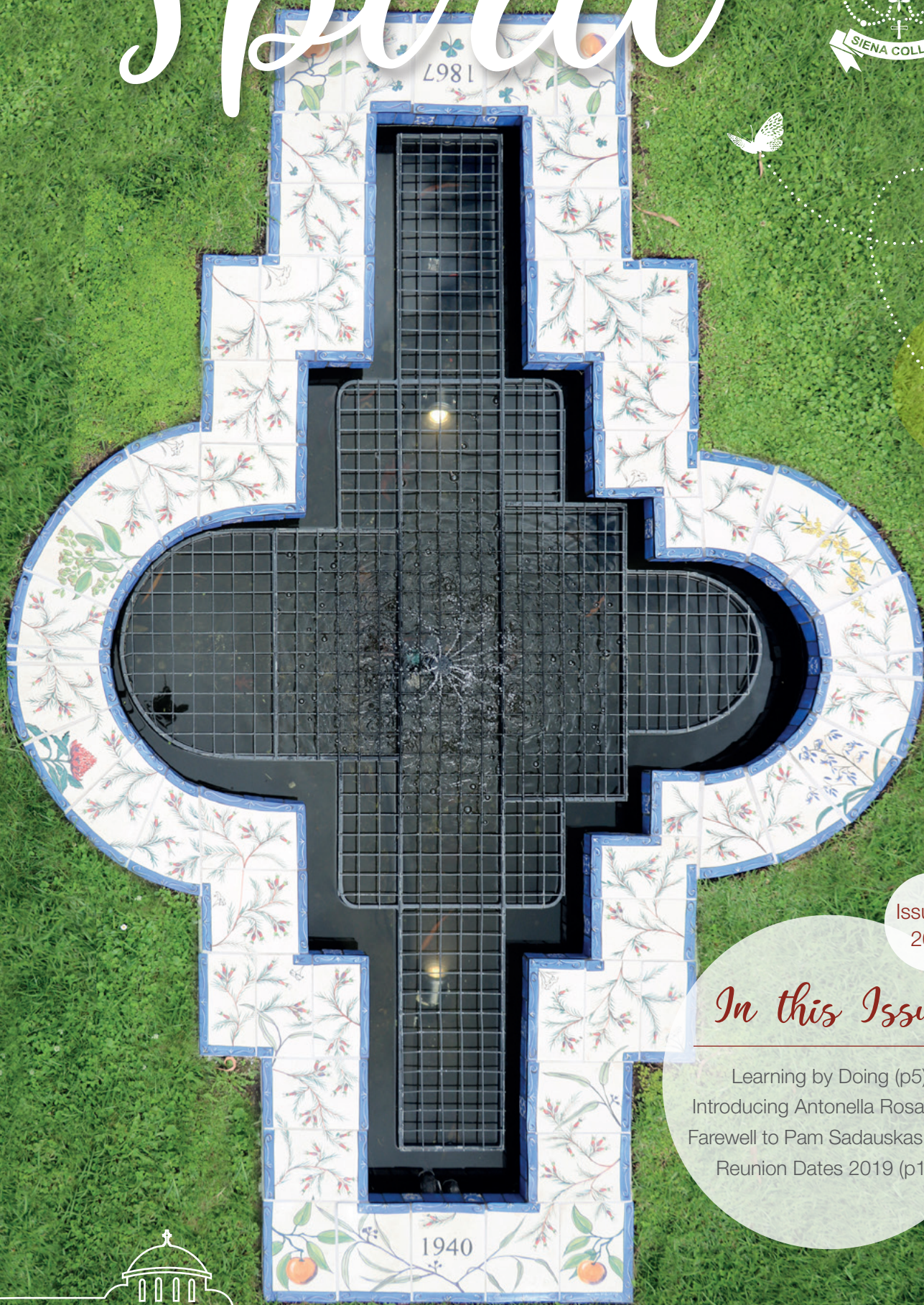


the Spirit



Issue 16
2019

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connecting girls • empowering young women

Mission

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican tradition, engages young women in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning.

Vision

As a vibrant, faith filled Catholic community with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion, we honour the sacred dignity of each person.

We aspire to provide exemplary and innovative education that will challenge young women to achieve their personal best and to embrace the future with hope, courage and confidence.

In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, we encourage young women to identify their strengths, enhance their sense of self worth and be open to new ideas.

Values

We live the Dominican values through:

Prayer by nurturing spirituality and celebrating joyfully as a community of Faith

Study by striving for personal excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth through research, creativity and innovation

Justice by empowering young women to embrace diversity, respect human dignity and actively engage in the gospel imperative of responding to local and global injustice

Community by recognising that a sense of belonging and connectedness is the foundation for fostering good relationships and service to others

The Spirit

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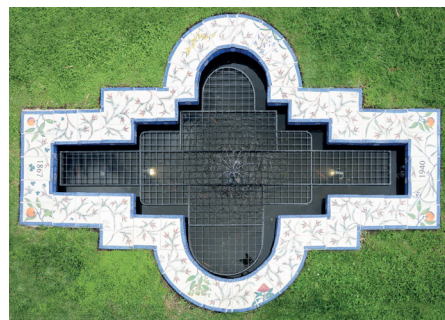
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Cover Image

As part of our Convent refurbishment, the pond in the centre of the Convent Courtyard was retiled by ceramic artist, Mary-Lou Pittard.



Message From the Principal

As Term 1 drew to a close, we celebrated the College's nomination as a 'School of Excellence'. This is a new award set up by *The Age* and based on data analysed by the Grattan Institute. I was proud to collect the award at Media House in Docklands that recognised academic achievement over a decade. Our College is non selective and we are proud of our students' achievements over so many fields of endeavour. We have had an unrelenting focus on enhancing learning outcomes and wellbeing in our faith based context where we aim for our students to find meaning and purpose and to flourish in our complex world. It was lovely to be awarded Eastern Region winner in the top ten Victorian 'Schools that Excel'.

On 15 March, we welcomed back Dominican Sisters and students from every decade since the College first opened in 1940, for a blessing of the refurbished Convent. It was a wonderful celebration of our Dominican heritage, the Sisters who established Siena College and the tradition which we continue today. We welcomed special guests, Dominican Sisters: Margaret Mary Brown, Rosemary Lewins, Frances Caine, Joan Winter, Margaret Fields and Sheila Flynn, along with alumnae and our Ward Councillor Lisa Hollingsworth. Sr Sheila Flynn wrote a beautiful blessing for the refurbished spaces and we were treated to a performance from the Senior String Ensemble and Folkus as the setting sun bathed the Convent in the most beautiful golden light.

The refurbishment of the Convent and the reinstatement of the original front door as the gateway to Siena College, was part of a Master Plan that began way back in 2013. The project was supported by the College Board and by many donors and friends of Siena College. We continue to be grateful for their generous support and hope they are as pleased as we are with the finished result.

The project was a collaboration between many people, including Williams Ross Architects and construction company, Harris HMC who brought the project to life. They were assisted by our wonderful Siena staff: Business Manager, Tony Grant, Assistant Business Manager, Mark Baldasso, our Property Manager, Matt Kirwan and Director of Development, Tracey Grobbelaar, who were diligent in their oversight of all stages of the refurbishment.

The sensitivity of the design and finishes has allowed the beauty of the building to shine through again and for it to be reinstated at the heart of the College as a place for our community to gather, to remember and reminisce about the College's early beginnings.

College Archivists, Maria Ang and Maureen McAuley created the displays that tell the story of Siena College, including the refurbished Prioress' cell. Siena's Graphic Designer, Amy Stubbs created a wonderful timeline of the College's history that is attracting much attention as visitors and members of our community explore the images and dates that document the story of Siena College.



Gaynor Robson-Garth Principal



The Age Schools that Excel Award



Convent Reopening and Blessing: Sr Frances Caine OP, Gaynor Robson-Garth and Cr Lisa Hollingsworth



From the Principal

As part of the refurbishment, ceramic artist, Mary-Lou Pittard was commissioned to design tiles for the fountain in the centre of the Convent courtyard. The deep blue border of the tiles matches the beautiful blue dome of the Chapel. The tiles commemorate the Pioneer Sisters of 1867, eight courageous young Irish women who left the port of Dublin on a wooden sailing ship almost one hundred and fifty-two years ago. Their legacy was Dominican schools along the East coast of Australia and later, Siena College. The tiles feature the native flowers after which the College's four Houses are named, the red Waratah, the blue Dianella, yellow Cassia blossoms and green of the Kurrajong. The tiles also feature the lily of St Catherine, the orange trees of St Dominic, and the flowers of a native Australian correa that symbolise our place in Australia. They pick up the design of the tiles around the Chapel door that were installed to celebrate the 800 year anniversary of the Dominican Order in 2016 and the Year of Mercy.

The Siena Convent is a place of special beauty that visibly manifests the tradition and history of Siena College. It is the place where the Sisters lived and worked and the place where the first fifteen students were welcomed in 1940 when the College opened its doors. The individual designs on the capitals of the pillars speak of a tradition that values the unique gifts and creativity of every person, and there is a sense of tranquillity in the garden and cloister and the Chapel as a place of prayer and contemplation that is at the core of our tradition and our search for Truth.

Our patron, St Catherine after whom the Siena Convent is named and whose life was given to the cause of truth, urged her followers to be fearless in speaking out with courage on issues of justice. May St Catherine's example and the stories of the past continue to expand our imaginations of what is possible and of what is asked of us in our day and in our Truth searching.

Gaynor Robson-Garth
Principal



Mary-Lou Pittard's designs for the Convent fountain tiles



Dominican News

Dominican Sisters International at the United Nations

Each year the Commission for the Status of Women (CSW) at the United Nations holds a conference concurrent with the celebration of International Women's Day for non government organisations (NGOs). In recent decades, the theme of the conference has been around the UN's Sustainable Development Goals. The 2019 conference explored how social protection systems, access to public services and sustainable infrastructure is supporting the goals of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls.

Twelve Dominican Sisters from around the world attended the UN's CSW63 in March 2019. Sisters came from Chile, Norway, Spain, Cameroon, Rwanda, Bolivia, Australia and the USA. Sr Jill Shirvington OP (pictured below) represented the Australian Dominican Sisters at the conference in New York.



Plenary Council 2020

Since becoming Pope in 2013, Francis has constantly called for more participatory processes and better forms of pastoral dialogue to listen to everyone in the Church. It is hoped that the Plenary Council in 2020 will provide for the voice of all Catholics to shape the future of the Church here in Australia. Over the past nine months, parishioners, staff and students in schools and Catholic agencies, religious and lay people have been invited to contribute their hopes and dreams for the Church and women have been particularly urged to speak up.

Dominican Sister, Dr Trish Madigan OP, in her role as Chair of the Council for Australian Catholic Women, led a colloquium titled *Stirring the Waters: Australian Catholic Women Responding to the Spirit* in Adelaide in February 2019. The gathering brought together one hundred and sixty delegates

who participated in open discussion and prayerful discernment to add the voices of women to the Plenary Council consultation. Leadership and the involvement of women in the Church, the experiences of migrants and victims of domestic violence, the stories of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander women, the voices of LGBTQ+ Catholics and the need to care for creation were amongst the issues raised. We pray that the much anticipated Council will engage with the contemporary issues that occupy the minds and hearts of the People of God.



Celebrating 125 Years

We congratulate our fellow Dominicans, including past Principals of Santa Sabina College and Siena College, who recently celebrated 125 years of educating women in the Dominican tradition at Santa Sabina in Sydney.



L-R: Sr Kath Maher OP, Sr Mary-Claire Holland OP, Sr Doreen Ellsmore OP, Sr Patricia Nichols OP, Sr Julianna Drobik OP, Sr Rosemary Lewins OP, Archbishop Anthony Fisher, Sr Diana Woods OP, Dr Maree Herrett, Kate Clancy, Sr Judith Lawson OP

Convent Blessing

In our society and world, so full of crisis and violence,
intellectual confusion and loss of meaning,
we must fill each place and space we enter and occupy, with blessings.

We stand here at the welcome entrance of the redesigned Convent,
aware of its beauty and its function,
to call on God's abundant blessings at this new phase.

We are glad to be reminded of the blessings of the Dominican Sisters
who shaped Siena College with mind, heart and being.
We ask a blessing upon every Sister who has been part of this
awesome story
and on whose shoulders we now stand:
women of vision,
journeying in faith in the mission of Jesus,
alive in the Dominican Charism,
believing a better world was possible,
and who created it for the students who would walk through its doors.

We ask blessing on all that shapes us,
especially, this striking building, the Convent,
honed in its conception, formulating a visual language and structural
cohesion
that has fashioned it into both beauty and function.

We ask a blessing on its purpose:
to provide young women with a deep and holistic education that
shapes them for life, from the inside out:
ardent seekers of truth in deed and word, tireless advocates of justice
and freedom,
fierce with protective longing as agents of change, wherever these
values are compromised.
May they ever be keepers of beauty, resonant with Gospel values.
May they find within these walls and spaces, their unique identity and
independence,
a place of belonging and a growing commitment to right relationships
with others and with our sacred earth.

With God, the centrepiece of our lives, Jesus our Word and Freedom,
and the Spirit who animates us all with fiery love;
in the company of Dominic, Catherine and all the Sisters who have
gone before us,
let us celebrate this moment of blessings.

As we walk through these doors, occupy its spaces, engender
learning,
look out in engagement on our school, its students and our world,
may we find intimations of God's love and beauty everywhere.

May we leave here tonight, filled with all these blessings.
We make our prayer through Christ, our Lord, Amen!

Sr Sheila Flynn OP



Learning and Teaching

Learning by Doing

As a Dominican school we aim to engage our students in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning. Therefore, it is no surprise that during Activities week our emphasis was 'learning by doing' through a variety of different learning opportunities.

Our Head of Science, Assimina Semertjis, Head of The Arts and Technology, Claire Al-Noah and Head of Careers, Clare Timmins, worked together to provide a special program for Year 10 and 11 students. Our Head of Religious Education, Belinda Duncan and the Year 9 Religious Education Team coordinated this year's Siena in the City program. A combination of Year 10 and 11 students were fully immersed in a design project working with Williams Ross Architects.

Siena Design Experience

A collaboration with Williams Ross Architects

The Siena Design Experience was once again offered this year to senior students interested in pursuing careers in architecture and design. Students began this program with a visit to Williams Ross Architects in Fitzroy whose team members spoke about their career pathways and current roles within the firm. Students learnt about the design process and the necessary consultative and collaborative approaches involved in building design. They were reminded of the importance of sustainability, from the manufacturing of materials to designing with an awareness of the use of energy and limiting the carbon footprint.

This project required the students to work collaboratively in three teams to redesign an existing area of the school marked for redevelopment, in this case the Agora Gardens, which will replace the rear basketball courts. The girls firstly worked as the 'client' to develop a brief, outlining what they would like to see included in this area. The groups were then assigned another team's brief and worked as the 'architect' to complete the building design. Throughout this project students worked collaboratively as they completed a site visit, developed concept maps, drew floor plans, researched materials, linked new and existing designs and problem solved in order to meet the requirements of the brief.

The students proudly presented their concepts and final designs to an audience consisting of architects from Williams Ross, Siena College staff, parents and friends of the College. The designs presented were outstanding and testament to the value of this authentic 'hands on' approach to learning.

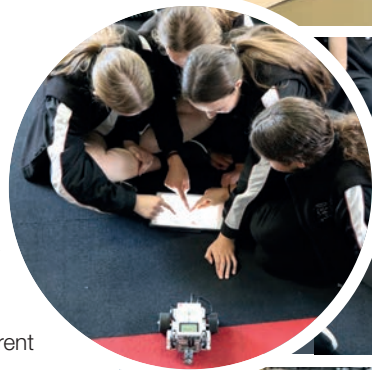
Robogals

Year 10 students were engaged in two different STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, The Arts and Mathematics) workshops. These workshops focused on creating a greater understanding of engineering and its different disciplines and giving students the opportunity of developing skills in this field.

The Robogals workshop was led by student volunteers from the University of Melbourne and Monash University, specialising in different disciplines of engineering. The presenters explained that engineering utilises science and mathematics to solve real world problems. They then defined the different disciplines, including Civil and Structural, Mechanical, Electrical, Software, Chemical, Environmental, Biomedical and Mechatronics (which is a combination of mechanical, electrical and software engineering) to create robots.

Students then learnt how to program using the LEGO Mindstorms EV3 Robots. Students worked collaboratively in small teams to complete a series of challenges, each becoming progressively more difficult as they were equipped with the programming skills needed to compete in the grand finale 'SUMO Smackdown'.

During this competition, students programmed their robots to stay within the bespoke rink using their colour sensors. The robots needed to be programmed to differentiate between the dark carpet and the white boundary markings of the rink. Robots forfeited their position in the battle if both their wheels went beyond the boundary line or if the robot stopped moving for two seconds or more. The winner was the last robot remaining in the rink. It was a fierce battle, but much fun was had and no robots were harmed in the process.





Siena in the City

A key component of being Dominican is our recognition of our privilege in the world. The Dominican ideals were brought to life in Activities Week for our Year 9s who explored our city to see if they could find Dominic.

Community: By participating in rock climbing the students recognised that they could only achieve great heights if they had the support of others. It is the sense of community that underpins the beliefs of Dominic and his vision for the world.

Service: Whilst visiting organisations like The Big Issue and FrontYard Youth our Year 9s were confronted with the hardships many in our community face. They found this experience confronting because they witnessed the suffering of others up close. Yet they also found it rewarding as they addressed the basic needs of some of the most vulnerable in our community and found new ways to make contributions to better our world.

Aesthetics: The Dominican ideal of aesthetics understands that things of beauty are gifts from God. This beauty is evident in the natural landscape and the visual and performing arts. Visiting the Botanic Gardens saw the girls view creation through the eyes of our indigenous. The NGV, Street Art and Arts Centre presented the students with works that provoked questions such as: what is art, what is beauty and is there a greater purpose?

Joyfulness: Just as we, as a faith community, gather around the altar and share in that which gives us life energy and purpose, so too did the Year 9s. The Chochoholics and Queen Victoria Market tours reminded the girls that great food becomes a joyful experience when shared with others.



Cardboard Engineering Challenge

'Don't think outside the box – think of what you can do with the box' was the rationale underpinning the tasks set for students in the Cardboard Engineering Challenge. Akorn Educational Services presenters Georgene Bridgeman and Adam Oldmeadow began the workshop by explaining the importance of having a humanitarian focus when designing structures.

Students learnt about the 'Human Centred Design Process' which concentrates on fully understanding the people you are trying to serve by following five steps: Emphasise, Define, Ideate, Prototype and Test. After completing a survey identifying their preferred working style, students were placed in teams consisting of four members representing each of the categories: Leader, Emphasiser, Actor and Reflector. Teams were then set the challenge of working collaboratively to design and build a chair using one piece of cardboard with the dimensions 1.2 x 0.9 metres.

During the rigorous testing stage, the cardboard chairs needed to withstand the weight of a member of their team with both legs lifted from the ground. Students creativity was evident in their final products, with designs being extremely varied. When reflecting on their structures, students discussed the importance of strength and the many ways this could be achieved through shape and placement of parts.

Future Pathways

Year 10 and 11 students spent some time thinking about future options and identifying strengths and interests that lead to specific careers.

'Shape your Destiny' workshops encouraged Year 10 students to think about their passions and identify their talents to see if any particular 'themes' emerged. Different occupational interest areas were presented, including creative/artistic, realistic/conventional, social/helping, analytical/scientific and enterprising, and students discussed which group they thought their strengths lay in. Career test results will confirm or challenge these ideas once they become available. Students were prompted to set SMART goals (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic, Time based) and develop a Career Action Plan to provide focus and motivation for VCE studies.

Year 11 students attended a mini Tertiary Expo, with six universities and one GAP Year program presenting. All universities provided an overview or snapshot of the institution and outlined the courses offered, pathways available, study abroad options and scholarships. Students exploring a GAP Year option were enthralled by Latitude GAP Year Project's variety of overseas volunteer options, such as teaching in Fiji, China or Europe, assisting medical staff in Japan and participating in outdoor education camps in Canada, to name a few.

Career Development is definitely a journey and this week our students travelled along a little further, self reflecting, gathering information and taking steps toward their post school destinations.



Bernadette Donnelly

Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

Mission and Identity

Our College theme for 2019, 'Called by Name', has at its heart this reading from the Book of Isaiah:

'But now, says the Lord – he who created you, Jacob, he who formed you, Israel: Do not fear, for I have redeemed you; I have called you by name; you are mine'.
Isaiah 43:1

Every member of our Siena College community is known and loved by God, when we are called, God is saying 'I am listening to you and you alone, turn towards me and tell me your story'. This is more than an invitation, it is a commissioning of us as Dominicans to continue to work for justice through our search for truth, our Veritas.

We are delighted to welcome Sr Sheila Flynn OP to our Mission and Identity Team as Director of Formation. Sr Sheila will be with us for Semester 1 and has already presented a number of sessions to Year 12 Catholic Studies students on St Catherine and the Salamanca Statement. She also worked with staff and students in preparation for the Kopanang Immersion experience. Sr Sheila brings with her a wealth of experience, a love of art in all its forms and an authentic commitment to caring for creation.

International Women's Day (IWD) was celebrated at Siena College with our annual IWD breakfast, which was held on the morning of 7 March 2019. The guest speaker was Siena College alumna Ursula Harris (Class of 1984), who is a cartographer with the Australian Antarctic Division, currently managing Australia's Antarctic Mapping Program. Ursula shared her story of perseverance and achievement throughout her career with an interesting and entertaining speech about her journey so far.

The event was well supported by members of the Siena College community and all proceeds raised by the event were donated to the Kopanang Community Trust, a women's support and empowerment project in Tsakane, South Africa.

During the season of Lent, students at Siena College explored Caritas' Project Compassion Campaign for 2019. The campaign, 'Give Lent 100%', was officially launched at the College by our House Leaders during our Ash Wednesday Liturgies. Our student leaders ran a number of fundraising events across Term 1 for Project Compassion, including the Coin Line, a Sports Uniform Day and the inaugural Water Bucket Challenge. The Water Bucket Challenge aimed to give students an idea of the hardships of people like Thandolwayo, a Zimbabwean girl who walked seven kilometres each morning before school to collect water for her family.

As part of the Student Formation Program at Siena College, a group of Year 7 and 8 students participated in a series of Student Leadership Workshops in Term 1. They explored the Dominican Charism and leadership in a Dominican context and will be joining our Student Leadership Team in Term 2 to support a variety of planned initiatives for 2019.

Jennifer Levett

Deputy Principal Mission and Identity



Introducing Antonella Rosati



'This is where my heart is, I am a teacher and I love it.'

Our new Deputy Principal Wellbeing, Antonella Rosati has a passionate commitment to student wellbeing and believes that it is inextricably linked to learning outcomes. She explains that: *'Student wellbeing is a broad umbrella term for ensuring that students' physical health, mental health and general health all come together to optimise learning. You can't have one working without the other. Students who are not happy are not going to be doing well at school.'*

Antonella (who prefers Annie) believes that the Siena College Wellbeing Team excels in providing avenues for students who need extra support, particularly in Year 7. *'Moving away from friends you have known for a long time can be a challenge. It's finding the right balance between allowing students to see what's on offer and responding to student needs, showing them there are ways with coping with things.'*

Annie is excited about building on the strong foundations of the Siena College Wellbeing Team and says she has felt very much at home from the moment her appointment was announced. *'Gaynor makes you feel so welcome and Sue (Thompson) was fantastic for me in transition and I'll be forever grateful for all the things that she has done and set up for me.'*

Annie grew up in Carlton, the middle daughter of three girls, and attended St George's Primary and The Academy of Mary Immaculate. She went on to complete her Bachelor of Arts at Monash University and Diploma of Education at Australian Catholic University (ACU). Her first teaching

role was at Mercy Diocesan College in Coburg, where she was appointed Year Level Coordinator after a few years. She then decided to take a break to travel overseas, working at a number of schools over a two year period, an experience she thoroughly enjoyed.

'One of the things I really learned while being away and working in a different country is that students are students anywhere you go and they all want the same things. I think that it's our job as teachers to make some of those dreams come true and to facilitate the things that they need.'

Upon her return to Melbourne, Annie applied for a one year replacement position at Presentation College Windsor (PCW), which then became her home for the next nineteen years. In her time at PCW she held a number of leadership roles including Year Level Coordinator, Head of Senior Years, Head of Student Wellbeing and Management. She was also instrumental in setting up the PCW Scholarship Program. During this time, she completed her Masters in Educational Leadership from the University of Melbourne. In 2010 she was appointed Assistant Principal and then the sole Deputy Principal in 2017, an opportunity she seized to move out of wellbeing for a time and to work on staffing, planning programs, timetabling and developing enrolments and working with primary schools. Annie took up the opportunity to study at Harvard University in 2014 where she completed the 'Leadership: An Evolving Vision' course, a period she describes as *'amazing and life changing'*.

In 2018 Annie took some time off to decide on future career paths, realising that she needed a change but that teaching was where her passion lay. *'This is where my heart is, I am a teacher and I love it. Being in leadership in schools gives you opportunity to bring in things on a bigger scale, programs, initiatives, development with staff that will benefit students... and I am really committed to that idea that everything we do has to have the student at the centre, the focus, it has to be for them and of benefit.'*

Presently undertaking a second Masters Degree, this time in Theology, Annie is teaching Year 7 and 10 Religious Education at Siena and believes that RE is a wonderful opportunity to explore some of the big issues, *'We had a circle time with my Year 10s after the Christchurch incident and just talked about our reactions. Having the time to work with the teachable moments is really important and RE has a little more flexibility around that.'*

Annie encourages parents to get in touch with their daughter's Head of Student Wellbeing with any concerns, noting that *'Communication is key, share information, ask questions of the staff here... so that we can check and reassure or act accordingly.'* She is a firm advocate of the vertical House Group system at Siena, believing it is a wonderful way of establishing relationships between peers and teachers who can really get to know their House Group students over a continuous period of time.

Some warning signs that parents can watch for include changes in behaviour, someone who is up at night too late studying, and excessive use of social media which can have a huge effect on concentration.

A keen traveller, Annie loves visiting the world's great cities such as London, New York, Paris and Rome and is looking forward to the Dominican Education Australia (DEA) pilgrimage to Spain and Italy in April 2020. She has an older sister with three sons, nephews that Annie loves spending time with, and she also enjoys visiting her younger sister who lives in Singapore.

We warmly welcome Annie to Siena.

Carolyn Currie
Marketing Coordinator



Behind the Scenes



Matt Kirwan
Property Manager



Chris Smith
Maintenance Assistant



Anthony Cook
Maintenance Assistant

The Siena Maintenance Team works tirelessly throughout the year, setting up for activities, functions and events, maintaining the grounds and buildings, and keeping the College running smoothly. Get to know a little about the team behind the scenes below!



HOW LONG HAVE YOU WORKED AT SIENA?

- M:** Fourteen years (fifteen if you count overtime!).
C: Nine and half years.
A: Since February this year.



WHO IS YOUR FOOTY TEAM?

- M:** Hawthorn | **C:** Brisbane Lions | **A:** St Kilda (sadly)



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MEAL?

- C:** Mum's roast chicken.
M: Spaghetti Bolognese followed by any amount of chocolate.

WHAT DO YOU DO IN YOUR SPARE TIME?

- M:** Visit friends, work on my Dad's farm looking after his cattle, cut firewood, hunt in the Victorian High Country, ride my motorbikes, fix stuff (mainly old farm/earthmoving machinery) and relax at the holiday house in Venus Bay.
C: Walk the dog, go swimming with my daughter, read.
A: Play cricket and hang out with my two year old son.



WHAT IS YOUR FAVOURITE MOVIE?

- M:** *Hoodwinked*. Japeth the goat is my inspiration!



IS THERE A TV SHOW YOU NEVER MISS?

- C:** *Peakey Blinders*
A: At the moment it's *Thomas the Tank Engine*.

WHAT WAS YOUR FIRST JOB IN HIGH SCHOOL?

- M:** Builders labourer.
C: Turning and fitting tyres on weekends and school holidays.
A: My parents owned a pub in Ballarat so for me it was cleaning and stocking fridges before opening.



IF YOU COULD GO ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD ON HOLIDAYS WHERE WOULD YOU GO?

- M:** Probably Ireland and the UK as my Dad is Irish and my wife came from Derbyshire to Australia when she was six, so it would be good to see where they came from.
C: Back to Bermagui.
A: NYC or Paris (again).



IF YOU COULD ONLY HAVE ONE PHYSICAL ITEM WITH YOU ON A DESERTED ISLAND, WHAT IT WOULD BE?

- M:** A 500 kilogram block of well insulated chocolate.
C: A good book.
A: A boat.

IF YOU COULD HAVE DINNER WITH SOMEONE, ALIVE OR DEAD, WHO WOULD IT BE?

- M:** My Mum, RIP. So much to tell her and to do on my other five siblings and Dad.
C: Either of my grandfathers. They were just really interesting people who, through extreme circumstances that were beyond their control, lived really interesting lives. I miss their laconic natures.
A: My grandfather. It's been eleven years since his passing and I'd just like to have a chat.

WHAT IS ONE IMPORTANT SKILL EVERY PERSON SHOULD HAVE?

- C:** Communication.
A: The ability to listen and take on advice.

WHAT SUPERPOWER WOULD YOU LIKE TO HAVE?

- M:** The ability to shape shift.
C: To fly... even though I'm scared of heights I think I could get used to it. I wouldn't fly too high.
A: Invisibility.



WHAT'S ONE SENTENCE YOU'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOUR BOSS?

- C:** 'Boys, knock off early.'
A: 'I won Powerball and I'm giving you a third.'



WHAT IS ACTUALLY IN THE STORAGE SHED?

- M:** A couple of lost civilisations, and a lot of stuff that might come in handy one day!
C: Well, Matt's storage shed has everything you need... but only those who know what they need should enter because if you don't know what you need you may never come out.



The Siena Maintenance Team: Anthony Cook, Matt Kirwan and Chris Smith



Year 7
First Day



Year 12
Welcome
Breakfast





SPA
Welcome
Evenings



Alumnae
and Student
Gathering



Convent
Opening



Community Awards 2018



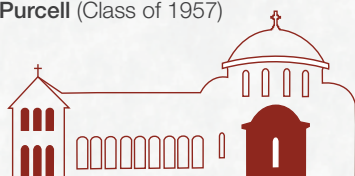
Wendy Purcell (Class of 1957), Ursula Harris (Class of 1984), Phyl Naughton (Class of 1954) and Gaynor Robson-Garth, Principal

Notable Alumna

Each year, an alumna who embodies the spirit and traditions of the College and our Patron, St Catherine of Siena, is nominated by the College community. The Notable Alumna will have made a significant contribution in their field, or given back to the community on a local or global scale.

Awarded to:

Wendy Purcell (Class of 1957)



Dr Ursula McKenna Award

The Siena College Alumnae Association provides the annual Dr Ursula McKenna Award. Ursula McHenry, née McKenna (Class of 1948) holds the distinction of being Siena College's first student to complete a tertiary education. This award is presented to an alumna of the College in recognition of her achievements and excellence in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics.

Awarded to:

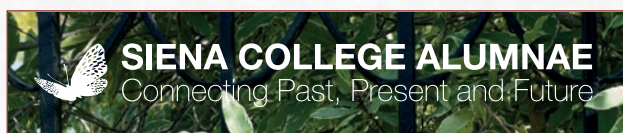
Ursula Harris (Class of 1984)

Community Award

Siena College Community Awards are presented to individuals or families (past or current) who make significant contributions to the College. Examples may include extended Board or Committee tenure or contribution, active and long serving volunteers such as Siena Parents' Association (SPA) members, generational families who have remained loyal to the College or highly active staff members who are involved in after school or extra curricular activities.

Awarded to:

Phyl Naughton (Class of 1954)



SIENA COLLEGE REUNIONS

This year, reunions will be held in the newly refurbished Heritage Centre in the College Convent.

Class of 2014 Five Year Reunion

Friday, 19 July | 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Book at: www.trybooking.com/493581

Class of 1979 and 1989 Decade Reunion

Saturday, 7 September | 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Followed by dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew (optional)

Book at: www.trybooking.com/498960

Class of 1999 and 2009 Decade Reunion

Saturday, 14 September | 4.00pm – 6.30pm

Followed by dinner at Hellenic Republic, Kew (optional)

Book at: www.trybooking.com/498971

Class of 40s, 50s, 60s Reunion Brunch

Saturday, 19 October | 10.30am – 12.30pm

Book at: www.trybooking.com/498975



SIENA GLOBAL CONNECT

Connecting Past, Present and Future

Siena Global Connect is an exclusive online portal for Siena alumnae. Integrate your existing social media accounts to stay connected.

Go to: sienaglobalconnect.com.au

INSCRIBE YOUR NAME ON THE ALUMNAE WALL

Inscriptions for 2018/2019 can be processed online at www.trybooking.com/413981 and new inscriptions will be available for viewing at our 2019 Open Day on Saturday, 19 October.



Kath McCarthy New Board Chair



Former College Captain, Kath McCarthy (Class of 1989) has been appointed Chair of the Siena College Board by Dominican Education Australia (DEA), effective from the Annual General Meeting (AGM) on Thursday, 6 June.

Eileen Young, DEA Board Chair said: *'In the governance role as Chair of the Board, there is a special opportunity to contribute to the work and life of Siena College, in the support of its Principal, and in fostering the understanding and implementation of principles of good governance in the Dominican tradition by the College Board. Together with the Board, the Chair plays an important role in helping Siena College achieve its purpose of providing a safe, caring environment for students, a welcoming and inclusive community and excellence in Catholic education in the Dominican tradition.'*

In addition to being a Siena alumna, Kath is a current parent and has served on the Board for over five years. Kath is currently Chair of the Risk Management Committee, a member of the Board Succession Planning Working Group and on the Principal Selection Board Subcommittee. Her understanding of Catholic identity and Dominican charism is strong. She holds degrees in Law, Science and Educational Psychology and works as a Consulting Psychologist providing Executive Coaching across multiple industries.

Farewell to Pam Sadauskas

Retiring member of staff Pam Sadauskas, née Sidabra, has spent almost thirty-four years as a teacher at Siena and, including her time as a student, has been part of the Siena community for over forty years.

Pam attended Siena as a student from 1966 to 1972, originally completing Year 12 with a Maths/Science focus and was accepted into Applied Physics at RMIT. Her father however was not happy with this choice of study as it was such a male dominated area, so Pam chose to repeat her final year and this time leant toward subjects such as Literature and History. She accepted an offer at the University of Melbourne to study Arts and it was here that she developed her love for Humanities, graduating in 1975.

Pam's first job was at Southdown Press working in the Library. She sat the Graduate Public Service examination and in 1977, chose the law department and was appointed to a position at the Supreme Court, Prothonotary's office (civil cases). Pam was the first female to be appointed as a clerk in this traditionally male dominated field.

At the start of 1979 Pam was accepted into a Diploma of Education at Monash University, with English and History as her teaching methods. From 1980 to 1984 Pam taught in the state system at Coomera High School, then in 1985 worked for a short time at Methodist Ladies College, teaching mainly Year 12 Australian History.

Her Siena links remained strong however and in September 1985, Pam successfully applied for a teaching position at the College. So began a long and distinguished career which has

seen Pam teach all year levels and across various faculties including History, English, Social Studies, Legal Studies, Drama, Health and Religious Education.

Pam served on a number of Siena Committees during her time here, including the Pastoral Care Committee, Curriculum Committee, VCE Steering Committee, Level Coordinators Committee and the Finance Committee.

Pam's Humanities colleagues have greatly valued her contribution to the faculty, describing her as a wonderful and most supportive colleague, dedicated to her classes and willing to share her knowledge and resources. Other past and present colleagues describe Pam's knowledge of the different areas of Religious Education as prodigious and her experience extensive across the various year levels. Her classroom manner was always encouraging and informative, and she welcomed questions and discussion in an attempt to build the girls' interest and faith. She was always very keen to encourage the development and knowledge of Dominican charism, which stems from her long association rooted in her own Siena school days.

As fellow teacher Christine Miller noted at Pam's farewell function recently: *'In the RE Faculty, you have been a rich source of knowledge of both Siena and Dominican traditions and you are able to pepper this with personal experience. In the classroom, Pam, you are a great storyteller, as an educator, you believe strongly in the power of the story as a profound educative learning tool, bringing learning to life and making it relevant.'*



Outside of Siena, Pam's Lithuanian heritage and family background have remained strong throughout her life and she has given much of her time to community organisations including as a Leader of Lithuanian Brownies, Rangers and Scouting troops. Pam has provided much Eastern European expertise in Lithuanian folk dancing, cooking and language and she is passionate and knowledgeable about her heritage. Pam's loyalty to her Lithuanian heritage and culture remains strong to this day, as does her devotion to her family.

In retirement, Pam is hoping to travel back to Lithuania and will also travel to Sydney more frequently to visit her son who is based there. She also has a trip on The Ghan on her wish list.

Pam we wish you well in retirement and we know that teaching has given you much joy. We hope to see you back at the College on a regular basis.

Carolyn Currie
Marketing Coordinator



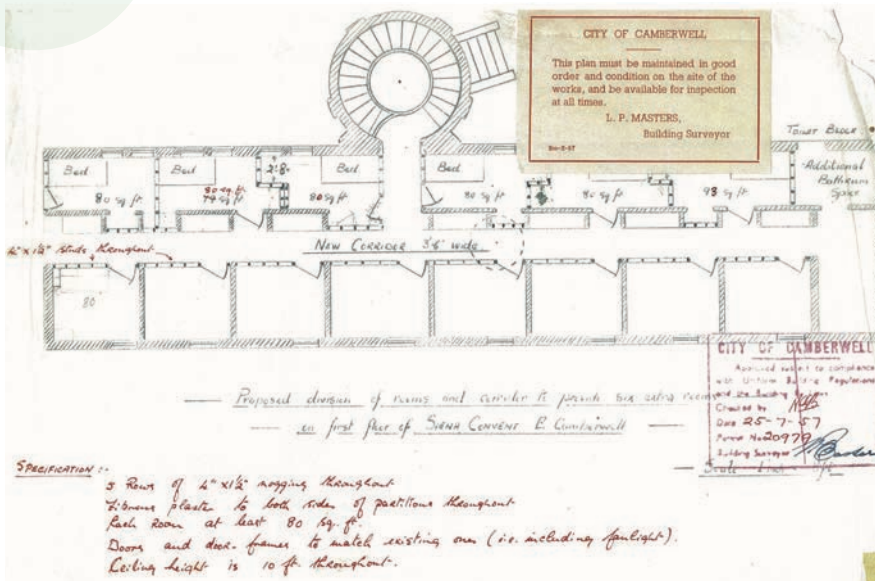
From the Archives



Maureen McAuley College Archivist



Maria Ang College Archivist



The Heritage Centre

The renovation of the Convent has provided us with a new Heritage Centre where we can display our archival collection to its full advantage. Accessed from the cloister via the spiral staircase, once 'out of bounds' to all but the Sisters, the Heritage Centre and Board Room occupy the entire upper west wing of the Convent.

More recently used as a drama space, this area was for several decades the nuns' sleeping quarters. Originally designed with ten cells, an additional six rooms were added in 1957 to accommodate the growing religious community. We have retained some of the marks on the wooden floor which indicate where the cells were partitioned. A number of our visitors during the 'Back to Siena Evening' remembered exactly where their cell was located but were still surprised to be reminded how small their personal space was, a mere 7.4 square metres.

The walls of the Heritage Centre are hung with framed examples of Siena school uniform from 1940 onwards, creating a permanent exhibition. These were kindly donated by the Siena College Alumnae Association. Some of our favourite treasures are also on display: sports cups, examples of student work, mementos from the 1940s and other curiosities from our collection. The most eye catching item is the primrose yellow sports tunic worn from the mid 1950s until 1969, recently donated by Wendy Edwards, née Hines (Class of 1967).

The Prioress' Cell has been staged and the centrepiece is a replica Dominican habit created by Siena alumna Lucianne Lewin, née Vagg (Class of 1991). We were pleased that it received the seal of approval from a number of Sisters and it certainly brought back memories for those alumnae who remember the nuns dressed in this way during their time at school. It will also serve as a teaching tool for younger generations of students, many of whom have never seen a nun in full habit.

The Heritage Centre is a marvellous space and we look forward to sharing it with students, staff, alumnae and the wider Siena community.



1939 Convent under construction



1976 Siena Community

The Fountain

The fountain is the centrepiece of the Convent garden and was integral to the design of Siena Convent architect, Hamleto Agabiti. According to *Ancient Tradition, New World: A history of the Dominican Sisters in Eastern Australia*, the original concept was to have, 'the courtyard replete with blue tiled fountain and stone flagged paths.'

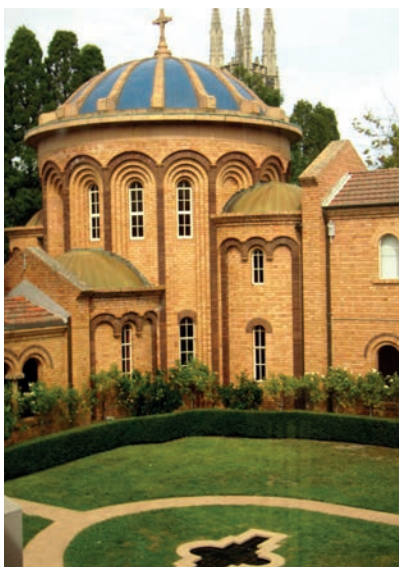
The garden has been the venue for many events over the years and we can use archival photographs to chart the changing environment around the fountain, from the bare earth of 1940 to planted flowers and hedging from the 1970s and later. The 1976 photograph even gives a glimpse of the original blue tiles.

During the 60th Anniversary celebrations, the fountain was blessed and the Siena Past Students Association erected a plaque:

'The water that I shall give will become a spring of water welling up for eternal life' Jn 4:14

Tribute to the Dominican Sisters who lived and worked here.

The recent refurbishment of the Convent provided the ideal opportunity to reimagine the fountain. Ceramic artist, Mary-Lou Pittard was again commissioned to design tiles which would reflect not only our heritage but complement the tiles she created for the Porta Santa in 2016.



1940 original students



1952 Students perform scenes from Shakespeare's Richard III

Meet the Artist

Mary-Lou Pittard

Mary-Lou Pittard studied Fine Art majoring in Ceramics in the early 1980s and has worked as a ceramic artist ever since. She is well known for her brightly coloured decorative stoneware work that includes a huge range of both functional and exhibition pieces.

Mary-Lou has exhibited widely throughout Australia and overseas and was invited to exhibit in Paris in 2015. Her gallery and home studio is open to the public throughout the year, details of which can be found at: <http://artistsopenstudios.com.au/artist/mary-lou-pittard/>

Mary-Lou explains the process of creating the tiles for the fountain:

'The fountain has been a wonderful project, the central element of a beautiful courtyard. I enjoyed the opportunity to explore the decorative symbolic motifs and I am pleased it will continue the artisan traditions of the original stonemasons that is evident in the carved capitals that line the courtyard.'

I began by making cardboard templates, measuring and calculating the shrinkage. I then rolled out slabs of clay, cutting them to size. Once dry they were positioned together on the studio floor and the drawing with pencil began. I then hand painted each tile, mixing colours as I worked. Once the painting was completed, the last process was to bisque fire the tiles and then re-fire them with a clear glaze to make them durable.

I chose blue edging to reflect the blue dome on the roof of the chapel and around the edge of the pond there are small tiles inspired by the unique carving on the capitals of the columns. The decoration includes many images that represent different aspects of the College.'



Staff Profiles

AFL ArtsReady Trainee

AFL SportsReady is a not for profit company dedicated to helping young Australians develop careers through traineeships and educational opportunities. Siena College has been involved with the program since 2003, employing both SportsReady and ArtsReady trainees.

Our 2019 ArtsReady trainee is Julian Dods, who is working with Claire Al-Noah in the Arts and Technology faculty. Julian joined us in Term 1 and has been greatly enjoying the responsibility and challenges of the role so far. His typical day starts with assisting Claire with House Group administration, then prioritising an ever growing to do list. He also assists the textiles teachers with junior classes, which has given him great insight into the faculty and has built his confidence in the classroom.

Julian studied a mix of theatre and music subjects in his VCE year (2018) and is kept busy in his spare time performing in musicals all over Melbourne. He also enjoys archery and going to the gym.

Julian says his favourite aspect of the job is being part of the large staff body at Siena College and helping during classes. *'I learn so much every day and feel like I'm making life a little easier for the teachers.'*



Keep an eye out for the AFL SportsReady Trainee profile in the next edition of *The Spirit*.

Events Coordinator

Gabrielle Snell is loving her new role as Siena's Events Coordinator, assisting with the many and varied events on the College calendar.

Gabrielle began an AFL ArtsReady traineeship at Siena College in 2017, while studying a Certificate III in Business. She diligently completed her Certificate in just seven months and extended her traineeship until December 2018 so she could undertake a Certificate IV in Business. After graduating (and being awarded Runner Up ArtsReady Trainee of the Year), Gabrielle successfully applied for the role of Events Coordinator, a new role in the Development Office.

'I was given many opportunities in my traineeship and one of the highlights was helping out at the annual Art Exhibition. I planned the event three months in advance and organised everything from catering to set up. It was an honour to watch it all come together. This is where I realised I had a love for events.'

Our 'Back to Siena' evening which incorporated the blessing of the refurbished Convent was Gabrielle's first major event and during Term 2, she will be assisting with the Mother's Day Breakfast, Careers Showcase and the Autumn Concert.

Gabrielle is enjoying the challenges of the role and has discovered that finding workable solutions gives her great enjoyment and a strong sense of purpose. She is using her skills in time management, organisation and communication to great effect as she works with staff from each faculty to plan events both large and small but all equally important to our community.



Open Mornings 2019

Friday, 21 June

Friday, 9 August

Friday, 13 September

Friday, 29 November

9.30am – 11.00am

Join us to see how we could inspire a lifelong love of learning in your daughter.

Register online at

www.siena.vic.edu.au



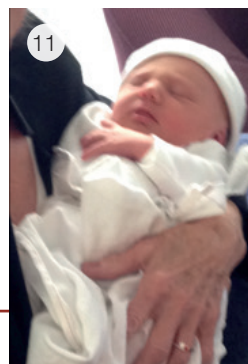
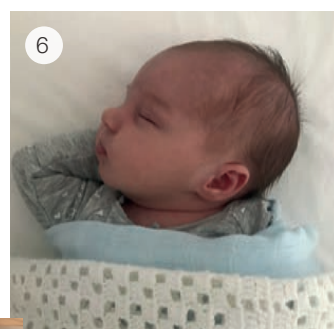
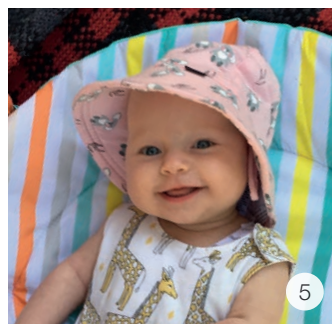
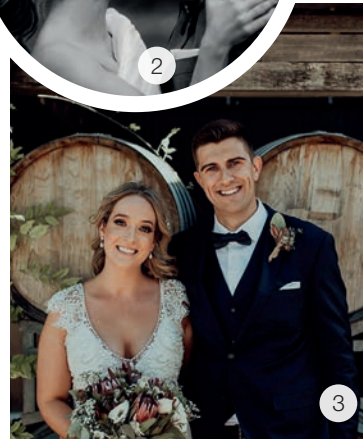
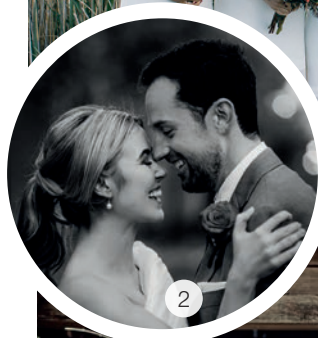
Congratulations

Marriages

1. **Laura Frazzetto** (Class of 2006) and Andrew Dal Pozzo were married in October 2017 at The Park in Albert Park. Their wedding party included past Siena students **Marie-Claire Cox**, **Renee Muratore**, **Amy Rickarby** (all Class of 2006) and **Elise Harrison** (Class of 2004).
2. **Amy Mason** (Class of 2006) married Tom Rickarby at Carousel in Albert Park on 19 May 2018. Her bridesmaids included **Laura Frazzetto**, **Sally Brookes** and **Lucy Carne**, all from the Class of 2006.
3. **Sarah Currie** (Class of 2008) and her partner Justin were married at Acacia Ridge Winery in the Yarra Valley on 1 December 2018.
4. **Minna Denholm** (current staff) married her partner Brent at the Collingwood Children's Farm on 9 February 2019.

Births

5. **Courtney Johnson** (Class of 2004) and Elliot Walsh are thrilled to announce the arrival of Olive Elizabeth on 8 June 2018.
6. Congratulations to **Kristy Bon, née Biggs** (Class of 2000) and partner Peter on the safe arrival of Paloma Constance on 5 November 2018.
7. **Lauren Tropeano** (Class of 2006) and her husband Stratos are happy to announce the joyous arrival of Sophia Hatziefstratiou. Sophia was born on 21 November 2018.
8. **Roisin Mattinson** (Class of 2005) and Chris Vogiatzis-Chrisafis welcomed their son, Patrick Nikolas on 1 December 2018.
9. **Caroline Scott** (Class of 1998) and partner Jaco welcomed their bundle of joy, Abigail Laura Kukkuk on 11 December 2018.
10. **Sarah Russo** (current staff) and her partner Luke are pleased to announce the safe arrival of Charlie on 12 December 2018.
11. Congratulations to **Anne Clark** (current staff) on the safe arrival of her new granddaughter, Charlotte Grace.
12. **Jen Lear** (current staff) and her partner Phil welcomed the arrival of precious twin boys, Spencer James and Alexander Vincent. Two little brothers for Hannah.



We Remember

May they Rest in Peace

Rose Pecoraro passed away in June 2018 after a short illness. Rose was an active member of the St Dominic's Parish and her daughters Carmel (Class of 1980) and Francesca (Class of 1991) attended Siena College.

Margaret (Peggy) Mary McNamara, née Martin (Class of 1948) passed away on 25 November 2018. Peggy will be sadly missed by her three devoted sons Chris, Peter and Anthony, and their families.

Catherine Hewett, née Bennett (Class of 1974) passed away on 6 February 2019. Cathy will be sorely missed by her family and friends, work colleagues, and community members.

Sr Carmel Leavey OP passed away on 10 April 2019. In April 1949 Carmel joined the Dominican congregation at Maitland and in December received her habit and name, **Sr M Raphael**. She was a highly regarded educator and taught at Siena Convent during the late 1950s and early 1960s. She was a Directress of Studies from 1956 to 1959.



Fun Run
2019

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