

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SANTA SABINA COLLEGE COMMUNITY

encompass

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pursuit of excellence

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Mary Neely - Chair Santa Sabina College Board

from the board

Dr Maree Herrett was appointed by the Santa Sabina College Board as College Principal in August 2012. As only the second lay leader in its 118 year history, Maree took up the position in January 2013.

Maree is certainly no stranger to Santa Sabina. She brings to the College a diversity and richness of experience as an educational leader; a strong faith and commitment to the Dominican tradition and philosophy and a unique lived experience of the community as a past student leader, parent and staff member.

Maree identifies **the single most important contribution a Principal can make to a community is creating the 'conditions for excellence'**. Conditions that are dependent upon developing trust and credibility within the community – amongst staff, students, and parents. True to this commitment Maree has conducted 44 listening sessions with staff, students, parents and the Dominican sisters. This has been an enormous time commitment but one that Maree was determined to follow through in order to build relationships across the community, to hear what the community value, their concerns and what they hope for the future of the College.

In the short time Maree has led the College as Principal she has articulated her educational philosophy and vision. She has expressed **a deep appreciation both intellectually and experientially for the Dominican ethos and story** and a commitment to add another chapter as she embarks on working with the College leadership, staff, community and Board to realise a shared vision characterised by: the concept of personal best regardless of ability; raising the academic standards even higher through data-driven analysis of results that help inform teaching and learning; investigating strategic partnerships with like minded schools to enhance curriculum offerings and experiences; developing communities of practice within and beyond Santa Sabina; investigating the potential for 'learning anywhere, anytime' through use of technology and action-based practitioner research projects.

Maree is highly regarded in the educational environment as a fine scholar and original and innovative thinker. In 2006 Maree attended the Harvard Graduate School of Education – The Principals' Centre where she studied 'Improving Schools: The Art of Leadership'. In 2010 she was awarded Fellow of the Australian College of Educational Leaders for her contribution to

leadership in education. Over the past 5 years she has engaged in doctoral study. The subject of her doctoral thesis: Gender Divides - Gender Equity Policy in Australia 1975-2010. Maree presented aspects of her research at the Alliance of Girls Schools' Biennial Conference in 2010, at the Gender and Education Conference, London University, in 2000 and most recently to the Santa Sabina community and wider educational community. Maree's commitment to undertaking study at this level is testament to her passion for research, knowledge, inquiry and life long learning.

Given the challenges that all schools face in educating students for the future, Santa Sabina community is extremely fortunate to have secured a leader of the calibre of Maree. That same community was instrumental in forming the leader she has become. In her own words; "In many ways I can say that Santa Sabina has shaped the person and educator I have become. It has informed my ongoing faith journey, and valuing of Dominican traditions and philosophy. **It has instilled in me a courage and resilience to face the challenges of the future; and it has left me with a strong commitment to social justice and the education of girls and boys**".

Mary Neely

from the principal

“Encouraging them to be risk-takers, discerning, scholarly”

My appointment as Principal of Santa Sabina College is a great privilege and represents a ‘homecoming’ to a community that I know and love. Sister Mary Britt and Sister Judy Lawson have been inspirational leaders for me at different stages of my life at Santa. And when I try to distil the essence of what they embodied, I edge closer to understanding Dominican spirituality. It’s not always a comfy fit - it’s a stretch - indeed encounters with truth rarely are easy. They may not realise the impact they had, but it has been profound. They engaged in dialogue not lectures, questions not answers. They remind me in every way that **‘to be a Dominican is to belong in one’s own way to the community of those who seek and question, of those who are expectant and think critically’.**

Our Dominican tradition is one of exploring, searching in the midst of life rather than in safe seclusion, and as we know, life is messy. Living gospel values in a contemporary context compels us to grapple with complexity, ambiguities. In an educational context, it means that education is much more than an individualised pursuit. That in itself is a counter cultural message in the age of My School, PISA, and Rate My Teacher, where getting an education can resemble purchasing the latest and greatest consumer product. However, ‘Veritas’ is not a brand.



Dr Maree Herrett - College Principal

Good education in Dominican terms is as much about ‘the other’ as it is about self. The integration of the religious and the secular is not simply about content - add God and stir. It’s recognising and respecting the inherent dignity of every member of our community. It’s what we say, and do. Just words, just action.

In contrast to the so-called ‘factory model’ of education which is often described as emblematic of 20th century education, the Dominican sisters spoke of the responsibility of the teacher to bring into service the best available scholarship in the art of teaching. In a very modern sounding description of student-centred education, the student is described as a coadjutor in the learning process. The teacher aids, stimulates, elicits. The purpose is to lead the student towards an intelligent use of liberty.

My vision for SSC involves honouring our past while facing the future. Leading students and staff towards an intelligent use of liberty. Encouraging them to be risk-takers, discerning, scholarly. To reject empty rhetoric and say what we mean. Tell our stories. Celebrate our achievements. Engage with research. Listen, look, learn.

Dr Maree Herrett

principal's listening tour



Kindergarten Parents Listening Tour

When I began as Principal of Santa Sabina College at the beginning of 2013 I made a commitment to the College Board that I would conduct a listening tour in order to understand and be understood. As I explained to participants in the tour, I was very conscious that as a member of the Santa Sabina community with some considerable history as former staff member, parent, and indeed student, it was tempting to assume a strong familiarity with 'Santa'. The Listening Tour was a very intentional way of signaling that I would not just rely on my own stories.

I planned the tour with key questions about the College Mission in mind. **I wanted to find out how the mission resonated with different members of the community; and what the community saw as our great strengths and our challenges for the future.** After speaking with Sister Sheila, I was inspired to ask participants what gave them joy in their work, and by contrast what 'diminished' them. I also simply wanted to know more about members of the community – what were their stories, backgrounds

and interests. The following is a snapshot of the tour, the key themes that emerged, and some of the recommendations. A more expanded publication of the tour will be made available.

Three themes emerged throughout the tour. These were **'Community', 'Curriculum', and 'Culture'**. The importance of us being a Christian Catholic community was articulated throughout the tour. Relationships developed over many years are highly valued, and can be summed up by one of the participants who said, 'when I walk through those gates I feel at home'. However the idea of community went far beyond Strathfield. Students particularly identified Tallong campus, Central Australia and South Africa as being part of the community.

Teachers felt that the College Mission is compelling when it comes to curriculum. 'Education for justice', 'personal best', 'whole person' and 'student-centred' were identified as core to the mission of a Santa Sabina teacher. **'The Mission's goal is to develop the ability in students to**

question, and to be lifelong critical thinkers'.

The theme of culture captured the significance of Santa Sabina's history and traditions for all of us. The culture was also identified as dynamic, and participants understood the Dominican charism as being responsive to modern times and contemporary issues. The love of the aesthetic, the diversity of our multicultural community, and the rich stories of our Dominican family all contribute to understanding the meaning of culture at Santa Sabina.

*A Snapshot:
6 campuses
44 constituencies
121 sheets of paper
509 participants
5212 years of connection
with the College
9451 words collected*

listening tour recommendations

utilise the benefits of a P-12 school to enrich the professional lives of teachers as well as students

greater risk-taking in learning for both staff and students, and promote academic excellence

use of the archives will ensure that students gain a greater understanding of their Dominican heritage

develop strategic partnerships with the wider education community to facilitate curriculum research & professional learning

review some structures to facilitate extending coeducation to Year 6 and strengthening middle school

streamline communication to parents through more effective use of technology



Dr Maree Herrett with the Middle School Leaders

beyond mars & venus

The Santa Sabina Community as well as the general public were privileged to witness Dr Maree Herrett share her findings from her recent PhD from the University of Sydney in the area of Gender Equity Policy and Practice in Australian Education at an evening held at del Monte.

The evening was exciting, stimulating and provocative - where

traditional gender stereotypes in the educational setting were challenged and reimagined by cutting-edge content and research.

As an academic researcher in gender education and expert practitioner, Dr Herrett shared data that both challenged practice on categorical gender differences and revealed the great secret of sex similarity as well

as busting traditional stereotypes and myths.

Dr Herrett's well researched information is enriched by her deep passion in this area and is motivated by her desire and commitment in shaping pedagogy that delivers excellent education to both girls and boys.



The myth that Men are from Mars & Women are from Venus, suggesting essential biological and brain-based differences between the sexes is 'the sloppiest, shoddiest, most biased, least reproducible, worst designed and most over interpreted research in the history of science. Yet in the face of scientific scepticism, it is such a persistent myth' (Smithsonian Institute).

Myth: Boys and girls are hard-wired for difference

Fact: 'No study to date has shown gender-specific processes involved in building up neuronal networks during learning' (OECD, Understanding the Brain: the Birth of a Learning Science 2007).

Myth: Boys need a more structured learning environment

Fact: The interpretation of the need for structure as gender related is probably an error. The research indicates that all novice learners benefit from greater structure in the learning process, regardless of gender (P. Cuttance, Boys' Education Lighthouse Schools Stage Two Final Report 2006).

Myth: Boys and girls have distinctly different learning styles

Fact: Perhaps the most simplistic labelling is to assume that there are but two ways of learning: a male way and a female way...the differences in how students learn is not related to their boy or girl attributes, and while the labelling of 'boy' and 'girl' learning may appease some, it is not based on actual differences (J. Hattie, Visible Learning for Teachers, 2012).

tree frog pond



Green & Golden Bell Frog



Mary Bailey House children have been involved in building a frog pond in response to Enviroweek activities where the children looked at ways they can focus on sustainability within the local community.

The Green and Golden Bell frog is an endangered local species. The children have learnt ways in which they can help create a

habitat and at the same time how to encourage frogs to inhabit the space.

The children have been eagerly awaiting the arrival of some frogs into the pond.

To support their interest they have learnt more about frogs, their lifecycles and the different species

of frogs that may come and visit the pond, through a big pictorial board book.

Futhermore the children have been using pictorial lifecycle images of the tadpole to the adult frog to guide them as they manipulate and explore the 3 and 4 layer lifecycle puzzles of the frog.

If anyone were to visit Mary Bailey House on any Monday or Wednesday morning, they would hear the voices of our children in a music lesson. Santa Sabina music teachers have been teaching music to our children for over 10 years and we've reaped the benefits of this cross-campus experience. We've noted that lessons have promoted social and emotional competence, physical and auditory skills, early literacy development and instilled an early appreciation of music in children from as young as 12 months.

Our present music teacher Sarah Feltham facilitates numerous musical activities using percussion instruments, body percussion, various movement activities, dance, echo singing and unison singing. The children have been encouraged to use percussion instruments to develop their basic understanding of dynamics (loud & soft), timbre (different instrument sounds), and tempo (fast & slow) and be involved in various unison songs that develop their basic understanding of pitch (high and low).



music @ mbh

bring your own device



From the start of this year, students in Years 4 and 5 have been bringing in their own technology to help them learn. Nearly all have chosen to use iPads, iPad minis and iPod touch devices to use in their learning spaces.

The recently revamped and expanded wireless network has enabled students to quickly locate information and research to help them at any time during their learning. One of the important benefits of students having technology instantly available is that they can find these answers straight away. No longer do they have to wait hours or days for a computer to become available. This has the dual effects of both **speeding up and deepening their learning**. Topics are explored more quickly and in further depth.

The BYOD trial **has enabled personalised learning that bridges the relationship between home and school**. In a more traditional setting, students would often leave their exercise books at school at the end of the school day. With BYOD the students can always have their notes available for reflection and sharing at home with their families.

The move to BYOD has also given students the challenge to develop a **'positive digital footprint'** by exploring what it means to be a good digital citizen. As they participate in forums and other online discussions, they are able to practise and develop skills in positive reinforcement and the constructive criticism of others' ideas and arguments.

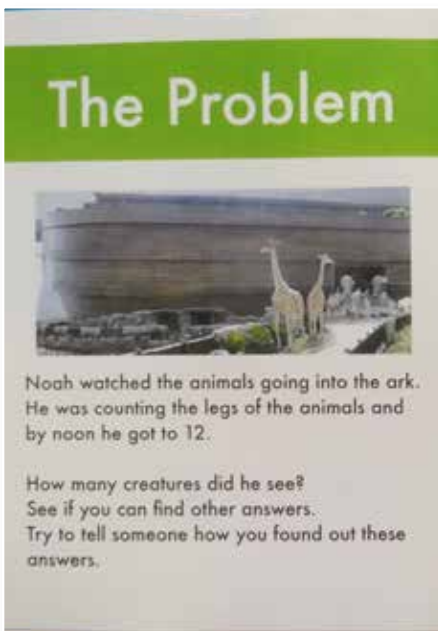
Here are a couple of impressions of BYOD that our students have shared:

'I think it's great to have an iPad at school because it's helped me research, search dictionary meanings faster and it helps me show my understanding'
Mia Jade

'It's great because we don't have to wait to go on the computer. We can learn more about things, and it's fun.'
Beth

The BYOD trial has drawn on current research to help guide us through the project, particularly the Australian work 'Bring Your Own Technology' (2012) by Mal Lee and Martin Levins, and the Horizon Report K-12 2012 by the New Media Consortium. We look forward to further exploring the learning benefits and challenges that BYOD provides for our learners.

mathematics investigation



What was mathematics like for you as a Primary child? Most of us recall memories of sitting at desks and working through a Mathematics text book in silence, where there was only one right answer and the correct answer was the only thing that mattered.

Mathematics classrooms at Del Monte are very different. The students are involved in mathematical investigations where they **explore, inquire, question, challenge each other, prove their thinking and reflect**. The students use tools from their mathematics toolbox to unpack and solve problems. Tools include; draw a picture or table or diagram, guess and check, work backwards, break the problem into smaller parts, try all possible solutions, select

materials or resources to assist. The children are **highly engaged in their Mathematical investigations** and this year we have six entries in the Mathematical Association of NSW Investigative competition.

The titles of the projects include:

- The Piazza Project -Yr 1
- Bags 'r' us - Yr 2
- Toothpaste Investigation Yr 3
- The athletics curse Yr 4
- Our sports carnival through a Mathematician's Lens - Year 5
- Half Marathon Adventure - Yr 5

This year we received an Australian Government Quality Teaching Program (AGQTP) grant to identify successful ways to gather student data and how to effectively use the data to inform student achievement level and identify their zone of

proximal development. This data and teacher knowledge has been part of the planning and programing of units of work ensuring that all students are stimulated and challenged.

"Good mathematicians know the answer....

Great mathematicians prove the answer!"



Angela Thomas & Dr Maree Herrett

Santa Sabina has been awarded an Apple Distinguished Program Award, **one of only 30 to be awarded Nationwide**, for the Middle School Compass Program at an awards ceremony in May presented by John Couch – Vice President of Education Apple Worldwide.

The Apple Education Recognition Program recognises outstanding schools and programs that are **centres of innovation, leadership, and educational excellence**, and demonstrate Apple's vision of exemplary learning environments. The submission by Angela Thomas, Coordinator of Middle School Curriculum, demonstrated Santa

Sabina's innovative and compelling learning environment that **engages students and provides tangible evidence of academic accomplishment**.

The Year 7 Compass Program is an integrated teaching and learning program that supports learning across all Key Learning Areas and is designed around 'big ideas' or questions that relate to content from multiple subject areas. Students develop skills related to **inquiry, information literacy, communication, critical thinking and problem solving through rich learning tasks**. "Our innovative and rigorous curriculum has been

designed to leverage technology and our facilities and schedules are designed to maximize learning opportunities that technology provides," says Angela Thomas.

For Year 7, having their own mobile learning device in the iPad has had a major influence on their teaching and learning experiences in Compass. The iPads are utilised in many different ways to support learning from recording notes and data, quick access to information and resources, organisation, collaboration, the use of specialised apps and as a tool to create, edit and present final products and evidence of learning.

games based learning

Vygotsky (1978) reminds us that **“In play, kids function beyond their average abilities and that this experimental situation allows them to explore the rules of their society and culture”**.

As a result the Year 7 students participated in a Compass program that motivated them, encouraged critical thinking, problem solving and collaboration in a virtual world using elements of game based learning.

Students investigated the essential questions, “Are we a product of

our history?” “What is a truth and what is a lie?” “How heavily do we tread upon our world?” Following this continuum from the past to the present, the focus was extended to the future by being immersed in a virtual world.

The essential question “What is your vision?” launched the virtual world “2040” using Minecraft education software in which many students have interest and expertise. In the “arena” students had the opportunity to develop the world in which they want to live in the future.

Additional challenges were presented as their new world progressed, particularly incorporating some big questions from the previous areas of Identity, Truth & Lies and Sustainability.

Planning, working in teams and self-reflection formed essential components of the learning process.



middle school camp



There is no better way each year to meet new friends, face many challenges and learn about yourself and the environment than through our Middle School Camp experience and this year was no different.

The week was both challenging and fun and included many pastoral

activities linked to mindfulness, coping with anxiety and of course the importance of support and community. During another session we addressed the question of 'what kind of world do we want for ALL girls' as we travelled around the world to experience a day in the life of young people just like us, across

many different countries.

The incredible team work of KITE teachers, Tallong and Outdoor Education staff, assisted strongly by the year 10 leaders is something that we all will not forget.



In April this year, Year 6 went on an excursion to St Mary's Cathedral. As part of guided tour groups they discovered the history of this famous, historic church. The students were in awe of the Gothic style design in the cathedral, which encapsulates the pointed arches spread throughout the church walls. They admired the artwork of hundreds of saints and angels heads that peered out of the piers that were designed to cast out the devil. The detailed architecture in the balconies, columns and high ceilings were evident as the students gazed at the elaborate design. They learnt the correct term nave (centre aisle) that was constructed in the cathedral in 1928.

The students particularly loved hearing the stories of the young pioneering priests whose stories are reflected in

the intricate designs of the stain glass windows.

The students discovered that in 1803 Father Dixon (convict priest) said mass in a kitchen at Church Hill as public mass was not permitted at that time. They heard the rich history of John Bede Polding who became the first Archbishop of Sydney. The students were amazed to hear that the first St Mary's Cathedral was ruined by fire back in 1865.

Visiting the downstairs crypt, students learnt of the important symbolism in the creation of the crypt's intricate floor design. There is a huge Celtic cross that spans the entire length of the main area. The crypt is also the final resting place of many of the churches prominent Catholic leaders.



yr 6 excursion

academic success 2012

*Top Achievers in Course
in NSW**Chiara Pomare - French
Beginners 1st Place**Jessica Hume - Biology
10th place**Juliette Pasini - French
Beginners
3rd place*

Santa Sabina is proud of the outstanding achievements of the 2012 HSC Cohort. The countless hours of study and revision are reflected in the fantastic results of the girls. They are to be commended for their commitment and dedication.

In 2012, 125 Year 12 students and 12 accelerants undertook study in 39 NSW Board of Studies Developed Courses, including 2 school based Vocational Education courses.

Top All Rounders:

- **Minna Boyle**
- **Giselle Cappacchione**
- **Alexandra Devlin**
- **Jacqueline Halloran**
- **Jessica Iuliano**
- **Alison Lewis**
- **Lauren Rosilo**
- **Kristina Wakim**

Board of Studies showcases

outstanding project work in a series of exhibitions and performances.

The 2012 nominations were:

ENCORE – Music

Chiara Pomare's Viva Voce was identified as exemplary and appeared on the Honour Roll for Musicology in the 2012 ENCORE Program.

CALLBACK – Dance

Caitlin Fountain, who studied Dance externally, was nominated for CALLBACK.

Post school destinations:

A total of 127 students completed Year 12 in 2012. The majority of Santa Sabina students pursue tertiary study at University and also other institutions such as TAFE, Private Colleges, Traineeships and paid employment.

Construction, Management, Actuarial Studies, Occupational Therapy, Law and Engineering are a few of the courses studied by 2012 Graduates. Others have pursued overseas paid or volunteer work prior to commencing their study.

Top ATAR **99.20**

Lauren Rosilo

20% of students: **ATAR 95+**

35% of students: **ATAR 90+**

42% of students: **one or more**

Band 6 or extension Band 4



High Achievers 2012

I started at the college in Kindergarten and so, after 13 years spent here, it's safe to say that Santa Sabina for me, has been like a second home. And yet, only three months ago, on the day before my 18th birthday, I sat here completing my final HSC exam.

Santa has first and foremost provided me with an education that I feel has equipped me for the challenge of stepping out into the world beyond those green gates, a world I think the class of 2012 are getting to know very quickly with university applications and work commitments. Being at Santa has also given me the opportunity to forge lasting friendships. The support that comes from your peers during this time is invaluable.

Being a Santa girl involves so much more than simply academia. You're taught to be a well-rounded individual with drive and ambition, compassion and generosity. To be a good sport and participate, and encourage and inspire others. And lastly, how to wear a kilt with style and work a cream ribbon. I can honestly say that I loved school. Call me a nerd, but I looked forward to walking through those gates every

morning, with sunlight pouring over the statue of St Dom and the smell of freshly mown lawn in the air. The last two years in particular have been special and memorable, with significant experiences such as the Dominican sisters that prayed for us during our exams, getting our jerseys, dressing up for our theme launch and finally the privilege of crowning Dom. **The friends that I've made, the memories that I've got, I wouldn't change these for the world.**

I have some advice and tips for surviving the HSC and achieving your best:

- **Develop a timetable** you can stick to. Discipline is very difficult sometimes I know, but for those times that you're ready to be distracted, you need to make a decision between what you want now and what you want most. So while now you would love to be watching an episode of your favourite TV show or checking out Facebook, what you should want most is to know that you worked as hard as you could have, whether that's an A or a C, a 70 or a 95.
- Doing well in the HSC does not mean that you need to be

studying for every minute that you're awake. It's crucial to **balance your school life** with other commitments, exercise and socialising.

- **Try not to stress.** Remind yourself of the thousands of people who have done the HSC before you, and the thousands more to come. While a little bit of stress can serve as motivation to get going on that assessment you left to the night before, there is a point where stressing can instead have negative consequences, so steer clear of this.
- **Reward yourself.** For every hour or two hours that you study, take a short break and listen to music, or go for a walk. If you've worked hard, you deserve a reward.

Lastly, you should cherish and enjoy the time you have left at Santa Sabina because the time flies. Have fun every now and again and have a laugh, because these moments are important too.

**Lauren Rosilo Speech
High Achiever's Assembly**

literature with a capital “L”

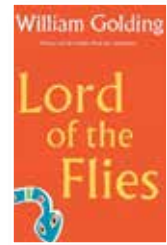
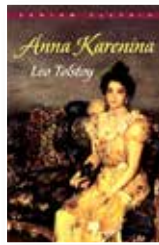
As part of the Year 11 advanced English wide reading project, students were encouraged to move beyond a simplified response to texts and develop a more sustained reflection of the texts' value and to interact with each other and be inspired by others.

Fay Weldon, author, feminist and critic, describes good literature that we value as literature with “a capital L” :

- It resonates in different contexts and, regardless of time, offers the reader insight and meaning.
- It promotes reflection, questioning and enlightenment.
- It can offer new ways of thinking that we have not considered before, by shifting and reshaping how we see the world.
- It can encourage us to feel a range of emotions.

Students first selected a novel from a list of “Literature with a capital L” and responded with the elements that characterise good literature. These responses were then added to an online forum.

Students were then required to respond to another entry on the forum, making connections with the text they had read.



young minds conference

In June, Santa Sabina was fortunate to send students to represent the College at the Young Minds Conference held at Sydney's Town Hall.

The focus on this year's conference was on how young people can be inspired to be great people and how they can inspire others.

Special guest, His Holiness the Dalai Lama addressed the conference and inspired the participants with his kind heart and wisdom.

In the intimate conversation, the Dalai Lama spoke with Simon Longstaff about his profound concern for young people – “the people of the future”.

He stated the most important things we need in order to grow as a good person and make the most of our life is to show affection and spend as much time as we can with our friends and family. Further he taught the participants that we choose the right path for ourselves and we cannot take the future for granted.



national day against bullying

As young people, it is important to recognise the significance of days such as the National Day Against Bullying and Violence, and actively support them.

In order to show our support, a group of girls and I planned to literally 'take a stand against bullying and violence' by encouraging others to join us on the small hockey field

to be part of a group photo. The aim of this photo was to create a clear image of how Santa girls are against bullying and violence. With fists raised and an energetic cheer, it was clear that our community was willing and enthusiastic to participate in the day. This can act as a clear reflection of how we will not grow to be dismissive of voices that go unheard and that we want to help bring

change in a positive way wherever we can. This year, the "UN Women" campaign focuses on domestic violence, which makes the day even more significant for us as we strive to look for ways to promote gender equality and fair treatment of all.

Julia Racheha

"When we empower women, we empower communities, nations and the entire human family."
UN Secretary-General, Ban Ki-Moon



japanese homestay

Three senior students travelled to Japan for three weeks as part of a homestay to improve their Japanese language skills in preparation for the HSC year. The experience enabled them to get a deeper understanding of the Japanese culture.

"Japan was so enjoyable. I was able to do a three week homestay and experience school life at the

same time. My host family was very kind and I felt like I was part of the family from the beginning. I was able to go to many places such as Harajuku, Disneyland, Shibuya and so on. And my Japanese improved!"

Fan Wang Year 12

"Going to Japan on exchange was a really great experience.

Not only did I get to practice my Japanese, I was able to experience the Japanese culture and way of life. My host family were very warm and welcoming and living with them was always a fun time. I would recommend going on exchange to any language student".

Marianna Giameos Year 12

mission & identity

There is always so much happening at the College beyond the classroom.

As a Catholic College in the Dominican tradition, how do we live our Mission?

In recent times, we have become more aware of adequately describing who we are and what really characterises Santa Sabina College.

Hence, we began a process in 2012 of identifying the core values of the College and in doing so, returned to the pillars of Dominican Life. Discussions occurred with students, parents, staff, the Dominican Sisters - everyone contributing to how we express both the heritage which guides us and the call to action which compels us forward. Veritas will always be our motto, but what does Veritas look like, sound like and feel like?

Veritas is choosing to live with authenticity and integrity in relationship with God, with ourselves and with each other. The four core values help to explain what sometimes seems intangible; that extraordinary Dominican characteristic of monitoring a compass; acknowledging the past, living fully in the present but cognisant of future directions.

In abridged form:

Community is a lived experience based on inclusion and encourages supportive relationships both within and beyond the College.

Service is modelled on the life and ministry of Christ and echoes the footsteps of St Dominic.

Learning is a collaborative, holistic and dynamic process that nurtures and challenges each individual to realise his or her full potential and to be open to possibilities.

Prayer is both formal and informal, provides opportunities for individuals to develop their relationship with God.

In Term 1, Year 11 students were asked to consider how we could visually represent these values, given their understanding of these values and what Veritas really means. I would like to acknowledge Sarah Russell and Bridgette O'Brien who both took up this challenge and whose work is becoming a reality across the College. Bridgette's work is featured in the image presented. I invite you to sit with it for a moment or two to consider the depth of the image...allow it to invoke the senses, evoke your understanding and provoke your imagination....

Returning to the College Mission: the Staff of the College were recently asked to consider how we live the College Mission, not only in light of these values, but in light of God's Mission and that of Dominic.

And so offered for your reflection: 'It is still night til I can look into the eyes of another and see God.'



Dominique Marturia
Head of Mission & Identity

Theologian Anthony Gittins discusses Mission:

The subject of Mission is God.

God's Mission is eternal, universal and unlimited. God's self-diffusing goodness is at the heart.

Jesus is, if you like, the incarnation of God's Mission... bringing it to earth and he gave us four examples of how to also live God's Mission.

Proclamation – Witness – Dialogue – Liberation

But these terms can also be expressed in a more practical theology:

Encounter – being open and present to those we meet. To be spiritual people, is to learn from the example of Jesus and not just from academic knowledge

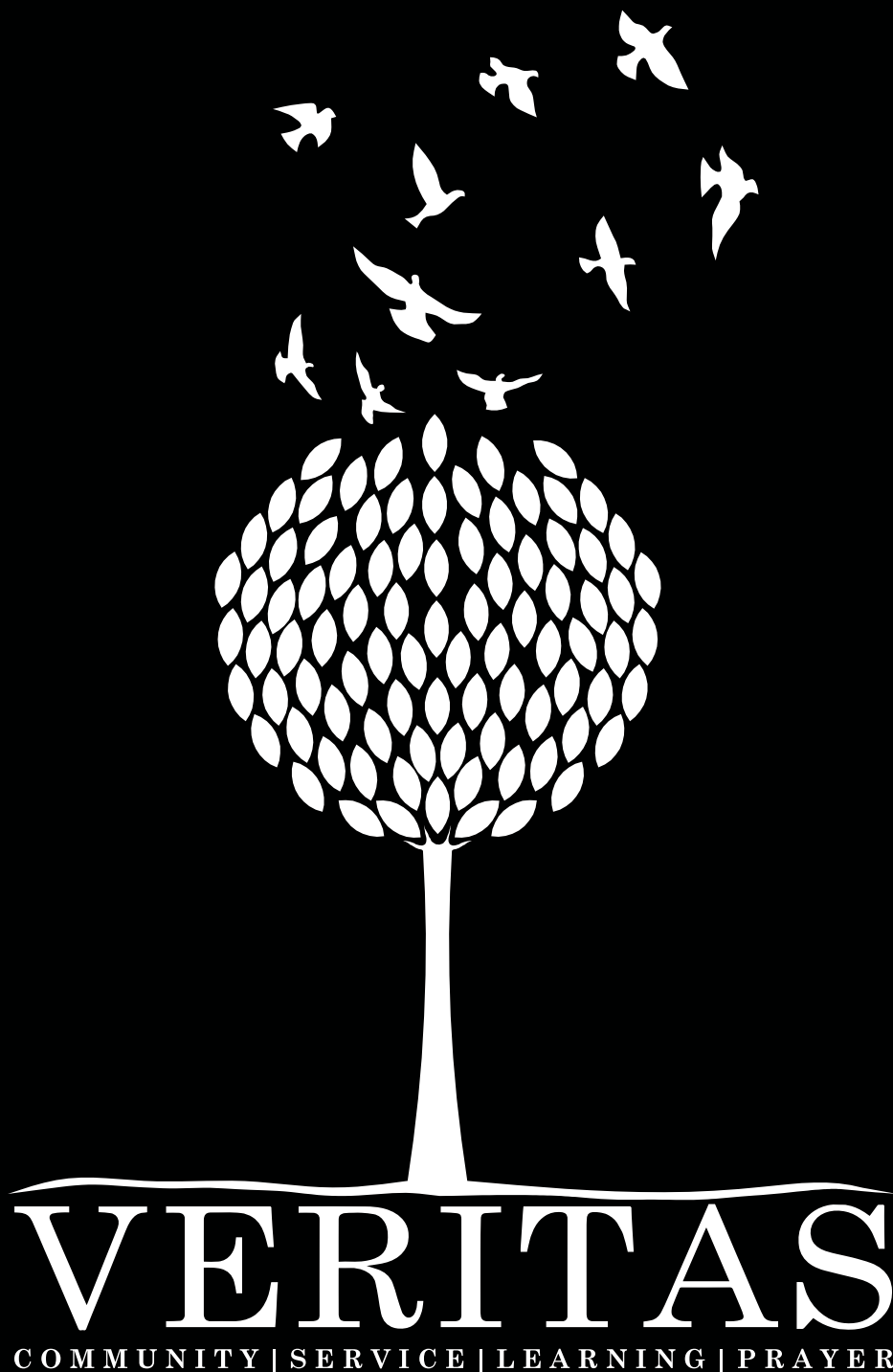
Table fellowship – how do we change and how do others change when we share a meal... can we be radically inclusive?

Footwashing – Jesus challenges us, that "as I have done, so you must do."

Boundary Crossing – Jesus broke boundaries and broke rules. He made people uncomfortable with his radical equality. God's Mission takes us out of our comfort zone.

By our baptism we are co-missioned, for participation in God's Mission: how do we feel about taking up that challenge?

Dominic gave us a Charism – which loosely means a gift from God for others. He interpreted the signs of the times, he shared the gift of his understanding and as the story goes, Bible in one hand and Newspaper



VERITAS

COMMUNITY | SERVICE | LEARNING | PRAYER

in the other, he journeyed and he journeyed and he, along with others, changed the landscape of his time. He gave us a compass, not a map. He leaves us an example.

Dominican Alain Quilici (2001) says; Dominic was a person who took his strength and wisdom from his intense prayer life. It is said that he was either speaking to or about God. He taught the Friars to give to others the fruits of your contemplation..... Dominic's character was said to be one of extraordinary integrity and sensitivity. He was a disciplined student, both scholastically and spiritually. Dominic never missed

an occasion to proclaim the Gospel. Dominic was a person of possibility. Dominican Mary O'Driscoll quotes a poem by Danish philosopher, Kirkegaard:

If I could wish for something
I would wish for neither wealth nor power,
But for the passion of possibility;
I would wish only for an eye which, eternally young,
Eternally burns with the longing to see possibility.

Barbara Dannhaussen (2007) states that Mission in Dominican Education:

- Celebrates a diverse and collaborative community
- Is anchored in a spirit of constant prayer
- Forms individuals in love fostering a lifelong love of learning while also learning to love
- Teaches how we are all to embrace Jesus' preaching mission and service as a way of life....

No matter what part of the Dominican family we belong to, may we always see what is possible and how we can be inspired to live the Mission we have been given.

Re-envisioning Santa Sabina College libraries: the development of the iCentre.

With the changing learning needs of students for living productive lives in the global world and the growth in personal learning devices, it is time to embrace the role of the library and its highly trained staff as central to a networked learning community and to embrace a future focused vision encompassing information as **“philosophy, skills, product, process and policy”**. There is a wealth of international and local research available about the positive impact of school libraries on building student confidence, independence and a sense of responsibility for learning. At Santa Sabina libraries each student is encouraged to aim for personal excellence and to **develop skills for personalised learning, critical thinking, problem solving and creativity** in a collaborative environment to enable them to become successful citizens of the world and it is our reasonability to help them achieve these outcomes.

This change in focus is an essential step now due to:

- The increasing value of knowledge as a valuable commodity and the need to develop critical and digital literacy skills for **active participation in a connected global world**
- The students' information seeking behaviour has decreased with access to technology. Students now need “serious professional guidance” on how to use learning technologies to develop deep understanding more than ever before.
- The increasing importance and use of personalised learning devices
- The increasing demand for eResources and ease of 24/7 access to these resources and other learning tools using web-based technologies
- The evolution of networked learning communities and the role of the iCentre staff in leading the partnerships between school, home and the community.
- The development of the eBook means that the focus on Literature, while as important as ever, demands new initiatives.

The iCentre, will reflect the changing nature of the workplace in a global economy, **interconnectedness, immediacy, interactivity**, communications and community and its core business will be inquiry learning, information and critical literacy, learning innovation, explicit instruction, targeted instructional interventions, and the development of self directed, informed digital citizens.

A **dynamic, responsive iCentre** contains the following elements:

iInquire: Collaboratively planned integrated units of work where targeted instructional interventions designed by subject specialists or class teachers and learning specialists are delivered at point of

need by this instructional team. This will ensure personalised learning anywhere anytime.

Personalised learning devices will continue to change the nature and pace of learning and mentoring from within and outside the iCentre, will provide a foundation for the information-to-knowledge journey.

iCreate: The pedagogical fusion inherent in the iCentre construct encourages and supports creativity through real world problem solving.

iConnect: Libraries are already social spaces, as well as psychological spaces and learning spaces. This must be capitalised on through a learning commons model in order to connect all learners with experts and other resources.

iCollaborate: Personal and professional learning networks are essential for the development and growth of learning communities and these are encouraged through the provision of fluid learning spaces.

iSupport: The iCentre team enables all learners to have access to the right mentors when they are needed

iLead: Teacher librarians exercise leadership in assisting to implement “informed learning” and guidance is given to learners on how to protect one’s digital footprint.

Helen Schutz
Coordinator of Information Services

reflect
inspire
question
wonder
connect
reason
explore
think





The 15 year anniversary of Tallong was celebrated with the opening of a new High Ropes course at the annual Tallong Open Day. The fantastic new facility will continue to challenge students. Special guest, Senator Ursula Stephens, expressed a belief in the value of such experiences for the young person.



Students from P-12 participated in a variety of activities to mark National Reconciliation week. The week is a time for all Australians to learn about our shared histories, cultures and achievements and to explore how each of us can join the national reconciliation effort.

During the week, Santa Sabina was honoured to host Peter Nyaningu, an Elder in the Ernabella Community which is located in the APY Lands; Anangu Pitjantjatjara Yankunytjatjara in the north west of South Australia. Over the past 8 years, Pete has been a regular presence on our Immersion Experiences.

He spent time with Mary Bailey House children and Kindergarten students singing songs and telling stories in the library before speaking with the whole Del Monte Community. Later Pete joined the Santa Sabina students for celebrations in the Hall.

reconciliation





harmony day

Many people will say that people of our generation don't care about the world- we are a bunch of apathetic, politically disinterested young people who get easily distracted by shiny things, like iPads. We don't want to learn about history because the Kardashians weren't part of it, and we hate reading books because they get murdered when we study them in English, and we could just watch the correlating movie in 90 minutes. I disagree and don't see why we have to cop this stigma. We are a generation who sneakily stayed up late to read Harry Potter and has bought more books than any before us, a generation that has travelled more and that has more access to information than anyone could ever have dreamed of. It's not that we don't care, it's just that it becomes hard to pinpoint what to care about when we are constantly bombarded by information. But we still talk and we still listen - like everyone that has gone before us, the ancient art of storytelling lives on.

Our stories make us unique, they are our identity- we embody our story. So If Australia is made up of people, and each person is a story, then in fact Australia is a vast network of stories. MANY STORIES, ONE AUSTRALIA.

Our cultural diversity is one of our greatest strengths and is at the heart of who we are, making up the pages of a bigger Australia. Right here, in this one Australia, we have stories from the largest living Indigenous culture in the entire world, and we have stories of people who have fled their homes in boats to find a better life and are experiencing their first days on Australian soil. Until you read a book, you can't judge it for what it fully is. If we are to truly live in harmony, to accept each other, we have to share each other's stories- to understand each other, celebrate our past, our present, our future, see our similarities and our differences, and ultimately we have to listen. We can be a generation of Australians who care.

Kathryn Garsia

santafest

Through our annual weeklong celebration affectionately known as 'Santa Fest', we shift our focus on what we can achieve collectively as a community here for young women on the other side of the world who seek education to empower them with possibilities. The aim of Santa Fest is to demonstrate our friendship and commitment to our sister school, "Our Lady of The Sacred Rosary" located in the township of Montebello in Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa.

The weeks much anticipated Santafest concert showcased student talent from Years 6 to 12. Ex-student Loren Espulso from the L.A Talent School in Burwood helped us secure our special

guests, former Australia's Got Talent star Genesis and 'Australia's Got Talent' participants Young Men's Society (YMS) who enthralled us with their singing, beatboxing and dancing talent.

At the Montebello Fundraiser Breakfast we were joined by current and ex-students, the Dominican sisters and members of our local community, including Strathfield Mayor Mr Giulian Vaccari.

Santa Fest 2013 was a great success, with approximately \$8,500 raised to date, all of which will go directly to the Montebello community.



kindy welcome



Kindergarten tradition of dancing on St Dominic's Plot

year 12 theme



"'13 on the scene" - keepers of peace, justice, truth and courage.

outstanding achievements

Public Speaking

Congratulations to Bethan Smoleniec and Anna Power who participated in the Sydney Morning Herald Plain English Speaking Award. Anna and Bethan spoke eloquently and were excellent representatives of our College. Special congratulations to Bethan who was selected to compete in the Regional Finals of the competition. In her prepared speech, Bethan spoke about the problem of society's desensitisation to images of violence and in her impromptu speech she talked about the ethical dilemma presented when technologies interfere with nature.



Bethan Smoleniec



Anna Power

Debating - WOW

Congratulations to our outstanding Senior Debating Team (Emilia Anderson, Olivia Fehon, Katie Garsia and Anna Power) who won the final of the Catholic Schools' Debating Association competition for the sixth year in a row.



Senior Debating Team

Mock Trial

Congratulations to our 2012 Mock Trial Team who won 4 out of the 5 trials in this year's competition. The success of this year's team places them in the top 32 of over 200 schools across the state. The team consisted of Olivia Fehon, Anna Power, Tatjana Dotzouer, Marianna Izgi, Rebecca Kazzi and Lena Melhem.



Mock Trial Team 2012

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme Awards

Congratulations to:

- Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award - Sarah Dabboul and Michaela Burke
- Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award - Katherine Flaherty, Kathryn Garsia, Laura Kerrison, Nicola Orphanides, Pauline Russett, Megan Woods, Laura Kerrison.
- Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award - Sabrina Zambetti



Sarah Dabboul and Michaela Burke receiving their Gold DEAS at Government House



Yr 2/3 TBall Team

Sabah Chamoun Yr 7 - Weightlifting

Twelve year old Middle School student, Sabah Chamoun has lifted her way into the record books as the NSW U15 and U17 year old Weightlifting Champion in the under 53kg category at the recent State Championships. She is the NSW record holder for the best snatch lift at 42 1/2kgs and best clean and jerk at 55kg in her age category.

Sabah started weightlifting only 8 months ago after encouragement from her father and brother who are both weightlifters and now her coach.

Sabah has qualified for the Nationals in Melbourne in October. Her goal is to compete in the 2018 Commonwealth Games on the Gold Coast as well as the 2020 Olympics.

Doey Choi Yr 8 – Golf

At the recent Australian Girls' Amateur Championship in Perth, an event open to players aged under 18 years, Doey Choi stamped her name in the golfing history books when she was named as the U14 Australian Girls Amateur Champion.

To top off her recent golfing success Doey played and won NSW Women's Foursomes Championship (open age) at Magenta Shores GC with partner Tess MacDonald.

Emma Iuliano Yr 12– Softball

Congratulations to Emma Iuliano who was selected in the School Sport Australia Softball Team.

Tori Scanlon Yr11- Hockey

Tori continues to excel at hockey being selected in the Under 18's NSW squad as well as the NSWIS Emerging Talent Squad. She

recently toured Argentina & New Zealand as part of the Under 16 All Schools Australian team.

Senior Aerobics Team

Well done to SSC Senior Aerobics Team "Fusion" winning the bronze medal at the FISAF Aerobics State Champs and qualifying for the national championships.

Claudia Tyree Yr 5 - Hockey

Claudia was selected in the Primary Sydney Archdiocesan team to trial for NSW CPS MacKillop selection. She was also selected in the Sydney Junior Hockey Association Under 11/2's team and competed at several carnivals including Campbelltown, Canberra, Lithgow and Tamworth.

Yr 2/3 - TBall

Congratulations to the Yr2/3 "Lightning Rabbits" TBall team who won the 2013 grand final.



Sabah Chamoun



Doey Choi



Emma Iuliano



Team Fusion



Claudia Tyree



Tori Scanlon



music

The talent, musicality, enthusiasm and motivation of our music students never ceases to amaze.

The quality of performances at the K-12 Music Concerts were nothing short of outstanding. The Prayer, the opening song, sung by our year 12 students set the standard. The Motet Choir, with their interpretation of Ngnana provided evidence of the superior sound that this ensemble produces. Congratulations to Joanna Zhu, Jessica Zhu and Nicholas Munro for their exceptional rendition of the 2nd movement of Schubert's Piano Trio, and also thank you to Nicole Samsa (flute) and Danielle Fox (voice).

The variety and eclectic array of styles and genres was a credit to the ensemble leaders and music team. The Delstars sang My Family Cat to the attitude of the boys in The Deltones with The Clapping Song/Iko Iko.

There was something for everyone. Instrumentalists, soloists, choirs, ensembles – all of their performances were amazing. Thank you to the Year 11 VET crew who were integral to the success of the production.

drama

Having recently participated in the school production of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet', I have not only developed new friendships with the others within the cast, but also become more understanding and open-minded of Shakespearean language and work.

The 'world of professional sporting rivalry' slant brought to this classic piece, is an example of Mr Gallaway's (the Director) creative thinking and experience in producing a timeless play that will capture the attention of an audience already familiar with the plot and ending of the play.

The inclusion of Asian culture, seen through the music, costume and blocking conveyed a multi-cultural spin that intrigued the audience throughout the play until the very last scene.

Kate Flaherty Drama Leader



Welcome back to our Santa Sabina Community, I hope you and your families are enjoying 2013.

Already this year we have had many occasions where our families have had the opportunity to catch up and meet other members of our community.

We have had many Tea and Tissue mornings and a very special start to the year with a Middle School breakfast on the first day of term. In February we came together as a Community for the Commissioning

of our new College Principal Dr Maree Herrett, the opening school year liturgy and Meet the Staff evening.

Each Year Group has met together to enjoy a social occasion from K-12. The P&F also held our Easter Hot Cross Bun drive and the Mother's Day stall.

In May our parent Community came together as one for a night of fun, laughter, socialising and dancing at the Annual College Dinner. It was a very successful

night socially. A great amount of funds were raised from the raffle and the very successful silent auction.

The time is fast approaching for the Annual Santa Sabina College Fair on Saturday 7 September– this year's aims to be bigger and better than ever. Visit our Fair website www.santafair.weebly.com to see what is happening with the Fair.

Julienne McCarthy
President P&F Association







Jackie Baxter - Director of Mary Bailey House

Jackie Baxter has been Director of Mary Bailey House since 2001. The Centre was recently rated as **Exceeding** the National Quality Standard for education and care services by the NSW Department of Education and Communities.

Throughout her career, Jackie has participated in a wide variety of professional learning experiences that have expanded upon her understanding of teaching and learning with the most profound being participation on a Study Tour to Reggio Emilia in 2007. Since then, she has been routinely attending Reggio Emilia Information Exchange biennial conference to build on her knowledge. She has also presented at and attended the Early Childhood Australia biennial conference.

Jackie's study and investigation into the Reggio Emilia experience has changed the way in which she views children. **"I now know that children are capable of many things and that teachers can learn as much from children as they can from us."** She is passionate about teachers genuinely listening to children and co-constructing curriculum with them. Jackie's goal for teaching and learning at MBH is that the children continue to investigate subjects that matter to them in a manner that reflects their level of enquiry and interest and to celebrate their achievements and undertakings.



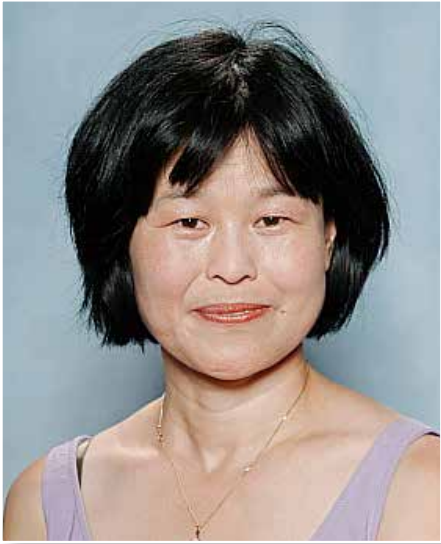
Emma McCauley - IB PYP Coordinator

Emma McCauley has recently been appointed as del Monte's IB Primary Years Programme Coordinator. Emma has over 20 years' experience within the Education system and has been a member of the School Leadership Team for the last 7 years.

Emma has worked collaboratively with University Staff to initiate 'K-5 Practitioner Inquiry Project' promoting 'practice-based' educational research (2007-2009). Emma has also undertaken a study tour with Jackie Baxter to Reggio Emilia, Italy; to research ways to embed authentic enquiry practices into the Primary Curriculum (2007).

Emma is currently studying at Macquarie University a Masters in Educational Research: (Pedagogy of Inquiry and its impact on the Learner.) She is committed to Educational Research and recently coauthored a paper for an International Educational Journal with colleagues from Macquarie University: Journal: Reflective Practice: International and Multidisciplinary Perspectives.

We are very excited that Santa Sabina College is seeking candidacy for the International Baccalaureate (IB) Primary Years Programme.



Kyoko Kusumoto

Santa Sabina's Japanese teacher Kyoko Kusumoto has recently co-authored another Obento Series. Obento is a fully integrated course in three stages written specifically for secondary school students learning Japanese in Australia and New Zealand and is innovative in its resource use and approach. Kyoko completed a BA and Diploma of Social Education at Rikkyo University (Tokyo, Japan). After working as an editor producing a number of sub textbooks in Tokyo, she came to Australia in 1986. She undertook a Grad. Dip Ed. (Secondary) at the Macquarie University and MA (Applied Linguistics, second language acquisition) at Sydney University. Kyoko has taught Japanese in both primary and secondary schools since 1988 including International Grammar School in Sydney (Immersion K-12).

Kyoko has also been involved in marking HSC since 1996. and is a member of the Japanese Teacher's Association of NSW and has contributed as a co-writer of the trial paper. She is a co-author for the Obentoo 1 and 2 series.

Congratulations Kyoko on this outstanding resource and for being such an inspiring teacher to your Japanese students.



Elizabeth Phipps

Congratulations to English and History Teacher Ms Elizabeth Phipps who recently had one of the major essays she wrote for her Masters published in an online student journal, History Initiates.

History Initiates is a new student journal published by the Department of Modern History, Politics and International Relations, Macquarie University, to showcase the finest work of its students.

The Santa Sabina Community is very proud of this fantastic achievement.

*Major Essay Title:
"Postcolonial history
and the dismantling
of coherent notions
of identity".*

enrichment leave



Certain guiding principles underpin the Dominican Charism, one of which is the commitment, evident even in Dominic's time, to the pursuit of knowledge. This, not for its own sake but to enable one to better serve the community in which one dwells. I was fortunate to benefit from this philosophy when I was granted Enrichment Leave by the College in 2012 which enabled me to undertake the course "Social Landscapes of the Bible" at St George College in Jerusalem. Not only did we as scholars, who gathered together from all parts of the globe, have an opportunity

to learn about the historical and social context for the work of Jesus but we also spent time with the Palestinian ecumenical community in Ramallah and listened to the perspectives of Jewish settlers who had travelled from the US, amidst some controversy, to settle in Israel. As we looked out from the Mt of Olives across the Kidron Valley, travelled to Galilee, prayed at sunrise in Jerusalem and stood, silent, filled with awe, in all those places one has imagined every week listening to the Readings, one could not help but be struck by the power of this most sacred of lands for each of the religious communities who view it as their own. Jesus demanded of his disciples the imagination and courage to see a different way; he challenged contemporary power and extolled his followers to act from the basic premise of love.

As a leader in a Dominican community, the experience of walking in the footsteps of Jesus,

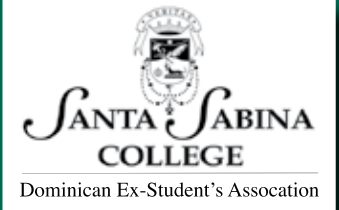
around his land, listening to the words of Scripture as we did so, has had a profound effect upon my thinking about leadership and the significant responsibility of the position I am privileged to hold. Jesus' message was so simple and emerged from a social and historical context, yet it has resonated down the ages, relationships which are informed by love for the other and not upon position or power will see the Kingdom come in our world.

I am particularly grateful to the College and Dominican Sisters whose foresight and commitment to ongoing learning enabled me to undertake this opportunity for learning and spiritual renewal. I have already found many opportunities to share my experiences with the school community and in the classroom.

Elizabeth Bennett
Deputy Principal K-12

THE MAGAZINE OF THE SANTA SABINA
DOMINICAN EX-STUDENTS' ASSOCIATION

around the plot



God be with you
how and always
dear Anna
Santa Sabina 196
Dr. Jane Dan

from the president



Peta Magee - President Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association

Over one hundred years of educating at Santa Sabina has led to an extensive network of ex-students with an unmistakable sense of history, eagerness to share treasured memories and lifelong friendships. We are very proud of the remarkable achievements of our inspiring Alumni, and greatly appreciate their valuable engagement and contributions to the College. The Alumni stretches across the world enriching the Santa Sabina community, a community that they will belong to forever.

The Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association work to strengthen and nurture our growing community by supporting all past Dominican students & families.

Our ex-students come together for reunions, career networking, mentoring and social events. We encourage our alumni to stay connected through Ex-Students Online Community, Alumni Facebook page and via the Ex-Students' Association.

Funds raised by this Association contribute to Bursaries which support families in financial need. This assistance enables a student to enter or continue at the College who may not otherwise be able to experience the benefits of a Santa

Sabina education.

As Old Girls & Boys we are part of the past, present and the future of Santa Sabina. We are significant stakeholders in the School community and we hope to share in its vision for innovation and excellence in education.

Gifts in varying forms to the College are a wonderful way to help the community into the future and provide opportunities for our young learners now and in years to come.

You may wish your gift to support one of the following, Scholarship Programs, Bursaries, Building Fund Contributions, either modest or substantial you can be assured that your gift will directly help each student to find their potential.

With the generosity and commitment of the Ex-Students Committee and the engagement of the community the Association has been successful in raising a significant donation of \$17,000.00 to be given towards Bursaries. As well as the annual donation to the Bursary fund the Association also donated \$1000 to The Catherine Sullivan Centre an early learning centre for babies and young children with hearing impairment and their families.

Peta Magee

***Santa Sabina Alumni
find us on Facebook***



bursaries



Peta Magee - President Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Association & Sr Maura McAvoy - Dominican Sister

In 1930 when Mother M. Bertand O.P. celebrated her Diamond Jubilee she received a gift of 25 pounds from the Old Girl's Union (as the Ex-Students' Association was then known). She asked if the money could be used by the Union for a scholarship, so the idea of a bursary was born. It was decided to award a bursary to a daughter of an Ex-Student of any Dominican Convent in NSW who, for financial reasons, would not be able to have a secondary education at a Dominican school.

The first "Dominican" magazine commented on the Bursary saying that it was open to all the Dominican secondary schools and was awarded "to the most deserving candidate after an examination". The winner of the bursary used it to remain in the school in which she attended. "A particularly promising student" was given a bursary to the Leaving Certificate but this was unusual and she "justified the confidence placed

in her by winning an Exhibition to the University". The article ends with: **"This Bursary should surely be another bond between us, and many Ex-Students who have lost touch with the Union will perhaps once again become financial members, secure in the knowledge that their subscriptions will help to swell the funds and possible benefit one of the present pupils of their own school"**.

A Trust Fund was set up in 1932 to ensure the viability of the bursary and in the 1930s it was usual to annually add 40 pounds to the Fund as well as giving donations to such as St. Lucy's and the "Waratah Deaf and Dumb Institute". The Annual Ball was the chief fundraiser for the Union and to defray the costs of the Ball so that more money could go to the Bursary Fund there were many social events held: "House Parties", card parties, Bridge parties, competitions, afternoon teas, often reported upon in the social

columns of the newspapers of the day. Participating Union members were active in supporting charitable endeavours.

The long history of the Bursary has ensured a Dominican education for many students who would not have otherwise had the financial means. Many of our great alumni were beneficiaries' of such bursaries and have gone on to achieve great things.

We are seeking to substantially build the Bursary Fund in order to expand the number of bursaries the School is able to offer and we are encouraging wider support. We invite all of the Santa Sabina community - ex-students, students, parents and staff - to donate generously to this Fund and to help others experience the wonderful educational opportunities that Santa Sabina provides.

notices

Notice of AGM

Notice is given of the Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-students' Association General Meeting - Monday 2 September 2013. College Boardroom, Santa Sabina College 90 The Boulevard, Strathfield NSW 218. Commencing at 7:30pm. *Nominations for positions on the General Committee are now being called for. All financial members of the Association are entitled to nominate for a position on the Committee.*

Please contact Peta Magee
p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

Fellowship Program to the Solomon Islands in 2014

Santa Sabina Ex Students are invited to apply for a Fellowship which will enable two young women to undertake for up to a four week Immersion/Service experience with the Dominican Sisters in the

Solomon Islands in 2014. The fellowship will be funded by The Santa Sabina Ex Students Association and the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands.

The Fellowships cover travel and living expenses to the value of \$3000 each. The Purpose of these Fellowships will be to provide an opportunity to travel to the Solomon Islands, to stay with the Dominican Sisters and to engage with the local communities with whom they live and work. The approach is based on respect and equality and once relationships have been formed opportunities may arise where knowledge and skills are shared.

Through this heightened awareness of the Solomon Islands community, it will be expected that on their return, the participants will give presentations to various groups

of students and adults and in so doing will raise the profile of our Dominican connections.

In order to be considered applicants must have successfully demonstrated an understanding of the purpose of the fellowship and be willing and able to participate during the specified dates.

Enquiries to Sr Rose Mary Kinne on rkinne@netspace.net.au
Phone: Las Casas Centre Winton Santa Sabina College: 9715 3935.



Solomon Islands Markets



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news & events

Careers Networking Night

Ex-students from a range of industries provided an insight into the career path they have chosen for current senior students.

Ex-Students' Breakfast

Current parents and staff of the College who are Ex-Students along with their children, joined together this morning for breakfast to catch up with friends.



Current SSC Students of Ex-Students'

Jane of Aza Playgroup

Over 60 children enjoyed the beautiful sunny morning at the Jane of Aza playgroup. Ex-students and current and future families joined together for a morning of fun and friendship.

Groovy Suzy entertained the children with face painting and balloon animals. Please join us for our next playgroup on Friday August 30.



Melissa Horwood nee Nolan ('98), Kristy Gavin ('98) with Emilia and Rebecca Laming ('95) nee Nolan



Peta Magee with current parents & staff



Kelly Garsia nee Lopez ('01) with son Cooper



Peta Magee & Olga Giuffre nee Pastroudis ('77)



Nicholas



Class of 1963



Margaret Toomey ('52) & Sr Helen Leary ('52)

Golden Girls & Boys Reunion 2013

With a wealth of memories, 250 Golden girls and boys were warmly welcomed back to the College to celebrate Mass and enjoy high tea with friends and classmates.

The Class of 1963 were special guests celebrating 50 years since leaving Santa Sabina. Also attending were ex-students from the years of 1937 – 1962. Reminiscing about the pink dorm, St Dominic's Day celebrations, Debutante Balls and old school uniforms, the Golden girls and boys appreciated the Archive display arranged by College Archivist Jenny Allison.



Peter, David & Bernard Carson - del Monte boys



Mass



Exploring the archives



Margaret Ryan ('37), Clare Kenny ('38) and Pamela Newton ('38)



3 generations



Pamela Higgins ('63) nee Herrett & Dr Maree Herrett ('71)



Class of 1961



89th Annual Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students Ball - Debutante's

Debutante Enrichment Program

The 89th Annual Santa Sabina Dominican Ex-Students' Ball was held at the Novotel Olympic Park. The success of the ball was very much evident in the enjoyment of the guests, VIPs and Debutantes.

An atmosphere of family and tradition and the presence of our Dominican Heritage was on display. The outstanding guest of honour was ex-student Ms Jill Emberson ABC Radio Broadcaster, an extremely articulate, successful, inspiring woman with a great sense of humour and a big Dominican heart.

The Debutantes participated in the Debutante Enrichment Program which included:

- Leading Ladies Self Development Workshops
- Modern Etiquette
- Self Confidence
- Image Management
- Mother & Daughter High Tea
- The Catherine Sullivan Centre Volunteering
- The Exploration of the Dominican Tradition



Ms Jill Emberson



Elizabeth Quach

jill emberson guest of honour

It feels like only yesterday that I was your age, dissecting mice with Kerry Doyle in the biology lab, wagging school one day, only to come back the next to find I'd been voted School Vice Captain. That was 1976. I loved that role. I loved this school.

Two years ago, on the program I host on ABC Local Radio Newcastle, I did a live interview with the CEO of a company that had successfully renewed its lucrative 5-year government contract to provide housing and settlement services for refugees arriving in Newcastle under Australia's humanitarian aid program. Seemed like a good news story. What were their practices? Their measures of success? Their track record. Short, precise, polite, I did the interview and went on with the show. Within an hour an irate listener came into the station with a dossier of complaints about that very company: graphic photos of dirty, run down houses with cheap bedding, rotting pipes and gut wrenching accounts of refugees who were suffering in silence in those houses. While I was still on air, this listener had gathered an attentive audience around our editorial table. Most disgruntled listeners make a phone call rather than a visit, but this was a feisty complainant....on a mission you could say. On returning to my desk after the show, I made a cursory glance at the editorial table, but I stopped in my tracks when our complainant boomed in my direction: **"I will not let a Dominican reveal only half the truth."**

Who was this woman? Was she talking to me? How did she know about my Dominican origins? It turned out that our irate listener was Sr Diana Santelben, a Dominican

nun who had been training at Del Monte when I was in infants school. I was gobsmacked. Sr Di had heard my original interview and wanted to engage me in her cause to bring this company to account. She runs a support service for refugee families in Newcastle and with her information I went on to broadcast a series of stories about the company. Over several weeks I took it as far as the federal minister for immigration. He ordered an audit of the company and a review of all future contracts. I eventually won an ABC media prize for my work.

This experience serves as a reminder that the Dominican network will find you when you least expect it. In fact, it probably never leaves you alone. Here was a nun from 40 years ago walking back into my life insisting that I live true to the Veritas motto. **That fighting Dominican dedication to tell the truth and to advocate on behalf of those less privileged has shaped my personal value system and driven many work choices.** Sr Di must be in her late 60s, working long hard days to support women and their children lucky enough to get refugee status in Australia - many with life stories too horrible to imagine. I've drawn inspiration from that aspect of Dominican fortitude.

Age is no barrier. At 54, I think my best work is yet to come. I really do. A previous boss once told me that if you're lucky, the road of life is very long and there are many twists and turns. That boss was Mark Bouris, finance entrepreneur and now host of the TV Show 'The Apprentice'. Mark hired me for my directness and adventurous spirit. And as a sole parent, I needed a well paid job. When I discovered that I was being

paid much less than the men on the team, I sweated for weeks writing a letter asking for a pay rise. When Mark got it, he phoned immediately to say I shouldn't have bothered with a letter, I should have asked him directly. He promised to sort it out in 48 hours and he did. All that unnecessary angst because I was too afraid to ask for what I wanted.

There is still a 17% pay gap between work of equal value done by men and women in Australia. That means girls, if you get the same degree or qualification as your male partner, when you're out in the work force, he will likely earn 17% more than you for the same job. Go figure! There is much advocacy in policy circles to close this salary gap, but can I suggest that if you don't ask for the salary you want, chances are you won't get it.

Dominican values are strong in advocating for others, but not always in advocating for ourselves. I had to learn that skill. Sure, lots of good fortune arrives at your door, but you have to seek much for yourself. You have to ask. You have to stick your neck out. You have to take a risk. I took a risk leaping from the news room at 2JJJ to co-hosting my own show, and then from 2JJJ to TV. It was an even bigger risk to throw in the TV career to follow my heart to Paris.

With Dominican values of advocating for others, and some good practice in advocating for yourself, you will have much to share in years to come with the girls with whom you are sharing this special night tonight. They will be there for you.

where are they now



Cathy Foley Class of 1975

Dr Cathy Foley won the 2013 Women of the Year award.

She is one Australia's foremost scientists, leading the way for women in science. Cathy is one of a handful of women to hold a very senior position in science. As Chief of the CSIRO's Materials Science and Engineering division, she is responsible for around 900 people and a budget of more than \$60 million. For the last 28 years, Cathy has been actively promoting the role of women in physics and science. Her determination to see women excel in the field has seen her form numerous groups including the AIP Women in Physics Group, Women in Superconductivity and Women in Science Enquiry Network. She has been the keynote speaker at the

Women in Science and Engineering Symposium held at

Parliament House in Canberra. Cathy was President of the Australian Institute of Physics and Science and Technology Australia representing over 68,000 researchers, and she has served on several boards and advisory groups, including the Prime Minister's Science, Engineering and Innovation Council.

"of the 8 nominees for NSW Women of the Year, two were Santa Sabina Ex-Students"

Rebecca Sattout (nee Morgan) Class of 1998

Rebecca was nominated for the 2013 Women of the Year Award. People have described Rebecca Morgan as "dedicated", "an inspiration", "positive", and "amazing". This tenacious young woman, President of Little Wonder – Parent Support and Fundraising Committee for RPA Newborn-Care, absolutely lives up to all of these descriptions.

After her son Connor was born prematurely at 32 weeks, Rebecca became a founding member of Little Wonder.

This group is dedicated to providing support to families who have experienced a premature or ill newborn baby, and to increasing awareness of the wonderful work RPA Newborn-Care does on a daily basis.



Juggling family, work and volunteering, Rebecca's drive to ensure the continued success of Little Wonder has resulted in the group raising more than \$50,000 for vital life-saving equipment and the refurbishment of rooms in the neonatal intensive care unit. She has also been instrumental in establishing Little Wonder Playpals, a support group for families once they have been discharged from hospital.



Elicia Macpherson Class of 2001

Elicia has taught at the Australian International School (AIS) in Sharjah, United Arab Emirates for almost three years. AIS is made up of students that come from more than 60 countries. Elicia is the Careers & University Advisor and also teaches Business and Management for the International Baccalaureate program. Living in the Middle East Elicia has had a wonderful experience that has helped her grow both professionally and personally. Her time in the Middle East has come to an end as she will soon be taking up a new job at an international school in Portugal.

Stephanie Fehon Class of 2010

Stephanie has continued the debating she excelled in at Santa by being selected for the largest and most prestigious debating event in the region. She will participate in the Australian Intervarsity Debating Championships (Australis) in Kuala Lumpur as part of Macquarie University's top debating team where she is currently completing an arts/law degree.

Catherine Gascoigne Class of 2001

Catherine Gascoigne has won a Gates Cambridge Scholarship. These are given to outstanding applicants from countries outside the UK to pursue full time postgraduate study in any subject offered at the University of Cambridge, with the goal of building a global network of future leaders committed to improving the lives of others. 51 scholarships have been awarded from 3500 applicants. Only 4 were awarded in Australia. Catherine will go to Cambridge to undertake a PhD.



Kate Windon Class of 1999

Kate Windon and nine other women were the successful entrants in the SMH Daily Life competition, to win a place at a lunch with the Prime Minister, Julia Gillard and a selection of other influential women from their '20 Most Influential Female Voices 2012' list to celebrate International Women's Day (IWD).



Mary Spongberg Class of 1982

Mary was recently appointed Dean of the Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences at UTS. Mary is a cultural historian who works primarily on the history women's historical writing and the history of the body and sexuality and the history of feminism in Europe and Australia. She is currently editor of Australian Feminist Studies. Her first book, *Feminising Venereal Disease* (New York University Press and Macmillan, 1997) was short-listed for the Premier's History Prize in 1998.

Amy Hume Class of 2005

Ex-Student and past teacher of Speech and Drama at del Monte, Amy Hume, was recently advised from AMEB that due to her students' consistently high exam results, she ranks amongst the Top 5 private teachers for Speech & Drama Preliminary - 5th Grade in Australia.

Amy acknowledges that these fantastic results come from the hard work students put towards speech. Santa Sabina across all campuses had outstanding results in both Theory and Practical exams in May, August and November 2012.

Effectively, this ranking means that the del Monte students' speech exam results are amongst the highest in Australia! This is a huge commendation for our speech students. We would like to acknowledge Amy Hume as well as Holly Judge and Bridie Connell for their role in the student's high results.



Lucy Virgona Class of 2011

Lucy who was showcased in the last Encompass, has since won 2nd prize in Recycled Wear Australian Wool Fashion Awards 2013. Lucy studied Design in Fashion and Textiles at UTS. Lucy's passion lies in the implementation and promotion of fine merino wool in fashion.

Siobhan Devaney Class of 2008 & Dominique Marturia Class of 1986

Siobhan and Dominique celebrated their graduation at NSW University in June. Siobhan graduated with a

Bachelor of Arts with a major in history and Dominique received a Masters in Educational Leadership. Dominique taught Siobhan Religious Education when she was in Year 9 at Santa and is currently Head of Mission & Identity.



Sr Rosemary Lewins OP, former principal of Santa Sabina, was recently awarded an honorary Doctorate by Australian Catholic University, on the occasion of its 50th anniversary.

Rosemary, after holding principalships in Dominican schools in Santa Sabina Sydney and Siena Melbourne, became Principal of Signadou Dominican College of Education in Canberra. Rosemary applied her high level of expertise and experience in educational leadership as the founding Dean of Students and Director of Ministry at the new ACU from 1995-2001. Rosemary held the position of Prioress of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands from 2001-2009.

Congratulations to the
Dominican Sisters who celebrated
their Diamond (60 years) Jubilee
Sr Mary Josepha O'Dwyer O.P
Sr Gemma Young O.P

births deaths & marriages

Births

Congratulations to:

Aliscia Busa (nee Di Mauro '99) - daughter Alessandra.

Melissa Vouris (nee McNeil '01) - daughter Amelia.

Sally Partlin (nee McGhee '99) - daughter Sophie Michelle Adelaide.

Simone Casonato (nee L'Estrange '95) - twin boys Daniel John & James Antonio.

Deaths

Margot Linley-Ex Dominican Student in Adelaide (nee Hussey)

Mary Skelly ('56)

Maureen Elizabeth Paris (nee Morris) ('63)

Marriages

Peter Doherty, husband of Margaret Anne (Nee Happ) LC 1952.

Helen Mary Harper (nee McMullen) LC of 1963. Husband Malcolm and children Kathryn ('87), Robert, Michael (Ned) and Timothy.

Karen Folkes (nee Moore) Class of 1974

Anne Ailwood (nee Heads) LC of 1957

Christine Jones - Former Santa Sabina Counsellor (1987-1993) Mother of Beth Bryan (class of 2006) and Robin, wife of Dick.

Michael O'Neill. Husband of Helen O'Neill, father of Susan O'Neill ('87) and Cate Roger (nee O'Neill '96)

Sr Ursula Kennedy O.P. Former Del Monte teacher, aged 102

Sr Patricia Murphy O.P (formerly Sr Lawrence Mary) Principal at Del Monte



Jacqui Phelan to Jason Coleman.



Erin Barrell to Daniel McMullan. Bridesmaids Jacqueline Phelan, and Tania Tobin (Zaitseff) ('01).



Jessamy Eccles ('03) to Louis Hanna. Bridesmaids Felicia Eccles ('98), Sidonie Eccles ('04) and Amanda Serici ('03).



Marianne Lopert ('04) Patricia Dwyer (Blomgren) ('67), Helen Donovan (Blomgren) ('70) - Mother of groom, Nellie Luzynski ('70), Alessandra Lopert ('02) Melanie Gordon (nee Wilson) ('70), Sandra Samuel (nee Garsia) ('70), Christine Nelson (nee Blomgren) ('61).



Larissa Di Mauro ('02) to Simon Patane (DM) Bridesmaids sister Aliscia ('99) Josephine Jeries nee Donato ('02) and best man Adrian Giuffre (DM).



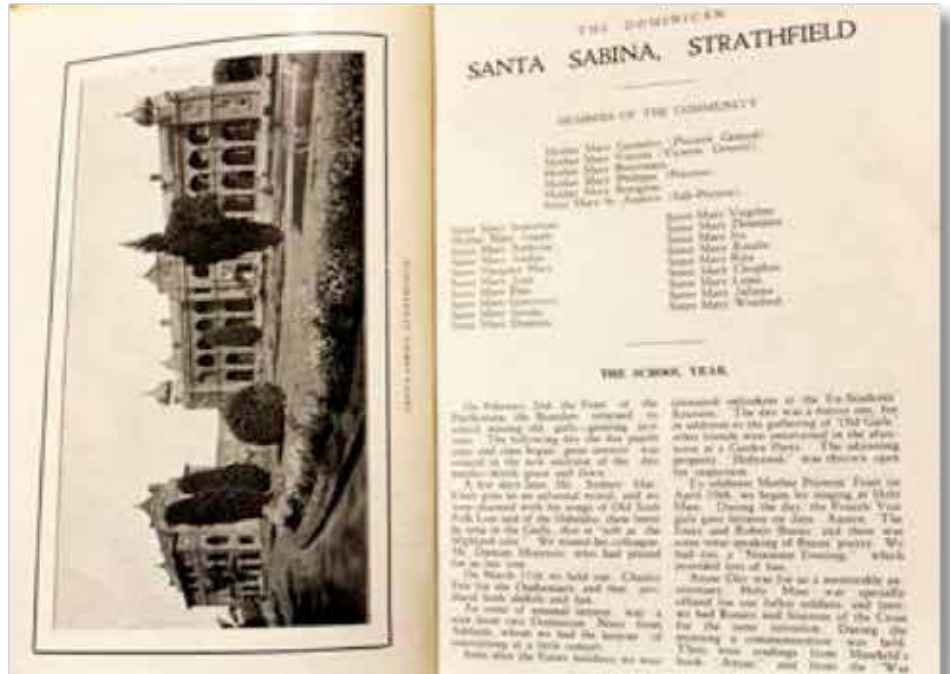
Emily Pow ('05) to John O'Callaghan. Bridesmaids: Sister Rachel ('07) School friends ('05) Christina Yum, Michelle Brooks, Kate Sheehan, Elizabeth Norman.



Stephanie Johns ('01) to Martin Eber. Bridesmaids Cassandra Hanaghan (nee Jenkins, '01), Emma Page ('01) and Karina Johns ('03).



Lisa Solomons ('98) to Shane Roenne.



The Dominican - Issue 1, 1937

archives - words from winton

the printed word

In the absence of formal record keeping, understanding Santa Sabina in its first four decades relies on many and varied source material. "Freeman's Journal" and "The Catholic Press", for example, were two newspapers which provide very valuable information. They reported on significant events such as the opening of the school, the planting of the orange tree, the blessing of St. Dominic's statue, end of year concerts and prize giving, examination results, ex-students reunions and sporting results. As no early register of students has survived, these reports not only describe some of what was going on, but also the names of those participating, thus forming the basis of a retrospective student list.

The "Annals" of the Dominican Sisters is another valuable source material as are several concert programs, a list of boarders in the

1920's, ex-students' stories and the one student publication that is held by the College Archives, "The Gargoyle" published in 1928.

It was "The Catholic Press" that on Thursday 14 April 1921 published an article on the gathering of 130 ex-students of the Dominican schools in Maitland, Newcastle, Tamworth, Moss Vale and Strathfield. The purpose of the meeting was to form an Ex-Students' Union and elect office bearers. "The business concluded, the members dispersed, expressing their delight at the formation of the much desired association". Apart from annual reunions on Low Sunday, the first Sunday after Easter, the Union raised money for such things as the Bursary Fund, donated furniture to the library in the new 1927 building and formed groups for charitable purposes. In the Great Depression years a Sewing Guild was formed,

meeting at the David Jones store in the city to sew for the poor, and a Free Library was established in Alexandria for children to visit, read books and enjoy craft projects.

It was in 1937 that a group of ex-students discussed a means of communicating with all the ex-students, including those who were not able to attend the annual reunion held at Santa Sabina. It was decided to publish an "Annual". The Editorial for the first edition of "The Dominican" finished with: "In these days of social unrest, we should like to feel that our Union is one which binds us with ties of loyalty and affection, and we hope that this Annual may play its humble part in making the All Dominican Ex-Students' Union recognised as the definite power for good it undoubtedly is".

2013 alumni reunions & events

Playgroup - Jane of Aza
Friday 30 August
Del Monte Campus - Catherine Sullivan
Centre Play Enclosure
p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

AGM-Ex-Students' Association
Monday 2 September
College Board Room
p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au

College Fair
Saturday 7 September
Secondary Campus
www.santafair.weebly.com

Rhyme Time (2-5 yr olds)
Wednesday 11 September
Del Monte Library

Class of 1973 Reunion
Saturday 21 September
Hotel CBD Sydney
d.jones@ssc.nsw.edu.au

Class of 1983 Reunion
Saturday 14 September
The Dome Restaurant Arthouse
santasabinaclassof83@gmail.com

Class of 1993 Reunion
Sunday 20 October
Santa Sabina College

Class of 2003 Reunion
TBA

Melbourne Cup Lunch
Tues 5 November
Angelo's on The Bay
p.magee@ssc.nsw.edu.au



Do you have any news of a member
of your class - what they are doing
now, an achievement or success
Please send it to us.

Please register your contact
details with us on the Ex-Students'
Networking site via ssc.nsw.edu.au