIST SERVICES**

Children will explore, investigate and play in a nurturing environment. They will experience specialist lessons in Music and Physical Education and have access to the College's onsite Specialist Services in Occupational Therapy and Speech Therapy. Expert educators will closely observe individual children's strengths and needs, and work in partnership with parents to support each child.



**Using MaKey MaKey** 



Using electronic textiles to simulate wearable technology



# MAKEY

Middle School students participated energetically in our Maker Day. The focus of the day was to provide the students with the opportunity to make, tinker and engineer with digital technologies. Students worked with soft circuits electronic textiles, "MaKey MaKey" hardware invention kits or software programming with Scratch or Turtle Art. Mrs Thomas, Kate Coyne, Kristen Hassarati and Rafqa Touma then presented at the International Conference on Creativity & Academic Excellence at Knox Grammar School on this innovative learning experience.



## HOMEWORK HELP

The introduction of Year 10 student leaders has provided a positive and supportive partnership between twelve outstanding Year 10 leaders and Middle School. Throughout the year they have promoted House spirit with weekly meetings that encourage inclusion, fitness and fun.

"Through the Homework help program, I have been given the opportunity to interact with younger peers in a way that goes beyond an academic level. It progressed to the point where we have developed a strong relationship".

Anna-Carissa Burton Year 10.



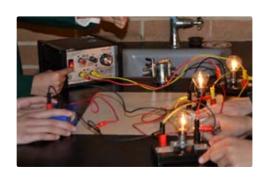
### YEAR 6

#### **SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY**

**YEAR 6** Students have been exploring how electricity works by conducting investigations in the Science laboratory and further developing their understanding by researching in the library. Students then used their learning, problem solving skills and creative thinking to create an actual prototype for a Light Up Bracelet, which included a circuit diagram and explanation of how it works. One class even created an "electricity dance" which was then taught to a number of K-12 staff at the College Dinner.



ABOVE & BELOW Year 6 Science students exploring electricity



#### STUDENT ACTION TEAMS



The Media and Communication
Team working collaboratively on data collection to develop parent resources on the advantages and disadvantages of popular social media apps.

The Santa Speaks
Team plan, prepare
and present student
led workshops on an
issue that matters
most to them. This
Term it has been
developing and
maintaining healthy
friendship groups.



## **YEAR 8 SCIENCE**

Year 8 Science has been learning about energy.

hey have tapped into the different forms of energy such as kinetic, sound, light, gravitational and potential energy. This has enabled the students to become more aware of what is around them and to be able to relate their learning to their everyday lives and their understanding of how things work.

The students have conducted many experiments in order to deepen their knowledge of the topic and develop skills that help them identify and discuss their findings through written and physical forms.

To learn about electrical energy, students were given an assignment that required them to design and produce an electronic game board of any kind. This tested their knowledge and ability to problem solve while pushing them to think outside the box in order to create a game that has the potential to light up and make sounds but most importantly has the ability to entertain and challenge the player.

Students had three options as the theme of their game boards; skills tester, electric picture match or an electronic game of our own design. Regardless

#### **ABOVE**

Mrs Metira and students playing the 'Brain game' of what the theme was, the students were all required to investigate the way electrical energy functions and from there use their knowledge to create the game.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to take their learning to the next step and apply all they have learnt into a project of their own.

There was great excitement especially in showcasing their board games and sharing them with the class.

# BELOW Match the celebrity to the name





## PROJECT BASED LEARNING

**PROJECT** Based Learning engages students in challenging and meaningful inquiry within a 'real world' context. It embeds students at the core of learning and exposes them to the development of skills such as critical thinking, communication and collaboration. It has been central

to teaching and learning in Year 10 PDHPE this year. Students were presented with a question, "How will you change the health behaviours and attitudes of the Santa Sabina community?", students then worked towards implementing health initiatives.

They included: erecting marquees and handing out sunscreen to encourage sun safety, the creation of a relaxation room to counter anxiety, golden tickets in the canteen to encourage healthy eating and the development of an After-Hours Physical Activity program for Del Monte.





# **COMMON GROUND**

During the July holidays, six students attended Common Ground.

#### DOMINICAN

students from around Australia gathered in Adelaide to build connections and share heritage and the Dominican story. St Dominic's life centred around the gospels and sharing with others the knowledge of God's love. We were reminded that we have the power of

our own two feet, our two hands, our eyes, ears, and most importantly our voices. We were prompted to be people who contemplate and question what is going on around us in the world, and to take positive action accordingly.

#### Adrielle Touma Year 12 & Maths Teacher Gordana Prodanovic

# EXT 2 MATHS



Mathematics has had great student participation this year. Adrielle Touma, Year 12 student, says "studying Extension 2 has been a challenging

**EXTENSION** 2

experience for me, something I never thought I could do but through dedication and hard work it has been my best ranked subjected". Adrielle believes

the strategies used in learning complex mathematics develops skills that assist with all other subject disciplines.



**FIRENZE** Overlooking Duomo in Florence

**ROMA**Group shot in front of the Colosseum





Twenty-two students and their teachers set out on an adventure to Italy in April to practise their language skills and immerse themselves in the rich Italian culture.

ouching down in Rome, the Italian adventure began with exploring the legendary ruins of ancient Rome, the Colosseum, the Vatican, Santa Sabina Basilica, the Spanish steps and the Trevi Fountain. Participating in daily language classes whilst in Rome, the students built confidence in their speaking skills, improved their listening skills, and were provided with a great opportunity to

#### **ENCOMPASS** LANGUAGES



FONTANA DI TREVI Throwing coins in the Trevi Fountain

apply language skills in real life situations. Easter was celebrated in Florence, allowing the students a chance to experience the Duomo amidst the Easter Parade. Whilst travelling in Florence the students had day trips to Pisa, Siena, and Venice. In Siena, the students visited the Cathedral of St. Catherine and learnt about her life, dedication and contribution to the Dominican story as well as bumping into Dr. Herrett on her Dominican

Pilgrimage. Venice saw gondola rides on the Grand Canal and a visit to Murano as well as a detour to the city of Verona, the home of Romeo and Juliet.

The tour stopped at Lake Como before reaching the final destination, Milan. Here the students visited La Galleria and the Duomo di Milano.

Students brought back with them a greater appreciation for history, a deeper understanding of the Italian culture and the confidence to throw themselves in the deep end and practise the Italian language whenever they can.

PONTE VECCHIO Florence's oldest bridge



# SALVE SALVE SALVE SALVE SONICHIWA BONJOUR

The Languages Department has a strong history at Santa Sabina College.

Students have the opportunity to study French, Italian, Japanese and Latin and approximately 50% of our students take this challenge through to the HSC.

Learning a language has many benefits particularly promoting a deeper understanding of other cultures. Language learning promotes intellectual development, cognitive flexibility, boosts memory, improves attention, empathy and the ability to multi-task, to name a few.

Learning a language involves pushing yourself out of your comfort zone and developing the ability to express yourself in different contexts.

HSC results in languages at Santa have been particularly impressive, with many top 10 places in the State in Italian, French and Japanese over the past 10 years. The most recent first positions were in Italian Extension in 2013, French Beginners in 2012 and Japanese Beginners in 2010.

Our wonderful staff instil in students the passion and dedication required to pursue language learning.









#### **LYDIA BENTIVOGLIO**

"My language teaching career has included 11 years at Santa Sabina College and an unnatural fascination for grammar".

#### **RITA GUERRERA**

"I'm passionate about the Italian language and all things Italian. I love teaching Italian here at Santa Sabina and instilling that passion in the students whom I teach".

## SONIA RAMUNDI-DI BELLA

"Ancora imparo" Michelangelo age 87 1562 "I'm still learning".

**STEPHANIE TITA** 

"I teach French and I live by the motto *Vive la différence*".









#### **STELLA HOLMES**

"As a native speaker of French & Italian I have been teaching languages for 15 years. With English as my third language I am pleased to say Vive la différence".

#### **PAUL ARKELL**

"I have led 8 student trips to Japan and will lead the ninth in December this year".

#### **KYOKO KUSUMOTO**

"Language learning is fun! Especially Japanese!".

#### **SHIRIN BORTHWICK**

"I hold an MPhil in Classics from Cambridge University and think Harry Potter is best when read in Latin".



# LANDS OF DOMINIC

**I was privileged to** participate in the 'Lands of Dominic' pilgrimage earlier this year, along with fellow Dominicans - Sisters, Principals, Staff, and Board members- from Eastern Australia, South Australia and the Solomon Islands.

s we followed Dominic's footsteps from Spain, across Southern France, and then to Italy, the Dominican communities that we met, as well as the places, buildings, artefacts, helped animate the story of Dominic and his followers.

There were many highlights of the pilgrimage but some sites held special significance. We spent three days in Caleruega, the birthplace of Dominic in the 1170s. It is a small village situated in the south of the province of Burgos, Spain, and





LEFT
Statue of Dominic in the town square

in some ways – apart from the internet access – seems remarkably unchanged. Caleruega is a place of shifting horizons, on a hill surrounded by a plain. On a clear day the mountains are visible in

#### BELOW

The plaque in Gumiel d'Izan commemorates the time Dominic spent there, learning from his uncle who was parish priest of the village



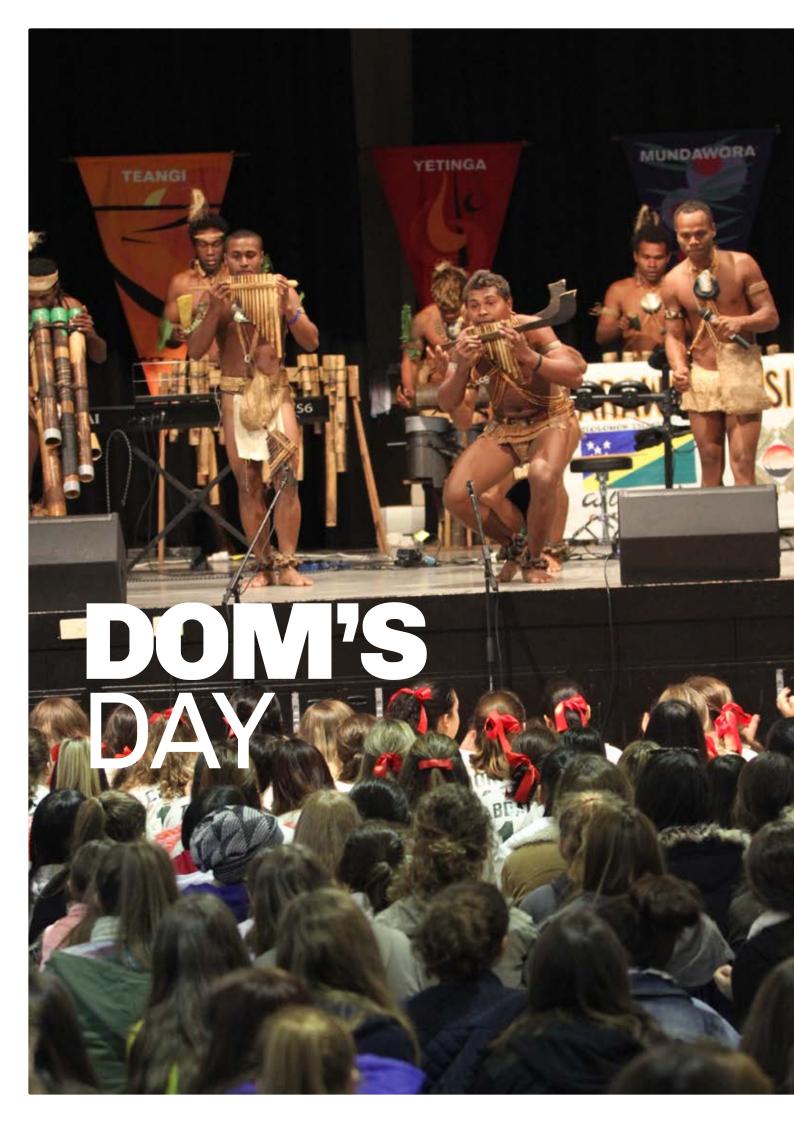
the distance, but often they disappear and the prospect is limitless. Approximately 800 years after Dominic's birth that vista still inspires contemplation about the world and our place in it.

The little village of Prouille in Southern France where since 2003 an international community of Dominican nuns live represents so much of the Dominican story. It was at Prouille that Dominic established his base when in 1206 Dominic's first group of female followers gathered there in a small church. Between 1214 and 1216 Dominic established a house at Toulouse in France for his male followers. The Pope recognised Dominic's new group as the Order of Preachers (OP).

We were very lucky to have the opportunity to meet with Sister Barbara Beaumont OP at Prouille. Sr Barbara lectures internationally and writes about Dominican history and spirituality. She writes that 'it is surely not an exaggeration to suggest that Prouille is not just the first fruits of the Order, insofar as it was the site of its first religious community, but rather that the Holy Preaching laid the foundations for what has been called – and indeed called for the centuries – the Dominican family' (Sr Barbara Beaumont OP, The Coming of the Preachers, 2008).

From France we travelled to Italy - Bologna (where Dominic died in 1221), Florence, Siena and finally Rome, to the Vatican and to the basilica of Santa Sabina where we celebrated

The pilgrimage told the story of Dominic anew for me. He was not someone interested in personal fame, but someone passionately concerned for others – particularly the excluded. He spoke out against the injustices and hypocrisy of the powerful, and built a community that was inclusive and hopeful. Dominic of course echoed the message of Jesus. Dominic was telling Jesus' story anew – not a different story but a story for different times.





# Our story acknowledges change over time for our students and for the College as a whole.

e reflected on the changes

experienced by a student from the time of arriving at the College as a Mary Bailey House or Kindergarten student, through to completing Year 12 and taking their place in the world. This was mirrored by the idea that Dominic gained so much of his learning with a bible in one hand and a newspaper in the other and he was a person who responded to the needs he saw in his time and place. Now, we might gain our daily news in electronic form, but the Gospel values remain at the centre of what we do and how we do it. The beautiful banners which were

hung in the school (once the rain stopped), were made by the Del Monte students to reflect this concept... bible, newspaper and iPad. Our story will continue to unfold in the years ahead through the media we are used to and some we are yet to know, and we look forward to celebrating that story as we approach the 125 year milestone in 2019.



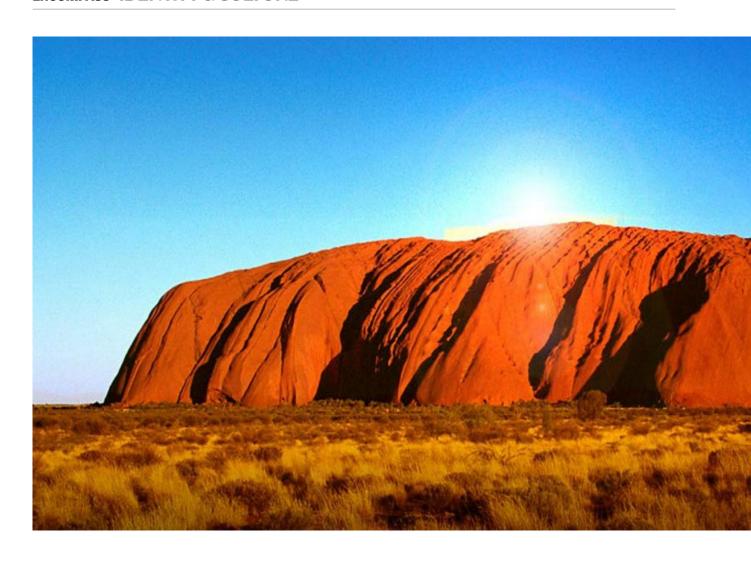












# CENTRAL AUSTRALIA IMMERSION

During the Term two holidays, fifteen Year 9 and 10 students journeyed with three teachers to Uluru and a remote part of Australia, Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatajara (APY) Lands as part of the Central Australia Immersion. e went to listen, to learn, to share, to grow, to sit with and walk beside Anangu people and simply, to be more informed about the ancient culture of the land upon which we live each day.

We spent time with Anangu Elders and communities who shared their land, their stories and their culture with us. The generous hearts and spirits of our Anangu hosts allowed each of us to be part of this land's sacred ceremonies or *inma*.







We listened, danced and 'sang the land alive' through learning about the songlines that connect lore, culture and land.



s our connection with the Anangu people grew, we listened more intently, we observed with more detail, we became more comfortable with the silence of the desert and each person began to hear and walk to the beat of this ancient land.

We experienced first hand the contrasts and challenges of this beautiful land. Minus three degree temperatures meant waking to solidly frozen water bottles and the sound of cracking ice as we unzipped swags. Warm, sunny days unfolded with wide and vivid blue skies and nights spent gazing at more stars than we could ever have imagined.

We gathered around fires and began to ask more questions than we could answer. As our knowledge grew, we soon learnt that the answers were not easy; nor were they easy to listen to sometimes; or indeed we wondered if answers were possible at all. However, we were prepared to ask the hard questions... to seek the truth.











# SCHOOLS THAT SING

**YOUNG** choristers came together at City Recital Hall Angel Place on 9 September to perform musical masterpieces in an uplifting, inspirational performance.

It was a performance characterised by joy, diversity, and creativity. It demonstrated the power of professional and collegial partnerships to achieve something greater than could be done otherwise. The engagement of staff and students from St Aloysius' College, St Mary's Cathedral College, as well as the Endeavour Harmony Chorus, Musica Viva, B'Tutta Percussion Ensemble and other professional musicians, allowed a diversity of repertoire, and standard of performance that was uplifting and inspiring.







**Held at Curzon Hall,** the College Dinner was a celebration of 120 years of Domincian education at Santa Sabina College.

ith over 350 people, including Sister Judith Lawson OP, Board members, families and staff present, our music students entertained the gathering guests with a rotation of three ensembles: strings, brass, and the very first performance from the students enrolled in Taiko drumming. As the entrée was served, the

contemporary choir sang for us, and throughout the night we viewed highlight videos of our students from across the College. It was also a chance to mark our 120th year with a formal cake-cutting ceremony. The P&F once again demonstrated their remarkable organisational skills, generosity and commitment to the College.













## SANTA UNDER THE STARS

### Our inaugral Santa Under the Stars

movie night demonstrated the generosity of our P&F. The evening showcased our student film makers, a spectacular light show on our heritage buildings, and an open air cinema screening of "Frozen". It was a wonderful family experience.









# SPORT Championships in Learlier this year. Championships attrover 5,000 da ATEAR INGELIE

### **EMILY HARMON, IRISH DANCING**

Congratulations to **Emily Harmon in Year** 10 who competed in the World Irish Dancing Championships in London earlier this year. These Championships attracted over 5,000 dancers.

### **BADMINTON**

Santa has been very lucky for the last two years to be invited by SBA (Sydney Badminton Association) to take part in an Interschools Gala Day they hold at SOPAC Badminton Sports Hall in June. At this event, for both years, Santa has been awarded the the overall tournaments "Sportsmanship Award".



igh levels of engagement and commitment from our students and their families continue to stem from our 'sport for all' approach which encourages all students to get involved regardless of their perceived ability or fitness. A focus on fun, friendship and development make sporting

activities appealing to students; beginner to elite. Some team highlights celebrated include our youngest soccer players scoring their first goal; making it to Nationals in Aerobics; winning the CGSSSA Hockey & Dance Championships; the U10 boys & U12 girls gold medal performances at the NSWCPS Netball Championships; being the top Volleyball school in NSW and the crazy lunchtime

Badminton competitions. We also celebrated some outstanding individual achievements leading to international competition opportunities for Mikaela Stevens; Volleyball, Doey Choi; Golf, Emily Harmon; Irish Dance, Tori Scanlon; Hockey, Lauren Donnellan: Baseball.

Sue Wells **Director of Sport** 

### **JUNIOR AEROBICS**

Year 8 Aerobic Team "Inescapable" (Grace Mavrelis, Alicia Bates and Kaitlan Mehri) competed in the National FISAF Future Champions Cup wining Gold in the Junior Sports Aerobics Team Category.



DOEY CHOI, GOLF
Doey Choi Year 9, has continued her stellar
performances this year representing Australia at the
Callaway World Junior Championships in San Diego
USA on the Torrey Pines course. This followed her
success at the NSW All School Golf Championships
which completed a remarkable treble for Doey. She
won the NSWCCC Strokeplay Championships, the NSW
All Schools Strokeplay Championships as well as the
NSW All Schools Matchplay title.

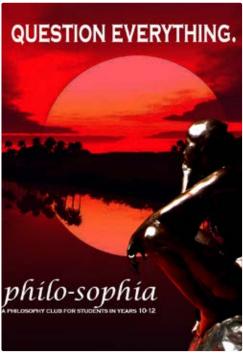
Santa Sabina College are currently the number one All Girls School in Australia for Volleyball. More than 40% of the NSW State Representative Team are made up of Santa Sabina players. Santa Sabina are the current Junior State League Champions.
Mikaela Stevens Year 10 represented Australia at the Thailand Junior Championships.



### LAUREN DONNELLAN, BASEBALL

Congratulations to Lauren Donellan who was selected in the U18 Australian Women's Baseball Team. Lauren plays catcher/outfield, and her team finished third overall in the Pheonix Cup in Hong Kong earlier this year.



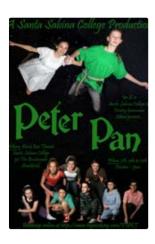


### LEFT Titration Cl

Titration Club & Philo-sophia: Philosophy Club

### **BELOW**

Secondary drama students production of Peter Pan



# CO-CURRICULAR PROGRAMS

The College's Co-curricular program

comprises a large part of what distinguishes a school such as Santa Sabina.

he Santa Sabina ethos of educating the whole person is reflected in the vast array of co-curricular activities. These activities encompass the physical, cultural, spiritual and mental development of a young person in the Dominican tradition.

From Student Leadership to student publications, orchestra,

debating teams to competitive sport, co-curricular activities have long been recognised as a way for students to indulge a passion, try a new skill, learn and develop leadership, social and organisational skills and to provide service to the College and its community.

Students have an opportunity to try a variety of activities while discovering their unique passions and interests. These can take place at any time – before school, lunchtime, after school, weekends.

The depth of the co-curricular program is highlighted by the range of opportunities available to students.

Activities now include Chess, Coding, Ancient languages, Creative Writing, Maths clubs, Homework Help, Environment Committee and Titration to name a few.



ABOVE & BELOW Japanese Anime Club / Photography Club

water beauty Fashion edited action

# AROUND THE PLOT



Dominican Ex-Students' Association

# BEYOND THE HSC

Ex-student mentors returned to the College to share with current senior students.

# FIVE DOMINICAN PRINCIPALS

Celebrating 120 years with memories from the past Dominican Principals.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW

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



# Celebrating 120 years



### PRESIDENT'S REPORT

ABOVE
Year 12 Picnic

In 2014 we have witnessed the generosity of spirit of our Alumni, who continue to give back with enthusiasm and dedication.

he success of the 2014 Beyond the HSC Careers Networking Night led to the creation of the new mentoring program. Ex-Students' online via the College website will now enable you to search for colleagues and friends and to explore, join and establish social and professional networks. We encourage our Alumni community to register on the site to take advantage of this wonderful resource.

A mentor's job is to teach a mentee through instructing, coaching, modeling, advising, and telling stories about the mentor's own experiences in business. A mentor/mentee relationship can be formal or

informal. It can last a few hours, several weeks, or a few years.

We hope to create a culture of mentorship within the Santa Sabina College community by connecting students to Alumni in long term, one-toone mentoring relationships for career guidance, advice and advocacy. Through the extensive experience of our Alumni, the online program helps students to develop a deeper understanding of their career goals and gain insights into the professional world. The program provides Alumni with a personal and active way to reconnect with Santa Sabina.

We welcomed the current Year 12 students into the ex-student community at the annual Year Picnic 12 picnic, we promoted the programs provided to Alumni to stay actively connected to the College.

The Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association is proud to play an integral role in the advancement of our College. These accomplishments are made possible by the support of Committee members, alumni volunteers, mentors and College families.

Peta Magee President Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association



Santa Sabina College

**DINNER TIME** 

**Stardust Entertainment** 

with several children at

Playgroup, April 2014

# **RHYME** TIME

ONCE A TERM FOR **BABIES & TODDLERS** 

College community, including current and future families, ex-students and our local parishioners enjoyed a Rhyme Time playgroup led by Maria Thompson.





# JTANTE

THE 90th Annual Ex-Students' Association Debutante Ball was held at the Novotel, Sydney Olympic Park on Saturday 29 March 2014. Ten Debutantes

were presented to Ex-Student and internationally acclaimed Opera Singer, Ms Amelia Farrugia. The students participated in a Debutante **Enrichment Program** 

which included workshops held by June Dally-Watkins, dance classes, high tea and a Dominican archives. It was a memorable experience for all involved.

### **PLAY GROUP**

Community families have enjoyed regular playgroups this year.

### THE JANE OF AZA

Playgroup is an opportunity for our alumni community, future families and current families to come together in a welcoming and informal play environment.

Parents, grandparents and carers with children under 5 Years old have a chance to develop a network of support

in a welcoming environment. Morning tea and children's entertainment is provided free of charge. Playgroup is held quarterly on the Primary Campus.



### GOLDEN GIRLS & BOYS ENCOMPASS















# GOLDEN GIRLS & BOYS

### **REUNION**

The annual Golden Girls & Boys Reunion was held at the College on Friday May 16 to celebrate our ex-students from the Class of 1964 and before.

**OVER** 200 old girls and boys shared mass and high tea together and reminisced about school days.

Golden Girls & Boys Mass in the Santa Sabina Chapel.

Members of Class of 1952

Maura Wilcox, ('47), Sr Margaret Gannon ('46) & Hilary Wilcox ('49).

(4) Class of 1964

Members of Class of 1954

Members of Class of 1964

7 Sr Phillipa Fennell OP, Class of 1951 reminiscing on old days.



### LEFT

Dr Adriana Verges, Professor Chris Walker, Rina Bernabei, Associate Professor James Curran and Professor Mary Spongberg

### **BELOW**

Students speaking to university representatives



# BEYOND THE HSC

**With over 98%** of Santa Sabina College students going on to tertiary education, the evening was an insight into life after the HSC.

he paths beyond the HSC were made clearer for students in Years 10-12 after the annual "Beyond the HSC" Careers Networking Evening held at the College in May. Over 250 students and their parents began the evening participating in a Q&A session. A panel of University experts including; Dr Chris Walker from UNSW, Professor Mary Spongberg from UTS,

Rina Bernabei from UNSW, Associate Professor James Curran from Sydney University and Dr Adriana Verges from UNSW fielded questions from the enthusiastic crowd ranging from how to prepare for the first weeks of University to effective use of student support networks. Students gained valuable insights into how to manage their time at University as well as independent learning techniques.

### **EX-STUDENT MENTORING**

After this session, students and parents moved to the library where over 40 ex-student mentors from a range of professions including finance, communications, defence, engineering, design, health and law gave advice about their chosen careers. Representatives from major Universities were also present to provide upto-date course and admission information.

President of the Ex-Students' Association, Peta Magee, said "the evening was a wonderful opportunity for the students to gather as much information about life beyond the HSC. The generous commitment from our ex-students to give their time and experience is a strong feature of our wonderful alumni community". The mentors will continue to be available to the students as they complete their final years of schooling and assist them with possible career paths.

### BELOW

Ex-student mentors from the class of 1985





### ABUVE

The Solomon Sisters with handmade necklaces

# **EX-STUDENT FELLOWSHIP**

Extract from the speech given to the Dominican Sisters by ex-student Anna McHugh who won a fellowship to the Solomon Islands

Holy family parish Passion Play, at Easter

he Sisters and the parishioners at Holy Family parish were extremely happy to receive a visitor in a time of some disorder and disaster. They are so keenly aware that international visitors see only the dramatic side of the Solomons. They rarely get airplay unless there's a war, tsunami, industrial depredations, or extreme poverty. So my visit, during the mess and mud, the epic pot-holes, and the long queues seemed to them to show a good faith of which I was almost ashamed.

They are one of our nearest neighbours, and yet we barely know them. We overlook these crumbs of islands in the Pacific for richer, safer, more consistent Asia and in doing this, we deny Australia's place as a Pacific nation, and we lose out on the human wealth that lies there.

The Dominican Sisters in the Solomon Islands face many challenges: they live in a difficult place, and in difficult times. They must match the western world's tomorrow but have a background of the Pacific today. The Solomons were fought for in 1942 and are still worth fighting for. But this must take the form of sharing skills and knowledge in practical and meaningful ways, giving each other genuine opportunities, and showing patience and hope in the face of storms.





hose original Sisters who left their homes in Kingstown Ireland in 1863, and travelled to the unknown land of Australia, settling first in Maitland and then arriving in Strathfield, brought with them determination, amazing foresight and the ability to adapt to their environment - attributes that have been displayed in the leadership of the Sisters throughout the history of the College.

### SR DIANA WOODS 1963-1967 & 1973

Sr. Diana Woods was the first person to be called Principal of Santa Sabina. A former student of the College (1940 - 1949), she was appointed in 1962 to a role known then as Directress of Studies. At that time leadership in the school was a shared responsibility. The Prioress made decisions about finance and Boarding Students while the Directress of Studies was responsible for matters concerning curriculum and students' studies generally. With the introduction of the Wyndham Reforms in 1963, the face of education changed dramatically. The School Certificate and the Higher School Certificate examinations replaced the Intermediate and Leaving Certificates, secondary education was spread over 6 rather than 5 years and the curriculum broadened significantly, as did the need for better facilities. The old model of shared leadership was no longer adequate to deal with the new challenges. At a Secondary Schools Conference in 1964 the decision was made to define more clearly and to separate the roles of Prioress and Directress of Studies. Sr Diana was given the title of Principal and school leadership was increasingly concentrated in her hands.

Sr Diana was faced with implementing the massive changes of the Wyndham reforms. Additional classrooms, facilities and staff were required to meet the demands of the new rigorous curriculum. The Centenary Block, named in honour of 100 years since the Dominican Sisters arrived in New South Wales, offered eight new classrooms, science laboratories, and forty new study bedrooms for senior boarders. The Wyndham reforms also had implications for pastoral care and in 1963 "the provision of a new method of pastoral care to ensure that no student felt 'lost' was introduced". A student would take at least two classes each day with the same classes and attend Homeroom.

Legacies of Sr Diana's leadership remain in various forms around the College. The VERITAS Magazine, the College's Yearbook first published in 1967 still continues today. The editorial of the first edition states "the reflection of a year in the life of the school, should increase rather than lessen in value with the passing of time, as do the memories of all things important to us. It

is hoped that the production of this magazine...will...help to give the school a greater awareness and appreciation of itself as a living interacting group – as a family". (VERITAS 1967). Student Honour Boards also first appeared in 1967 and these still hang with pride in the College Hall today.

### SR ANNE BANFIELD 1968-1970

The Wyndham reforms had implications during Sr Anne's leadership at the end of the 1960s. Enrolments increased, from 570 in 1962 to over 700 by the beginning of the 1970s. With these increasing

BELOW Sr Anne Banfield (Sr M. Joseph)



BELOW Sr Diana Woods (Sr M. Julie)



### THREE PRINCIPALS OF SANTA SABINA COLLEGE HAVE ALSO BEEN SCHOOL CAPTAIN:

- SR DIANA WOODS IN 1948 AND 1949
- SR JUDITH LAWSON IN 1961
- DR MAREE HERRETT IN 1971

 $\Rightarrow$ 

enrolments and more families being a part of the community, Sr Anne looked for ways to increase the partnership between the College and parents.

There was a need to communicate with parents more effectively and so the Santagram newsletter began in 1968. This became a vital communication mechanism with parents. Starting off as a bi-monthly publication it grew to a weekly newsletter that continued for 34 years.

The partnership with parents was also highlighted through the support of the Parents & Friends Association (P&F). The P&F continued to be a wonderful part of the Santa Sabina community and during Sr Anne's time as Principal and it assisted with many activities.

### **SR MARY BRITT** 1971-1972

Sr Mary Britt was Principal during a time when society was encouraging young people to assert their rights and self-expression. Challenges were still being faced by the educational changes of the Wyndham reforms. The recommendations of Vatican II meant that there was a greater emphasis on freedom for the Sisters and the students. Her leadership was characterised by the social changes occurring in society and although it was a difficult and turbulent time for the Sisters, the students and society as a whole, student leadership developed and the students gained a greater voice within the school.

With this rapid social change student voice developed and leadership opportunities increased. Students became more discerning and activist response to the issues of the



day and looked for ways in which they could positively change their world. Sr Mary's open door policy with the Student Leaders at the time meant they would regularly visit her requesting improvements be made around the grounds as well as demanding to join the moratorium happening in Sydney during the Vietnam War - a contentious issue for society and the Santa Sabina students. It was a challenging time in history and the Sisters needed to find new ways to keep the students engaged with the changing nature of society at the time. This was achieved largely through student involvement.

### SR ROSEMARY LEWINS 1980-1986

Relationships between the various stakeholders of the College were an important aspect of the 1980s and during Sr Rosemary Lewins' leadership there was collegiality between students, staff and parents.

The 1980s was a time of growth in the staff at Santa Sabina. The introduction of Drama as a subject as well as the expansion of the curriculum saw more specialist staff employed, including a careers advisor, bursar and student counsellor. Staff had a greater involvement in decision making at the College during this time

Sr Mary Britt
(Sr M. Reginald)

The Leadership and house system also expanded.
Four Houses were created,
Murangaroo (Blue), Lakkari
(Gold) Timbarra (Green) and
Kuramin (Red). There was
also an increase in leadership
positions with the Student
Representative Council (SRC)
expanding and Prefects gaining
greater responsibility.

The co-curricular offerings of the College also developed with more sports being offered, music opportunities increasing and the introduction of the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

It was also a time of technological change at the College with the first administration computer being acquired in 1980, and 15 Apple computers were purchased in 1983 for the students.

Sr Rosemary Lewins (Sr M. Campion)





### SR JUDITH LAWSON 1987-2007

Sr Judy began her long association with Santa Sabina as a boarder in 1957. Thirty years later, in 1987 she became Principal of the College, a position she would hold for twenty years. Her leadership was characterised by the growth and transformation of the College during this time.

In 1987 the College was incorporated as a public company with Patrick Quinlan as the first Chair of the Board. This development led to the creation of a College Mission which gave a vision for the future of the College.

Creating links with the International Dominican family was a distinguishing feature of Sr Judy's time as Principal. Travelling to South Africa in 1991, Sr Judy made a connection with the Dominican Sisters at Montebello High School in KwaZulu Natal. Each year Santa Sabina students raise money to provide uniforms and tuition for Montebello students to increase the opportunities for young women to gain an education, helping to break the cycle of poverty into which they were born.

### Sr Judith Lawson

In 1994, Sr Judy met Sr Sheila Flynn leading to the College's association with her Kopanang Project, an initiative of the Dominicans near Johannesburg, South Africa. Kopanang provides for women whose families have been impacted by the AIDS pandemic. These connections with the International Dominican Family led to the growth of the Social Justice Program at the College and immersion opportunities for students.

Expansion of the College was another feature of Sr Judy's time as Principal. The amalgamation of Santa Maria del Monte and Santa Sabina in 1996 was a challenging time for the College. Not only was there a physical divide between the Primary campus and the Secondary campus but there was a divide in the mindsets of staff, parents and students, Sr Judy worked hard on shifting that mindset and bringing the College together as a whole.

Sr Judy saw the need to broaden the learning opportunities for students and this led to campus expansion. In 1998, Tallong, an Outdoor Education Centre in the Southern Highlands was purchased allowing students to participate in outdoor programs, retreats and camps. In that same year, the College's early education centre Mary Bailey House, opened providing a staff and community childcare centre. In 2002, Middle School, for students in Years 6 and 7 was developed on the Secondary campus allowing for a supportive environment as students transition between primary and secondary schooling.

The Centenary in 1994 was a yearlong celebration culminating in a re-enactment of the Sisters' arrival to Strathfield in 1894. This year of celebration helped shape the identity of the College culture and allowed the community to look back with gratitude and look forward to the future with great optimism and hope.

The introduction of the first lav Principal in 2008 marked the end of 114 years of Dominican Sisters taking leadership of the College however, the values of the founding Sisters, and the influence of the current community of Sisters, continue. The Sisters still have a very active interest in the College through governance. The core Dominican values that underpin the College's Mission ensure that Santa Sabina College continues to be a Catholic Dominican School educating students to be discerning scholars, seekers of truth and advocates of justice.



Judith Lawson crowning St Dominic as School Captain





Sr Margaret Gannon centre with her fellow boarders

Sr Margaret Gannon with Year 12 students

Sr Claire Quinn with students at morning tea



# REVIVING A DOMINICAN DOMINICAN

### On a warm afternoon

in 2008, Sr Margaret Gannon OP was enjoying some quiet time sitting on a garden bench in the College grounds, looking towards the cloisters.



ABOVE

Sisters and students prayed this reflection together



ABOVE
Sr Barbara Negline
and Sr Judy Lawson

aving lived onsite in the Dominican community at Santa Casa since 1999 and with the introduction of the first lay Principal, Sr Margaret began to wonder how the Dominican Sisters could maintain a connection with the students of Santa Sabina.

Her mind wandered to her time as a student of the College. The

### 76

# You have provided us with a sense of comfort and community and we thank you for praying with us.

Sarah Valente School Captain

7,

year was 1946 and a 16 year old Margaret was excitedly finishing her studies and preparing herself for University and life beyond the Santa Sabina gates.

As was customary in 1946, the students completing the leaving certificate were assigned a Sister who would pray for them during their studies. There were 36 students including boarders and day girls and coincidentally 36 Sisters within the community. During Term three there was much excitement and anticipation as names were placed in a hat and Sisters assigned to students.

Sr Margaret got "the pick of the bunch" Mother Mary Concepta, Prioress General. Sr Margaret fondly remembers Mother Mary Concepta's thick Irish accent, the full habit she wore and the meetings they had in the lead up to her final examinations. "I'm praying for you to do well in your studies and also praying for you to become a Dominican Sister," Mother

Mary Concepta would say. Sr Margaret matriculated and went on to Sydney University to begin a Pharmacy Degree before entering the Covent as a 18 year old.

In 2008 Sr Margaret Gannon, with the assistance of the then Year 12 Coordinator, Mrs Irene Holt, revived the tradition of the Sisters praying for the Year 12 students and this has been continued by Kathryn Mckee an ex-student, and now the College's Careers Advisor.

In 2014, the 130 students in Year 12 were prayed for by 33 Sisters within the Community. Each Sister was assigned 3 or 4 students and they enjoyed meetings and catch ups, culminating in a lovely morning tea where gifts, cards and warm embraces were exchanged.

The tradition is a special one and a way in which the Sisters have remained involved with and relevant to the current students of Santa Sabina.





# WHERE ARE THEY NOW



### Amanda Ho Class of 2004

Amanda worked as the video journalist in Glasgow for Fairfax Media for the recent Commonwealth Games. She is based with the Sydney Morning Herald and this was her first overseas work assignment. Her role in Glasgow was to produce videos about the Games and so she filmed, edited and reported to camera and also wrote stories for online and the paper. Amanda concentrated on news from the Games, which included waiting outside court for the weightlifter arrested for headbutting another athlete, to interviewing the Australian medal winners at the end of each day.

### Laura Musolino Class of 2005

Laura Musolino's love for dance and performance led her to establish a local dance school in Strathfield. From Within Performing Arts Academy located in the Strathfield Uniting Church Hall on Carrington Avenue, has been running successfully for 5 years. Laura believes that performance is unique to each individual and therefore the school offers a wide range of classes to allow students to express themselves uniquely. Classes include Tiny Tots, Classical Ballet, Tap, Jazz, Contemporary, Hip Hop, Musical Theatre, Troupes,

Speech & Drama + More! The school perform at various events including the Burwood Festival and the Australian Teachers of Dancing (ATOD) competitions.



### **Jennifer Light** Class of 2010

Jennifer Light was the President of the Sydney University Student Representative Council for 2014.

### Anita Bezjak Class of 1974

When Anita completed her HSC she wanted to go to ANU to do Asian Studies but ended up at Sydney Uni studying French, which she had studied at Santa. Anita and her husband left Australia for Tokyo in 1981, where she finally started studying Japanese. After several years there and then in Italy, she was employed by the Japanese government as one of their International Relations Officers. After that intense cultural immersion she returned to Australia and her Japanese language skills helped her land a position with a TV show called Beyond 2000, researching Japanese science and technology innovations.

Anita went on to be Amanda Keller's producer and then to work on many different shows, researching, writing and producing. She is still with the same company, Beyond Productions, and now heads up program development, a position which has allowed her to work and live in the USA. Today sadly, her Japanese is limited to reading a sushi menu. She lives in Clovelly in Sydney with her husband, their 21 year old son and the family black Labrador.



### **Annabel Brown** Class of 2001

Annabel is the Social Media Manager for the Coca-Cola Company in the South Pacific region. She leads the Social Centre that is responsible for managing fourteen social media communities across Facebook, Twitter and Instagram. Annabel completed a Bachelor of Communications, majoring in Public Relations at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst.



### Jennifer Macklin **Class of 1985**

Jennifer Macklin, a Lieutenant Commander with the Royal Australian Navy was recruited in 2013 to establish the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, with her first priority being the implementation of the cultural reform recommendations arising from the Review into the Treatment of Women in the ADF. She has also been developing the Navy's first Diversity and Inclusion Strategy which will provide the blueprint for the Navy's reform effort over the next five years in this critical area. Her role will also take on an operational element when she deploys to Afghanistan in January 2015 to take on a (NATO) Gender Field Advisor position as part of the International Assistance Force.



### **Maria Gerace** class of 1990

Maria is a lawyer and specialist Court advocate. She practises in the areas of criminal law, professional negligence, inquiries and inquests. In the past few months she has appeared for several witnesses giving evidence before the Royal Commission into Institutional Responses to Child Sexual Abuse.

### **Anika Lalic** Class of 2005

Anika is currently working as the Elite Athlete Program Coordinator at Sydney Uni Sport & Fitness. Her role consists of assisting elite student athletes in their concurrent pursuit of sporting and academic excellence. She works with athletes from a state level all the way through to national representatives across approximately 40 sports. Anika's responsibilities include athlete welfare, fostering relationships between athletes and their faculties, coaches, club staff, sponsors and other stakeholders, assisting athletes in using a variety of services including dietician, psychology, recruitment, liaison, event planning and club development.



**Five Del Monte boys from Year 4 class of 2006** were elected in leadership roles at St Patrick's College Strathfield for 2014.
From left to right: Patrick Mulcahy, Xavier Rego, Daniel Calavassy, Daniel Caltabiano, Robert Webb.





### Dr Lauren McLellan nee Jay Class of 2003

Lauren studied Clinical Psychology at Macquarie University, and most recently graduated with PhD/Master of Clinical Psychology, She spoke on behalf of the graduating class at the recent Spring Graduation ceremony where she was awarded a post-graduate combined degree. She now works as a full-time researcher at Macquarie University.

### Christine Iacono Class of 2007

Christine recently graduated as Runner up for the Macquarie University Medal, in the Graduating class of 2012 in Bachelor of Law (awarded with Honours).

She was awarded First Class Honours and First Place for her Advanced Legal Research Project. In 2012 she received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Academic Achievement in Law; the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contributions to the Macquarie Law Community and the Macquarie Law School Prize for Advanced Legal Research Project.

Christine attributes her outstanding results to the research and essay writing skills she learnt as a student of Modern History at Santa Sabina College.





### Michael d'Arbon, Michael McGaw and Howard Brown

At last year's Melbourne Cup luncheon, Ex-Student committee member, John McCarthy, enjoyed hearing the tales and banter of the Del Monte ex-student trio. They relayed their memories of their first day at Del Monte, back in 1960 when Howard reported that it was Sr Mary Pauline who advised them, on their first day, to make friends with someone at 'play lunch' time.

Howard recalled the strong rapport that was fostered between all the boys during their early school days. The fabulous birthday parties and the exciting school fetes over at Santa Sabina are strong memories for them. Moving on to St Patrick's for third class, despite being in different classes, they continued to be best friends.

Michael McGaw commented on the strength of the ongoing camaraderie that exists between the three of them and that coming together at ex-students' events is something that they all look forward to and enjoy immensely.



### Anne Schofield Class of 1956

Anne has been selling antique jewellery at her silk-walled Victorian shop in Queen St Woollahra for 44 years, making it the oldest business in the street. She has recently published *Jewels On Queen* which is a memoir and a catalogue of her passion. She has previously published an encyclopaedic work on Australian jewellery in 1990.

Gaining her creative skills from her milliner mother, she studied literature and languages at Sydney University before opening Anne Scholfield Antiques in 1970.



### Nicole Larkin Class of 2007

With a friend, Nicole Larkin accepted an invitation to exhibit a piece in Sculpture by the Sea, Bondi annual openair exhibition that takes place along the Bronte-Bondi walk each year. The sculpture has since been shortlisted for the Australian Timber Design Award. Nicole studied Design and Technology from Year 8 through to Year 12. After completing her HSC she went on to do a Bachelor of Design in Architecture and a Masters of Architecture at the University of Sydney.

# **BIRTHS**



Corinne (nee Fontana) '96 and Ken Bevan a son, Flynn Cohen Brian 17.09.2013. A little brother to Oliver and Connor.



Peta (nee Lalic) '01 and Jarrad Magee a son, Ethan Beau 1.10.2013. A little brother to Braedon.



Meredith Plant '95 and Marcus Thistleton a daughter, Rose Isla 30.07.2014.



Marie Tsipiras (nee Coutsoudis) '01 a son, Jonathan Cooper 21.01.2014.



Shellie (nee Deacon) '01 and Richard O'Connor a daughter, Alexis Margaret 04.06.2014. A little sister to Sophie.



Phoebe Mowatt (nee Wicks) '01 a son, Augustin Charles 3.01.2014.



Kara Smallhorn-Smith (nee Smallhorn) '01 a daughter, Isabella Caterina 16.08.2013.



James and Jennifer Piper (nee Hurst) '98 a daughter, Miriam Giselle 25.01.14.



Alison (nee Bagdon) '97 a son, Felix Thomas 24.11.2013.



Elicia Long (nee De Martin) '01 a son, Archer (Archie) Peter 8.07.14.



Justine Laundy '95 a son, Zachary Charles Tindall 10.4.2014. A little brother to Billy and Teddy.



Carla Ronsisvalle '95 a son, Henry Arthur Roberts 18.10.2013. A little brother to Charlie and Arabella.

# **MARRIAGES**



Effie Coutsoudis '04 to Dave White 16.02.2014.



Marc Giuffre '03 to Amanda Brown 15.11.2013 at St Mary's Cathedral.



Angela Nolimaio '08 to Dane McGuiness 31.05.2014 at St Peter Chanel Hunters Hill.

## **Jubilees 2014**

WE CONGRATULATE THE FOLLOWING SISTERS WHO CELEBRATED THE ANNIVERSARY OF THEIR PROFESSION

PLATINUM DIAMOND PLATINUM 75 YEARS PLATINUM GOLDEN SR VALERIE GRIMSON OP
SR MARGARET MARY BROWN OP
SR M GABRIEL HOWLEY OP
SR M FRANCESCA CRICK OP
SR LOUISE WELBOURNE OP
SR ROSE MARY KINNE OP
SR ELIZABETH LANDON OP
SR JUDITH LAWSON OP

**SR MAURA MCAVOY OP** 

### **Deaths**

Sr Patricia Murphy OP - 24 July 2013

Sr Clare Heffernan OP - 6 August 2013

Sr M Teresa Cathie OP - 8 October 2013

Sr Clare McFall OP - 16 January 2014

Sr Shirley Geach OP - 2 June 2014

Sr M. Josepha OP - 6 October 2014

Margaret Graham (nee Leary ) Class of 1950

Elizabeth Muir (nee Maher) survived by her husband Jason and three young children

Ann Chaffey (nee Martin) Class of 1968 - January 2014

Former teacher Bernadette O'Brien - 27 January 2014

# REUNIONS

### **30 YEAR REUNION**

### **CLASS OF 1983**

Ex-students from around Australia converged on The Arthouse Hotel in Pitt Street, Sydney and enjoyed a night of fine food and wine, catching up

and reminiscing. Many of the attendees are in regular contact with each other and have enjoyed enduring friendships of over 40 years.

### **20 YEAR REUNION**

### **CLASS OF 1994**

On 17 May 2014, ex-students from the class of 1994 enjoyed catching up at Flynn on Blight St.



### **10 YEAR REUNION**

### **CLASS OF 2004**

On 17 August 2014, ex-students from the class of 2004 enjoyed catching up at the Bourbon Bar Potts Point.



### **5 YEAR REUNION**

### **CLASS OF 2009**

On Saturday 13 September at Zanzibar Newtown, the Class of 2009 celebrated their 5 year reunion. Over 70 girls were in attendance. They reminisced and

shared stories of school days.

Amongst a sea of hugs and tears they opened letters written to each other at Year 11 retreat.



### **1 YEAR REUNION**

### **CLASS OF 2013**

On the anniversary of their graduation day ex-students from the class of 2013 came back to the College to catch up with friends and teachers around Dom's Plot.



### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH REUNION**

In March, a reunion was held with students who participated in the 1997/8 Santa Sabina College Duke of Edinburgh trip to Thailand, Nepal and India. It was a delight to catch up with everyone and see Steve and Sue Barrett who are now enjoying life in Tasmania. Everyone's passion for the great outdoors that Steve helped to instil lives on!





### 2014 Reunions & Events

### 40 Year Reunion Class of 1974

Saturday 1 November 12:00pm, Santa Sabina College. Sue Bell - sue.bell56@hotmail.com

### **Donor Appreciation Reception**

Saturday 1 November 3:00pm, Santa Sabina College

### **Melbourne Cup Luncheon**

Tuesday 4 November, Angelo's On The Bay Cabarita. Peta Magee - p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

### Celebrating 120 Years, Ex-Student Picnic

Sunday 9 November 12:00pm, Santa Sabina College. Peta Magee - p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

### 15 Year Reunion Class of 1999

Sunday 9 November 3:00pm, The Mule, at the Newington Hotel Petersham (owned by ex student Liz Condon).

Danielle Funston - danielle.funston@klgates.com

### Jane of Aza Playgroup

Friday 21 November 2014, Del Monte Hall

### Golden Girls & Boys Reunion

Friday 15 May 2015, Santa Sabina College 1955 60 Year Reunion Peta Magee - p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

### 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 http://www.ssc.nsw.edu.au/community-life/ex-students

Please contact Peta Magee, Alumni Relations Co-ordinator on 9745 7035 or

p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

WWW.SSC.NSW.EDU.AU