The Marians
JULY 2019
www.stmarys.nsw.edu.au

I am born for Higher Things

Dear Marians

It seems such a short time since I sat down to write my short reflection for last year's Marian magazine. Much has happened over the past twelve months, with excellent academic results being achieved in the 2018 HSC, the full implementation of the Middle Years Program of the International Baccalaureate undertaken, and wonderful work being done in the area of pastoral care. St Mary's is a beautiful community, with our girls being proud of their school and our wonderful traditions. They continue to work for justice in our small part of the world, with an active social justice program, a wonderful culture of supporting a variety of charities, and advocating for the poor and marginalised in word and action.

In a similar way, we have been blessed with a rich prayer and liturgical life in the College. At St Mary's, our liturgies have a contemporary message for young people, as we work to bring the Gospel to life in the day-to-day experiences of the girls. We continue to actively involve students in all aspects of the prayer life of the College and we do so in ways that engage their hearts, minds and their creativity.

The College again shone in the Performing Arts in 2019 with our latest production, "Strictly Ballroom", showcasing the talents of our students and staff. The performances spanned the Mother's Day weekend with shows held on the Thursday and Friday evenings, a Saturday matinee and the final performance on Saturday evening. The girls where exhilarated and on a real high by the final show and they had every right to be as the show was fantastic. This show was a credit to the College community and a wonderful experience for all involved. The St Mary's Mother's Day Dinner was held at the same time as the production and so we had much to celebrate in what was a very busy week.

Pastoral care is an important area of College life at St Mary's and one that our staff takes very seriously. You would be aware that life is much more complex for young people today and certainly for young women. With the challenges presented by social media, changing societal expectations and increasingly busy lives, many of our girls can feel stressed and anxious. This is where resilience programs, wellbeing sessions and a gentle approach is necessary in making sure that we work with families to provide the appropriate support systems for all girls at the College.

Interestingly, this is one of the issues most often raised by parents of prospective students during Year 7 enrolment interviews. While parents may not use the term pastoral care, they do ask about how their daughters will be cared for, how they will make friends, the support that will be available if they don't settle, and who will support them in times of need. As a Good Samaritan College, this is where we do our best work, as we focus on treating each member of our community as neighbour and we focus on treating all people with compassion, love and hospitality.

We are in the middle of the enrolment process for students hoping to join our community next year and the girls who are presenting for enrolment are quite outstanding. We currently have an enrolment of 1100 girls at the College and this number is likely to be well over 1100 students in 2020. However, we have always had wonderful young women enrol at the College and each of you is an ambassador for St Mary's. You are excellent role models, productive citizens and wonderful examples of what St Mary's girls can do, and for this I thank you. We continue to walk in your footsteps and take pride in this wonderful school.

This will be my final Marion's contribution as I will be retiring at the end of the 2019 school year. Having had the opportunity to be a small part of the St Mary's story has been a great privilege and one that I am very grateful for. Mr Tony Fitzgerald



has been appointed as the new Principal of the College from 2020 and I congratulate Tony on his appointment. Tony is currently the Principal of Mater Dei, another of our Good Samaritan Education Colleges, and so he is already part of the Good Samaritan/ Benedictine community.

I wish you every good wish for the remainder of the year and I look forward to catching up with many of you at our Decades Reunion in August. I thank each of you for the great contribution that you have made to our community and I will keep you in my thoughts and prayers into the future.

Best wishes
Dr Frank Pitt, Principal

Claiming the Date

DECADES REUNION

All ex-students celebrating their Decades Reunion are invited to morning tea and to tour the College. You are most welcome to come even if this is not your reunion year. We look forward to seeing you soon! RSVP is essential.

When: Saturday 24 August 2019

Where: St Mary Star of the Sea College, SGN Hall, Harbour St, Wollongong

Time: 10.30am to 12.30pm

RSVP: 16 August 2019
Maree McCarthy, maree.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au or
Tel 02 4228 6011

Frank's Retirement



I have known Frank Pitt for at least thirty years, even before he taught my daughter, Lesley, in Year 6 at St Therese, West Wollongong. At that time, he was a much-loved teacher and Assistant Principal and his students still remember their time with him. I believe that the Year 6 experience they received was a great preparation for secondary school.

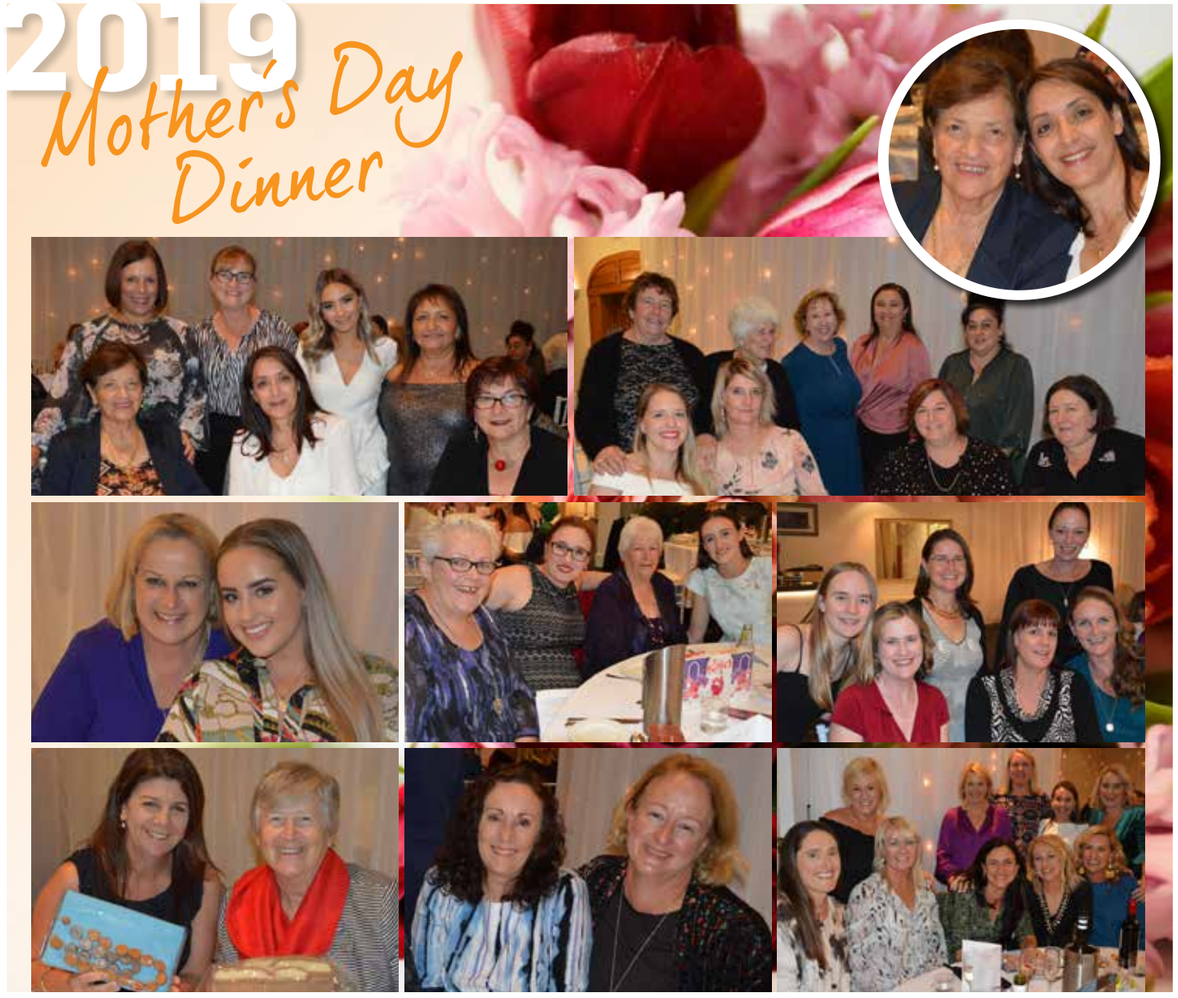
Over the years, as Frank moved to other schools and then became Principal of a Kindergarten to Year 12 school, Mater Dei in Camden, I saw much less of him until he applied for the position of Principal of St Mary's College, where I was a Board Director. I was on the recruitment panel and was unsure what to expect from Frank as, the last time I saw him, was as a Year 6 teacher. I think I can say that what I did learn in that interview was that some people are real life-long learners, who don't stop moving forward and learning. He blew us away with his knowledge of current educational trends, a deep understanding of people as individuals and a desire to do everything he could to create a vibrant and supportive learning environment at St Mary's. It was obvious that he lives his faith and that it impacts on all that he does.

For the past ten years, Frank and I have worked closely as Principal and Chair of Board, a very important relationship in the College. The Board does the 'big picture' planning, collaboratively with the Principal and the Principal and his team implements the vision using the resources and talent available to them.

Frank and I have been able to talk by phone and meet regularly to talk over anything that is current or plan for the future. He has listened patiently and taken on board my thoughts and ideas, while offering insightful responses and innovative solutions. We both worked by the principle of putting it all on the table and moving forward from there. We had an unwritten rule that any question could be asked and that we were capable of making mistakes, but that we would learn from them. His people skills have ensured a respectful, caring relationship with all of the Board, as we work together for the students of the College. Frank being Frank has made the journey such an enjoyable one and I am very grateful that I got the opportunity to work closely with him in such an important endeavor and at such a great school. As he moves into retirement at the end of the year, I know he will not be idle, but I wish him wonderful adventures and relationships during the next stage of his life.

Brenda Wilson, Chair of the Board

2019 Mother's Day Dinner



DECADES

Reunion 2018

On Saturday, 25 August 2018 we welcomed back to the College our ex-students for their Decades Reunion. It was a wonderful morning filled with great excitement, lots of chatter and 'ohs' and 'ahs' when touring the College and seeing all the changes since they were at school.

We had students return from the class of 1943!!! The students who came to help with hospitality and as tour guides were wonderful ambassadors of the College and they too were amazed by the many stories shared on the day.





Marians Update



ELIZABETH ESPINOSA



I'll never forget the moment I learned I'd been accepted into the University of Wollongong's LLB/Arts combined degree as a high school graduate.

The year was 1990 and I had just completed my HSC at St Mary Star of the Sea in Wollongong. My Spanish parents, Jose and Isabel Espinosa, had raised me with an appreciation for education and self-initiative. My father worked as a concreter and couldn't read or write until he was conscripted to the Spanish army as a young man, whereas my mother completed three years of primary education and her family had a small market garden while she was growing up. My parents emigrated to Australia to give their children, including my sister Mary Boyle, a better life through education.

Despite being born in Australia, as my parents had a non-English speaking background, I was placed in a remedial English class in primary school. After lobbying the Principal, arguing that I was achieving higher marks than pupils from English-speaking homes, I was transferred back to the mainstream class.

At St Mary's, I thrived under my teachers' encouragement and the school's ethos, informed by our motto Ad maiora nata sum ('I am born for higher things'). By Year 10, I'd narrowed down my future career ambitions to scientist, artist or political leader. I didn't know becoming a lawyer was an option, until in senior school, I learned that the University of Wollongong would offer the LLB from 1991 – the year after my HSC!

The school's motto and my dad's advice – "if you want something, you have to work for it" – spurred me to attend the lunchtime meeting for senior girls interested in law. St Mary's strongly supported me in achieving my goal.

Today, I lead our State's legal profession of approximately 34,000 solicitors as President of the Law Society of New South Wales, and the values St Mary's imbued in me, continue to guide me in my practice as a lawyer.

PAULA STEVENS-DUNN



Paula, Class of 1993, recently won global recognition for a leadership program she developed for young girls at school and women in the workplace.

The work she is doing with No Limit Consulting was singled out at the largest gathering of women entrepreneurs and leaders in the world.

Paula was presented the Exceptional Women of Excellence Global Award at the World Economic Forum in India for her 10-week initiative designed to help Year 10 girls thrive through their senior school years and beyond.

Paula was born with a bilateral cleft lip and palate. It was a birth defect that resulted in her being bullied in her early years of school. Things improved dramatically when she went to St Mary's and the University of Wollongong where she achieved good academic results. She has become a motivational speaker on bullying, diversity, inclusion and gender equality.

"I now see my birth defect as a superpower, using it to help kids deal with bullying, helping them to create self-confidence, courage and resilience despite adversities in life," she said.



DR ELIZABETH CLINGAN *(Left Above)*

We welcomed Elizabeth back to the College as guest speaker for the St Mary's International Women's Day Breakfast 2019. She kept us enthralled with stories of her journey after school to the present day.

Elizabeth is a consultant Nuclear Medicine Physician in the Illawarra Shoalhaven Local Health District. She is also the Director of Physician Training at the Wollongong Hospital and a national examiner for the Royal Australasian College of Physicians. She attended St Mary's College from 1990 to 1995 before commencing her MBBS at the University of Tasmania. She has a strong interest in medical education and female representation in leadership positions within medicine.

In addition to her professional work she has also been an active volunteer with the Australian Breastfeeding Association as a counsellor, North Wollongong Nippers as an age-manager, St Brigid's Catholic Parish as a Minister of Children's Liturgy, St Brigid's Catholic Primary School Gwynneville P&F as the Vice-President, President, Treasurer and Fete Organiser and more recently St Mary's College P&F as the President. In her spare time she has also been a manager for her daughter's hockey team.

Her interests outside of work and volunteer-work include SCUBA-diving, regular exercise, reading and scrabble (as long as I am winning). She is happily married and has three wonderful children, the eldest of whom currently attends St Mary's College.

FELICITY SKOBERNE *(Right Above)*

We also welcomed Felicity as a guest speaker for the International Women's Day Breakfast. Her engaging presentation enlightened us into the very creative and rewarding career in landscape architecture.

Graduating from St Mary's in 1988, Felicity is a registered landscape architect with a broad range of experience spanning 27 years in the design and construction industry. Employed within the private, state and local government sectors, where working for the local community has been her greatest reward professionally. Felicity was responsible for such projects as the Flagstaff Hill Lookout, the streetscape upgrade of Keira Street and the recent upgrade to the Tramway promenade between North Beach and Belmore Basin. Felicity is also involved in the creation of policy and guidelines for development and urban greening.



LAUREN BUHAGIAR

After winning the IWIB Business Woman of the Year 2019 award at the Illawarra Women in Business Awards, I have been reflecting on how far I have come.

Entering Year 7 at St Mary Star of the Sea College in 1994 was daunting, but I realise now how St Mary's set me up with life skills, both for my business and life in general.

I loved the social aspect of school but also loved learning. But I was by no means a model student. I was middle of the pack and I had no idea what I wanted to do when the end of school approached. I enrolled in Wollongong University, went for six weeks and knew it wasn't for me. I knew that my skills would be best served getting out into the work force.

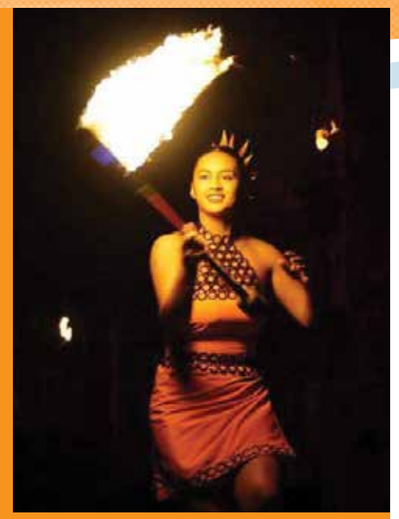
It was then that I started work as a Legal Secretary in Sydney and then got a job as a Legal Secretary in Wollongong that I learnt my passion for Conveyancing.

Whilst working full-time in Wollongong I enrolled in the Conveyancing Course through Macquarie University by correspondence. When I graduated, I worked for both large and small firms gaining industry and business experience before realising that I wanted to go out on my own. I knew that I had one thing that others didn't, a never give up attitude and my will to succeed.

My firm is now the biggest sole Conveyancing firm in the Illawarra and I am lucky enough to employ nine local women. I am very passionate about providing them with flexible working conditions to get the work/life balance right for them. Over the years I have learnt how important it is to give back to the local community so have made donating my time to do volunteer work a priority, as well as setting up an initiative whereby we donate $10.00 on behalf of a client on settlement to one of six Local and National charities. I have also become a Mentor for Mentor Walks Wollongong and have joined my first Board.

I hope to encourage others to open their own business and be a Mentor and also lead by example to give back to the local community.

MOEMOANA SCHWENKE



This year, female Siva Afi/Fire Knife dancers from all around the world were blessed with a women's open division at the World Fireknife Championships held in Hawaii at the Polynesian Cultural Centre. It was an empowering moment for myself just to be a part of this history in the making. Besides being a Siva Afi competition it was also a celebration of the fact that women can do anything. Female Siva Afi adds a whole other element to the competition. You see strength, fearlessness, but with or without trying, you also see the girls display grace and elegance. It's on the shoulders of existing female Siva Afi dancers to encourage other girls and women to learn, keep this special part of my Samoan culture alive, and keep the fire burning.

At the competition I conquered the fear and the fire, danced with my heart, channelled the warrior that has and will always be in me and gratefully got 2nd Place in the World Fire Knife Championships Women's Division. I have never felt more proud to be a woman and to be a Pacific Islander. What an honour it was to be competing with the world's best Siva Afi dancers. I am currently in Tahiti onto another adventure competing in an annual national dance competition called the Heiva I Tahiti. I hope to gain more experience and promote my culture all around the world.

I thank the strong empowering women from whom I continue to draw inspiration and strength everyday. I also thank St Mary Star of the Sea College for planting the seed of female empowerment in me since my first years at the College. Reminding me everyday that I am born for higher things.

JESSICA TODD



After working in England as a student teacher for a year, Jessica completed a Bachelor in Aerospace Engineering and a Bachelor of Science (Physics/Biology) at the University of Sydney in 2016 and is now working on her PhD in Aerospace Engineering at MIT in Boston, USA, in the hope of one day becoming an Astronaut. Help Jess in her amazing endeavour.

Fighting for Change in Antarctica
"Mother Nature needs her daughters!"

Never has this statement felt more true or more urgent. It was this call to arms that encouraged me to apply for the largest all-female expedition to Antarctica, to fight for action on climate change.

These words are the motto of Homeward Bound, a ground-breaking leadership program focused on heightening the impact of women of science in making decisions about our environment.

In June 2018 I was fortunate enough to be accepted into this amazing program, and on 22 November 2019, at the end of my 12-month program, I will join 94 other STEM women from 33 countries in setting sail for Antarctica. My journey to Antarctica is one small part of the broader 10-year vision of Homeward Bound, to bring together a global network of 1,000 women in STEM to combat climate change.

If you would like to learn more about the Homeward Bound program, I encourage you to visit the website at www.homewardboundprojects.com.au and if you are in STEM, apply for the next cohort in 2020!

My amazing sister Isabella, herself a passionate environmentalist and proud SMC graduate, is helping to send me on this journey by running a fundraising campaign called Send My Sister. You can support us and our work with this fantastic initiative by following/sharing our Facebook page, or making a small donation on our Chuffed page.

www.facebook.com/sendmysister/

Support: www.chuffed.org/project/send-my-sister

Thanks Jessica Todd



HSC Results 2018

Congratulations to the HSC Class of 2018 who achieved excellent results in their Higher School Certificate examination. HSC course average marks were above the State mean for 30 courses and the cohort achieved 96 Band 6 results with 54 students on the Distinguished Achievers list. Maya Francis, our Dux, gained an ATAR of 99.05 and Christina Chiaverini was a Top Achiever with 1st place in Legal Studies.

Two students were nominated (4 nominations) for Callback: Lahni Phillipson for Core Composition, Core Performance and Major Study Performance and Georgia Tolhurst for her Core Composition. There was one nomination for ArtExpress: Hannah Carlon for her work "Bodyscapes" and one nomination for Drama: Sophie Gulloch for her Individual Performance "Watch Your Head".



St Mary's Award Naomi Poscoliero



Overall Academic Excellence (L-R) Christina Chiaverini, Maya Francis, Ashley Lavoynne Silaen, Mia Specia



Maya Francis Bev Rigby Award for Excellence in English



Service Award & Maria Arcioni Social Justice Award





HSC Top ATAR & Top Achiever Christina(L) Maya (R)

Staff Farewells

At the end of 2018 we farewelled, Natty Apolo, Lee Bate, Lori Beswarick and Kerrie Guillaume. Pam Halcrow and Lorraine Dwyer have taken extended long service leave and are totally enjoying themselves. It is likely that this leave extends into retirement.



Pam Halcrow

Kerrie Guillaume



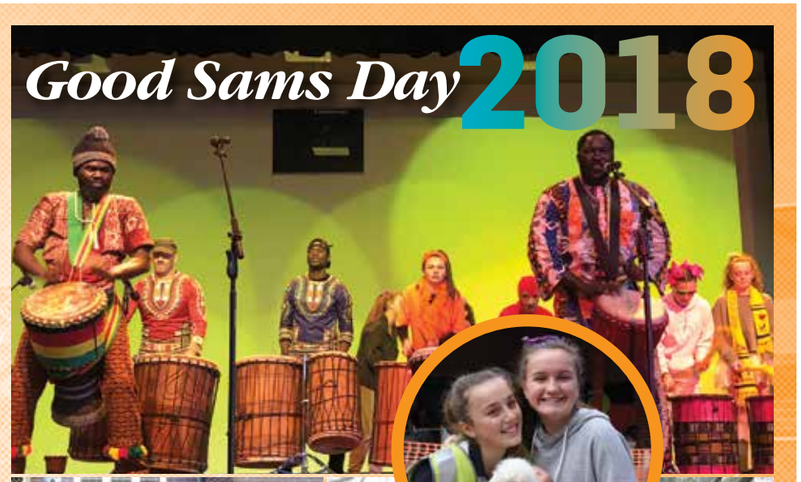
(L-R) Natty Apolo, Lee Bate, Lori Beswarick



Lorraine Dwyer



Good Sams Day 2018













College News



Hannah Crinnion at the Country Championships 2019
1st in 400m and long jump, 2nd in 200m



Indoor Hockey – Selected for the Australian Team Helena Tobbe (above right), Year 12 has been selected in the Australian Under 21's Indoor Hockey Team to tour the Czech Republic in November this year.



St Mary Star of the Sea College student Lucinda Preeo has returned to Australia with a bronze medal as part of the School Sport Australia Under16 girls hockey team following their recent international tour to Europe. The Australian girls played teams from the Netherlands, France, Germany and Ireland.

The Australian team also got the opportunity to train under Alyson Annan-Thate, who is the current head coach of the Netherlands national women's hockey team as well as FIH Coach of the Year. Annan-Thate was an incredibly talented player for the Hockeyroos over many years and Olympic gold medallist.

The tour also encompassed a strong educational focus with visits to Anne Frank House in Amsterdam, WWI battlefields and memorials in Belgium and France - Tyne Cot Cemetry, Polygon Wood and Villers-Brettoneux. Students also had a somber journey through a former Nazi labour/ concentration camp at Natzwiler-Struthof as well as taking part in the Last Post and wreath laying ceremony at Menin Gate in Ypres, Belgium.

The tour to Europe was an exciting and humbling experience for all girls in the team whom are all incredibly grateful for the opportunity they have been given.



OUTSTANDING NETBALLERS

Selene Chadrawy (Yr 10) and Annalise Chadrawy (Yr 12) represented NSW U17's at the National Netball Championships during the 2019 April school holidays in Brisbane. Their U17's NSW team took home a silver medal! Selene was selected in the under 17's Australian development squad.

WINNER OF VINCE VILLA TROPHY 2018

Congratulations to all our athletes and sports teams that competed at Diocesan events in 2018 – St Mary's won the Vince Villa Trophy for champion Girls Point score for the 17th time over the past 19 years.

Sports Blues Awards representing NSW All Schools were presented to:
Shauna Flynn - Cross Country, Mackenzie Hawkesby - Football and Lucinda Preeo - Hockey.

Lucinda and Mackenzie were both nominated for the Most Outstanding Sportswoman for gaining selection in Australian All Schools Teams.
Congratulations to Mackenzie Hawkesby on being named Diocesan Sportswoman of the Year 2018.



SMC Athletics relay



Mackenzie Hawkesby and Chris Lawrence



SMC Triathlon



SMC Relay team



CASTAGNA DAY (CHESTNUT DAY)

On Sunday, 19 May 2019 the College 'Tarantella Dancers' were invited to perform at the very popular family fun day at the Fraternity Club. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the piazza vibe and had many members of their extended families there to cheer them on.



MURAL BY CLAIRE FOXTON

In August 2018, Claire Foxton completed the mural in the art courtyard of two students from the HSC class of 2018, Ashley Silaen and Aimee Jeffries. It was a wonderful experience for all students and staff involved.



SR RITA FITT ORDER OF AUSTRALIA

We are very proud of Sr Rita Fitt who has been awarded the Order of Australia.



Year 12 Chemistry students gained 1st place in the RACI NSW Titration Competition. Winners were Demi Goddard, Zahra O'Toole and Mia Lock.

FATHER'S DAY BREAKFAST SEPTEMBER 2018



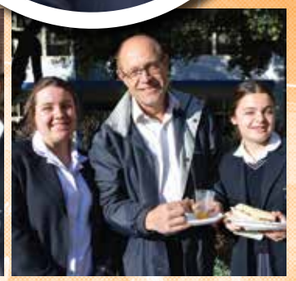












College News



INDONESIAN CONSUL GENERAL VISIT APRIL 2019

Indonesian Consul General Heru Hartanto Subolo was nothing but impressed when he accepted an invitation to witness the unique Middle Years Language Program at St Mary's.









MUSIC

We were privileged to have Lisa Moore, a world class musician, visiting the College ahead of her Wollongong concert. Lisa is an Australian born pianist who has found success in New York and is a specialist in contemporary Art Music. She ran a workshop for our piano students and then conducted a master class for five HSC Music 2 students. This was an incredible opportunity!







LADY MAYORESS' AFTERNOON TEA

St Mary's supported the Wollongong City Council Lady Mayoress' Afternoon Tea Dance at the Town Hall. This event was part of the Seniors Week celebrations. The students assisted with serving hot and cold beverages and served afternoon tea. They entertained and engaged with the seniors and thoroughly enjoyed the experience.







CSDA DEBATING CHAMPIONS 2018

St Mary's excelled in the CSDA Competition! Year 7 – Regional Finalists, Year 8 - Country Champions and State runners up, Year 11 - Country Champions and State runners up.

STRICTLY BALLROOM



Enriching travel opportunities



ITALIAN IMMERSION SEPTEMBER 2018

A wonderful experience travelling from Rome to Gualdo, Florence, Umbria, Tuscany, Verona, Venice, Milan... and all in between. As the girls said, 'An experience we would remember for the rest of our lives and would relive for years to come.
"From there we came outside and saw the stars" - Dante's Inferno'

PHILIPPINES IMMERSION SEPTEMBER 2018

Three St Mary's students embarked on an immersion to the Philippines along with fifteen other Good Samaritan school students. They spent time in Bacolod at the Good Samaritan Kinder school.

EUROPEAN HISTORY STUDY TOUR APRIL 2019

On the sun filled Saturday morning of 13 April 2019, thirty eight girls and four teachers said ciao and auf wiedersehen to their families as they embarked on a European voyage of culture, adventure, many birthdays and a lot of fun.

YEAR 10 VISIT AGED CARE FACILITY







St Mary Star of the Sea College

AD MAIORA NATA SUM

150 YEARS ANNIVERSARY COMING SOON!

Interested in being part of a Committee to begin planning the 150 Year celebrations in 2023?

Please contact Marie Pulford
T 4228 6011 **E** marie.pulford@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

If you prefer to receive an electronic copy of this newsletter rather than a hard copy, please email the College, marie.mccarthy@stmarys.nsw.edu.au

Note: The plastic wrap is recycled and sustainable.

Marian Bursary/Scholarship fund

I would love to support the girls at St Mary's by contributing to the Marian Bursary/Scholarship fund

- I wish to make a donation of $ _____
- I wish to give ongoing support. Please charge $ _____ monthly to my credit card
- I enclose a cheque/money order or
- Please charge my Mastercard/Visa/Amex Card

Card No.

Expiry Date

Signature

Mr/Mrs/Ms/First Name

Surname

Address

Post Code

Ph Daytime Mobile

Email

- Please send me more information about remembering the girls of St Mary's in my will.

If you would like to make a donation in support of the girls at St Mary's, please complete and cut out this coupon returning it to the College. Thank you very much:
Marie Pulford, St Mary Star of the Sea College
Locked Bag 42 Wollongong 2500.



Entertainment Book

Buy an entertainment book and support St Mary Star of the Sea College Marian Scholarship Fund! Entertainment Memberships are packed with hundreds of up to 50% off and 2-for-1 offers for the best local restaurants, cafés, attractions, hotel accommodation, travel and much more!

Order a 2019 | 2020 Entertainment Book Membership from St Mary Star of The Sea College and 20% of your Membership purchase goes towards our fundraising for the Marian Scholarship Fund and gives you over $20,000 worth of valuable offers valid through to 1 June 2020, for just $60!

Select the book relevant to the area in which you live and enjoy the benefits, while at the same time you will be supporting a great cause.

Memberships are available for only a short time, and St Mary Star of The Sea College will be raising funds only until the end of September 2019. Memberships can be purchased online or at School Reception.

Click this link to purchase your digital or hard copy now!

www.entertainment book.com.au/orderbooks/2802p93