



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

2015
Celebrating
75
Years

The Spirit of Siena

Issue 9 | 2015



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,
Nicole Mangelsdorf and Liz Merrett

Photography

Philip Webb, Susan Law and Matt Graham

Contents

Message from the Principal	3
The St Catherine Centre	4
Dominican News	6
Learning and Teaching	7
Staff Profiles	8
Siena College Farewells	11
Siena College through time... ..	12
Wellbeing at Siena College	16
Antonio de Montesinos Public Speaking Award	17
College Production - Boy Overboard.....	17
Snow Sports	18
Director of Development	19
75 th Anniversary Events	20
Siena Parents' Association	22
Alumnae Association	23
We Remember	24
Marriages and Engagements	24
Where are they now?.....	24
Siena College's Primary School Program	26



Message from the Principal

“We are not just a school but a strong community of past, present and future students, staff and parents.”



Joan Chittester wrote that the past is a compelling force in history, “...where we came from, who we are, what our origins say about the kind of people we come from, the kind of people we are meant to be. These have a hold on our souls like few other of the intangibles in life. All our lives we make great efforts to go back in time, to catch another glimpse of ourselves, to trace what it is that has

formed us, to stay the same even while we change.”

As we reflected on the past, celebrated the present and looked ahead to the future, the 75th anniversary year reinforced again that which has remained the same at Siena College, even as we have changed.

An enduring feature is the strong sense of community since the ‘Siena Convent School’s’ early beginnings in 1940. In this anniversary year, as we welcomed many past students, staff and Dominican Sisters, we celebrated again the sense of connectedness that is so much a part of this College. We are not just a school but a strong community of past, present and future students, staff and parents.

We are also heirs to a rich intellectual tradition. Our Dominican story begins with St Dominic who sent the first Dominicans to the earliest universities of Europe to study, to gain new knowledge and ideas as they pursued Truth for the sake of the Gospel. For seventy-five years, Siena College has been dedicated to the education of young women to make intelligent and responsible use of their personal gifts and develop a lifelong love of learning.

As we look to the future, we confirmed again our unrelenting focus on learning within a culture of freedom and responsibility. It was more than appropriate that we opened the St Catherine’s Centre as part of the 75th anniversary celebrations. This centre places our students’ learning and wellbeing at the heart of our College,



Current and Past Principals of Siena College

while honouring a courageous and passionate Truth seeker in our patron, Catherine of Siena.

The commemorative 75th anniversary book featured members of the Siena community of the past seven and a half decades, recounting stories of Dominican sisters and a Dominican friar, architects and archaeologists, actors and authors, artists and scientists to name but a few. May the College always be a place where the unique gifts of every member of the community are nurtured and where diversity is encouraged and celebrated.

We hope you enjoy the stories and the photographs of the many events held over the year that are featured in this publication. It has been a very good year, enriched by memories of the past, enduring friendships and a much valued tradition and history.

Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal

A reflection from a Student on the 75th Anniversary

A religious experience that I remember as a significant time is the 75th anniversary celebrations at St Patrick’s Cathedral. The whole experience was quite magical. All of my senses were in action, the sound of the choir and orchestra in my ears, the smell of the incense in my nose, the light pouring in from the stained glass windows and the feel of the cold that showed the significance of the celebration. This experience was important to me because of the history that this event celebrated. The school has been going for 75 years; many a girl has gone through this school on to the world and I was a part of that, the history.

The whole environment of the ceremony was grand, the people, the service itself was also very important due to the Archbishop, Dennis Hart celebrating the mass. The cathedral, the architecture was amazing, you could look at it for hours. The importance that it wasn’t just any old church, this was a cathedral that we had to travel to in the city. It also had history, it honoured the occasion. There was also living history in the past students and teachers who came back to see the celebrations of their school, to see its progression in the world and its students. Having the day to reflect on this momentous occasion was a once in a lifetime celebration. The 75th anniversary of Siena College will only happen once and I was a part of those celebrations to reflect and applaud the achievements of Siena.

This moment is one I will not forget. This didn’t only impact on me but on all the other students, teachers and alumnae, only making this occasion even more significant. When the whole school got involved with the celebrations it made for a day to never forget, to have in the history of the school and everyone involved. It was an important day for all.

Georgia Ryan, Student Year 11

The St Catherine Centre

On the Joys of Giving



A very big congratulations and thank you to everyone who has helped us develop and achieve our capital campaign goals so far. We are most certainly progressing well, which many of you will now be aware of, since the opening and blessing celebrations of the new St Catherine Centre on 7 August 2015.

This ambitious project has not only given us a new and beautifully refurbished Albertus Magnus Library, a fully equipped Susan Alberti Auditorium, a wonderful art gallery, classrooms, Year 12 areas and student administration, but importantly has invigorated our community of past and present, teachers, staff, and students. It has also given the Campaign team renewed impetus to surge forward with the plans for the transformation of the old tennis court and surrounding space (Pillar Three) into the Agora gardens, and the Convent, (Pillar Four), into the new gateway to our College.

Your generosity has been enormously appreciated by the students and has already created a level of envy from some of our recent ex students who have been so impressed by what they have seen. This has been made possible not only through your contributions, but also through tight budgeting and savings and confirmed pledges of gifts from donors. This is critically important at a time when the educational expectations being

placed on schools require excellence across a broad spectrum. We strongly believe that it will have a significant impact on attracting outstanding teachers who are looking for a modern and contemporary educational environment that will give them the opportunity to use their skills to the advantage our students. It will also greatly enhance the ability of the school to attract new students, as potential parents will recognise that Siena now has a building infrastructure that will provide even greater learning opportunities for their children.

Siena College clearly recognises the demands that are placed on parents in the provision of these services; however we greatly appreciate that with your ongoing support we can continue to provide the most modern teaching facilities for your daughters in an environment that values learning, beauty and excellence.

Please continue with this spirit of generosity as we endeavour to complete this remarkable project.

With appreciation

Pauline Sheehan
Campaign Chair

Images below and right of the new St Catherine Centre





Butterfly
creating transformational change

Campaign Update

Congratulations to the Siena Community

Butterfly Campaign Status

- Target Remaining \$305,300
- Pillar One ACHIEVED
- Pillar Two ACHIEVED
- Pillar Three \$194,700

The focus of the philanthropic campaign is to raise the remaining \$305,300 for 2015 and 2016.

\$1,250,000
our target

\$944,700
achieved

Donate Now
www.siena.vic.edu.au
Contact Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development
community@siena.vic.edu.au

Dominican News

“A jubilee year is an occasion for celebration, thanksgiving and renewal.”



Celebrating 800 Years

Sent to preach the Gospel

The whole Dominican Family is preparing to celebrate a Jubilee Year in 2016. Eight centuries ago, Pope Honorius III, confirmed the foundation of the Order of Preachers in 1216. The Jubilee Year will be celebrated between 7 November, 2015 (Feast of All Saints of the Order) and 21 January 2017, the date Pope Honorius III confirmed the Order as Order of Preachers.

A jubilee year is an occasion for celebration, thanksgiving and renewal. Today the Dominican Family consists of approximately 25,500 Dominican Sisters of Apostolic Life in around 111 countries and their associated groups, 3,000 nuns, almost 5,000 Friars, hundreds of thousands of Dominican Laity, and many other groups formally aggregated to the Order. This big Dominican Family also includes those who share the charism through involvement in Dominican parishes, schools, universities, hospitals and other places where Dominicans minister today.



Siena College is a ministry of the Dominican Sisters of Eastern Australia and the Solomon Islands. This Congregation was founded from Ireland in 1867, nearly 150 years ago. As part of a network of Dominican schools across Australia, activities are planned to engage students in the year of Jubilee. All schools will open the 2016 school year with a common liturgy and it is planned that representative students will visit other Dominican schools in Sydney and Adelaide in the lead up to the biannual student conference, Common Ground, to be held at San Sisto College in Brisbane in July 2016.

During this year of Jubilee, the Sisters will also give thanks for their 90 year presence in Camberwell. We look forward to celebrating an interesting year with our wider community.

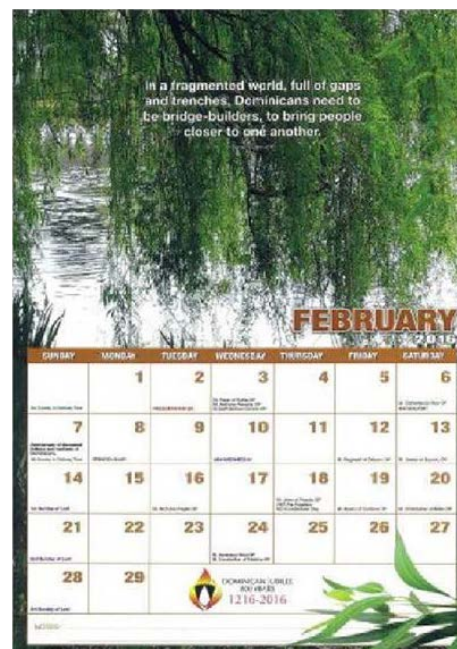
Sr Julianna Drobik OP

Prayer for the Jubilee of the Order

God, Father of mercy, who called your servant Dominic de Guzman to set out in faith as an itinerant pilgrim and a preacher of grace, as we prepare to celebrate the Jubilee of the Order we ask you to pour again into us the Spirit of the Risen Christ, that we might faithfully and joyfully proclaim the Gospel of peace, through the same Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jubilee calendars

Jubilee calendars are available for sale with proceeds going to the Dominican Sisters' Mission in the Solomon Islands. Each A3 size picture has a quote from a prominent Dominican. Hanging calendars are \$15 (excluding postage) and A5 desktop calendars are also available through archives5@bigpond.com





Learning and Teaching

Learning is at the heart of all that we do



Recent research highlights the significant contribution that Middle Leaders can make to the learning in successful schools. At Siena College, we are fortunate to have a team of dedicated Heads of Learning who are committed to continually improving learning. As part of this commitment, the Heads of Learning have either completed or are about to complete the International Leadership and Management Program (ILMP) Middle Leaders course. This course has been running in the UK and internationally for nine years and has recently been offered in Australasia.

The program focusses on learning centred, sustainable leadership and management practice, ensuring that learning is at the centre of everything that happens at our school. All faculty meetings at the College focus specifically on enhancing learning for both staff and students, and data is regularly collected and analysed to inform these discussions and the decisions that are made. We have also established a culture of reflecting on and sharing our classroom practice in order to continually improve learning. One of the ways in which we do this is through the 'Learning Series' for staff which was introduced at the College in 2014.

The Learning Series is held two afternoons per term and showcases some of the knowledge and skill of teachers who present to their colleagues on an area of expertise. These workshops have been highly informative and engaging and have led to rich discussion amongst staff. Topics have included:

- *Strategic questions for teachers* (Kate Gotlib & Donna Laughlin)
- *Peer tutoring* (Michael Hanrahan)
- *Effective note taking and summary strategies* (Libby Moore)
- *Making thinking visible* (Nicole Mangelsdorf, Michelle Robertson, Vicky Doulis, Sue Thompson, Jemimah Walsh)
- *Personalities in the classroom* (Anita Galli)
- *Looking for learning* (Michelle Robertson & Nicole Mangelsdorf)
- *The adolescent brain and Implications for the classroom* (Dr Pieter Rossouw – external presenter)
- *Using ICT in the classroom to enhance student learning* (Anna Apfelstedt, Becky Scott, Nicole Green)
- *Using questioning sequences to enhance student achievement* (Michelle Robertson)
- *Homework: help or hindrance?* (Martin Gibbs)

I would like to acknowledge and thank all of the staff who have presented a Learning Series for their colleagues and those who have participated in the workshops. Their involvement reflects their deep and ongoing commitment towards enhancing student learning at the College.

Student learning has also been greatly enhanced by the many opportunities provided at the College for students to extend their learning beyond the classroom through participation in enrichment activities across all learning areas. Here are just a few of the many enrichment activities our students have participated in over recent months:

- *A model United Nations conference on refugees: 'Rights and Responsibilities' at which they represented the national interests of Syria, Myanmar and Costa Rica (their allocated nations)*
- *A combined school VCE Music Masterclass with students from Yarra Valley Grammar and Albert Park Secondary College*
- *'A Mission to Mars' day at the Victorian Science and Space Education Centre*
- *"Making connections: Neuroscience illuminating the pathways affecting our behaviour and health" day at the Gene Technology Access Centre at Melbourne University.*
- *A Mathematics enrichment day at Presbyterian Ladies College where they explored the concept of infinity from a mathematical perspective.*
- *A series of life drawing classes*

It is wonderful to see the range of rich, extended learning opportunities such as these that are offered to and taken up by our students, and to hear them share their learning via the College newsletter and at College assemblies.

Nicole Mangelsdorf
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



Staff Profile

Claire Moody



Claire Moody commenced her teaching career at Siena College in 2012, joining the staff as a Humanities teacher after having completed a Bachelor of Commerce / Bachelor of Science and a Master of Teaching at The University of Melbourne. From an early age, Claire knew that she wanted to be a teacher and as a student, took up opportunities to be involved in coaching and tutoring roles whenever

she could. She was particularly inspired by her Year 12 Physics teacher who was extremely passionate about her subject and her students, helping them to not only learn the course, but also build their confidence. "She taught us to love the process of learning and challenging ourselves, and that is what I hope to do with my students as well."

Claire is committed to providing students with a dynamic and engaging learning environment in which they can grow and develop, and thrives on continually improving her own practice through experimenting with new resources and attending professional learning workshops. She also embraces new challenges and opportunities to participate in activities outside the classroom with students. During her time at Siena, Claire has coached netball, accompanied students on the Building Bridges Interfaith program, participated in both the Indigenous Immersion and South Africa Immersion trips, as well as Common Ground – a Dominican conference for student leaders. For Claire, "the South African Immersion in particular was truly a life-changing experience" and one that she is incredibly grateful for being given the opportunity to take part in.

What Claire enjoys and values most about being a teacher is "seeing students develop a love for a subject". One memory that has stuck with her was when she sent an article to her economics class, and one of the students emailed her straight back, saying how excited she was that she understood everything in the article, because it used to be like a foreign language to her. Another favourite moment for Claire was when a student took the time to make an economics cartoon at home in her own time, and then shared it with the class on an online discussion board. "It's really all the little day-to-day moments in the classroom that I love most about teaching – seeing an idea 'click' in a student that has been struggling, or seeing a student achieve success through hard work and perseverance. Every day brings something different, and I couldn't imagine doing anything else."

Claire's exceptional leadership and organisational skills have led to her being appointed to the role of Student Leadership Coordinator for Semester 1, 2014 and Senior Pathways Coordinator in 2015. Claire has brought great energy and enthusiasm to both of these roles, supported students in their endeavours and ensured the effective administration of the VCE. During her time as the Student Leadership Coordinator, Claire particularly enjoyed working with the SRC and being able to facilitate student led social justice initiatives. "It is great to be a part of such a supportive environment where students are empowered to address justice issues in the wider community and generously support them."

Nicole Mangelsdorf

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching



Claire working with students at Kopanang

Siena College Annual Golf Day 2015

Major Sponsor

SILVERSTONE VOLVO



The Kew Golf Club Friday 27 November 2015

A fun filled and action packed day has been planned for women and men of all golfing abilities.

This will be a four player Ambrose event with competitions for the longest drive, straightest drive and nearest the pin at various holes.

Join us from noon for a light luncheon and warm up on the driving range before the fun team format followed by post golf drinks, gourmet barbecue dinner and prize presentation.

This annual event is held to raise funds for the Butterfly Project. Any voluntary donations are tax deductible.

To register for this event go to
www.golfdays.com.au/siena15



SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Staff Profiles

Anna Farina



Anna Farina started her educational career at Siena some 25 years ago on October 6th 1989. She was originally employed as a replacement music teacher. Anna accepted a permanent position from the start of 1990 when Sr Maura Mc Avoy was Principal. In that role she worked alongside Jenny Johnson (the Director of Music at the time), teaching classroom music, Year 7 to Year 10 - Anna was the accompanist

for the Senior and Junior choirs. Apart from preparing the students for various eisteddfods (which Siena won in 1990), Anna was a vital part of the preparations for the 50th anniversary celebrations. The concert held at the Robert Blackwood Hall included excerpts from musicals such as My Fair Lady, Evita and Fiddler on the Roof.

Over her twenty five years, Anna has spread her wings well beyond that original appointment. In 1991 she started working in the Science Faculty (Science being her other method), and has taught Year 7 to 9 Science ever since. Anna found the teaching of Science very rewarding and has particularly enjoyed the variety of classroom experiences teaching biology, chemistry and physics in the middle school.

Anna has also been actively involved in the wellbeing of students, particularly as a House Group Teacher. Before the vertical house

system was introduced, she was a Year 10, Year 9 and Year 8 Home Room Teacher, and in 2004, she joined Dianella House. Anna has been a Middle School House Group Teacher for the past ten years. Anna found that being a House Group Teacher gave her the opportunity to really engage with the students on a daily basis, and take a very active interest in their personal development as well as their academic achievements. She found that working with the same group of students over three years gave her the opportunity to really get to know them. It was also advantageous that she taught many of the students in their Science and Music classes.

There are many other things that Anna has done to enrich the lives of the students. In 2004 and 2005 she ran Italian conversation and cooking classes for both students and staff at lunchtimes. Shortly after that Italian was introduced as a third language option at Siena College. Anna was also a regular participant in weekend music and musical camps for a number of years when working with Pauline Sheehan. In 2007, Anna played a very valuable role as the teacher/interpreter on the Italian cultural immersion trip.

Anna has given twenty five years of loyal service to Siena College and has been an important part of its fabric. On reflection, Anna also feels that her experiences at Siena College have shaped her life. The Siena College community, both past and present, wish her all the very best in the next phase of her life, post Siena.

*Sue Thompson
Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

Michael Hanrahan



Michael Hanrahan joined the staff at Siena College in 2010 when he was appointed to the Senior Leadership Team in the role of Director of Staff and Administration. His wealth of knowledge and years of experience in both teaching and various leadership positions in Catholic Education has been of significant value to the Siena community. During his time at the College, Michael has been instrumental in the

development of comprehensive risk management procedures, the review of policies and the review and enhancement of the College's Academic Awards and Colours. Michael also coordinates the College's professional learning program, induction of new staff, the student teacher program, and ensures that our College assemblies are wonderful celebrations of student learning and experiences.

Michael is a passionate, creative and highly dedicated teacher having decided when he was in Year 10 that he wanted to teach. "At the time I was a sergeant in the school's cadet corps and that involved training younger cadets in bushcraft, military history, weapons safety and marching – so much marching. I enjoyed the interactions, the learning and the looks on faces of my platoon when we finally managed to nail that tricky 'advance in review order' for the passing out parade. Like many young males in an all boy school, there was an emphasis on physical prowess.

Contact sports were the go and muscle magazines found their way between the pages of our note books. But it was an English teacher who sealed the deal for me when he told me not to worry about such matters but to "improve the mind".

His students describe him as "an awesome science teacher who always pays attention to their different learning styles and comes up with many creative and interesting ways to teach. He uses his humour to engage the class and will spend time explaining concepts thoroughly until everyone understands."

What Michael enjoys and values most about being a teacher is "the students, their questions, smiles and "thank you's" and those times when you see the lights go on in the eyes of someone who has struggled with an idea or concept. Those moments of clarity that have eluded them despite long hours poring over text books or struggling with obtuse explanations of basic knowledge. But it has always been the students. Good or naughty, clever or struggling, witty or dead-pan. I have never met a student who didn't teach me something, mostly humility."

Michael has had opportunities to leave the profession along the way but better pay, shorter hours or a city office never really enticed him. "At the end of every day you come away knowing someone has learnt a little more, been encouraged to try a little harder or just been in a safe place for a few short hours of their day. That is all I can wish for."

*Nicole Mangelsdorf
Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching*

Siena College Farewells

Carolyn Scriven



Carolyn Scriven came to Siena College in 1970. She came from Sydney at the invitation of the Dominican Sisters as they needed more lay teachers. Carolyn taught History and Politics at Years 11 and 12 for many years before also teaching English and Social Studies. At various times over her long and illustrious career, Carolyn was responsible for ensuring that many areas of life at the College were developed and supported. She has seen incredible changes

in the size and shape of the College and been witness to enormous change in both the curriculum and cocurricular program.

She had to resign at the end of 1973 as there was no maternity leave available, but she was back in 1974 working part time in the library until just before her son, Matt, was born. Carolyn returned to work later that year with young Matt being babysat by the kind Sr Helen, who was a lay sister.



Carolyn and students in 1985

At one time, Carolyn coordinated the English curriculum at Years 7-9. Year 11, 12 and VCE Coordinator were some of the roles that she also undertook within the College. Carolyn, also organised the annual Athletics Carnival and produced the Yearbook and The Spirit. Work Experience programs were established, the Student Representative Council was enhanced with a leadership program of three days at Janjuc, and Carolyn was a part of the Building Futures fundraising venture for future school improvements. For many years, the uniform shop was also run by Carolyn.

Marketing and advertising were also part of her responsibilities as were building relationships with the alumnae. Honour Boards were maintained and new ones commissioned. Working with others, Carolyn also established a cultural program related to Indigenous issues.

Carolyn has been a member of the Building and Grounds Committee, answering to the College Board since its inception and so has seen vast changes in the shape and scale of the College's building programs. Carolyn has represented Siena College at hundreds of meetings, supported all areas of the College's curriculum and cocurricular program, gone on school camps, international school groups and promoted Siena College to the wider community whenever and wherever it has been possible to do so.

In recent times, her role as Careers Practitioner has been balanced with her position as Registrar. She has visited thousands of would be students and helped thousands of others as they explored future pathways beyond the gates of Siena.

Her association and involvement with the College has lasted more than half of the College's existence! In this, her final year at Siena College, we thank her for her inspirational commitment to all things Siena.

Carolyn Scriven is an extraordinary woman who has touched the lives of thousands in one way or another. We are truly grateful for all she has given to Siena College over the past forty-five years.

*Sue Thompson
Deputy Principal Wellbeing*

Nicole Mangelsdorf



Nicole Mangelsdorf was appointed as Director of Professional Learning at Siena College in January 2008, having taught previously at Ave Maria College in Aberfeldie and St Monica's College in Epping. Nicole took on the role of Deputy Principal, Learning and Teaching in January 2009, a role she has filled with distinction since that time. In 2016, she will commence a new

stage in her professional life as Co-Principal of Kilbreda College in Mentone.

Nicole is a passionate advocate for the environment and for sustainability, having begun her teaching career as a Biology, Science and Health Education Teacher. As a visionary and innovative educator, she has shared her passion for learning and teaching throughout her career. Nicole deserves much credit for building and articulating Siena College's vision and capabilities in curriculum innovation, and excellence in learning and teaching. Her exemplary, strategic capabilities are complemented by an advanced knowledge of educational issues and research and by strong and passionate beliefs about effective, contemporary learning.

Nicole brings many fine attributes to her leadership, not the least being her measured approach to decision making, a strong work ethic, her capacity to quickly grasp and respond to demanding challenges, and her empowerment and generous support of colleagues with whom she works closely. During her time as Deputy Principal, Learning and Teaching, there has been significant improvement in students' learning outcomes, particularly in the VCE, with the 2014 results being the best to date in the College's history.

Nicole models Gospel values of respect, integrity and justice in her interactions with staff, students and parents, and in her commitment to Siena College's indigenous and South African immersion programs in which she has been a participant. She is highly regarded and respected within the Catholic sector through her role as President of the Victorian Catholic Secondary Schools Deputy Principals' Association, and has shared curriculum initiatives in education journals.

When she finds the time, Nicole enjoys the outdoors, especially long horseback treks or travelling to other countries and places of beauty and cultural diversity.

She recently walked the Inca trail in Peru and has been enthralled by the biological diversity of the Galapagos Islands. We have all enjoyed the photographs that have captured special moments in her travels.



There is no doubt that Nicole will continue to contribute much to Catholic education and to the advancement of Kilbreda College in the years ahead. We wish her well and thank her for her outstanding leadership and contribution to Siena College over these past eight years.

*Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal*

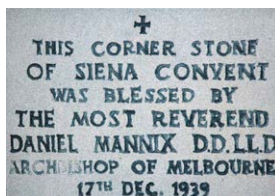
Siena College through time...

1867



The Martha Birnie leaves Ireland carrying Dominican Sisters bound for Sydney

1939



1939 The old and new Siena Convent



14 August, 1926

The first Convent – a simple two bedroom house to accommodate the four Sisters who came to support the friars and eventually teach at St Dominic's Primary School.

"Siena" Dominican Convent
Riversdale Road, East Camberwell

The Mother Prioress & Community
request the favour of the presence of

on Sunday, 12th September, 1926,
at 3.30 p.m.
at the
Blessing of their new Convent
by His Grace the Archbishop of Melbourne.

1926

Invitation to the Blessing of the Convent

Siena Dominican Convent

RIVERSDALE ROAD

EAST CAMBERWELL

DAY SCHOOL FOR GIRLS, CONDUCTED BY THE DOMINICAN NUNS.

Pupils prepared for Intermediate, Leaving and Commercial examinations. Wattle Park tram passes door. Convenient to Bus and Canterbury Station. School in elevated position and in one of Melbourne's healthiest suburbs. For particulars apply to MOTHER PRIORESS. Telephone: WF 3283.

FIRST TERM, 1940, COMMENCES ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 6.



1940

15 students enrolled in 1940 – one had left by the time this photo was taken at Easter, while another was absent. Only one original student, Jeanne McKenna, is still alive.

Siena College through time...

1945



Jock, Siena's first dog in February, 1945
'Jock, the English setter, who generally keeps himself aristocratically aloof wagged an approving tail while Paddy the wild Irish terrier barked ecstatically at the immediate prospect of a little noise within the precincts.'



1945 – first reunion
A number of these women have continued to meet up at least once a year!

1951



1951 Sports Day - Ribbon Dance



1951 Mother Mary Gonsalvo Byrne OP died.
1952 Crucifix in garden donated by ex-students. Restored in 2015.

1942

Plans for an air raid shelter in the convent drawn up, defence trenches dug in the paddocks in preparation for air raids

Poet Dorothea Mackellar (*My Country - I love a sunburnt country...*) visits Siena.

Due to inability to get uniform material because of rationing during World War II the summer uniform changed to a beige dress.

C1947 - Scottish dancing



1941



1941 – whole school

1947

Siena College through time...

1961



First classrooms built - comprising a laboratory, six classrooms, a small library, the hall and some offices.

1973



Brutus ' O Mighty and Honorable Sir, who rules from cloister to cloister... thy father was supposed to be a Labrador, thy mother a 'cocky' spaniel, who ran away soon after you triumphantly entered the world...



1967

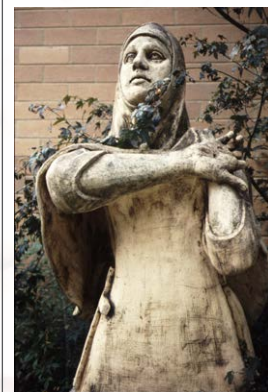
Completion of Centenary wing.

Snow!



1952

1981



St Catherine bust unveiled

1977



1977 extension

Siena College through time...

1990



4 April 1990 Golden Jubilee building

2005



Cloister renovations

2015



Opening of St Catherine Centre

2011



Refurbishment of 1961 and 1967 buildings named St Thomas Aquinas Centre

2007



Pioneer Place

1998



Dominic de Guzman Science Centre



Latingata Morrum Centre (gymnasium) under construction

Wellbeing at Siena College



The promotion of wellbeing is central to learning and teaching in contemporary environments... young people learn best when their wellbeing is optimised through the provision of a safe and effective learning environment that fosters their individual potential in partnership with the school community. (CEOM Student Wellbeing Strategy 2011 – 2015)

According to the Siena College School Improvement Plan, in the sphere of Student Wellbeing, we aim to embed a culture where wellbeing is integral to learning and consciously connected to student achievement. It is crucial that the Siena staff continue to develop "a... learning environment (that) is welcoming, inclusive, restorative and safe." (Siena School Improvement Plan 2015)

To achieve these goals Siena works on a Prevention to Intervention model. At the broadest school level, the whole school community is focussed on building a sense of belonging and promoting wellbeing. This is achieved through the development and refinement of structures and procedures that build a sense of community e.g. the vertical House system. Crucial to the success of this system are the four House Coordinators, Emma Hales (Cassia), Martin Gibbs (Dianella), Maree Cody (Kurrajong), and Libby Moore (Waratah). They are ably supported by their House Assistants, Minna Denholm (Cassia), Cathy Fulco (Dianella), Anne Clarke (Kurrajong) and James Houghton (Waratah). The House Coordinators also head a team of House Group Teachers who, every morning at House Group, provide the welcoming face of the College and the crucial connection between students and House Coordinator.

School for adolescents is not always smooth sailing and the Wellbeing Team provides very important early intervention for a number of students. This means timely support for students identified at risk. The support involves appropriate school level work by House Coordinators and College Counsellors working very closely with families.

At those times, when outside influences impinge significantly on a student's school life, Siena College also provides important higher level intervention. This is when counsellors liaise with outside specialist agencies for students and families who need specific interventions. Close working relationship are developed with the school, the agencies and families to facilitate the student's return and continued presence at school.

We are very fortunate to have two very experienced and highly qualified Counsellors. Anne Boyle (social worker and family therapist) has worked at Siena for over ten years. She was joined this year by Dr Jennifer Lear, who joined us this year after working in England in a number of mental health related agencies. Ruth



Dr Jennifer Lear and Anne Boyle

Boydell (social worker and family therapist) works two days a week as a Wellbeing Consultant. The expertise, experience and wisdom of our specialist Wellbeing Team is greatly valued by students, staff and families. Anne and Jennifer work out of Siena House, located in Compton St, and can be accessed from the College or from the street. This excellent facility provides both an accessible and confidential service.

Restorative Practices:



Restorative Practices is a whole school approach to promoting resilience and aims to contribute to the building of positive relationships in school communities. It is focused on helping young people become aware of the impact of their behaviour on others through personal accountability and learning from a conflict situation. An important component of restorative practices is the focus on restoring relationships after harm has been done.

(CEOM Restorative Practices Research Document 3, October 2007)

At Siena College, we aim to ensure that all our relationships, both inside and outside the classroom, between students and staff and between peers, are based on the principles of restorative practices. This approach is based on the principle of 'working with' the students to achieve the best outcomes, rather than a directive 'doing to' approach. Since 2009, Siena College has been an accredited Restorative Practices School.

Professional Development of staff:

Educating adolescents is one of the most difficult tasks for any teacher. Over the last few years we have made available to the staff some of Australia's leading researchers and practitioners in this area. These include Mr David Vinegrad from Behaviour Matters, a Restorative Practices consultancy, Professor Greg Murray, Head of Psychological Sciences and Statistics (PSS) at Swinburne University of Technology; Professor Michael Gordon, Unit Head for Child and Adolescent Stream of Early Life Mental Health; Dr Pieter Rossouw, Director Master of Counselling Program and Senior Lecturer, School of Social Work and Human Services/ School of Psychology, and Professor Ron Rapee, Director of the Centre for Emotional Health and Professor of Psychology at Macquarie University. These leaders in their fields, highly regarded both nationally and internationally, presented to the staff on topics such as understanding the restorative approach, the importance of sleep, the impact of trauma on young people, adolescent brain development and brain based learning and anxiety and the impact on student learning and development.

Parent Lecture series:

Working with families and providing support for parents has taken a new direction at Siena College in 2015. Ruth Boydell has organised the 2015 Parent Lecture Series. Over fifty parents have attended the three lectures held this year that featured Dr Pieter Rossouw and tried to answer the question 'What's going on in my teenager's head?'; Kirillie Smout, from Developing Minds Psychology and Education generated some excellent discussion on 'Parenting in the Digital Age' and Dr Michael Gordon providing some wonderful insights into Anxiety and Adolescents.

Sue Thompson
Deputy Principal Wellbeing



Antonio de Monesinos Award for Excellence in Public Speaking

On Tuesday, 18 August, the annual Antonio de Montesinos Award for excellence in public speaking was held at Siena College. Each speaker was required to prepare a six minute speech, based on our 2015 College theme, 'reflect on the past, challenge the present, transform the future'. In the second half of the evening, the students had to think on their feet and were given five minutes to prepare a three minutes impromptu speech on the topic, 'Reach for the Stars!'

I would like to congratulate our four finalists; Lily Curtis, Niamh O'Farrell, Elise Curwood and Annabel Yenson on preparing and presenting outstanding speeches on the night! The students put a lot of time and effort into researching and perfecting their speeches and should be highly commended for their efforts! Congratulations to our winner, Niamh O'Farrell, who delivered a highly energised and thought-provoking speech on the need for more funding and media attention for women's sport. Congratulations also to Elise Curwood who received the Encouragement Award on the evening. Both students were worthy winners on the night!

Thank you to the English staff who helped in the preparation for this event and on the night and especially to the adjudicators, Ms Donna Laughlin, Mr Michael Hanrahan and Ms Georgia Margaris (Debating and Public Speaking Captain 2014) for their expertise in judging the final.

Michelle Robertson
Learning Leader



College Production - Boy Overboard

The 2015 Siena College production of 'Boy Overboard' gave the creative team and cast an opportunity to present a very real and meaningful story about young people seeking asylum in Australia. The creative process opened rich discussions as students learnt about the hardships that people face through the eyes of Jamal and Bibi, a brother and sister who embark on a journey from Afghanistan to Australia. The play followed the horrific journey of young people overcoming the confusion of war, politics and the search for a safe haven.



We were very proud of the cast and their commitment to produce a highly sophisticated and moving performance. Students spent a number of months rehearsing for the production season that spanned three evenings. This was the first College production in the Susan Alberti Auditorium. The auditorium was transformed into an intimate theatre space and the technology allowed for the directors and technicians to create various landscapes and moods through lighting and sound.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the talented cast for making a connection with our audiences, presenting a story and posing questions that resulted in audiences thinking deeply about our current political situation.

Cast: Mia Anthoulas, Sophie Bonollo, Natalie Borgese, Olivia Crookes, Elise Curwood, Carla De Luca, Laura Dooley, Brooke Getley, Katherine Gleeson, Madeleine Kehaidis, Laura -Jane Lotauro, Niamh O'Connor, Isabella O'Leary, Julia Pretto, Stephanie Scopece and Lucy Whittingham.

Reflections from one of the cast, Brooke Getley:

'Boy Overboard' explores themes and issues regarding refugees - a topic I didn't know much about before participating in the play. I learnt that refugees experience struggle and hardship and are seeking a safe haven. Many refugees come from countries where politics are harsh and war is rampant. Australia is a paradise we take for granted. As a member of the cast of 'Boy Overboard' I was reminded how lucky we are to live in a safe country with freedom of speech.

Maree Cody and Georgina Plasto



Snow Sports

On the morning of August 26, fifteen students and four staff members arrived at Siena College for a 5:45am departure, boarded a bus and begun the long drive to 'the top of the world' at Mt Buller.

Arriving at Tatty Ski Lodge, our home until Friday, both staff and students were in good spirits and with the weather looking good for the first afternoon, everyone bar myself headed out for the first session of the trip. As the group was fairly small this year and there were no beginners, the group skied more technical slopes and also used the time to assess the current courses set up in preparation for the first morning of competition. After a good evening feed, courtesy of Cynthia Viti's outstanding cooking (always one of the highlights of the trip), the girls bedded down for the evening in preparation for a big day ahead.

Unfortunately, the weather gods were not smiling on us on Thursday morning for the first day of competition. I would like to highlight the work of three staff members for their outstanding management and communication skills during this time. Managing groups of students in poor visibility and heavy snow and then rain is no easy task and the manner in which they conducted themselves and went about their business was nothing but professional.

Thursday Morning saw the skiers in Division 3 compete in the Giant Slalom event on Burnt Hut. That afternoon, Olivia Viti, Siena's only Division 2 student, competed in the same event.

Thursday evening saw the Year 8 students sit down to prepare for their examinations that took place in the week after the trip. After the evening meal, the usual evening briefing took place in order to prepare students and staff for the final day of competition and then, the trip back to Siena. It is a Siena tradition, that the final briefing of the trip, is chaired by the most senior student. Olivia Viti completed a fantastic job briefing all the students regarding the plan for the day. With both Divisions 2 and 3 skiing events plus a snowboard competition, it was a busy final day.

Friday morning brought out the sun and with it, the joys of skiing in the winter sun with tremendous views as far as the eye could see. We departed Mt Buller after yet another very successful Snow Sports Trip. I would like to acknowledge the staff – James Houghton, Minna Denholm and Jennifer Lear. Due to a skiing accident, I was unable to participate this year and had to look on from the sidelines of the lodge. I consider myself lucky to lead such fantastic staff and students. Moreover, I would like to acknowledge Cynthia Viti and the Siena Parents' Association for their support of the trip. I would also like to acknowledge our excellent ski lodge Tatty and our lodge manager, Wally, who immediately supported all of us, made us feel welcome and even waxed some of our skis. I would also like to thank Paul Buswell, Ezio Viti and George Housakos for volunteering their time to marshal gates and students to the start lines. Their assistance was significant, as it assisted Mt Buller staff, allowing the event to run promptly and safely. On reflection, the Snow Sports Trip was another successful trip and still remains one of the most exhausting but most enjoyable and memorable trips for both students and staff. We look forward to seeing you all again next year.

Mark Smith
Head of Sport





Director of Development



Siena College proudly hosted its 75th anniversary which saw the return of past present and future community members. A mammoth week of celebrations marked this special event. The week began with Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral, an Alumnae Lunch, the opening of the St Catherine Centre, the launch of the 75th Commemorative Book, a 75th anniversary Ball and a Music Concert.

The 75th anniversary provided an opportunity for the College to launch a Commemorative book. Seventy-five members of the Siena community were celebrated in the commemorative book. These people were nominated by fellow members of the Siena community and are an example of the rich tapestry of life at Siena College over the past eight decades. They embody the spirit and traditions of the College and of our Patron, St Catherine of Siena. Interested in seeing who our seventy-five stars are? Visit www.sienacollect.com.au. Their stories have been captured in a gorgeous book which can be purchased for \$60 by contacting the Alumnae Office at 9835 0217.

The College wishes to thank Vanessa Barcelona, President of the Alumnae Association, for her vision and passion over the past two years in reestablishing the Alumnae Association. Vanessa has stepped down from the role of President, as she and her husband await the birth of their first child. We wish them all the very best and thank Vanessa for her ongoing support and friendship. We congratulate two past students who have accepted the Co-President role for 2016.

We welcome Gayle Peggie n  Davis (Class of 1974) and Kate Gotlib n  Kelly (Class of 1996) as our Co-Presidents.



Gayle Peggie n  Davis
(Class of 1974)

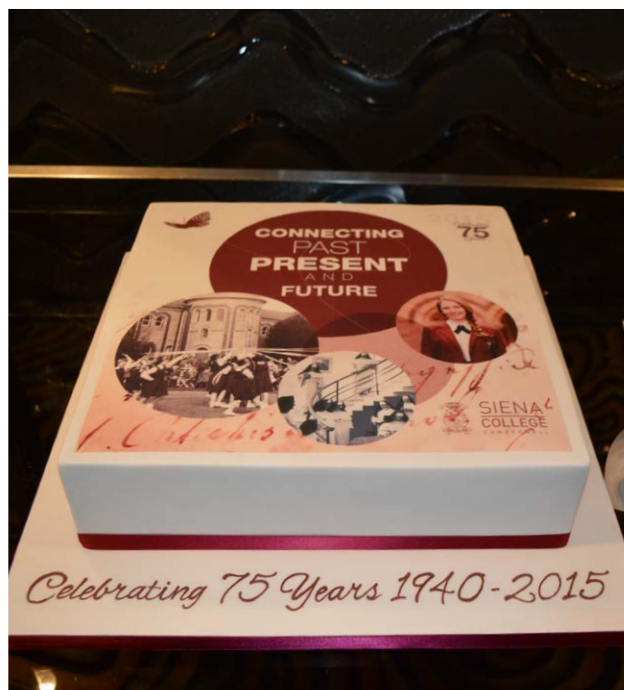


Kate Gotlib n  Kelly
(Class of 1996)

During October, many alumnae returned for a reunion which provided opportunities for past and present students to reengage and celebrate decade reunions. The 2015 has certainly been a year to remember, celebrating, engaging and sharing with past present and future.

Tracey Grobbelaar
Director of Development and Community Relations

75th Anniversary Events



Order your Commemorative book by contacting the alumnae office on 9835 0217

75th Anniversary Events

75th Anniversary Mass



75th Anniversary Luncheon



75th Anniversary Student Disco Party





75th Anniversary Events

Blessing and Opening of the St Catherine Centre



75th Anniversary Commemorative Book Launch



75th Anniversary Music Concert



Siena Parents' Association



The Siena Parents' Association has shared the glorious 75 year journey of Siena College. The Association was privileged to host the Siena College 75th Anniversary Ball on behalf of the passionate members of the Siena Parents' Association of yesterday, today and tomorrow.

The celebration was held at the majestic Regent Theatre Plaza Ballroom on Saturday 8 August and attended by current and past parents, students and staff. It was a truly memorable evening set in a beautiful ambience with fine food and entertainment and friendships that have captured the spirit of Siena College and the Siena community.

The SPA sincerely thanks you for being part of this special occasion and significant milestone in the history of Siena College.

Father's Day Breakfast this year had a change of format to reflect the success of the Mother's Day Breakfast. The event was held in the Latingata Morrum Centre on Thursday 4 September. A bright and early start with 330 excited students with their proud father, grandfather, uncle or special friend, over a seated breakfast and spoilt with a smorgasbord of food choices from fresh fruit, cereal, yoghurt, scrambled eggs, bacon, sausages, muffins and refreshments. There was a fantastic spread for all to enjoy, provided by all the volunteers who were instrumental in the very success of this event.

A snippet from the SPA President's reflection on the morning...

"As I look across the room, and look at the students sitting proudly with that special person in their life – don't worry you are still special even if they are not sitting next to you, you quickly reflect on how your role in their life is a vital key in their development. Opening doors for her, pulling her seat out, talking with the utmost respect, you are setting expectations on how a gentleman should treat a lady, and she will never settle for less. Continue to influence her ability to make the right choices in life - academically, spiritually, personally or even when shopping.

Never be an anchor that will hold her back, nor a sail to take her beyond, but a guiding light to show her the way."

Thank you to the team of SPA members and volunteers who invest their time so selflessly at each and every event. Your complementary skills and commitment to a common purpose is a credit to you!

Michael Mimmo
SPA President 2015



75th Ball at the Regent Theatre



Alumnae enjoying the music

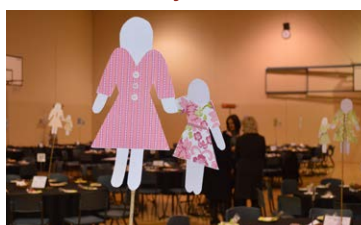


Drinks in the foyer

Father's Day Breakfast



Mother's Day Breakfast





Alumnae Association



What an exciting and memorable year it has been for the Siena Alumnae in helping Siena College to celebrate 75 years.

Firstly, a massive thank you to the Siena alumnae who participated in the 75th anniversary celebration. From the Anniversary Mass on a cool Melbourne morning at St Patrick's Cathedral, to an entertaining lunch at the Park Hyatt with the Siena uniform

fashion parade proving a highlight, it was really special seeing past students reconnect with their Siena classmates from decades ago and also witnessing the reconnection of alumnae and the Siena Sisters who once taught them. The opening of the St Catherine Centre and Susan Alberti Auditorium saw numerous Siena alumnae present and many celebrated in the 75th commemorative book. The celebratory week was topped off with the 75th Anniversary Ball at the Regent Plaza Ballroom on Saturday night with many tables of Siena alumnae representing their respective year levels.

Siena College Careers Expo

After much success with our inaugural Careers Expo in 2014, we again hosted another valuable Siena Careers Expo on 16 June 2015.

The event is specifically designed for Siena's Year 9, 10, 11 and 12 students and their parents, to hear first hand from a variety of Siena alumnae about their career journeys. There is a wealth of talent and experience across the years in the Siena alumnae and we wanted to not only give back to Siena, but to also create a valuable and memorable experience for Siena's current students.

If you would like to be a guest speaker at the Siena Careers Expo in 2016, please email Liz Merrett lmerrett@siena.vic.edu.au.

All students who have attended Siena College are automatically members of the Siena College Alumnae, and we look forward to welcoming our current students at their Year 12 graduation.

All members of the Siena College Alumnae Association are willing volunteers and I thank them for their support.

I also wish to acknowledge the commitment of Gaynor Robson-Garth and Tracey Grobbelaar who have positively and actively reengaged Siena alumnae and warmly welcomed us back to the Siena community over the past two years.

Participating in Siena alumnae functions and events is a great way to maintain an association with Siena College, reconnect with former friends and make contact with others who share the experience of attending Siena.

Contact or updating your details

We encourage all Siena alumnae to provide the College with their current contact details to ensure the College database is up to date. You can do this via www.sienacollect.com.au, or contact alumnae@siena.vic.edu.au.

All Siena alumnae receive The Spirit of Siena throughout the year, invitations to reunions and relevant Siena College events. I also encourage you to stay connected via the Siena Alumnae Facebook page and for access to professional networking requests to join our private group on LinkedIn: 'Siena College Alumnae'.

Siena Alumnae Association

We meet five times annually and all past students are welcome to attend. Dates for 2016 are published on Siena Connect.

To RSVP please contact Liz Merrett lmerrett@siena.vic.edu.au.

In closing, we are excited about 2016 where we will again host the Siena College Careers Expo and hope to see many Siena alumnae at reunion events. For detailed information on these events and the Siena College Alumnae Association please visit www.sienacollect.com.au

Vanessa Barcellona (Class of 2001)
President Siena College Alumnae Association

May they rest in peace

Isabella Seisdodos, completed Year 10 at Siena College in 2012, and passed away in August.

Carole Lyth (nee Frater), Class of 1958, passed away on 1 January 2015.

Carole's sister, **Maree Jenkins** (nee Frater), Class of 1964, passed away in September 2011.



Violet Rice (grandmother of Laine Rice, current staff member) passed away on 13 April.

Margherita Venneri (mother of Mario Venneri, current staff member) passed away 15 April.

John Gleeson (father of Garry Gleeson, current staff member) passed away 9 May.

Pat (Paddy) Barry (father of Cathy Carr, current staff member) passed away 13 June.

William Moody (grandfather of Claire Moody, current staff member) passed away on 29 July.

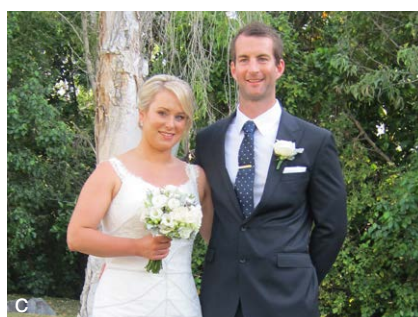
Engagements

Emily Douglas, Class of 2002, and Dave Hatherly were engaged last August and will marry in November.

Sarah Alder, Class of 2002, will marry Chris Bignoux in January 2016.

Julia McCoy, Class of 2003, is engaged to Bradley Paulet and will marry in March 2016.

Marriages



a) **Millie Holmes**, Class of 2006, married Ben Robson on 11 July. **Megan Oliver**, Class of 2006 School Captain, was in their wedding party.

b) **Georgia Pearce**, Class of 2003, married Leigh Orton on 8 May at St Joan of Arc in Brighton.

The bridal party included **Sally Bryan** (nee Wignell), Class of 2002, **Olivia Gray** (nee Pearce) Class of 2001, **Dominique Picco**, Class of 2003, and **Anita De Angelis** (nee Purvins), Class of 2003.

c) **Emma Hales** (current staff member) married John Wright in September in Queensland.

d) **Michele Ruyters**, Class of 1977, married Mark Randall in January.

Congratulations

Fiona Lally and partner on the birth of her triplets, Zachary, Isabelle and Ashton.



Where are they now



It is a great testament to the sense of community that is a hallmark of Siena College that so many past students and staff return to visit.

On 27 July, we had a visit from Mr Bill Scott (and his family). Mr Scott had been an exchange teacher from Scotland in 1987. This was his first trip back to Australia and he was keen to see how the College had developed since his time teaching at Siena.

Mr Scott was well known, not only for his accent which was much mimicked, but for his quirky sense of humour. Many a student, was convinced that in Scotland, there really were sheep that had legs that were of different lengths! Apparently, these sheep had evolved in such a way as to cope with the many hills and mountains!

Mr Scott had many happy memories of his short time at Siena College. His colleagues and past students remember him and his willingness to get involved in all things Siena, with great fondness.

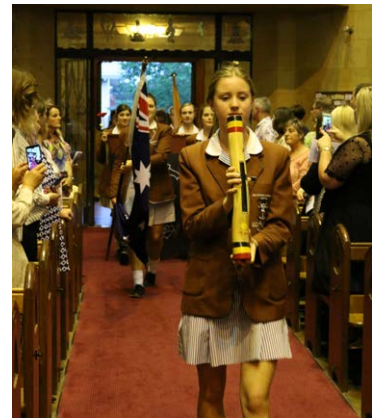
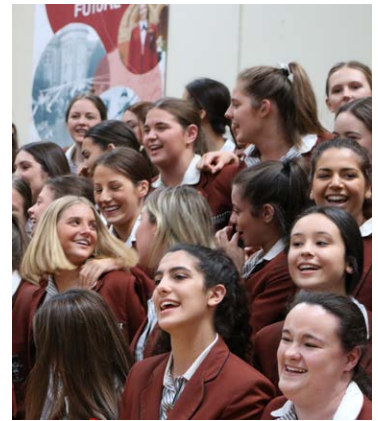
Catherine Judd
Archives



“The **future** belongs
to those who
believe in the
beauty of their **dreams.**”

- Eleanor Roosevelt

Class of 2015 Last Day



Siena College's Primary School Program

Over the past few years Siena College has embarked on a program aimed at forging enduring relationships with local Catholic primary schools in the Eastern region. These relationships are a critical component to the ongoing success of Siena College in delivering a Catholic secondary experience to girls, supported by the College's Dominican values.

The program includes individual supervised visits for Grade 4 students as well as a multi school music and drama event. The Grade 4 visits are designed to give students an introduction to a secondary school experience with activities, tours and morning tea. The Grade 5 and 6 music and drama event is a follow up to the Grade 4 introductory visit and exposes our young visitors to the array of opportunities that await them in the areas of music and drama at secondary school level.

This year, all visitors were welcomed to the College in the newly opened Susan Alberti Auditorium, and for the first time, the auditorium was truly transformed into a performing arts space. The Junior Choir and Junior Band, accompanied for the first time by a Year 7 pianist, Thi Tran, performed brilliantly to the appreciative audience of nearly 200 young students and staff from St Dominic's and St Gregory the Great primary schools. After morning tea, facilitated by members of the College SRC, the visitors were treated to three moving drama performances by the Year 9 Page to Stage drama students.

Armed with their Siena showbags, the visitors left the College just before lunch time, with many of the boys asking if Siena College would ever become a coeducational school.

Susan Law

Director of Marketing and Communications





REUNION DAY 2015



Long Photo Reunion





SIENA
COLLEGE
CAMBERWELL

Connecting girls, empowering young women
Stay connected ...



facebook.com/SienaCollegeAlumnae
facebook.com/SienaCollegeCamberwell



@sienagirls | #siena75years



Linked in: Search for Siena College Camberwell



www.siena.vic.edu.au



SIENA COLLEGE
Celebrating
75
Years