



The Spirit of Siena



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Mission Statement

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, offers young women an education which challenges them to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled, Catholic community we will provide exemplary and inspiring education with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion. In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, young women are nourished in faith and encouraged to spread the Good News and embrace the future with hope.

Values

We value and live the Dominican pillars of:

Prayer	by nurturing spirituality and celebrating as a community of Faith
Study	by striving for excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth
Service	by empowering young women to actively engage in local and global justice issues
Community	by recognising God's presence in others and fostering right relationships

Editorial Team

Tracey Grobbelaar, Susan Law,
Liz Merrett and Amy Stubbs

Photography

Susan Law, Matt Graham and
James Byron Photography



Siena College
connecting girls • empowering young women

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Siena College Editorial Team apologises for the error on page 11 of The Spirit Issue 10. Dr Stephanie Jackson was incorrectly labelled as Rebecca Dabbs.



Message from the Principal

“Our Mission as a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition is to educate young women to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.”



Each year brings with it a particular flavour, a particular time in history and new opportunities. 2016 has been a significant year for Dominicans and for Siena College. We celebrated an 800 year Jubilee of the Order of Preachers, it is 90 years since the Dominican Sisters came to Camberwell and in August, Dominican Education Australia (DEA) was launched. Three Congregations

of Dominican Sisters, the Dominican Sisters of Holy Cross Congregation (Adelaide), the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide and the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia, collaborated to petition the Holy See in Rome to establish this new entity and to herald a new era of lay leadership in the Church. The launch of DEA brought with it a new governance structure for our College and a closer affiliation with five other Dominican schools, Santa Sabina College and St Lucy's School in Sydney, St Mary's, St Dominic's Priory and Cabra Colleges in Adelaide, and the Catherine Sullivan Centre for preschool children challenged by hearing loss. We look forward to strengthening our relationships in the years ahead.

The role of Principal is a privileged one, and as I look back over the past two terms, there have been many moments where I have been inspired by members of the Siena community, both past and present. Our Mission as a Catholic school in the Dominican tradition is to educate young women to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning. I have seen much evidence of this in 2016, from the women who returned for the 2016 Careers Showcase, to Olympic Basketballer and 'Living Legend' Michele Timms, who attended our Term 4 assembly to announce the 'House of the Year', or botanical artist Anne O'Connor who visited recently to donate one of her beautiful paintings to the Butterfly Campaign. Anne's work is meticulous in its detail, and with the eye of an artist she reveals the beauty of the flowers and plants that she draws and paints.

I recall the comments of alumna, Professor Dorota Gertig, who said that when she was at school, she would have struggled to articulate Dominican values, but many years on, noted that the things that are now important in her life, in large part reflect the values that were instilled in her while at Siena College. The Visual Arts and Design hold a valued place in our curriculum and in our Dominican tradition that places great value on beauty, creativity and intellectual inquiry, all of which were in evidence in the work on display in the 2016 College Art and Design exhibition, Veritas. Artists challenge us to see things differently, to think differently by revealing beauty or



Anne O'Connor, Class of 1951, signing one of her books of botanical illustrations and the painting she has donated to the Butterfly Campaign



detail or making social or political commentary. Congratulations are extended to Georgia Cotter and Bryony Candiloro who received the Principal's Award for Art and Design, and to Isabella O'Leary who was the recipient of the People's Choice Award.



The College was privileged to host a travelling exhibition earlier this year of thirty-one textile panels, the 'Canticle of the Universe'. Commissioned in 2002 to commemorate World AIDS Day by the Faithful Fools Street Ministry in San Francisco, it was created by seventeen women of the Kopanang Community Trust in South Africa, under the guidance of Dominican Sister, Sheila Flynn. The intricately embroidered panels tell the story of the universe as interpreted by the women and as a means to celebrate life and creation. The woven words of one tapestry aptly stated: "Art becomes integral to life."


On October 18, the Class of 2016 departed the College with dignity and in a spirit of celebration as they joined over 7000 women who have graduated from the College over the past seventy-six years.



Message from the Principal

The day began with a breakfast and a wonderful magic show by past student, Cath Jamison that was followed by a College assembly where the Year 12s were welcomed into the gym to a standing ovation. The day concluded with the Graduation Mass at St Dominic's Church where each girl was presented with a graduation certificate and a beautiful gift of a silver chain and pendant from the Siena Parents' Association, inscribed with the words 'Veritas' and 'Class of 2016'. May the wisdom of those who have gone before continue to inspire these young women, St Dominic, St Catherine and the Dominican sisters who established this school and all whose stories we continue to share.

A warm thank you is extended to Carolyn Scriven for her donation of a piano to the Music Department. The piano will be much enjoyed by the students who play it and by all who listen to their music over the years. Carolyn retired in 2015 after forty-five years of service to our College.


Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal



Year 11 student, Georgina Garwoli, playing Carolyn's Schulmann piano

Our Dominican History

Dominican Sisters Celebrate 90 Years in Camberwell



On Saturday, 27 August over two hundred people joined the Dominican Sisters for a double celebration, the 800th Jubilee of the Dominican Order and the 90th Anniversary of the Dominican Sisters ministry in Camberwell. Fr Dominic Murphy OP, together with Dominican Friars from St Dominic's Priory, celebrated the Mass of Thanksgiving in St Dominic's Church.

Present in the congregation were Dominican Sisters of Malta, Vietnam, other religious congregations, staff from Siena College and St Dominic's Primary School, alumni of both schools, parishioners, family members of our sisters, past and present,

colleagues and friends and neighbours of the community. Following the Eucharist, guests adjourned to the Siena College Hall for refreshments and brief formalities, including the cutting of the anniversary cake. Each Sister was presented with a beautiful floral bouquet by Mia Catalana (Year 10 student). Mrs Robson-Garth acknowledged and thanked the Dominican Sisters for their commitment, dedication and the wonderful legacy passed on through their years of ministry and service.

The Dominican Sisters, now just ten sisters living in Victoria, thank all who joined them for this special day and all who contributed to the joy of the celebrations, especially the Siena College community, staff and students.

Sr Julianna Drobik OP





Our Dominican History

Dominican Education Australia (DEA)

Thursday, 25 August was a significant date in the history of Siena College with the Melbourne launch of Dominican Education Australia (DEA) taking place in the Susan Alberti Auditorium.

The Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia, the Holy Cross Congregation of Dominican Sisters South Australia and the Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide have collaborated to establish this new entity. The Trustees of DEA now take leadership of the governance of the seven educational ministries, including

Siena College, that were previously the responsibility of the Trustees of the Dominican Sisters.

Fr Brian Pierce OP, who was visiting Australia at this time, described the transition to a new governance structure as conveying '... a sense of the paschal mystery, of dying and rising, of the seed being sown and bearing much fruit, a letting go, a giving of a gift and a welcoming of a gift.' It is a very sacred moment in the history of Siena College and the six other schools and ministries in DEA.

Introducing the Trustees of Dominican Education Australia (DEA)



Suzanne Fabian Chair

Sue began her association with the Dominican family with three daughters educated at Santa Sabina College. She served on the Santa Sabina Board from 1994 to 2005, and was Chairman from 1996 to 2005. An educator herself, Sue is a passionate admirer of the way in which Dominican values are expressed in the education of young people, giving them a belief in themselves and a strong sense of making a contribution to the world. She is currently a Board member of St Lucy's School at Wahroonga.

Sue is a member of the Dominican Education Council and Chairs the Implementation Planning Committee for Dominican Education Australia.

She has been extensively involved in governance both as a consultant and as a member of various Boards: the NSW Association of Independent Schools, Women's Golf NSW, Deputy Chairman of Golf NSW.



Paul Davis

Company Secretary and Public Officer

Paul Davis is the founding Director of Integroe Partners, a multi disciplinary legal practice that delivers management consulting and legal services in the not for profit, government and corporate sectors. He commenced his career as a teacher and worked in a number of secondary schools in the Archdiocese of Sydney over a period of fourteen years.

Paul commenced legal practice in 1993 and advises in the areas of workplace and education law. He is a graduate of the Australian Institute of Company Directors who regularly advises on governance related matters in mission focused organisations.



Shirley Macklin

Shirley Macklin is a member of the Congregation of Dominican Sisters of North Adelaide and a past Leader of this Congregation. For many years she taught in the secondary schools of both St Dominic's Priory College, North Adelaide and St Mary's College, Adelaide. After completing a Master's degree in Social Science, Shirley worked as a Family and Student Counsellor at St Mary's.

Shirley has extensive experience of governance in education, having served as both member and Chair of the Board of St Dominic's Priory College North Adelaide.



Julianna Drobik

Julianna is a member of the congregation of Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia. She has been a principal in three primary schools in Victoria and New South Wales and worked in the Catholic Education Office in the Archdiocese of Sydney and the Diocese of Sale. She held the position of Education Officer for the Faithful Companions of Jesus and Loreto Sisters, overseeing the governance responsibilities of two FCJ and seven Loreto schools in Australia.

Julianna has been a member of the Congregation Leadership Team and is currently the Executive Director for the Dominican Education Council. She has served on the Board at Santa Sabina College, Siena College and the Advisory Committee of Catherine Sullivan Centre. Julianna currently teaches part time at Siena College.



Mary Jacquier

Mary Jacquier has recently retired after a long career in education covering forty-six years. She has held various roles in schools and in Catholic education in three states including that of Principal for eighteen years. Mary has a particular interest in leadership and the development of beautiful, safe, happy, quality learning environments that are inclusive of all. Her special interest is in the marginalised in our school communities – the poor, the socially and culturally disadvantaged, those with extra needs and those on the fringes of schools, including families, students and staff.

Currently Mary resides in South Australia. She is a grandmother of four and great grandmother of twin boys.



Eileen Young

Eileen Young is Principal of St Mary's College Adelaide. She began her career as a History and English teacher, was Deputy Principal of Siena College Adelaide and has held Senior Advisor Central Office positions in Catholic Education South Australia. Eileen was the recipient of the 2010 ACEL Award for Leadership.

Eileen Young has presented at the 2013 Edmund Rice Leaders Conference in South Africa on a school model of Restorative Justice and worked with several CESA and South African schools to introduce the principles underpinning restorative justice and the culture change required if a school is to undertake this community model.

Courtesy of DEA

The Butterfly Campaign



Siena College embarked on a philanthropic campaign in late 2014, known as the Butterfly Campaign. We are now approaching the final stages of this campaign with **100 days to reach our target.**

The Siena College community, past present and future has embraced a culture of philanthropy and we thank the members of the Siena community for their generosity.

Tracey Grobbelaar

Director of Development and Community Relations

Connecting Past, Present and Future

As we approach the final stages of the Butterfly Campaign, we invite you to consider what we have achieved so far.

We have much to be proud of. Our very first philanthropic campaign has been a wonderful success. **Pillar One**, the conversion of the planned Lecture Theatre into a new Auditorium, was achieved early on with the Susan Alberti Auditorium. **Pillar Two** involved the transformation of the Student Resource Centre into a magnificent, purpose built Library, renamed the Albertus Magnus Library. This was achieved prior to our 75th celebrations.

We have 100 days to reach our target.

Pillar Three, the Agora and Terraced Gardens, designed by Karsha Dickinson (Class of 2002), has now been achieved.

Pillar Four, transforming the Convent and Cloisters into the gateway of the College, is the final chapter of our fundraising effort. To date we have raised \$55,000 for this Pillar with a remaining target of **\$195,000.**



The Agora and Terraced Gardens

In order to achieve these final pillars of our Butterfly Campaign:

- An invitation has been mailed to all members of the Siena College community to seek support in the form of a donation
- All members of the community are also invited to join us for the Butterfly Campaign Gala Dinner to be held on Saturday, 19 November in the Convent and Cloisters and Susan Alberti Auditorium

We invite all parents, alumnae and staff to support this final stage of our Butterfly Campaign to achieve our dream and transform the Convent and Cloisters into the gateway of the College, and deliver a beautiful Agora and Terraced Garden for all to enjoy.

Butterfly
Four Pillars of Philanthropy
creating transformational change



The gateway to the College

Butterfly Campaign Gala Dinner

This prestigious event offers guests a magnificent dining and entertainment experience and brings together the past and present Siena College community in an atmosphere of celebration.

Our Butterfly Campaign Gala Dinner will celebrate all of our successes in the campaign with fabulous entertainment, MC Mr Seb Costello, and the opportunity to meet and hear from alumna, Susan Alberti AC, an inspirational speaker. There will be a three course meal matched with wines, raffles, silent auctions and of course a chance to win some amazing prizes.

To book visit: www.sienaconnect.com.au/event/butterflygala



Date	Saturday, 19 November 2016
Venue	The Convent and Cloisters and Susan Alberti Auditorium Siena College, 815 Riversdale Road, Camberwell
Time	7.00pm (pre-dinner drinks)
Dress	Black Tie
Tickets	\$150 per person or \$1,500 per table of ten (inc. GST)

INSCRIBE YOUR NAME ON OUR NEW ALUMNAE WALL

Register
your
inscription
today

Visit www.sienacollect.com.au/event/alumnaewall or contact 9835 0217



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SIENA COLLEGE ALUMNAE
Connecting Past, Present and Future

Learning and Teaching

“There is no more powerful approach to leading teaching and learning than through creating a culture of genuine curiosity about what is happening for learners and a systematic process to engage in deep inquiry in ways that create agency to make the difference.” (Timperley, H, 2015, Australian Educational Leader, Vol.37, No.2)



At Siena College we are certainly committed to creating a culture of curiosity, not only for our students, but also for our staff. The following learning and teaching articles highlight the learning experiences and exciting opportunities that our students and staff are able to engage in and with.

At our recent Learning and Teaching Professional Learning day, the focus of the day was to provide time and opportunity for staff to share, reflect and collaborate about their practices which enhance learning in the classroom for our girls.

One of the sessions was led by members of our own Heads of Learning team, who provided valuable input on how to utilise ‘Making Thinking Visible’ routines. Staff were delighted to see such routines in action in four of our own Siena classes via a short film clip. Staff were then given the opportunity to consider how they could utilise any of the routines in their Semester 2 classes. The remaining sessions in the day followed a similar format, with some input from members of a designated team and then staff putting into practice their own learning.

Staff feedback on the day was extremely positive. Many staff appreciated that it was an in-house run Professional Learning day

and that we were able to celebrate and affirm the expertise within our professional community. Many staff were also appreciative of the practical and hands on nature of the day.

Research continues to highlight that when staff are fully engaged in their own learning and effectively collaborate with others, student achievement is also positively impacted. Therefore, at Siena College, it is important that we continue to adopt a systematic approach in developing professional learning communities, with a focus on creating a collaborative culture. It is also important that we model collaboration and reflect about our learning so that our girls are inspired to do the same.

Bernadette Donnelly

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching





Learning and Teaching



Schoolbox

In 2016, Siena College embarked on an exciting journey to implement a new Learning Management System. *Schoolbox* was chosen as a replacement for SienaNet, following a two year investigation to select a system that would best meet the learning needs of our students. A Learning Management System such as *Schoolbox* allows staff

and students to create online communities where classes can collaborate and maximise their learning anywhere, anytime.

A further advantage of *Schoolbox* is its capacity to draw together many stand-alone systems that are currently being used. Once fully implemented, *Schoolbox* will be a single access point for learning resources and online collaboration, home learning tasks, assessment information and general school information.

Stage 1 of the implementation process commenced in Semester 2 this year with a pilot group of twenty-seven teachers testing and using the software with one of their classes. Ongoing professional learning has been provided for the pilot group involving whole team events, small group sessions and access to an online training course. Feedback has been exceedingly positive from staff and students involved in the pilot group.

Stage 2 will begin at the start of the 2017 school year and all non-pilot group staff will also begin with just one of their classes. The pilot group members will expand their use by engaging with several of their classes via *Schoolbox*. All staff will work together as members of professional learning teams to develop their knowledge of the software and explore innovative ways that they might utilise it with their students to further enhance student learning.

In Stage 3, parents and guardians will be given access to various elements of *Schoolbox*. It is intended that this stage will commence in the latter part of 2017.

Schoolbox is an exciting learning initiative and we will continue to update the Siena community on our progress. The following link provides an introduction to *Schoolbox*,

https://youtu.be/Ks_n4AwBLOW

Anna Apfelstedt
Teacher Librarian



Year 9 STEM Day



While other year levels were on retreat and camp, Year 9 students were exploring physics, space, and virtual reality. They experienced Swinburne University's AstroTour, a series of short 3D films put together by Astrophysics and Supercomputing PhD students on research in the local universe, stars, and planets.

Our students also experienced the immersive fun of Google Cardboard, the low tech, low cost beginner's option for virtual reality. Apps were downloaded, and girls experienced the split screen workings of the headsets. They were surprisingly realistic, for a low tech headset.

Our girls asked thoughtful questions of our guest speaker, Madeleine Burchill. Madeleine works for the Defence Science Technology Group in the Department of Defence, and students were interested to hear about her team's research into testing durability and stress effects on materials used in aircraft and fighter jets. She set up a simple wind tunnel, and the girls enjoyed experimenting with her digital microscope.

Anita Galli
Head of Science



Siena College

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Open Mornings 2017

Monday, 13 February

Friday, 17 March

Friday, 19 May

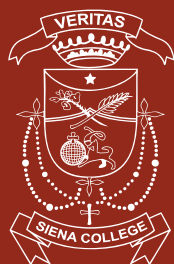
Monday, 26 June

Friday, 11 August

Friday, 8 September

Wednesday, 29 November

9.30am – 11.00am



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A CATHOLIC SCHOOL FOR YOUNG WOMEN IN
THE DOMINICAN TRADITION, YEARS 7 TO 12

A Siena College education is about connecting girls and empowering young women through a rigorous education, enriching experiences and enduring relationships. Come and see how we could inspire a lifelong love of learning in your daughter.

Register online or phone **9835 0200**

www.siena.vic.edu.au



Night of Change



Night of Change this year shifted focus from the plight of our indigenous people to the women of Kopanang. The aim of the evening was to raise awareness of the work of the women at Kopanang and the scourge of HIV that has directly impacted all of the women in the Kopanang community.

Funds raised on the evening will directly benefit Kopanang by providing embroidery supplies, money for computer and driving courses and basics for the Kopanang children, such as school uniforms.

This year, Disco Bingo and a silent auction were added to the night, providing fun and laughs alongside the music provided by our talented Year 12 students. A special guest, 'Kylie Minogue', hosted the 'Name that Song' round, providing many memorable moments for contestants and audience alike.

The silent auction was exceptionally successful. Many Siena families were able to source donations from local vendors or provide donations themselves. All help was greatly appreciated.

A special thank you should also go to all the alumnae that came on board for the evening and donated products for the silent auction including Jo Scully (Quay Sunglasses), Emilia Jackson (MasterChef finalist and incredible baker) and Ella Olsen (Red Cup Cafe).

\$3,600 was raised from ticket sales, auction and raffles. This result exceeded the wildest expectations of the SRC. We are looking forward to building on this success even further next year.

Kate Gotlib

Head of Student Formation and Justice Education



Antonio de Montesinos Award for Excellence in Public Speaking



speech on the topic: 'A random act of kindness goes a long way...'

I would like to congratulate our six finalists: Laura Butler, Lily Curtis, Claire McLaughlin, Evelyn O'Meara, Elise Curwood and Adrienne Duray on preparing and presenting excellent speeches on the night! The students put much time and effort into researching and perfecting their speeches and should be highly commended for their efforts.

Congratulations to our winner, Elise Curwood, who delivered a powerful and thought provoking speech on 'Islamophobia in Australian society'. Congratulations also to Claire McLaughlin, who received the Encouragement Award on the evening. Both students were worthy winners!

A big thank you to the English staff who helped on the night and especially to our adjudicators, Ms Donna Laughlin, Mr Michael Hanrahan and Ms Shenika Fernando (Debating and Public Speaking Captain 2015), on their expertise in judging the final.

Michelle Robertson
Public Speaking Coordinator

On Tuesday, 30 August, the annual Antonio de Montesinos Award for Excellence in Public Speaking was held at Siena College. Each speaker was asked to prepare a five to six minute speech, based on our College theme 'Preach the Gospel of Mercy'. In the second half of the evening, the students had to think on their feet and were given five minutes to prepare a two to three minute impromptu



Michelle Robertson, Claire McLaughlin, Elise Curwood, Gaynor Robson-Garth



Antonio de Montesinos Award finalists

Celebrating Community Events

Siena College has a remarkable community, connecting past, present and future. During 2016, our community has seen a number of events taking place at the College.

The Siena Parent's Association, which is made up of dedicated volunteers, has throughout the year organised a wide range of events in support of our students. During 2016, these have included the Welcome Evening for new families, Mother's Day Breakfast, Father's Day Breakfast and the Fees Raffle. These events assist in bringing our community together and raising funds for the College.

The Alumnae Association is an integral part of our community, connecting past students with the College. We are blessed to have so many past students who contribute their time and expertise to the Siena College community. During the past year alumnae have visited the College as guest speakers, including Anna Crabb, Greens Senate Candidate (Class of 2001) and Bianca Capaldo (Class of 2006). Anna shared her post Siena experiences with the students, discussing her career and what inspired her to run for the Senate in the past Federal election. Bianca Capaldo works for the Walter and Eliza Hall Institute in stem cell research.

Students from Year 7 and Year 9 attended an AFL match on Friday, 19 August between Siena College and the Melbourne Indigenous Transition School (MITS). Susan Alberti AC, kindly provided Whitten Oval, home of the Western Bulldogs, as the venue. A wonderful match of footy was played despite the rainy conditions.

Recently Siena College attended the Women in AFL Breakfast with several students and staff in support of Susan Alberti, AC and women's football. Among the guests were several alumnae including Kevin Sheedy (two of his daughters attended Siena College), Dr Lorian Parker (Class of 1999) and Gabrielle Mahoney (Class of 2015). We were extremely honoured to be part of the first Women's AFL Breakfast supporting the launch of the Women's AFL season.

Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations



Celebrating Community Events

Women in Football Charity Breakfast



Steph Chiocci, Susan Alberti, Moana Hope

Kopanang Universe Canticle Exhibition



Father's Day Breakfast



Siena College vs Melbourne International Transition School Football Game



Alumnae Association



Kate Gotlib née Kelly (Class of 1996)
Gayle Peggie née Davis (Class of 1974)

The Careers Showcase, held in Term Two, was the most successful Showcase to date. The diversity of presenters on the panels, was a particular highlight this year. The Alumnae Association has worked exceptionally hard since the inception of the Career Showcase, to source more alumnae from a variety of fields by asking panel members to 'suggest a friend.' This has led to a database full of professional women keen to share their knowledge and expertise with current Siena students.

The 2016 Showcase included paramedics, midwives, university professors, doctors, small business owners, scientists, lawyers and actors.

Over 550 students and parents attended and participated in three sessions over the evening. They were able to select from over forty different careers and heard the panel members present on their career pathways since leaving Siena. A Question and Answer session closed off each session.

Most pleasingly, many alumnae left their details with Careers Practitioner, Clare Timmins, to be able to be contacted as mentors to interested students in the future.

The night is a testament to the connectedness of Siena women, past and present.

If any alumnae are interested in providing their expertise for one of the 2017 panels, you are encouraged to contact the Alumnae Office.

Kate Gotlib and Gayle Peggie
Alumnae Association Presidents



SIENA COLLEGE ALUMNAE
Connecting Past, Present and Future

Presidents of the Alumnae Association, Gayle Peggie and Kate Gotlib, encourage alumnae to reconnect with the College and participate in the many and varied activities held throughout the 2017 school year.

Careers Showcase 2017

Tuesday, 20 June | 6.00pm – 10.00pm
Siena College, Camberwell

Alumnae Association Meeting Dates 2017

Monday, 13 February	Monday, 5 June
Monday, 6 March	Monday, 17 July
Monday, 10 April	Monday, 11 September
Monday, 8 May	Monday, 23 October, AGM
6.30pm – 7.30pm Siena College Conference Room	

Contact 9835 0217 or email alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au



Farewell to the Class of 2016



Veritas Visual Arts and Technology Exhibition



Where are they now?

The Carroll Sisters – A Generational Family

There are a number of generational families who continue to support Siena College. One of these many families is the Carroll family. The Carroll sisters come from a family of eight children, seven of whom attended Siena College. The Development Office

recently came across the article below which was featured in the 1997 Siena College Yearbook. It was written by Kathleen Carroll and reflects the twenty-two year history the Carroll family has had with Siena College.

The Carroll Sisters

In 1981 my oldest sister, Therese, spoke to the assembly in the school hall. It was her last day at Siena and she explained to her audience that she hardly felt like she was leaving because her sisters would continue to attend Siena for another sixteen years. People could hardly believe what she was saying at the time, they could hardly imagine one family being associated with a school for a period extending over twenty-two years. Now as I write this article sixteen years after my sister made that speech, I can hardly believe it myself.

As the youngest of eight children, seven of whom are girls, I think it would be fair to say that Siena has been a huge part of my family's life. Before I began Year 7, each one of my sisters tried to indoctrinate me with what they perceived to be key aspects of life at Siena. My oldest sisters, Michelle and Therese, who are twins comforted me as I complained bitterly about the uniform that I was about to don. I laughed as they showed me photos of themselves on their first day at school in 1975. They were dressed in old fashioned tunics and hats that made them look like they were out of the 1920s.

Maria had a different story to tell about her time at Siena as she remembered the Nuns who taught her and how she and her friends used to sneak into the convent to look at what sort of underwear they had on their washing line. Simone spoke about the school Socials with boys. She gave me something to look forward to as I listened to her

stories about sneaking behind the curtain on the stage of the school hall. Emma told me about what was then the St Dominic's Day Concert. I was thankful I was not yet at the school the year she got up on stage by herself and did a Mick Jagger impersonation. It was unfortunate for my sister Rachel who had to cope with the embarrassment as people smiled sympathetically and whispered, "That's your sister, isn't it?" Rachel, who is closest to me in age, addressed the fine details of life at Siena. Her words of wisdom included to beware of Barbara Candela the stalwart Librarian, and to stay off the back seat of the bus.

Taking the advice of my sisters I was able to survive happily my days at Siena. Although our family's 22 year association has officially come to an end, I feel that each one of us will never forget our memories of school life. While all our memories are vastly different, I feel that this is reflective of the change that has taken place at Siena. We have witnessed the making of history and while Michelle remembers the building of "E" level, and I remember the making of "G" level, our memories of Siena are the same in one way.

We will never forget the good times, and the friendships that have continued to survive through the years.

Kathleen Carroll
Year 12



*Six out of the seven Carroll sisters.
L-R: Kathleen, Rachel, Emma, Simone, Maria, and Therese. Absent: Michelle.*



Where are they now?

The Carroll Sisters – A Generational Family

The Carroll sisters' connections continue at Siena with Simone's daughter, Megan Curtain, now a student in Year 7. Over the years, the Carroll sisters have presented at the Alumnae Association Careers Showcase, sharing their career pathways. We are proud to have alumnae returning to the College. There are currently twenty-five alumnae with daughters attending Siena College.

One of the most rewarding aspects about Siena College are the friendships made by the students and their families. In many instances these relationships are life long and generational. We look forward to sharing many more of our generational stories with the Siena community.



A recent photo of the seven Carroll sisters: Michelle (Physiotherapist), Therese (Clinical Psychologist), Maria (Solicitor), Simone (Teacher), Emma (Occupational Therapist), Rachel (Social Worker), Kathleen (Marketing)



Megan Curtain (Year 7), Simone Carroll (Class of 1985)

Alumnae Achievements

The Siena College community congratulates the following alumnae on their significant achievements during 2016.



Professor Michelle Welsh (Class of 1983), Deputy Chair of the Siena College Board, on her appointment as Professor and Head of the Business Law and Taxation Department in the Monash Business School.



Dr Julia Marchingo (Class of 2006) was awarded one of the 2016 Young Achiever Awards, University of Melbourne Science and Technology Award.



Magda Szubanski (Class of 1978) received the NSW Premier's Literary Award, 2016 Douglas Stewart Prize for Nonfiction with her first book, *Reckoning*.

Magda also received the 2016 Australian Book Industry Awards (ABIA) for Book of the Year and Biography Book of the Year.



Professor Dorota Gertig (Class of 1980) was recently appointed Deputy Director, National Screening Register at Telstra Health.



Marion Boyce (Class of 1979), Costume Designer, was awarded:

AACTA Awards Best Costume Design 2015 for *The Dressmaker*.

AACTA Awards Nomination for Best Costume Design in Television 2015 for *Miss Fisher Murder Mysteries*, Series 3.



Michele Timms (Class of 1982) was humbled and honoured to be inducted into the International Basketball Federation, FIBA, Hall of Fame and given legend status. Michele competed for Australian basketball in three Olympic Games and captained the team that won silver in the Sydney Games in 2000.

We Remember

May they rest in peace

Graziella Brasacchio, mother of Maria Repanis (current staff member), passed away on 15 April, 2016.

Ron Piva passed away in May 2016. Husband of Grace Piva (Class of 1982), father of Adriana Piva (Class of 2012) and uncle of Amelia and Ciara Italiano (Class of 2016 and 2012).

Guido Rosselli, grandfather of Cara Woods (Year 12), passed away on 13 September, 2016.



Sister Noelle Magree OP passed away on 7 September 2016. Mass of Christian Burial for Sister Noelle was celebrated at Nazareth House. The following is an extract from the mass booklet:

We gather as a Christian community to give thanks for the life of Sister Noelle Magree, a Dominican Sister for sixty-four years; to pray for the repose of her soul and comfort and peace for those who mourn her.

Noelle Marie Magree was born in Hawthorn, Melbourne, on 26 December 1928, beloved daughter of Francis and Josephine Magree, the second of five children, a sister to Richard (Dick), Leon, Elinor (dec.) and Patrick (dec.). She attended St Dominic's Primary School and completed her secondary education at Siena Convent, Camberwell. Noelle went on to study nursing at St Vincent's Hospital in East Melbourne before entering the Dominican community at St Mary's Maitland, aged twenty-one. She was professed Sr Paul Francis on the 2 February 1952. Noelle completed qualifications for registration as a Primary Teacher in NSW in 1952, but only taught for a short time, happy to return to her passion, nursing.

Noelle spent almost thirty years in ministry in the Solomon Islands. She set up and managed the medical clinic in Nila. During this time she delivered over seven hundred babies, extracted and filled teeth on occasions and attended to the general health needs of the local people. In 1980, Noelle was awarded the MBE for medical services to the people of the Shortlands in consultation with the Australian Government. She studied midwifery at Calvary Hospital in Hobart in 1960 and topped the state in her results. When Noelle returned from the Solomon Islands in 1987, she undertook a period of renewal at the Assumption Institute in Rosanna in 1988, a highlight of her religious life. A further renewal opportunity was later afforded her in 1997, when she took part in a Dominican Pilgrimage to Dominic's Lands.

Noelle, having completed accreditation as Natural Family Planning Teacher, began a part-time ministry with the Billings Family Centre in Melbourne in 1990, visiting the Solomon Islands for a short stay in 1995 to promote Family Planning. Noelle then joined the staff at Nazareth House Camberwell, where she nursed in aged care for a number of years. It was from nursing at Nazareth House that she retired from active ministry.

In February 2011, Noelle made the decision to become a resident of Nazareth House, aware of her increasing need for extra care. She was always keen to hear news from the Solomon Islands, to see her beloved brothers Dick and Leon, and receive their advice for the weekly footy tipping, and her local community to keep up with news and events. The staff and local Dominican community were patient, loving and generous in their care for Noelle over the last five and a half years.

Noelle surrendered her life to God on 7 September, ending a long period of physical decline and suffering. May she rest in peace.

Marriages

Elisa De Vecchi (Class of 2009) married Nicholas Bouras on 18 June 2016. Their bridal party included **Danielle Dounis** (Class of 2009), **Laura Dragonetti** (Class of 2004), and **Stefania De Vecchi** (Class of 2008)



Georgie Plasto (current staff member) and Nick West married on 25 June in picturesque Byron Bay

Congratulations



Karsha Dickinson (Class of 2002) and Mark Stolz are pleased to announce Louis' arrival on 4 August.



Emma Hales (current staff member) and John Wright welcome the safe arrival of Jock Wright on 4 August.



Mark Smith (current staff member) and his wife, Aislinn, welcome Brianna Smith. Brianna was born on 23 August.

Liz Merrett
Marketing and Development Secretary



Archives



The School Song

One of the ways in which schools help create a sense of community is through their school song. From 1940 to the early 1950s, Siena Convent School relied totally on the hymns favoured by the Dominican sisters. Gregorian chants, taught to St Dominic's Primary School students by the inimitable Ms Honnis, found their way

into the collection of hymns sung by Siena's early students. A hymn to St Dominic, *Gaude Mater Ecclesia*, was also very popular.

In 1951, a popular song written by Bob Merrill and sung by Guy Mitchell, *My Truly, Truly Fair*, became the inspiration for the unofficial first school song. The music to this song was used by Mr JJ McKenna (father of Jeanne, enrolled 1940 and Marie Joyce, enrolled 1950), to accompany his three verse homage to Siena Convent School. This song remained popular with students until the early 1970s. At the same time, there were a number of attempts to create a more traditional type of school song. Sheet music, donated by Barbara Dowling (née Robertson), shows an outline for a school song in 1962, but there were no words included.

Another *Hymn to St Dominic*, the words of which were recalled by Betty (née Martin) and Barry Fish, emphasised the preaching work of St Dominic. Betty and Barry visited Siena College, in 2013, and not only provided the words to this hymn, but Barry also provided a third verse based on Beethoven's *Ode to Joy*!

In the late 1960s, a school song was written by Sr Margaret Smith OP, one of the original 1940 students. It emphasised the Dominican charism with its direct reference to St Dominic and St Catherine. Still yet another song, simply entitled *Siena*, was written by Joan and Robert Couchin.

In 1987, Angela Reid composed another school song. It lasted only a short time before Colin Brumby wrote the music and his wife, Jenny Dawson the lyrics, to the present school song, *Hymn to St Catherine*, in 1994. It is this hymn, with its resounding chorus, that transforms every assembly and formal gathering in the College today.

Our history of different school songs reflects the times in which they were written and the desire to always make them speak to that which was important. Different generations in the Siena community often speak very fondly about 'their' school song. It is to be hoped that present and future generations will also take pride in the song that reminds them of the joy to be had in being part of this Dominican community in Camberwell.

Gaude Mater Ecclesia

This hymn was sung in Latin by Siena students

Rejoice, dear Mother Church, who now
Singest to heaven in accents gay,
For these thy sons he brought whom thou
Lovingly call'st to mind today.

The leader of the Lord's dread hounds,
Dom'nic, our guide and father blest,
Revered throughout the earth's vast bounds,
In God's own Home has found his rest.

Gone is the body's prison gloom,
Come the Light of eternity!
Garments from an angel's loom
Replace the rags of poverty.

The sacred fragrance from his grave
And myriad signs wrought through his name
In clamorous joy give judgment brave:
Another Saint doth God proclaim!

School Song

Sr Margaret Smith OP, c1967

Radiant and joyous, loving the world,
Dominic his banner, Veritas, unfurled,
Close-knit to Christ, our Way below,
Strong in faith he feared no foe,

Chorus

Daughters of Catherine, strong need we be
Dauntless and daring, in sacrifice free,
Serving the Master, living the Truth,
Cleaving to God from the Days of our youth.

Forth on life's journey Dominic strode,
For sweet is Christ's burden, light Christ's load.
Serve the Lord gladly, our Father sang,
In Mary's Rosary his message rang.

Chorus

Siena, our Mother, moulding us true
For the vision of Beauty, Ancient and New,
Siena, we honour you and proudly proclaim
We love and cherish your noble name.

Chorus

Siena Convent School

JJ McKenna (words), 1951

Chorus

Siena Convent School – nuns and pupils too,
How I love that splendid band.
We've worked and played there –
And we have prayed there.
Long may our Siena stand.

Some nuns here like Melbourne rain,
Some like Sydney still,
But all still love the convent school,
That stands upon the hill.

Chorus

Some girls here will marry men,
Some will take the veil.
But all will keep, for the convent school
A love that will not fail.

Chorus

Whenever I look on sky or sea
Near or far from home,
It's depth of blue will recall to me
Our convent's crowning dome.

Chorus

Hymn to St Catherine

Colin Brumby and Jenny Dawson, 1994

St Catherine of Siena's words resound for us today,
That Holy woman's fire
And strength will light for us the way,
Afraid of no man Pope nor Prince
She challenged those in doubt,
The Love of God will save us all
and put the dark to rout.

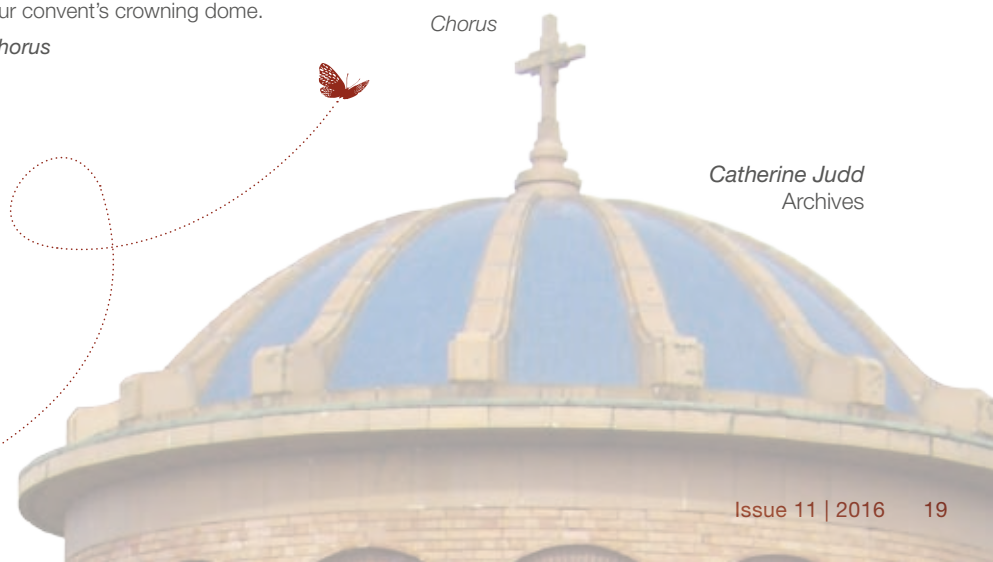
Chorus

For Veritas cry out with joy
Fear not for truth sets free
The courage of our love for truth
Will win eternity.

The mercy of our risen Lord
Is truth by which to live
A mercy that can conquer death as
God His son did give
Eternal mercy by whose power
Christ's love will wash us clean
The light, which shines upon our lives,
A rock on which to lean.

Chorus

*Catherine Judd
Archives*





A GIFT THAT LASTS

Many alumnae and friends of Siena College have expressed great enthusiasm for the opportunity to consider a gift in their Wills to the College. In fact, if all Australians shared this vision and made a gesture in their Wills to support education, charitable works and meritorious causes, the landscape of our society would be profoundly changed.

What is a Bequest?

A bequest is simply an instruction in your Will to leave a gift (money, property or other asset) to a specific person, organisation or charity. Actually it is a common misconception that only wealthy people leave money to a charity, school or not for profit organisation when they die. The reality is that many bequests are made by ordinary people who want to make a positive difference to the future.

The facts are around 30% of Australians actively intend to make a bequest to a charity in their Wills, but in reality only 7.5% actually do. Many simply never get around to adjusting their Wills to ensure their wishes are accommodated.

Siena Philanthropic Society

Founded in 2014, the Siena College Philanthropic Society is an initiative specifically created to support major projects in providing excellent learning environments for the sciences, humanities, the arts, culture, sports, music and wellbeing.

In 2017, our plan is to formally launch the Bequest component of the Siena Philanthropic Society. In this way we will recognise those Friends of Siena who have chosen to make a gift to the College in their Will.

For further information about the Siena College Bequest Program please contact the Development Office on (03) 9835 0266.

Tips to Leaving a Bequest

Leaving a gift in your Will is very easy. Follow these simple steps as a guide:

- Step 1** If you do not have a Will, you will need to obtain independent legal advice about creating one. If you do not have a solicitor, contact a solicitor or Public Trustee in your State.
- Step 2** If you do have a Will, then all you need to do is add a codicil – a short legal amendment to your existing Will.
- Step 3** Decide on what type of bequest you would like to leave, for example a percentage or a fixed amount.
- Step 4** Discuss your wishes with your family to ensure that your reasons for your decision are understood.
- Step 5** If you would like to nominate an area of the College you wish to support please feel free to contact us.

Siena College was built through the dedication and passion of the Dominican Sisters. Now that baton has passed to the Siena Community to safeguard and protect the tradition for the future.



Siena never forgets
Year 10 students, Lauren Bignold and Catherine Meese, modelling the Siena uniform from the 1950s

Connecting girls, empowering young women
Stay connected ...