

EDITION 1 - WINTER 2021



ST MARY'S
COLLEGE

Liberations



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WELCOME TO THE FIRST EDITION OF **LIBERATIONS**, THE MAGAZINE OF ST MARY'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY.

Catholic Schools in the Edmund Rice tradition strive to offer a *Liberating Education* based on a *Gospel Spirituality* within an *Inclusive Community* committed to *Justice and Solidarity*. Our school is built upon a foundation of liberation through education, so poignantly illustrated by Edmund Rice who started his ministry from hedge schools to lift up the marginalised of his time. From these faith filled beginnings we take our calling to provide our students and the St Mary's College community with liberation through education and look forward to sharing with readers amazing stories of *Liberations* in coming editions of this publication.

We would love to share your alumni story, celebration, obituaries and other news.

Please contact:

The Editor – *Liberations*
Elaine Doyle
St Mary's College
edoyle@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au



Principal's Welcome

“ THE FIRST SIX MONTHS OF **OUR REIMAGINED SCHOOL** HAS BEEN A TIME OF JOY, OF CHALLENGES AND OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS. WITH THE PRIVILEGE OF NEARLY 150 YEARS OF TRADITION IN **EDUCATING YOUNG VICTORIAN MEN AND WOMEN** AT CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' COLLEGE ST KILDA AND PRESENTATION COLLEGE WINDSOR, 2021 MARKED **A NEW BEGINNING.**

OUR COLLEGE, NOW KNOWN AS **ST MARY'S COLLEGE**, BECAME INNER MELBOURNE'S ONLY SECONDARY CATHOLIC CO-EDUCATIONAL SCHOOL, WITH STUDENTS ACROSS THE FORMER CBC ST KILDA EAST AND PCW WINDSOR SITES.

Each of the two schools have played such a major role in educating young Victorian men and women who have made a significant and positive impact on our society since Fr. J.F. Corbett had a vision for Catholic Education in the St Kilda East precinct 150 years ago. We are excited to be able to continue to build on his legacy and that of the many dedicated Christian Brothers' and Presentation Sisters who have come before us. This is a community that has among its history examples of outstanding community leaders, of women and men committed to the service of others, of devoted family people, decent citizens leading decent lives.

In this exciting six months of reimagining as a co-educational Edmund Rice school, we have done so with an eye on our commitment to faith, to our values, and to a devotion to the service of others. It is these

characteristics that will continue to form the characters of our young women and men as they share their educational journeys together.

There have been so many highlights including the investing of our first male and female College Captains and Vice Captains, co-ed Athletics and Swimming Carnivals and Founder's Day celebration.

It has been the spirit of our wonderful students coming together that has been so integral in helping to shape St Mary's College. Their insight and advice as to what constitutes a good school has been amazing. We are providing the learning and the opportunities for our students to be and do whatever they want in life.

It is an exciting year for our College, 2021 is filled with anticipation for our future plans for St Mary's College. There is work to be done as we shape the hearts and minds of the young men and women in our care. I suspect Fr Corbett would be very pleased with what his vision has become.

TERRY BLIZZARD
Principal

College Advisory Council



TODAY'S WORLD PRESENTS EVEN GREATER **CHALLENGES** THAN EVER BEFORE, FURTHER EMPHASISING THE CRUCIAL ROLE OF EDUCATION IN OUR **SOCIETY**, NOT ONLY IN ARMING OUR YOUNG PEOPLE WITH THE SKILLS REQUIRED TO PURSUE FUTURE CAREERS BUT ALSO INSTILLING WITHIN THEM A SENSE OF **SOCIAL JUSTICE** AND **COMMUNITY SPIRIT**.

Through this difficult period our Principal, his Leadership Team and indeed all of our staff have never wavered in delivering such an education. All of us associated with St Mary's College Melbourne are extremely grateful to Terry and his entire team for their great leadership and steadfast commitment to our College. The challenges presented by the COVID pandemic cannot be underestimated. Against this backdrop we responded to the closure of the Presentation College Windsor by expanding into a co-educational College from first term this year. We have been greatly encouraged by the reaction to this announcement and the result of an increase in enrolments.

I also extend my thanks to my fellow School Advisory Council members for their efforts and wise counsel through this period.

Our College Advisory Councillors

Mr Philip Soumilas (Chair)
 Ms Anne Boyle (Deputy Chair)
 Mr Peter Cox
 Mr Marc Dixon
 Ms Jacqueline Durand
 Mr William Jolley
 Ms Annabelle Scanlon
 Mr John Sinisgalli
 Ms Kim Sullivan
 Mr Terry Blizzard (Principal)
 Mr Shaun Lancashire (Deputy Principal)
 Mr Andrew O'Brien (Business Manager)

We are fortunate to have a range of backgrounds and skills amongst this group including past and current parents and Old Collegians. Skills include education, student welfare, legal, architecture, marketing and business and finance.

With several building projects in the wings, we have recently formed a Building Committee which is chaired by Brian McAdam and includes Old Collegians Dom Chahine and Chris Priftis. All three have strong backgrounds in construction and project management. Their first project is overseeing a series of compliance works around the Edmund Rice Campus including the installation of a lift to be located near Logue Hall. As the College Master Plan continues to develop there will be other projects, the first of which will be announced in the near future.

In the meantime, I wish all our students, our staff, and the entire St Mary's College community the best of health.

PHILIP SOUMILAS

Chair – St Mary's College Advisory Council



“ I HAVE BEEN GIVEN THE CHANCE TO EASE THE GIRLS INTO THIS NEW ENVIRONMENT, ENSURING THAT EVERYONE FEELS COMFORTABLE DURING THIS TRANSITION YEAR.

DARCY

College Captains

BEING THE **FIRST COLLEGE CAPTAINS** OF ST MARY'S COLLEGE HAS BEEN AN EXCITING AND NEW EXPERIENCE, OFFERING US BOTH EXTENSIVE OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES.

Being College Captains has given us the chance to learn more about our community and meet key members of both the CBC and PCW communities, who have now been unified in the St Mary's College Community. Further, our role has led to our involvement in numerous College events. Be it the annual Swimming Carnival in Prahran, the Athletics Carnival at Albert Park or the annual Feast Day, this year has thrown numerous occasions at us, allowing us to challenge ourselves and flourish as leaders in our St Mary's College community. Despite COVID's attempts to halt our 53rd annual Walkathon, as captains, with the support of the Prefect team, we were successful in organising fundraising events that contributed to the Walkathon, our College's major fundraising event.

As captains, representing our reimagined school, we were also given the chance to attend the ACC leadership launch in February, where we both gave speeches and showcased the pride that exists at St Mary's College. In this way, having this role has also greatly developed our leadership skills, preparing us to leave secondary school and enter the adult world equipped with a broad range skillset.

Becoming the first female and male College Captain team has been such an honour as we have been given the chance to incorporate both CBC and PCW's cultures into the reimagined St Mary's College. In a pastoral sense, this has allowed the College to retain and unify the rich cultures and traditions. In fact, we have seen the two cultures unite and complement each other in a way that has created a legacy for St Mary's College. We will always be the first captains of St Mary's College.

DARCY AND CAMPBELL

College Captains

College Prefects 2021



Darcy Lynch
College Captain



Campbell Oldham
College Captain



Patrick Gowland
College Vice Captain



Chelsea Le Hunt
College Vice Captain



Tia Bunde



Zayne Galea



Khoi Nguyen



Manon Sabouraud



Lachlan Stedman



Leo Zabarauskas



OUR INAUGURAL MASS HELD ON TUESDAY 2 MARCH WAS A WONDERFUL CULMINATION OF THE GIFTS OF MANY OF OUR STAFF AND STUDENTS.

We were truly blessed to have the Most Reverend Peter A. Comensoli, Archbishop of Melbourne, to be our principal celebrant alongside our College Chaplain and Parish Priest of St Mary's, Fr Jerome Santamaria.

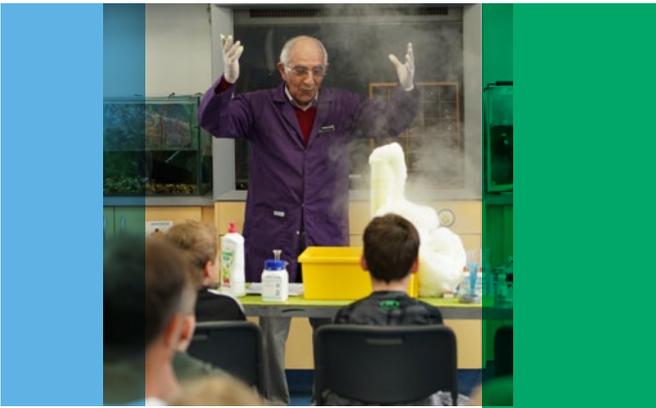
Even though we were in Lent we chose the votive Mass of Our Lady as the theme for our Mass. A very felicitous choice given the new name of our College. A highlight of the Mass was the Archbishop calling forward the Year 12 and Year 7 students after communion. He asked the students to remember each other in their prayers, as each year level is at such a significant point in their educational journey. He petitioned the students to 'have each others back' throughout the year.

To close Archbishop Comensoli spoke with the Year 12 cohort, asking them as they think, pray and reflect, to consider their significant future ahead, and to listen carefully to what God might be whispering into their heart.

My wholehearted thanks to all who made the day a truly special and memorable Mass.



KATE JOHNSTON
Director of Identity



Open Day

ON **SUNDAY 21ST MARCH** ST MARY'S COLLEGE OPENED ITS DOORS TO THE PUBLIC FOR THE FIRST TIME.

Since the announcement in 2020 of CBC St Kilda becoming a co-educational school, interest, support and excitement for inner Melbourne's only co-educational Catholic College has grown.

With over 1000 pre-registrations, we prepared for an amazing day, hosted over our two campuses of 11 Westbury Street St Kilda East and 187 Dandenong Road Windsor.

At both campuses our Principal's addresses were at capacity, our student bands played, our Parents & Friends group provided a delicious bbq, Food Tech students served their delicious scones and our dedicated teachers discussed their subject offerings with families. Our students, who are amazing ambassadors of the College, were at the ready to answer questions of parents and children interested in our College.

Many came, curious to find out about this new school, and over the coming years we look forward to welcoming many of them as new members of our College community.

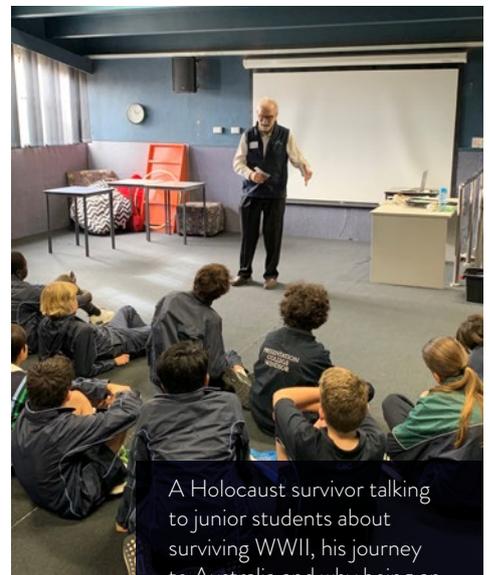


Enjoy highlights from our Open Day 21 March 2021
<https://youtu.be/9MaD7BHjOC4>





Yr. 9 students making Indigenous ribbons to give to everyone in the school community raising awareness for National Reconciliation Week.



A Holocaust survivor talking to junior students about surviving WWII, his journey to Australia and why being an upstander, not a bystander, is so important.

Identity

ST MARY'S COLLEGE IS A CATHOLIC SCHOOL IN THE EDMUND RICE TRADITION. IT IS AN EXCITING TIME TO BE PART OF THIS **COMMUNITY**. OUR **REIMAGINED** CO-EDUCATIONAL COLLEGE.

Drawing on the history of CBC and acknowledging the Presentation Sisters and PCW, we have an exciting journey ahead of us.

Our whole school Masses are very visible signs of our faith, however, in partnership with our Religious Education curriculum, all students also engage in a wide range of programs and activities throughout their time at St Mary's College. These opportunities are designed to be inclusive of all faith backgrounds. They challenge and extend students' faith, spirituality, and desire to do good in our world. For example, students can choose to cook food for those living on the margins, knit for the homeless, listen to refugees who fled a horrendous home to find safety here, or respond to environmental needs such as picking up rubbish in Alma Park. These and many other opportunities ask our students to respond with their head, heart and hands.

In Australia today we recognise that our young people are immersed in an increasingly pluralist and secular society. One that is marked by scientific and technological growth amidst responding to the current challenges of COVID 19. Nevertheless, we are blessed with a diversity of cultures and faiths at St Mary's College which brings much joy and richness to our school community.

KATE JOHNSTON
Director of Identity



Students with Mr. Vassiliou outside St Patrick's Cathedral before attending the Mass for the Bicentenary of Catholic Education in Australia.



To raise awareness about the important issues facing refugees, senior students engaged with a range of refugee speakers as part of Refugee Week. Held every year, Refugee Week is a national celebration to promote harmony and togetherness. The theme for 2021 was **Unity-the way forward**.



Students in Yr. 8 made face masks to donate.



Students inside St Patrick's Cathedral

YEAR 7

Formation Day and Welcome Mass

THE TRADITION OF OUR COLLEGE IS TO **WELCOME** NEW YEAR 7 STUDENTS INTO OUR COMMUNITY BY GATHERING FOR MASS AT **ST MARY'S CHURCH**.

This is an exciting time for our Year 7 families as the journey of secondary school begins. It is always a big year for the students, however this year it is also a big year for us, the reimagined St Mary's College. A time to acknowledge the treasures of our past as we create new traditions and opportunities for our co-educational College.

Fr Jerome, our College Chaplain and Parish Priest of St Mary's, inducted all into the traditions of our Catholic faith. A highlight of the Mass was each student receiving a St Mary's College Bible. The Bible is a sign of our Christian hospitality and our community pray that the students experience wisdom, comfort, and God's unending love as they reflect on the passages.

KATE JOHNSTON
Director of Identity



Liberating Education

EXPLORING PERCEPTION DISTORTION

UNIT 2 **PSYCHOLOGY STUDENTS** HAVE BEEN INTRODUCED TO UNDERSTANDING VISUAL AND TASTE PERCEPTIONS.

To explore this topic deeply they have been compiling a folio of practical activities to compare the sensations and perceptions of vision and taste, and analyse factors that may lead to the occurrence of perceptual distortions.

In Term 2 the students explored vision. Their task was to dissect a bull's eye to understand the components and structure of the eye, where the parts of the eye are located and how they work together to enable vision. Understanding the physical mechanics of the eye brought greater understanding of how perceptual distortions may occur. They will continue to further explore taste and visual perception in Term 3.



OPPORTUNITIES FOR GIRLS IN IT

AUDREY S. HAS BEEN SELECTED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE **GO IT GIRLS** WORK EXPERIENCE PROGRAM.

This program is a select entry program that gives girls work experience in the IT industry. It aims to break down the stereotypes and barriers of STEM roles and gives girls exposure to key business and technology leaders across a variety of roles and industries.

Audrey will be mentored by IT professionals in technical coding skills and employability skills. She will be joining a small group of young women from a range of high schools across Australia, to work independently to find a solution to a technology problem and pitch it to senior IT professionals.

TOP MATHEMATICS

THE **AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD** IS CONDUCTED BY THE AUSTRALIAN MATHS TRUST (AMC).

Together with the top Mathematic minds of students from around Australia and New Zealand, we were very proud of Harry Z who by invitation, this year, sat the Australian Mathematical Olympiad exams. Out of around 200 students from Australia and New Zealand, he was awarded the top-level award and a prize.

Harry in Year 12, is looking to further his studies at university next year in the field of Science or Mathematics. We wish him the best of luck and know his hard work and exceptional skills will take him on a successful career path journey.

“ ... DEVELOP A NATION OF CREATIVE PROBLEM SOLVERS, THEY BELIEVE MATHS IS THE MOST EFFECTIVE WAY TO GET STUDENTS THERE. MATHS ISN'T JUST ABOUT TIMES TABLES AND FORMULAE. IT'S ABOUT THE PROCESS OF FINDING CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. MATHS DEVELOPS RESILIENCE, PERSISTENCE, CONFIDENCE, AND CREATIVE THINKING IN STUDENTS.

AMC

PREMIER'S VCE AWARD

ONE OF THE PLEASURES OF BEING A VCE COORDINATOR IS BEING ABLE TO BE PART OF THE **SUCCESS OF OUR VCE STUDENTS**.

Despite the year we had last year, our students worked extremely hard and achieved some wonderful results. It is with much pleasure to advise that Jacob Lavender was recognised with a Premier's VCE Award for his outstanding academic results in 2020. Jacob received a Study Award for Further Mathematics.

The annual Premier's VCE Awards recognise the top-performing students in the state. This year, 297 students were recognised with the award. Unfortunately, due to lockdown, we were not able to attend the ceremony. St Mary's College, would like to congratulate Jacob for being a recipient for such a prestigious award.

To read more about the Premier's VCE Awards, visit www.education.vic.gov.au/about/awards/pages/vceawards.aspx





Justice & Solidarity

INDIGENOUS HERITAGE

OUR NOBILITAS YEAR 9 STUDENTS WERE INVOLVED IN A TRADITIONAL **BOONWURRUNG WELCOME TO COUNTRY SMOKING CEREMONY** LED BY JAYDEN, A BOONWURRUNG MAN.

This ceremony marked the beginning of our 'World Around Us' unit, in which students explore the place in which they live, beginning with the Indigenous connection to Melbourne and Port Philip Bay.

After the Smoking Ceremony, students participated in a half-day workshop led by Jayden about Boonwurrung values, customs, creation stories and language. The activities led by Jayden deepened our students' sense of community and understanding of connection to country.



RECONCILIATION

OUR COLLEGE COMMUNITY GATHERED FOR THE **RECONCILIATION ASSEMBLY** TO REFLECT AND LEARN MORE ABOUT THE **BOONWURRUNG PEOPLE OF THE KULIN NATION**.

We were very fortunate to have keynote speaker Courtney Ugle who is a proud Noongar woman from Bunbury in the southwest of Western Australia. She shared her moving and personal story of losing both her parents in tragic circumstances as a young child, in an environment of domestic violence. Her story of struggle and resilience that has forged her career in women's AFL, currently in the VFLW league playing for the Essendon Bombers, was a true inspiration.

Ugle's speech was motivating and gave insights into First Nations Peoples and what students can do to assist the reconciliation process. Hers was a story of overcoming adversity and social justice, and her words will remain in our hearts and minds.



COOKING UP FOR INNER WEST

THE ST MARY'S COLLEGE COMMUNITY STARTED SUPPORTING THE CHARITY **REACHING OUT IN THE INNER WEST** IN TERM 2, 2021.

This charity is a local non-for-profit organisation that relies solely on community support for the benevolent work they do. They provide home cooked vegetarian meals, non-perishable food items, clothing, blankets and sleeping bags to people experiencing homelessness or generally struggling. The charity has been operating for over 15 years and the increase in demand for food has sadly never been greater. Reports tell us the lines are longer than ever, as the pandemic continues to play havoc with our lives as the cold weather hit Melbourne.

The Food Technology department have been rescuing food from the donations received to Reaching Out and each Wednesday, an enthusiastic team of 6-9 volunteer students who had given up their lunchtime to cook 50 meals a week to support those in need. The student enthusiasm for this task has been overwhelming, many wanting to help those in need and finding a way in which they can actually make a difference.

Both Year 9 and Year 10 students donated part of what they had cooked in their Food Technology practical classes. The Senior students at Presentation Campus, perhaps drawn towards the aromas, also created a Friday lunch cook-up to contribute meals for this charity.

Reaching Out in the Inner West were extremely grateful for the continuing support of our College and for students committing to cooking for those in need.

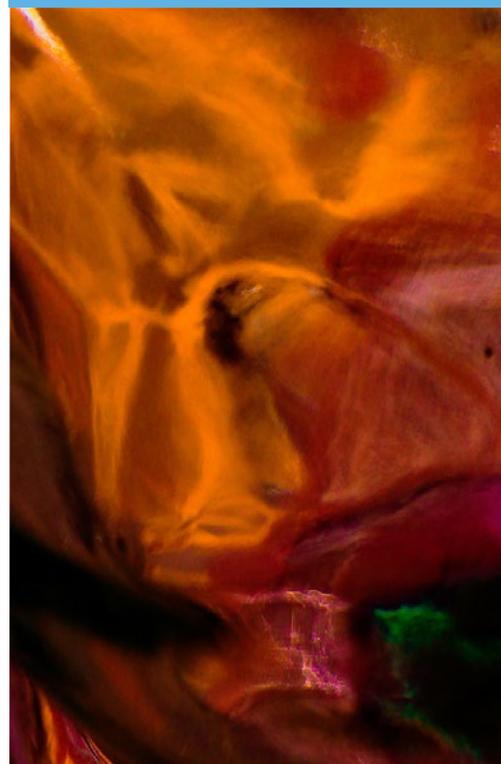
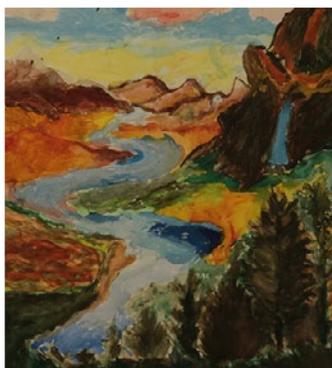


“ WE ARE VERY PROUD OF OUR STUDENTS' COMMITMENT, JOINING A GREATER TEAM OF VOLUNTEERS WHO COOK ESSENTIAL MEALS EVERY WEEK. WE KNOW OUR STUDENTS' **MEANINGFUL CONTRIBUTION** IS A REFLECTION OF THEIR **COMPASSION AND JUSTICE** AS THEY DEVELOP AS CARING CITIZENS WHO ARE MAKING A **DIFFERENCE**.



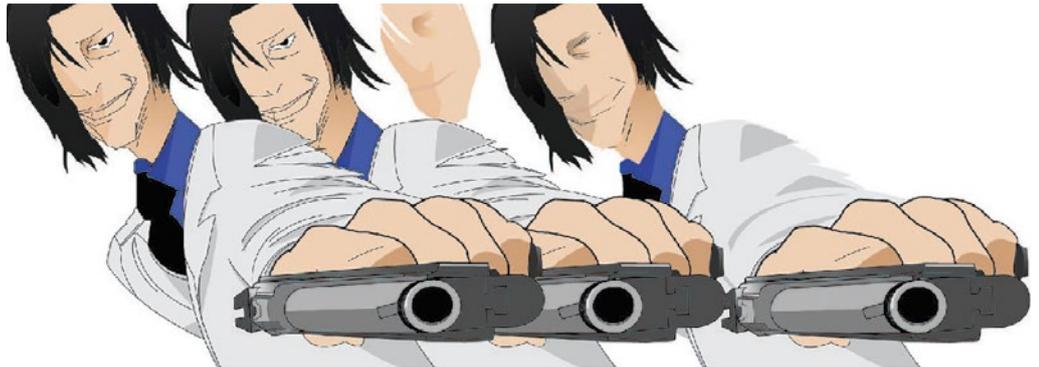
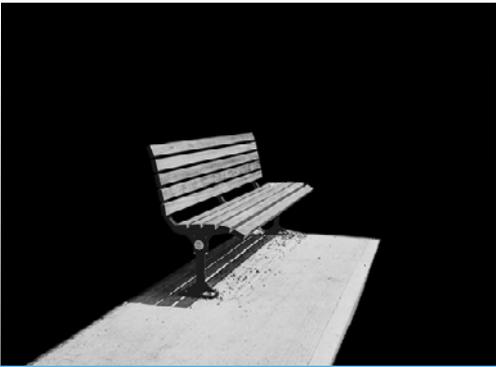
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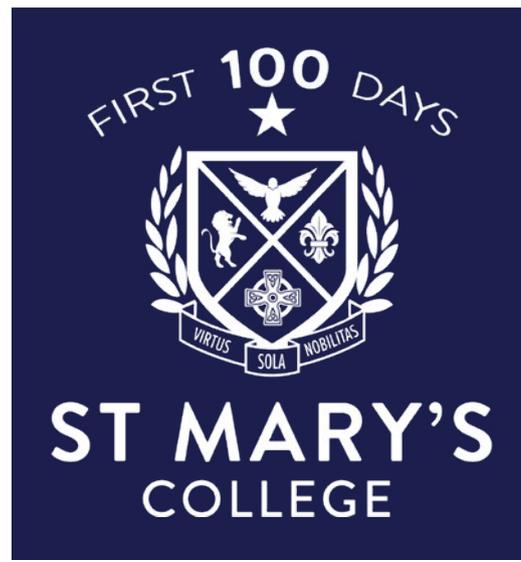
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|--------------------|-------------------|
| MANNIE COLLINS | OLIVER RHEEDER |
| DEXTER BIDDLE | OSCAR LINDEN |
| NOAH GREASLEY | RYDER DAVENPORT |
| VRAJ SHUKLA | KYLE SULLIVAN |
| ETHAN OYSTON | ZAYNE GALEA |
| OWEN PEPPER | MATT AHMETOGLU |
| LUCA CARBONI | RYAN LIVENS |
| ALEX FORMOSA | JOSEPH HARRISON |
| HARRY GROEN | NED SAYERS |
| ELLA HAYWOOD | DOMINIC AZZOPARDI |
| JOVE PEPPER | |
| STEPHEN ZAVITSANOS | |
| LEVI FAEHRMANN | |
| AIDEN LIM | |
| JOSHUA LEROI | |
| LOUIS PEREZ | |
| TERESA ADUT | |



WE CELEBRATED THE CREATIVITY OF **ZANE GREENHAM** YEAR 12. ZANE ENTERED AND WON THE ACC ART AND TECHNOLOGY EXHIBITION LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION.

His logo was chosen to represent this highly esteemed art and technology exhibition, where over 240 students from Years 7 – 12 represent their schools with exceptional artistic and technological achievements. The Exhibition ran from Thursday 20 May to Wednesday 26 May in 'The Atrium' and 'The Edge' at Fed Square Melbourne.







St Mary's College Alumni Network



FOR PAST STUDENTS OF:

St Mary's College (St Kilda East & Windsor)
Christian Brothers' College (CBC St Kilda)
Presentation College Windsor (PCW)

St Mary's College is a co-educational Catholic College in St Kilda East and Windsor, established in late 2020.

We cherish our past and celebrate the many outstanding men educated by Christian Brothers' College (CBC) and the women of Presentation College Windsor (PCW); the two schools who came before us, our founding schools, whose history has been intertwined for over 140 years. It is our endeavour at St Mary's College to preserve our past and form a strong collegial network of past students.

Our history is strong and dates back to the 1870's when the Christian Brothers' and Presentation Sisters left Ireland to provide education to the marginalised Irish Catholics of Melbourne, at St Mary's Parish in St Kilda East and Windsor. The two schools' history and their communities have shared the Catholic values of compassion and service and provided values driven education for thousands of Melbournians.

We will keep your details private, used only to contact you with news of St Mary's College, invitations to events and ways to connect with fellow Alumni. If you have any questions regarding the use of your details please contact:

Elaine Doyle, Director of Development
Email: smcalumni@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au
Ph: +61 3 9529 6611.

If you are a past student, we encourage you to register your contact details with us.
<https://www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/community/alumni>



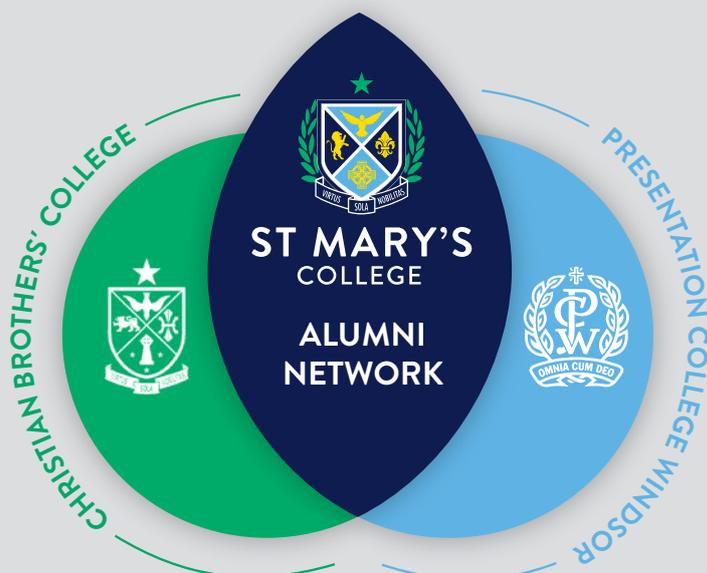
L to R: George Baglava, Viktor Dedic, Nick Voukelatos, Tony Lizos, Michael Leonard, Ignatios Koukouras, George Panagiotou, David Dawson, Suresh Wijeyerat

25 Year Reunion CLASS OF 1995

ON 11 JULY WE WELCOMED MEMBERS OF THE **CLASS OF '95 FOR THEIR 25 YEAR REUNION** WHO HAD A GREAT TIME CATCHING UP AND SHARING STORIES AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE, EDMUND RICE CAMPUS.

Reunions have been challenging to organise amid lockdowns in Melbourne, with many postponed, so it was extra special to welcome the Class of '95 back to the College.

The St Mary's College Alumni Network includes students from CBC St Kilda, PCW and from 2021 St Mary's College Alumni.
Visit: <https://www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/community/alumni> to find out more and register to stay in contact.



4 August 2021,



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

Dear Alumni

I am writing to the Alumni of both CBC St Kilda and Presentation College Windsor to share with you the tremendous changes that have occurred leading to the launching this year of St Mary's College Melbourne.

With the announcement by the Presentation Order that PCW would be closing at the end of 2020 Edmund Rice Education Australia (EREA) moved quickly to discuss with the Presentation Order the prospect of combining our two Campuses to expand CBC into a co-educational College.

Although St Mary's College is an EREA School we are committed to maintaining a strong connection to the history and traditions of PCW.

The launch of our co-educational College has created great interest. Our first Open Day as St Mary's College attracted over 1,000 registrations, nearly 10 times the normal number. Enrolments for 2022 are also up significantly and we continue to receive very strong interest for future placements.

Of course, we face great challenges going forward, including those associated with the COVID pandemic. Our Principal, Terry Blizzard together with his Leadership team have done a great job preparing the College to transition to 'co-ed' against the backdrop of COVID lockdowns. The College community and all stakeholders are extremely grateful for their efforts.

Both CBC and PCW have great histories as inclusive Schools. St Mary's College will continue this great tradition and as such we are establishing a Foundation that will provide Bursaries and Scholarships to those in need.

Any donation to the Foundation would be greatly appreciated.

We anticipate that our College will experience significant growth over the next few years and we are continuing to expand our Masterplan to cater for this growth. In time we will also launch a Building Appeal to help facilitate our ongoing development and enable us to provide modern educational facilities.

We are planning to host a St Mary's College Alumni Network event bringing together the Alumni of our two great Schools in early 2022. We hope you can attend. To find out more about St Mary's College Alumni Network and St Mary's College Foundation, news, events, reunions and to encourage other alumni to register their contact details please visit:

<https://www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/community/alumni>

As Chair of St Mary's College Advisory Council, I am extremely thankful to the EREA and our Principal for our progress to date and I am excited by what the future holds.

Philip Soumilas
Chair - College Advisory Council
St Mary's College Melbourne



Mother's Day

MARY-JANE REMY PCW CLASS OF 1985



MARY-JANE REMY PCW '85 WAS OUR GUEST SPEAKER AT THE INAUGURAL ST MARY'S COLLEGE **MOTHER'S DAY BREAKFAST** HELD ON FRIDAY 7 MAY AT PRESENTATION HALL, PRESENTATION CAMPUS. A FORMER COLLEGE CAPTAIN OF PCW SHE WAS INTERVIEWED ON STAGE BY

OUR CURRENT COLLEGE CAPTAIN DARCY LYNCH. BELOW IS AN EXTRACT OF HER PREPARATIONS LEADING UP TO THE MOTHER'S DAY EVENT. WE THANK HER FOR HER INSPIRATIONAL STORY THAT TOUCHED THE HEARTS OF THE MOTHERS PRESENT AND CHALLENGED OUR STUDENTS TO PONDER WHAT TRUE SUCCESS MEANS.

When first approached about the idea of speaking at this breakfast, I thought to myself, well what would I talk about as usually we have guest speakers who have been successful in life? So, I was like well, what have I achieved? Then upon reflection, I thought well success means different things to different people. When I was young, I would have defined my success by my what you now call your ATAR score, then later on in life in my work title, my bank balance, and

the nice home and car. However, when you get to my stage of life, success is totally redefined. Upon reflection for me it's about how I've lived my life.

Straight out of school I went to uni and made my parents proud because they migrated here to give my brother and I better schooling opportunities (and yes, my brother is a CBC Old Collegian). I married my CBC sweetheart (as corny as that sounds) and 33 years later we have three beautiful grown boys, with my last one finishing VCE this year.

So, I guess my greatest achievement has been my family. I've always worked around their heavy school and sporting commitments. And why? because I wanted them to get out of their high school years as much as I did out of mine.

Presentation College has always been a big part of my life. My years here were filled with many memorable events from Presentation Day, The Musical, Market Day, Music Festival, Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, Interscholar sports, the magazine committee just to name a few. As a proud Loyalian, these memories will always remind me of the wonderful people I had the opportunity to grow up with and now am proud to call my friends.

Every opportunity I get to bring the old crew back together, I will take it. Whether here in Victoria or when visiting other states, I take the opportunity to catch up with them. Two years ago, whilst visiting Darwin, I took the opportunity to reach out to two students who I had not seen for almost 30 years. Upon reconnecting it was like time had stood still, and it truly was the highlight of my trip.



Mary-Jane Remy Final year in common room

“ ST MARY’S COLLEGE IS STILL A ‘FAITH-FILLED LEARNING COMMUNITY ... THAT NOW PROVIDES CONTEMPORARY LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES THAT AIMS TO NURTURE AND CHALLENGE (ALL ITS STUDENTS) TO GROW TO THEIR FULL POTENTIAL.

Presentation had its own unique and caring atmosphere, that generated a spirit of unity. Unity is something that grows. It’s not something that automatically appears, it is built upon. What we got from our years here was that you had to give, in order to receive, and this can only be achieved by working together. Victories of athletes on the field was matched by the participation and spirit displayed by those who gave unqualified support to those athletes. Staff and students alike, made Windsor what it was.

Whilst it’s no longer Presentation College Windsor, the mission remains the same. St Mary’s College is still a ‘faith-filled learning community ... that now provides contemporary learning opportunities that aims to nurture and challenge (all its students) to grow to their full potential.’

A potential that grows as we grow. Almost ten years ago I left the corporate world behind to become Educational Support Officer, as it was important to be around for my own kids. I work with some of the most colourful, vulnerable, dangerous, and medically dependent students. Having seen first-hand the socioeconomic disadvantages my students and their families faced, led me to become a branch councillor for the Australian Education Union. I advocate for those whose voices cannot be heard. Including staff and students.

I’m also a YRIPP volunteer, which sees me attending interviews for young people who find themselves on the wrong side of the law. I am

currently completing my Diploma of Community Services; my success will be from the satisfaction I will gain in helping others. Like your College values it will be about demonstrating, ensuring and advocating for respect, justice, compassion, and inclusivity for all. I’m hoping my next chapter will see me earn the privilege of working with young people, in particular refugees and asylum seekers, who display courage that we cannot even begin to understand or imagine.

So whilst my greatest achievement or success thus far has been my family, as a mother of three boys, I hope I have done enough to instil in them the importance of showing respect to all, fighting for justice when the opportunity presents itself, showing compassion to others because their life has not been so bad, that inclusivity should be the norm and not the exception, and that they will show courage in the face of adversity.

On that note, I’d like to wish you all a very Happy Mother’s Day. To all you students, do take the opportunity to thank your mum or guardian for all things they do. Fortunately for me, my mum is still my rock but I didn’t come to appreciate that until I had children of my own.





ANZAC Day

LIKE MANY AUSTRALIAN FAMILIES, THE COLLEGE PARTICIPATED IN ONE OF THE MORE SIGNIFICANT EVENTS IN OUR NATIONAL CALENDAR, **THE COMMEMORATION OF ANZAC DAY**, A MOST IMPORTANT CELEBRATION OF OUR NATIONAL IDENTITY.

During my lifetime ANZAC Day has become more than a commemoration of those fateful events on the beaches of Gallipoli, becoming a time of national reflection to give thanks for the many sacrifices made in all conflicts and wars Australians have participated in.

At St Mary's College we marked this day on Friday 23 April by undertaking a Remembrance Service in Logue Hall. This has become an important annual event for us. This year we were delighted to be joined by Ms Trish Hodda, a 32-year veteran of the Royal Australian Air Force, having attained the rank of Flight Sergeant. We were privileged to have this pioneering woman of the Australian armed services address our students and staff at our ANZAC Remembrance Service. Ms Hodda reflected on the history of ANZAC and shared first-hand experiences of her career in the Air Force; her words connected our past, with our present and our future.

I am proud of our College Band whose performance at the ANZAC Remembrance Service captured the significance and left us with moving and lasting memories of the event. Under the guidance of Mr David

O'Meara, our Concert Band also performed with pride on behalf of St Mary's College, at the Caulfield RSL ANZAC Day Dawn Service.

This College event holds significance for us because it brings together the old and the new, in special recognition of the ANZAC spirit. As has been the case in the past, this year, Old Collegian veterans joined us to participate in this important event. Over morning tea, they shared powerful reminiscences as if the events they describe only happened yesterday. We took the opportunity to hear from Ms Hodda who addressed this group.

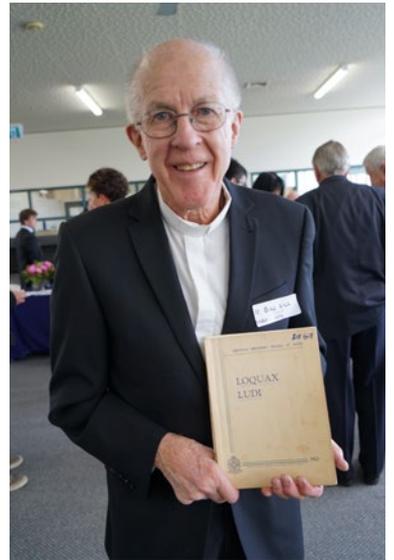
We are constantly reminded of the critical role we play in the formation of our young men and women and are acutely aware of the need to take a great deal of care with our ANZAC Day celebrations to make certain we are delivering the right message to our students.

We give thanks for the great deeds of past students of the College, and hope the current incumbents hear the message of the need to influence events in their world, and that whether it be small or large they choose peace and joy as their default.

TERRY BLIZZARD
Principal



Enjoy highlights from our ANZAC Day commemoration
<https://youtu.be/H47hzwZBCf4>



A Life of Music

DAVID O'MEARA CBC CLASS OF 1972



TRUMPET GIFT

In March this year we were visited by Old Collegian Kevin Clements '59. Kevin, the former Old Collegians Association President, was a driving force behind the organization of the 100th and 125th Reunions. He was a CBC Old Collegians Football Club player and coach and all-round legend who shares his passion in keeping CBC Old Collegians connected. Always giving, Kevin visited us on this occasion to meet with Director of Music Mr David O'Meara to donate to the College a trumpet, to be used by the Music Centre in the Band Program. We thank him for his generous donation.

WE ARE FORTUNATE TO HAVE **DAVID O'MEARA** AS OUR DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE. DAVID'S 13 YEAR ASSOCIATION WITH THE COLLEGE STARTED WITH CBC BACK IN 2009. SINCE THEN, HE HAS SHARED HIS LOVE OF MUSIC WITH THOUSANDS OF STUDENTS. DAVID WAS INTERVIEWED ON 5 AUGUST 2021 BY **ELAINE DOYLE**, DIRECTOR OF DEVELOPMENT.

David reflects: Attending CBC St Kilda in the late 60's early 70's it was a very different place, awash with black soutanes of the Christian Brothers'. Music was not a subject when David attended CBC but there was a long tradition of the Army Cadet Brass (marching) Band. This attracted David to playing the trumpet and a desire to play in the Cadet Band. David had learnt piano when he was young and was from a musical family. His father was an entertainer and actor on TV who knew a lot of musicians and his grandfather was a professional musician who worked in New York.

Like all musicians David wanted to play music and did for many years, after school joining the Royal Australian Navy Band. He at first played trumpet then changing to french horn whilst in the RAN. This opened a world of classical music, from his beginnings of a love of playing Jazz trumpet. David now plays piano, french horn, flügal horn and the valve trombone in various community ensembles and a professional duo 'The Kahuna Daddies'.

As a student David remembers the powerful impact of the ANZAC Memorial Service. As Director of Music, each year David has continued this tradition with preparing our students to perform in this moving College ceremony. Our College band is invited each year to perform at the Caulfield RSL Dawn Service on ANZAC Day, a tremendous community service experience.

His other great memories are of the Musicals each year, this year lots of work is currently happening on *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* and has been great fun. In David's nearly 30 years of teaching he comments on this year's group of students in the musical, 'to be the most amazing and enthusiastic, right from the first rehearsal they all sang full-on, passionate and committed'. We have always had the tradition with PCW of producing musicals together and this led to creating a company to put on these combined schools' performances. When asked if David thought that the impact of St Mary's College

being a co-educational College had increased enthusiasm in the preparation of the musical David replied, 'You need girls and boys combined to have a really good musical, ... now we are co-educational'.

Many Alumni may remember their time learning and performing music at CBC. David reflects on his own experience: 'he does not remember much about his Math classes, perhaps a couple of English classes back in his school days but what stays with him are his extra-curricular experiences, such as music camps, concerts and Army Cadet camps'.

He fondly remembers lots of concerts over the years and the fantastic students who have gone onto professional careers in music. 'It's a buzz when you find a talented student, you give them an instrument and they take off'. 'The rock bands have had a lot of success over the years and have won the ACC Battle of the Bands many times'. St Mary's College is hosting this event this year and David believes our Year 9 rock band will do well.

A classically trained musician, when he saw our rock students play with so much passion and commitment, he realised, 'you just have to nurture that and get them playing'. The groups will usually form themselves with support provided for Year 7s. 'They work with Charlie Rooke, the College's guitar teacher, who is our Rock Group coach and one of the best guitar teachers in Melbourne. All his students play incredibly well and their energy and commitment is fantastic'.

When David first came to CBC he inherited a brass band and an outstanding rock trio and combined the two in his adaptation of *2001 a Space Odyssey* with a driving funk rhythm section. David reflected on his brother's fond memories of the CBC bands the Kram and Harper Lee, nostalgic of performances in St Mary's Parish Hall.

What is next? After 29 years of teaching David will retire at the end of this year to Lismore, NSW to play more music in bands and orchestras.

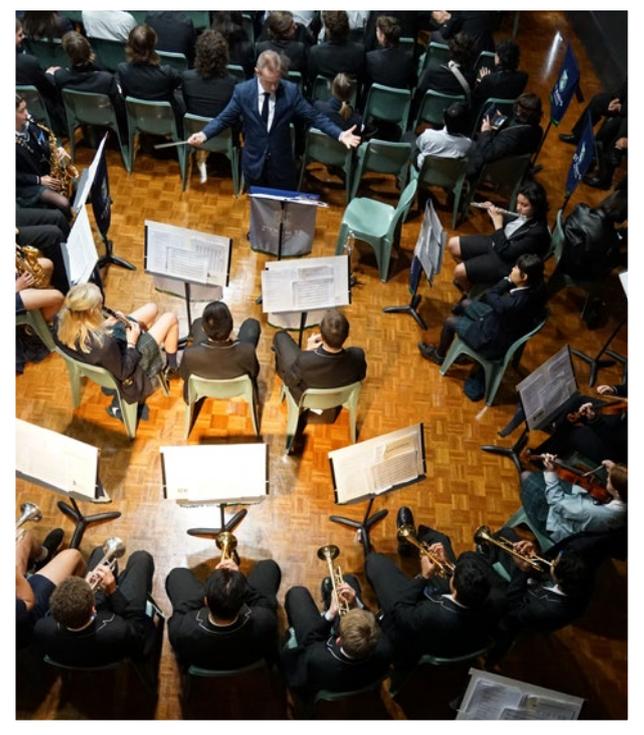
David's parting words were

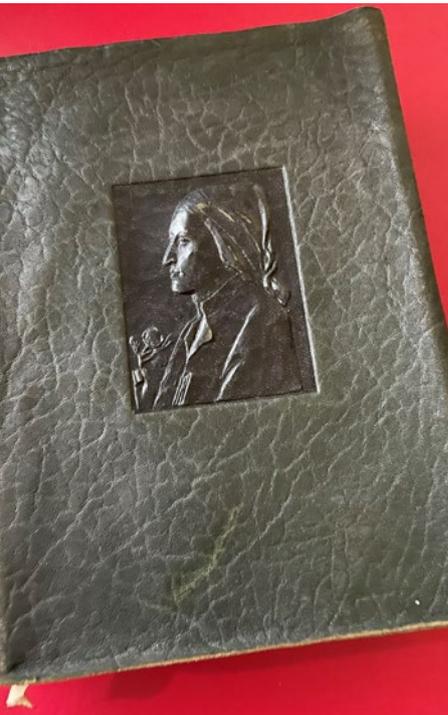
“ HE WHO LOVES HIS WORK DOES NOT WORK.



An extract of the interview.
The full interview can be viewed at
https://youtu.be/wH_1eWN3ySc

“ WHEN STUDENTS GET THE LOVE OF PLAYING A MUSICAL INSTRUMENT, IT’S A LIFE-LONG GIFT.





Mary's Physics book prize



Leaving ball '48 Mary front row second from left

Alumni Story

MARY GROGAN PCW CLASS OF 1949

MARY GROGAN (THRESHER) ON THE EVE OF HER 90TH BIRTHDAY WAS INTERVIEWED BY HER SON LEO GROGAN. SHE REFLECTED ON HER DAYS AT PCW AND HER TENACITY TO FOLLOW HER CHOSEN CAREER OF MEDICINE. WE THANK MARY FOR SHARING HER STORY WITH THE ST MARY'S COLLEGE ALUMNI NETWORK. HER STRENGTH AND SPIRIT INSPIRE US TODAY.

Approaching 75 years since her first day at Presentation Convent, Mary Grogan can vividly recall arriving as a 15 year-old from the country and meeting the Principal for the first time.

Standing near the Chapel entrance, Sister Bertrand greeted each new boarder. When asked about her study plans, Mary answered science, with her goal to pursue medical studies after Matriculation (Year 12). Her former school, Mount Carmel Convent in Rutherglen (run by the Presentation order) did not teach science.

Sister Bertrand's response was blunt: *"Oh no you're not. That is ridiculous."*

Science was out of the question, given Mary's lack of preparation in Leaving (Year 11) at Mount Carmel. The standoff was resolved only when Mary's mother produced written approval from Mother Superior allowing Mary to study science.

Mary looks back now and says this was probably the first and only time Sister Bertrand was ever overruled, as she had a notoriously tough reputation.

An uneasy truce was called: *"Well alright, I'll let you do it for a term, and if you are not doing any good, you'll have to switch over to humanities."*

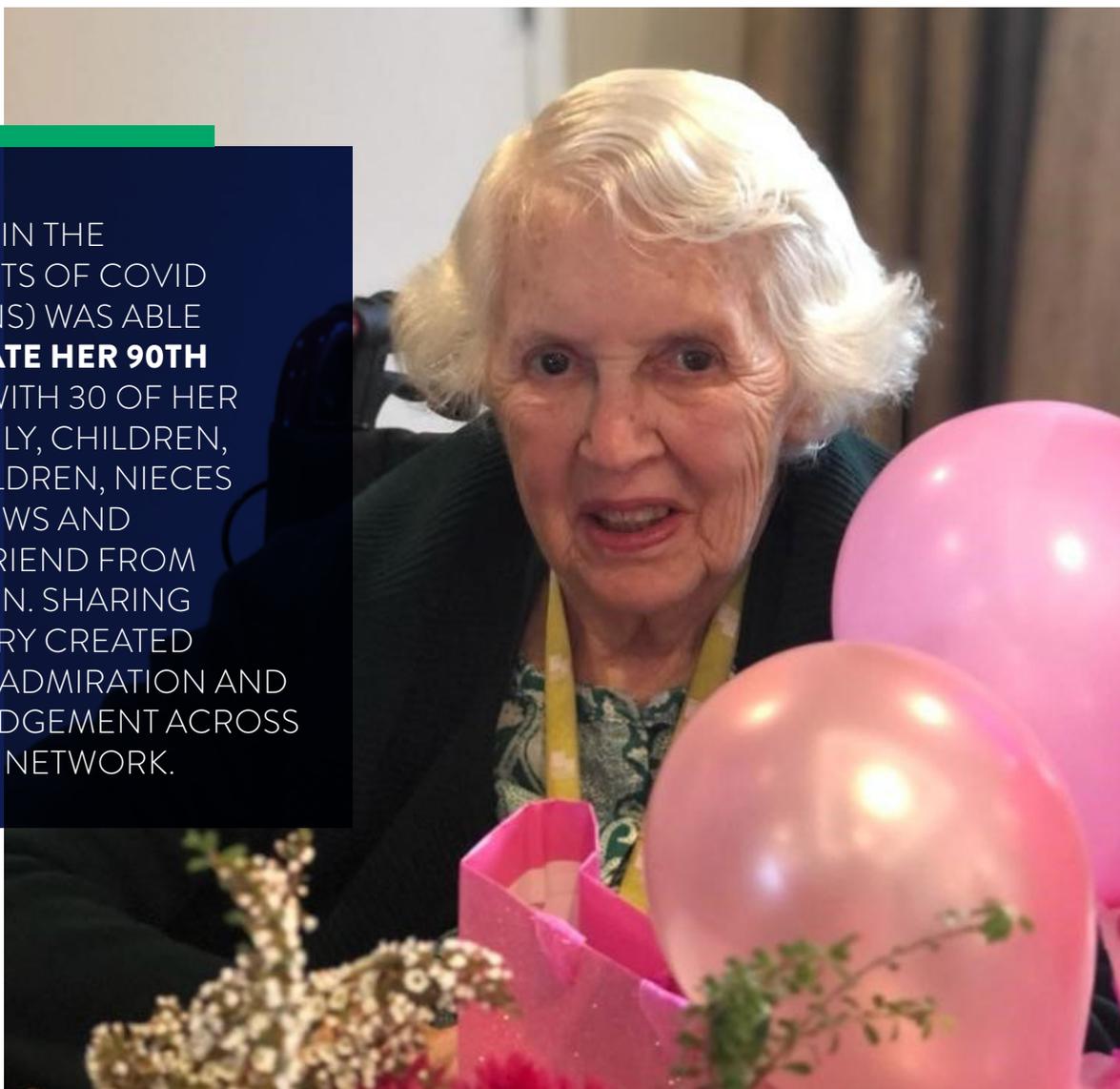
Mary commenced with Intermediate (Year 10) Maths 1 and 2, and Leaving Chemistry and Physics. She worked hard, and topped Physics that year. The award was an embossed vellum-bound book, *Stories From Dante*.

"There were very few girls doing those subjects then. So it wouldn't have been difficult to be the one getting a prize", she laughs.

That early exchange with Sister Bertrand set the scene for Mary's three years boarding at Windsor from 1947 to 1949. It signalled a determination to succeed in a career of her choosing, in an era when girls had limited opportunities to attend university.

"It meant I had to leave home. It meant a lot of upheaval and expense."

“ MARY (WITHIN THE CONSTRAINTS OF COVID LOCKDOWNS) WAS ABLE TO **CELEBRATE HER 90TH BIRTHDAY** WITH 30 OF HER CLOSE FAMILY, CHILDREN, GRANDCHILDREN, NIECES AND NEPHEWS AND ONE OLD FRIEND FROM RUTHERGLEN. SHARING MARY'S STORY CREATED RIPPLES OF ADMIRATION AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT ACROSS HER FAMILY NETWORK.



Mary had the support of her parents, Anne and Philip Thresher. Her father grew up in South Yarra and attended CBC St Kilda (1907-09); Mary still has a copy of the book (Deerslayer) awarded to him for Mapping in 1907.

Mary credits her father with teaching her to read and write before she commenced primary school, which fast-tracked her early school years. Her father served in France during the War and afterwards, worked for Victorian Railways in regional Victoria as a stationmaster.

'It was a huge gamble for them. All that money going into boarding school, uniforms, textbooks and the liability of failing.'

Dr Mary Grogan, nee Thresher, celebrated her 90th birthday with extended family including her seven children and ten grandchildren in August. Her husband of 61 years, Dr Michael Grogan who passed away in 2018, was there in spirit.

Mary graduated in Medicine at The University of Melbourne in 1955, completed her residency at St Vincent's Hospital and set up a medical practice in Kew where she worked in general practice for 49 years.

Mary remembers her school days well - a place where there were 'not many freedoms'. The boarders were mostly segregated, using the front garden during playtime and lunchtime and the day scholars occupied the grounds at the back.

She has fond memories of a Sister Geraldine and made some good friends

and says that her experience at Windsor prepared her well for study and life afterwards.

'I was amazed to get to the university and to find how any setbacks really knocked some students. Whereas I felt I was able to stand up for myself and to work hard.'

When asked about the closure of PCW, Mary paused, *'I was a bit sad ... but change is inevitable.'*

Prepared by Mary's son Leo Grogan, July 2021

You were all magnificent, marvellous models for those following in your lofty footsteps. (Niece)

Gives insight into a bygone era. Certainly, a trailblazer for many women to follow. (Niece)

How things have changed. And congratulations to those brave ones who pushed the boundaries for women. Unbelievable now but so brave then. Inspirations for following generations. I look at my granddaughter and see no limitations, thanks to them. (Nephew)

I started PCW in 1951. Even then Science was in the background but slowly emerging thanks to Sr Mary Geraldine. She enabled me to study Chemistry and so I proceeded to Pharmacy! So many happy memories flood back. (Sister-in-law)

Josh Worrell

CBC CLASS OF 2018

“

EVERYONE ON THE FIELD IS THE BEST AT WHAT THEY DO ... IT'S THE HARDEST HE HAS EVER PUSHED HIS BODY'.





Josh Worrell 3rd from the left part of the CBC Team on the 2016 Great Victorian Bike Ride



JOSH WORRELL '18 A TALENTED SPORTSPERSON AND FORMER CBC STUDENT WAS DRAFTED TO THE **ADELAIDE CROWS** AND THIS YEAR PLAYED HIS FIRST GAME IN ROUND 13 OF THE 2021 AFL SEASON.

We are thrilled for Josh to achieve his dream of playing AFL. David Joyce, Outdoor Education teacher at St Mary's College recently caught up with Josh on Microsoft Teams to share Josh's memories as a student at CBC, his passion and drive for AFL that has taken him to play at the highest elite level.

Josh remembers his times at CBC and loved the outdoor experiences such as the camps, Great Victorian Bike Ride and being part of the CBC AFL teams. He remembers winning premierships each year with CBC. His greatest AFL influence in these years at CBC was Teacher and AFL Coach Eddie Cavolo. He remembers Mr Cavolo being stern but taught Josh a lot, as he rallied the boys to want the same thing and play as a team not individuals. Josh keeps in contact with CBC Alumni of his Peer Year Atu Bosenavulagi who is a current player at North Melbourne.

Josh valued the multicultural experience and the opportunities at CBC, to help people in need at events such as the Walkathon. This exposure led Josh to realise how lucky he was and a privilege to help others.

His draft pick of 28 to Adelaide was an amazing but whirlwind experience. Through the reality and nervousness of moving interstate, he was supported in the transition by a host family and creating a friendship network with the team.

On Josh's first Adelaide Crows game he remembers feeling so nervous before the game, as a kid he dreamt about this moment.

He could not remember much about walking out on the ground but the experience of playing this first AFL game in heat and humidity of 27 degrees and rain in Queensland will stay with him forever.

You can view the interview with Josh Worrell

www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/news/st-marys-college-alumni-network-josh-worrell-18



Save the Date

St Mary's College Alumni Network Launch event is anticipated for **February 2022**, confirmation and bookings will be announced early 2022 on www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/community/alumni

*PCW Past Student Association
- Women of Windsor*

Are planning the Annual Women of Windsor Reunion (COVID permitting) on **Sunday 21 November**.

Email Andree to register your interest: andreamoloney@me.com

A wealth of history and information on PCW can be found at: visit www.pcwalumnae.com.au

Keep in Contact

Register your contact details:
www.stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au/community/alumni

Share

Share your Alumni story, celebration, births, marriages, VALE in our next edition.
email edoyle@stmaryscollege.vic.edu.au







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*A Catholic secondary school in
the Edmund Rice tradition in
St Kilda East and Windsor*

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