



# esprit de corps



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 21 • 2020



Front Cover    *Presentation Women*  
Artist, Mikaela Miller

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*Making a Difference, Together*



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**IPPA, HAVE YOU UPDATED YOUR  
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# message from THE PRINCIPAL



**The impact of one's education, continues to have an impression long after you leave the physical campus. Your school experiences undoubtedly leave a mark and shape who you will one day become. The friendships you formed, the teachers who inspired you, the values instilled, the skills acquired and the ups and the downs of it all.**

As we continue to grow the Iona Past Pupils' Association (IPPA) we are cognisant to continually respect and honour the solid impact of an Iona education. The Presentation values of; Heritage and Tradition, Excellence, Community, Social Justice and Compassion, Courage and Integrity and Love of Learning, are values that Ionians will undeniably take with them on their life's journey.

The progress of IPPA over the last two years has been so promising and exciting. With thanks to Georgia Allen (Community Relations and Development), and the work of our IPPA committee, our alumni has been re-born and it seems there is no end to what can be done.

Reunions and Networking events have reunited, reinvigorated and inspired.

Mentoring initiatives have provided real-life links, solutions and support.

Thank you to the many members of IPPA who have found a way to give back. Whether through connecting with Iona's learning community, such as at the Year 10 event, *Workshopping the Future*, or taking part in IPPA events, such as our host and panellists at this year's IPPA Networking Breakfast. The notion of being of service to others remains strong in the hearts of all

Ionians and it seems there is nothing quite like the feeling of 'giving back' to inspire and motivate, both ourselves and others.

Over more than 26 years, I have been a member of the Iona community, both as a Deputy Principal, Principal and mother to two Ionians. I have seen the community grow, achieve and flourish, come together in times of great sadness and celebrate our successes, together.

I am incredibly grateful for the unwavering support of the Presentation Sisters and inspired by their unrelenting faith and commitment. I am also thankful for the many wonderful experiences and for the talented and dedicated staff and students with whom I have worked.

As I leave this year, I reflect back on my time and feel immense pride for where Iona is today. I know that the College is in good hands and is in a wonderful position to be taken forward. Forward to a place where we continue to uphold our heritage- whilst focused on new initiatives, innovation and a bright future.

*Once an Ionian, always an Ionian.*

God bless,

**Anne Pitos**

*B.App.Sc., Grad.Dip. Ed., MEdL., MACE*

*Principal*



# message from THE CHAIR OF IPPA

**This edition's focus on 'new beginnings', could not be more apt than after the year that was, 2020. I would like to extend gratitude to our outgoing Principal Anne Pitos, for her Principalship at Iona. Thankyou Anne, for your formidable leadership, remarkable foresight, strong faith and intellect and for your personal and professional commitment to the College. We wish you the very best in your future endeavours.**

To the College's incoming Principal Mrs Robyn Miller, we warmly welcome you.

This year, we found new ways of collaborating, and life as we knew it took a different trajectory. The values of family, community and a focus on what really mattered to us really came to the fore.

As a Past Pupil community, we enjoyed a lively All Boarders' Reunion at the Mosman Park Bowling Club. Many thanks to our Former Boarders' Sub-Committee, ably lead by Liz Brennan (Class of 2003) and Kristen Chiera (Class of 1996) who got this event off the ground.

Similarly, we extend our gratitude to Larissa Strk (Class of 1992), Principal Registrar at the Supreme Court of WA, who hosted our most recent Networking Breakfast at the David Malcolm Justice Centre. Thanks also to our amazing panellists who so generously gave up their time to tell us their stories. Read more on page 28.

2020 has provided Ionians with many opportunities to celebrate. For the first time in the 57-year history of the IGSSA competition, we finally won the IGSSA Athletics! The College also celebrated the opening of the contemporary, state of

the art Albeus Fahey Building. This new building has become the central nucleus of the Senior School campus and will further launch Iona as a leader in WA education. Planning is underway to have our first IPPA Sundowner and Networking Breakfast there in 2021. Keep an eye out for more information.

In 2021 we look forward to celebrating Excellence, and our achievements throughout our rich history. Our Pilot IPPA Mentoring Programme will be launched, there are further plans for a collaborative Iona Business Directory, lots of reunions and of course, opportunities to reconnect. *Workshopping* the Future will again provide mutual inspiration for both IPPA and current students, with the knowledge that building strong links and networks is so helpful to success.

As authentic, women of integrity and intellect with a constant and strong focus on Social Justice, we will continue in 2021 to encourage a welcoming sense of community amongst the entire IPPA community. We look forward to seeing you at an event very soon.

Warm regards

**Jane-Mary Richardson** (*née Ellis*)  
Class of 1989  
IPPA Chair



# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

In a year of change, we continue to look to our exciting future.

Read here stories from IPPA who have boldly switched course in their lives, and the surprise they felt when they were able to break the mould of what they ever thought was possible.

Their 'new beginning'.





## FAREWELL MRS ANNE PITOS

**Anne commenced the Iona chapter of her life with her appointment as Deputy Principal (Administration) in 1994. This complex role saw Anne in charge of the pastoral structure of the College, the Co-curricular program, events management, and overseeing the Boarding House, all tasks that she carried out with dignity, efficiency and sensitivity. Anne also made a significant input into curricular matters, including the preparation of examination timetables and rosters, and the College timetable itself.**

It was no surprise when, in 2000, Anne was appointed as Principal of Santa Maria College. The move was felt acutely at Iona, and Anne's return as Principal of Iona in 2009 was met with wide acclaim in the College community.

Anne brought great wisdom and vision to her new appointment, at a school where her own daughters, Jacinta and Chloe, had spent most of their schooling and which was very dear to Anne's heart. Building on the successful structures already existing at Iona, to many of which Anne herself had contributed in her years as Deputy Principal, Anne sought immediately to put Iona at the front of educational methodology, especially in the area of technology, where Anne implemented a one-to-one computer program for both staff and students, a vital plank in advancing online learning.

Anne revamped the House system, introducing two new houses and making students' House identity a more vital part of the school structure. To this end, House Coordinators were appointed and Mr Rod O'Meara became their director. Homeroom classes were also organised according to House, so that students formed a strong relationship with their fellow House members and those of other year groups.

Anne maintained a close eye on the curriculum, assuring that Iona was always at the cutting edge of new developments and new technologies. Along with the changes introduced statewide in the senior years of schooling, Anne ensured that the College's Access Learning pathway, for students seeking a practical, hands-on style of learning, provided excellent opportunities for the attainment of TAFE Certificates as a requirement for graduation. In fact, Iona's level of achievement of graduation for both the ATAR and Access Learning pathways has been extremely high – 100% in most years.





# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING



The process of change to the College winter uniform, began in Anne's time as Deputy Principal, was carried through to its conclusion, with the beautiful present-day navy blue outfit, which harks back to the original pre-1950 Iona uniform, a very popular change.

On an organisational scale, Anne has updated the staff structure in the College, creating new positions in middle management and senior management. In part, this has been necessitated by the amalgamation of the Junior School and Senior School as a united College under one Principal. The present-day structure includes a Deputy Principal and Heads of Junior School and Senior School, reflecting the two-campus model. At the same time, Anne has extended the capacity of the Junior

School to enrol boys up to Year 6 and now includes children as young as three years of age in the Pre-Kindergarten program. The sense of a single, united staff, with several opportunities for combined events between Junior and Senior School, has strengthened the sense of mission and purpose at the College.

Anne has always kept a keen eye on the facilities on both campuses, ensuring our students have the best possible opportunities to learn in a stimulating environment. To this end, the marvellous Nature Play development at the Junior School and the magnificent New Learning Centre on the Senior Campus are testimony to Anne's vision and her determination to position Iona as a school with an outstanding future. College enrolments are at the



highest they have ever been and the diversity of curricular and Co-curricular pursuits available at both campuses ensures that Iona's position in Western Australian education is secure.

The closing of the Boarding House has been a significant change in the College's history, and once again involved a process that was carried out with dignity and sensitivity. The option of having Iona students board at St Hilda's has been a master stroke, allowing the possibility of an Iona education for those families who could not otherwise provide this, and maintaining a wonderful historical link with the generations of boarders who have been a vital part of this school since it opened in 1908.

Anne must especially be commended for her strong focus on maintaining the College's Presentation ethos. With almost no Presentation Sisters now taking an active role in the College, the importance of lay staff articulating the mission of Nano Nagle and the Presentation heritage of this 113-year-old school has never been more imperative. Under Anne's leadership, this vital component of the school's essential purpose has been strengthened and elevated. The transfer of the College in 2017 from the Presentation Sisters to Catholic Education WA has

encouraged a renewed sense of the importance of tradition in the College and Anne has ensured that Iona will always be a Presentation School. Our participation in the Nagle Education Alliance of Australia, of which Anne has been a strong and active supporter, will be an important ingredient in retaining the school's Presentation soul.

On top of all her marvellous achievements, and the splendid legacy of buildings and learning structures, Anne will always be remembered for encouraging Iona's students to be strong women of leadership, ready to go out into society and make a difference for good. This is the 21st Century equivalent to Nano Nagle's education imperative for the Catholic poor of Ireland, and is well captured in Anne's oft-repeated cry that Iona students are "can do" women. In every aspect of Anne's superlative leadership of Iona, she has shown us that she herself is most certainly a "can do" woman. The Nagle family motto, *Non vox sed votum*, loosely translated as "Deeds, Not Words", rings very true for this wonderful Principal, who has been an inspiration for a generation of staff and students and their families. And, although it's "farewell" for now, Anne, your presence at Iona will be seen and felt for generations to come.

**John Hibble**





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## INTRODUCING THE ALBEUS FAHEY BUILDING

**We are absolutely thrilled to be finally in our new Learning Centre!**

The excitement has been palpable and the space is already creating wonderful opportunities for teaching and learning to occur. This new building seamlessly merges our heritage and tradition, providing the opportunity for meaningful reflection, and a foundation for which future Ionians can continue to excel.





With its contemporary teaching and learning spaces, this building has been designed and constructed to complement and nurture the values of an Iona education.

Situated at the heart of the Senior Campus, the Albeus Fahey Building, named in honour of a forward thinking, progressive and much-loved Presentation Sister, provides an innovative learning space and an important meeting place for all members of the Iona community to gather. With an approach to innovation, inspired by Sr Albeus, this building showcases her vision, for adaptable, flexible and contemporary 21st century teaching and learning.

The Albeus Fahey Building creates a sense of belonging and pride of place at the heart of our campus. Enveloped by the stunning views of Mosman Park and the Indian Ocean, it enables students to strive to be their best.

Wherever you look, state of the art technology is weaved into the fabric of the building. From the broadcasting studios where students can create live news streams or podcasts, to innovation studios, equipped with 3D printers and laser cutters, there is opportunity for all students to ignite a passion for learning, whatever that might be.

Breakout spaces for creative think time and collaboration, allows students to work together, create together and become leaders in their own right.

Central to the building and symbolic of Nano Nagle's Lantern, which brought light and education to so many, are light wells that, by its thoughtful design, infuse light, energy and life into the building.

The Albeus Fahey Building will ensure new generations of women, will continue to develop a love of learning, strive for excellence and importantly, make a difference, together.

**To view the Senior School campus and The Albeus Fahey Building, please attend one of our College Open Mornings in 2021.**

**Dates and booking details can be found on our website: [iona.wa.edu.au](http://iona.wa.edu.au)**

**If you would like to view the College sooner and meet some of our dedicated staff, please contact College Registrar, Mrs Theresa Loughnan via email, [theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au) or phone 9384 0066 to arrange a private tour.**



## THOUGHTFULLY MADE ART

**Art has always been a huge part of my life. Starting around eight years old I would catch myself thinking how I would love to be an artist. Art class was a place I always found myself happiest - when I could draw or create something with my hands.**

I started Iona in Year 8, and it was where I discovered that I had a great desire to express myself through Art and Drama. I was able to explore these desires and while doing so feel nurtured and supported by my community of peers and teachers. Whether that be on stage in the school musical or perched in art class- that's where I felt most like myself from the minute I walked through those doors each week.

After completing Clothing Production and Fashion & Textile Design at TAFE, I've pushed forward with my business and haven't stopped since. There have been many iterations of the business you see today. After the birth of my first daughter, I made children's clothes for a time, which then evolved to working more on illustration and textile design. If you would compare my work from then to what you see today you can see how far I've come in defining my artistic style and that came from constantly reinventing myself and only making what made me happy.

Today I create art, illustrations, branding, commissions and also have an online store where I release Giclee

Art Prints, Linen Wall Hangings, Printed Pillows and so much more. Each item is carefully crafted within Australia- something that was important to me. I produce all my textile-based products in my Brisbane home studio and this made-to-order model means I use less resources, eliminate overproduction all while sustaining my business and creating what feels good and is good for our environment.

My consideration for the environment has always been a priority to me and something I know will stay with me as my art continues to evolve. Right now, that looks like creating original paintings, commissioned artwork and collaborating with like-minded artists.

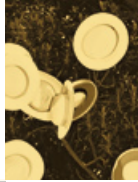
Community, especially this year has been a value I've come to learn so much from. Since co-founding an online gallery in March of this year, called Together Gallery. The name really speaks for the intention of the project- a place where we can come together in difficult times, create art and uplift each other. This year has been difficult for so many, and the gallery has been a great teacher for me in how we can all help each other by sharing our talents generously.

[claireritchie.com.au](http://claireritchie.com.au)

[@claireritchie](https://www.instagram.com/claireritchie)

**Claire Ritchie**  
*Class of 2003*





# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

## SEIZING EVERY OPPORTUNITY

**As it has for many of us, 2020 completely rerouted the path I was on. At the beginning of the Year, I was living in London; I had landed an agent in the UK and had just booked my first professional contract. The pandemic struck and my family implored me to return to Australia. I conceded, and upon waking up to the sound of Australian birds my first morning back in Perth, I knew I had made the right decision.**

My overseas adventures began in 2016, when I moved to New York City to pursue a Masters in Musical Theatre at New York University. Studying at NYU was, without a doubt, the most rewarding and formative experience of my life to date. I had the opportunity to learn from current and veteran Broadway professionals, develop new works with notable industry composers and writers, and work alongside a diverse and brilliant cohort of Master's candidates, some of whom I can say with utmost assurance will be close friends of mine for life.

Throughout my time at Iona, being in the school productions was the absolute highlight for me. However, "Year 12 me" would never have imagined I would go on to study performance at WAAPA, let alone NYU. Despite

spending every morsel of my free time in the Music Department, I was stubbornly set on the idea of studying Medicine. Evidently, life had other plans for me! But, now, ten years "behind schedule", I have been offered a place in the Doctor of Medicine at Notre Dame, Fremantle.

Recently, I was sharing this news with former Ionian and Head of Music, Penelope Kimble. We acknowledged the irony of my journey coming "full circle", aided by a global pandemic. However, we agreed that my circuitous journey was the most magnificent of outcomes! I was able to pursue my passion, discover and nurture my artistic talents, and gain an incredible amount of life experience – all of which I carry with me into this next new chapter!

I loved my time at Iona because my teachers supported me in the pursuit of all my various interests. I have never lost that drive to seize every opportunity in service of making a difference in our world. And given the current health crisis, perhaps the field of Medicine is the place I next manifest that difference...

**Eimear Foley**  
*Class of 2007*









EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING







## HUSTLER IN NEW YORK

### **800 to 8 million.**

I still struggle to get my head around where I've come from, to where I am today. As I write this in my downtown New York apartment looking out my window at the Freedom Tower, so many fond memories come rushing back. From the days I spent having lunch on the Boarding House steps, and the day I set off the entire school's fire alarm, to the wonderful community I'm apart of now. Ironically, nothing has changed. Evolved, most definitely, but I am still that same mischievous and driven farm-kid who has never stopped for anyone, or anything.

Moving from Wogan Hills to the big smoke-Perth, aged 12 to attend High School at Iona was really where it all started. It was here that I was exposed to the education I hadn't experienced before. People from all different walks of life, the 'real' world and its endless possibilities.

After five years at Iona and then studying my Masters in Architecture, I moved to New York aged 23, albeit, without a job! I was never really bothered by this uncertainty, I just knew that I was the only one that could truly make things happen for me.

I have always struggled with the idea that I was brave or that I still am. Maybe it's the architect in me, where I've learned to work things out with logic and creativity or my farm upbringing where things just not working isn't an option. I've

learned that there is no such thing as 'no', just a different kind of 'yes'.

I've always seen myself as different and a bit of an outsider. I explain to people that New York is a place for 'misfits' and I knew the minute I arrived that I was a fellow comrade and hustler, a word single-handedly defined by this city.

I have always wanted to challenge what the world thinks of a 'girl', and what a farm girl from a small country town at that, can do. I'm driven by proving people wrong every day. Yes, you can absolutely take on the world, and men (especially in my field) in heels, and that passion isn't bossy, it's boss.

After nearly nine years in New York, I now work with clients both past and present, who include the likes of COACH, Marriott International, NeueHouse and Virgin Atlantic. I never thought this was going to be my path, but just trusted my gut and here I am.

Wogan Hills, I love you. My family, I love you more. My '05 high school alumni, especially my boarder crew, thank you.

'It takes a village' couldn't be more true to my story. I owe who and where I am today to every single one of you.

**Caroline Brennan**

*Class of 2005*



EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING







## HAPPINESS IS

**I vividly remember Year 8 Orientation day 1995, I thought Iona was huge! A teacher came up to me and started a conversation. They asked the normal questions. "What school are you from?" "Do you know many girls at Iona?" Then, a question that I had not prepared for. "What do you aspire to be when you leave Iona?"**

I had no idea, so I nervously answered, "I would like to be happy!" Then, inspired by a family trip overseas I had a few years earlier, I answered, I want to see the world, I think I want to be an Air Stewardess. The teacher answered, "good choice, or maybe you could even be the pilot and still be happy?"

I didn't realise how many times I would reflect on those words. They aligned perfectly with a saying my parents had always said to me, "reach for the stars, and you will be happy wherever you land".

Year 12 wasn't my best year having previously breezed through Years 8 to 11. I was faced with a few friendship dramas in my final year that I found challenging. A valuable life lesson. As they say, hindsight is a wonderful thing.

At the end of the year, I was accepted into University but was never as excited about this as I should have been. I accepted my place, only to withdraw from my studies the week before I was due to commence. This wasn't an easy choice, nor conversation to have with my parents. I had decided to stop before I had even started, I just didn't feel ready. And so, I decided to pursue a career in hairdressing. "Why Carla?", I was often asked, to which I answered, "it makes me happy right now."

I went on to have a successful career as a hairdresser, nominated for the Apprentice

of the Year Award, and selected to have my apprenticeship fast-tracked. Once qualified, I regularly worked at Sydney and Perth Fashion Weeks and had an amazing time.

Completing a trade, meant that I was ready to settle early. I was married at 24 and had the first of three children, a son, at 25. I went on to have another two children, a son and a daughter, by the time I was 30. This was a stage in my life I blissfully enjoyed. As they headed off to school, I started to think of the next stage. Again, because it made me happy at the time, I went back to Uni. After starting a Bachelor of Education, I switched to, and am currently in my third year of a Bachelor of Commerce, Majoring in Marketing and Human Resource Management. It has taken a while, but I am loving it!

I love a challenge and so, motivated by my University studies I decided it was time to start a small business. 'From little things big things grow', and I am proud to say that I am now the owner of a styling business, incorporating both hair and fashion.

I took a non-direct route to where I was heading. However, I like to think of life as a journey, not a race. If you learn from all the little experiences and lessons along the way, it is an awesome ride. The important thing is that we are never afraid to change course and to continue to do what makes us happy.

I am so grateful for my years at Iona for giving me the confidence and skills to pursue my dreams and truly, make a difference.

**Carla Peca** (*née Pensabene*)  
Class of 1999



# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

## AN UNCONVENTIONAL START

**I would honestly say that I really didn't know what I wanted to do when I left school. That stemmed from liking too many things and chasing different goals. There is a saying, that if you chase 'too many chickens at the same time, then you won't be able to catch a single one'. From the many lessons of creating new beginnings I have had, I have taken a new slant on this saying, 'if you get really good at catching one chicken, then perhaps you can catch even more, even quicker and chance upon something completely new!'**

My passion for Art and Sport was a constant throughout my time at Iona. In fact, it lead me down the path of completing a Masters in Strength and Conditioning, which then led me to work in the mining industry as a Rehabilitation Officer.

Two years later I was asked to help a company called OLEOLOGY who designs and installs advanced water treatment systems. An environmental project with Chevron on Barrow Island required a large amount of administration support and client updates on the projects' progress. So, I expedited my learning on Project Management and began working full time.

I discovered an opportunity (or a 'new chicken to chase') once more and began the process of teaching myself how to use specialised software for 3D modelling, which assisted in extending the company's business capabilities and projects.

At the time, as well as working, I was also a competitive golfer and about to enter the Korean Ladies Tour. All of a sudden, my priorities changed and I stopped 'chasing that chicken'. Another, re-alignment and another new goal to chase.

One of the best choices I made along my journey, was to learn how to generate new business (lead generation) and increase market awareness. This gave me the biggest advancement in my career to date and further assisted in my endeavours to start other businesses and help like-minded entrepreneurs.

The next 'chicken' I wanted to catch was to become an international speaker.

I explored the common traits of successful speakers, and discovered that what really set them apart was their ability to connect with their audience. So, I practised networking, and as such was invited to speak at the Australian Oil & Gas Conference in early 2020.

Any successful person is a great problem solver and I have found this to be true along my journey. Overcoming a problem can be solved by quick action and if that action fails, then try, try again. It is in failing your way to success, that gives you experience and overall success.

Albert Einstein didn't just work out how to create the light bulb, he also worked out thousands of different ways on how not, to make one.

**Saasha Callaghan**  
*Class of 2005*





# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

## WAY OF LIFE

**Iona and the Presentation Sisters are an especially important part of our lives. This is the collective story of our three generations.**

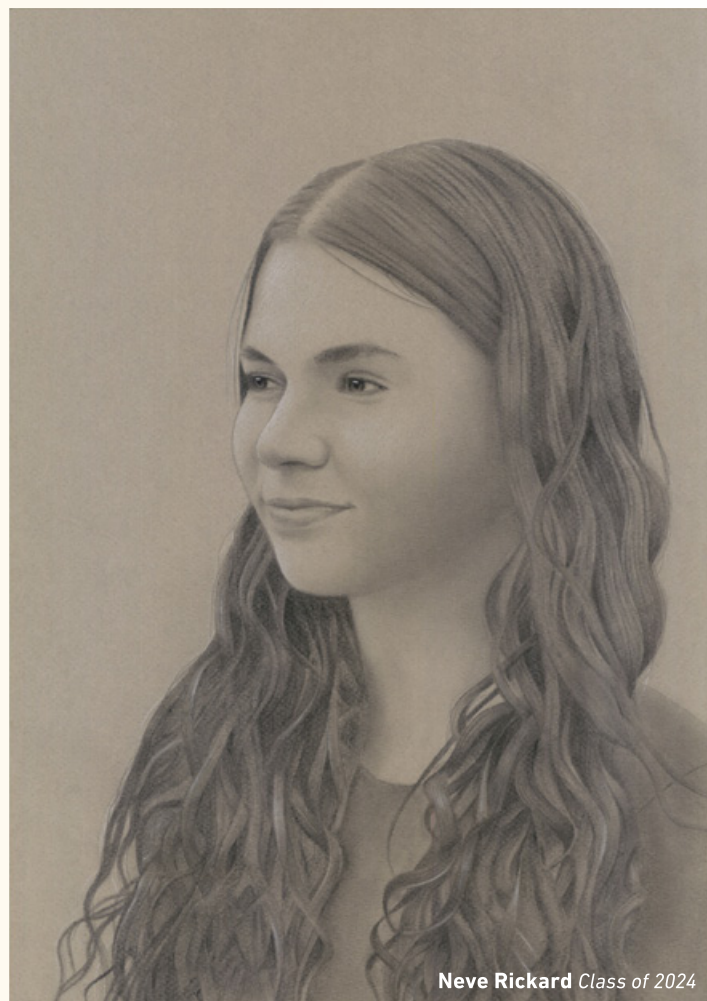
Since the 1950's the Presentation Sisters have accompanied us on our journeys. It began in Noggerup with our family supporting the Sisters in many ways, inviting them into our homes, sharing our lives, attending the 'Bushies' and developing lifelong relationships. The Sisters guided us through our years at St Brigid's and St Edmund's in Collie, and then Iona. They have walked alongside us from Year 1 through to Year 12, caring for us in the boarding school, encouraging us in all we did, and becoming treasured friends. The convent doors have always been open to us in times of need and happiness, with love and trust, help and prayers offered.

As a family of empowered women, we have been drawn to careers and lives which also reflect the values and teachings of the Presentation Sisters. We have walked along side others offering a helping hand, always giving our best, our homes open both in times of celebration and in times of need. We have chosen paths dedicated to the care and nurture of others. We are educators, striving to help individuals be the best they can. Health professionals, offering care, assisting those in need, with humility, kindness, and respect. The exceptionally talented and gifted Sisters ignited in all of us, a love of the Arts. And so, we are musicians, actors, dancers, artists, creating and sharing our gifts, with a loving respect and reflection of those who taught us.

With every 'new beginning', with all the changes and challenges we have faced, we continue to draw on the strengths

of the Presentation Sisters. Together we move forward with confidence and grace, with our feet firmly planted in the tradition of Iona and strengthened by the brilliant education they provided. With

Jordan Andreotta (Head of Production Arts) was commissioned in 2020 by the IPPA Executive Committee to produce an artwork that would celebrate three generations of Ionians. This beautiful triptych showcases his wonderful work, attention to detail and finite skill for portraiture. Complemented by the Amadio family story, it poignantly celebrates their Iona 'way of life' and collectively, their new beginnings.



Neve Rickard Class of 2024





**Letissia Amadio** *Class of 1984*



**Metilde Amadio** *(née Scolari) Class of 1955*

courage, integrity and belief in ourselves, we draw on their example. Surrounded by their love and support, we too, have developed our own self-worth. We confidently employ their teachings to make a difference to our own lives, and the lives of others.

The Presentation Sisters have greatly influenced each of us. We all have individual relationships with many of them, treasured friendships with others. Some have been our most significant influence and mentor.... OUR story, however, is greater than that. Their contribution has unified us as family, created an attitude, and way of life, this makes our individual stories important, and our collective story who we are.

Iona and the Presentation Sisters are interwoven into the stories of our family. Like family, they have supported us through the generations that went before us, and in all we do today.

We focus on offering their gifts to the generations to come.

**Metilde Amadio** *(née Scolari) Class of 1955*

**Melissa Amadio** *Class of 1982*

**Letissia Amadio** *Class of 1984*

**Jessica Kerr** *Class of 2015*

**Lucinda Kerr** *Class of 2017*

**Neve Rickard** *Class of 2024 (Yr. 8 2020 continuing the journey)*

# EVERY END IS A NEW BEGINNING

## SHIFTING SEAS

**As a student at Iona, I never thought of myself as someone who would be doing 'big things'. I always imagined myself living a nice quiet life close to my family in Perth. But life has a way of challenging you to do things you never dreamed you would be doing.**

Looking back over the last 20 years or so, my life has been a series of big changes and new beginnings.

In 2003, armed with a brand-new PhD, I set off for the US with only a suitcase in tow, ready to start work as a postdoctoral scientist at the National Institutes of Health. I had planned to only be away for a couple of years, but it wasn't until 2016, after moving continents a second time, that I finally moved back to Australia, this time with a 40ft container, a husband and two little Australian-German-Hungarians.

2020 has given me some time for reflection, and it's interesting to look back at the path I've taken in becoming the person I am today. I've been lucky to have been able to follow opportunities that captured my interests and passions, no matter if they were difficult or scary, and sometimes a bit crazy and I think I have my family to thank for this.

My family always encouraged me to believe I could do whatever I wanted. And when I think back about my time at Iona, aside from a great education, I think the greatest thing I learnt that has helped me on this path was resilience (and, of course, the second verse of the National Anthem).

This year has been a year of extremes. In Canberra where I reside, we've been rocked by bushfires, smoke, hailstorms and of course, the global pandemic.

After many new beginnings, right now, I'm really looking forward to the next chapter, which will hopefully be a bit less chaotic.

**Emmalene Fischer (née Bartlett)**  
*Class of 1993*



## BETTER *Late* THAN NEVER!

We welcome back for a joint reunion, the Classes of  
**2000, 1995, 1990, 1980 & 1970**  
to celebrate the magnificent milestones you missed in 2020!

Please save the date and join us at Iona  
**SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2021**  
BOOK NOW [ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/event](http://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/event)

We can't wait to see you there!

2000 1995 1990 1980 1970  
COMBINED REUNION

## WE REALLY SHOULD CATCH UP...

### 2021 IPPA Events

**IPPA MENTORING PROGRAM, LAUNCH**  
Friday 26 March

**IPPA NETWORKING BREAKFASTS**  
Thursday 27 May  
Thursday 28 October

**IPPA WORKSHOPPING THE FUTURE**  
Wednesday 21 July

### 2021 Reunions

Reunions will be held for the following classes in 2021.

#### COMBINED REUNION - BETTER LATE THAN NEVER!

<b>CLASSES 1995, 1990, 1980, 2000</b>		Saturday 20 February
<b>CLASS OF 2020</b>	YEAR 13 BREAKFAST	Thursday 11 February
<b>CLASS OF 2016</b>	5 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 13 February
<b>CLASS OF 2011</b>	10 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 13 March
<b>CLASS OF 1996</b>	25 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 15 May
<b>CLASS OF 1991</b>	30 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 12 June
<b>CLASS OF 1981</b>	40 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 7 August
<b>GOLDEN GIRLS' REUNION</b>		Friday 10 September
<b>CLASS OF 2001</b>	20 YEAR REUNION	Saturday 13 November

BOOK NOW: [ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/event](http://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/event)

## GIVING BACK

'If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe, I would willingly do all in my power.'

(Nano Nagle, 1769)

**Ionians over decades, have made it their life mission to be of service and to give back wherever and whenever they can.**

We thank all IPPA members who have gone one step beyond this year and have given back in so many and varied ways to support Iona. From coaching, to tutoring, guest speakers and mentoring.

Here is a snapshot and sample of just some of the ways IPPA have given back in 2020.

## GUEST SPEAKERS

**Hannah Baker** (Class of 2001)

Hannah attended the College several times in 2020. As Keynote speaker for the Year 10 event, *Workshopping the Future*, Hannah inspired students with her story of resilience and change. Her journey from working in the field of Marketing and Public Relations to making the brave shift and discovering her passion for Nutrition, provided a real-life example for all students that anything is possible, especially if you love what you do.

Hannah then returned to the College later in the year to speak to Year 8 students about Nutrition, health and fitness



**Lucy Marsh** (Class of 2018)

As a recent graduate of Iona, it was wonderful to have Lucy come back to speak with Year 8 students for their Wellness Day. Currently on a WAIS scholarship for Water Polo, Lucy's story of grit and determination provided a wonderful model to students who are focused on achieving in their chosen sport



**Alison Browne** (Class of 1998)

On a recent return from life in Manchester, UK, where Alison works as a teaching and research academic, Alison popped in to Iona and spoke to Year 11 and 12 Geography students. Her passion for Geography, she says 'is so much more than maps. It is a discipline broad enough that enables me to connect with all of my passions, especially environmental issues, explore links between the environment and human behaviour and develop conceptual thinking, research techniques and employability skills.' It certainly gave our students something to think about, especially those who have a love for the Humanities and just where a career in these fields can take you.







## MENTORING

### WORKSHOPPING THE FUTURE

What an event!

In its second year, 'Workshopping the Future' was another terrific success. Word has certainly got out in the IPPA community and we were inundated with Past Pupils who wanted to share their thoughts, ideas, wisdom and strategies for landing their dream jobs, and tips on just how to get there.

This event was targeted to Year 10 students and was timed to fit in prior to making their subject selections for Year 11.

Thanks to the following members:

#### Advertising and Marketing

**Jacqui Taylor** (Class of 2008)

**Laura O'Brien Oxley** (Class of 2009)

#### eCommerce

**Tara Clarke** (Class of 2009)

#### Engineering

**Laura Cushion** (Class 2012)

**Jess Kolbusz** (Class of 2008)

#### Media & Journalism

**Gloria de Jesus** (Class of 2005)

**Stephanie Matthews** (Class of 2010)

#### Medicine

**Merredith Cully** (Class of 2009)

**Lauren Giudicatti** (Class of 2007)

#### Nursing

**Lucy Illich** (Class of 2008)

**Sara Pickworth** (Class of 2008)

#### Nutrition

**Hannah Baker** (Class of 2001)

#### Law

**Isobella Gaffney** (Class of 2009)

**Georgina Sullivan** (Class of 2009)

#### Physiotherapy and Exercise Physiology

**Madeline Gaynor** (Class of 2008)

**Elli Brashaw** (Class of 2008)

#### Science

**Ellen Brookes** (Class of 2011)

**Sara Walsh** (Class of 2009)

#### Teaching

**Malina Zylinski** (Class of 2009)

**Sarah Hicks** (Class of 2010)

### SUPREME COURT OF WA

**Larissa Strk** (Class of 1992)

Thanks to Larissa or her generosity in hosting of students at the Supreme Court of WA this year. These students in Year 11 and 12 have gained a wealth of practical experience and knowledge over the week they spent with Larissa in the prestigious surrounds of the Supreme Court of WA. Such valuable work experience, for those passionate about a career in Law.



## ALL BOARDERS' REUNION

**After the incredibly successful ALL Boarders' Reunion in 2018, and after having established a Former Boarders sub-committee, the decision was made. What better way to bring boarders together, than to host a biennial ALL Boarders' Reunion.**

This year's inaugural event was held at Mosman Park Bowling Club, a stone's throw from the College. Former boarders travelled far and wide to attend this event and catch up with their boarding buddies.

Classes were represented from the 60s, a huge contingent from '82 and '96, with lots in between.

The committee hope to make this a regular feature for our Boarding Community and continue to build and nurture the legacy of boarding at Iona. Look out for the next one in 2022 and for more initiatives from this wonderful community.

## BOARDING OPPORTUNITY - A NEW ERA FOR IONA

Are you interested in boarding opportunities for your daughter?

To find out more, please contact College Registrar, Mrs Theresa Loughnan. Theresa will walk you through the innovative agreement Iona now has with St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls, which enables your daughter to continue your family's legacy as an Ionian, whilst boarding across the road at St Hilda's.







## A New Era for Iona Boarding



**Well Rounded Iona Education**

**A Close, Nurturing and  
Diverse Boarding Community**

**Unique Collaboration with  
St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls**

We are delighted to offer boarding opportunities  
for students at Iona.

**Contact our Registrar for details**

Theresa Loughnan

T 08 9384 0066

E [theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au)

[iona.wa.edu.au](http://iona.wa.edu.au)

*Making a difference, together*

## IPPA NETWORKING BREAKFAST

### PROFILES

**Despite the uncertainty with which 2020 brought, it was the unwavering goal of the IPPA committee to continue with a Networking Breakfast this year.**

Thankfully, as the fog of COVID-19 slowly lifted, we were able to coordinate a very successful breakfast, hosted by Larissa Strk at the Supreme Court of WA.

The theme of Social Justice and the diversity in experience of our three panellists, Julie Sprigg, Kirsten Trott & Melissa Edwards enticed a full room of Ionians to attend, all with a united goal. To meet and reconnect with Ionians, be inspired by the stories of others, share their own experiences and have a laugh and a chat.

Read our hosts and panellists bios below:

#### **LARISSA STRK** (Class of 1992)

Larissa Strk spent five years of her senior school education at Iona from 1988 to 1992. Following her graduation in 1992, Larissa went on to study Law at UWA. Her study then led her to a successful career as a lawyer with international law firm King & Wood Mallesons, where she went on to become a Partner.

In 2016, Larissa joined the Supreme Court of Western Australia as the Principal Registrar, where, for a cumulative period of approximately six months, she concurrently performed the role of Principal Registrar and of Acting Master. From November 2018 to June 2019, Larissa was appointed as an Acting Supreme Court Justice.

As an active member of her community, Larissa's Presentation Education reins true- giving back when and where she can. Settling opinions as a member of the KWM Judicial Review Asylum Seeker Project team, hosting numerous events and volunteering her time to raise awareness for a range of charities, Larissa

has also been a regular participant in the Vinnies CEO Sleep-out, raising funds and awareness for homelessness.

More recently, Larissa has collaborated with staff at Iona to implement a Work Experience program for Iona students interested in a career in Law (see page 25).



#### **KIRSTEN TROTT** (Class of 1992)

Kirsten's career has spanned Perth, Melbourne, London and Singapore. Her varied roles have included working as a Solicitor, promoting the rule of law in North East Asia, heading up strategy for a public policy think tank, designing compliance monitoring for the Australian Code of Banking Practice, and working in operational risk and financial crime compliance in an international bank.

In London, Kirsten first discovered her professional passion for whistleblowing. Working with leading UK charity Public Concern at Work (now Protect), Kirsten commenced giving legal and practical advice to whistleblowers, advising on global whistleblowing law and policy reforms and assisting organisations to embed open, ethical and accountable workplace structures and cultures. She returned to that work in 2016 in Singapore leading the design and implementation of Standard Chartered Bank's global whistleblowing strategy across 63 different countries.

Last year she returned to Perth after 20 years away and founded Moken Consulting which specialises in whistleblowing advisory work. She took on the role of Head of Compliance for HBF in July of this year.

Kirsten has a law degree from UWA, a post graduate diploma in International Community Development from the University of Queensland and a double Masters in Law and in Public Policy from the National University of Singapore.







#### **JULIE SPRIGG**

(Class of 1993)

After graduating from Iona in 1993

Julie studied Physiotherapy at Curtin University. Julie worked as a physiotherapist for ten years in WA and the UK before setting off to live and work in Ethiopia for two years.

Her recently published book, 'Small Steps: A Physio in Ethiopia' was shortlisted for the 2018 T.A.G Hungerford award, and tells the stories of the children with disabilities that Julie worked with, woven together with her experience of teaching in Ethiopia's first Physiotherapy degree.

On returning to Australia in 2007, Julie joined international development organisation CBM Australia, and worked with human rights and community empowerment programs for people with disabilities in India, China, Cambodia, Vietnam and Bangladesh. Julie then worked for Save the Children, as a disability inclusion advisor in education and health programs across Bangladesh, Ethiopia, Philippines, Vietnam and Vanuatu.

Julie now works for the WA state government, advising on evaluation for programs to overcome social disadvantage. While in this role Julie has been privileged to meet with community members in remote Aboriginal communities for discussions about government programs and social issues.

Julie's career has been driven by an awareness of global and domestic inequalities, and she credits her Presentation education with nurturing a social conscience from a very young age.



#### **MELISSA EDWARDS**

(Class of 1989)

After graduating from Iona in 1989, Melissa

completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Post Graduate Diploma in Aboriginal and Intercultural studies. After marrying Scott in 1996 and having their first daughter Ruby (Class of 2016), Melissa completed a Bachelor of Social Work.

Melissa has worked as a Social Worker in the health and hospital setting for the past 16 years with 2nd daughter Ava arriving during this time (currently Yr 7 at Iona).

Melissa now holds the position of Head of Department for Social Work for Fiona Stanley and Fremantle Hospitals, leading the Social Work, Aboriginal Hospital Liaison and Pastoral Care Teams.

Since 2015, Melissa has been a voluntary Board Member of the Fremantle Women's Health Centre.

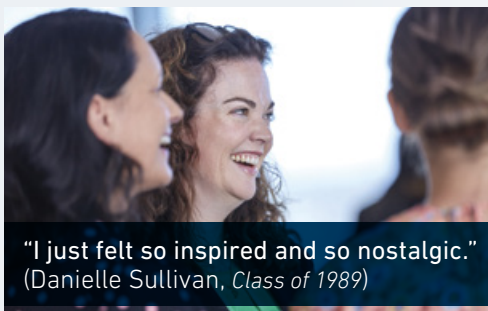
In her professional and voluntary role, Melissa is acutely aware of the social determinates of health and wellbeing. Together with her colleagues, Melissa strives to reduce barriers and improve access for all.

**KEEP YOUR DETAILS  
UPDATED HERE**  
[ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](http://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au)

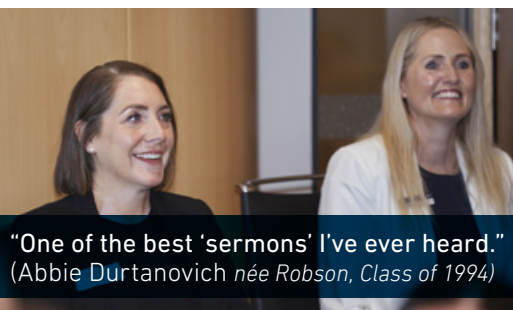
**SEE YOU IN 2021**  
**Thursday 27 May and Thursday 28 October**

## IPPA NETWORKING BREAKFAST CAPTURED MOMENTS

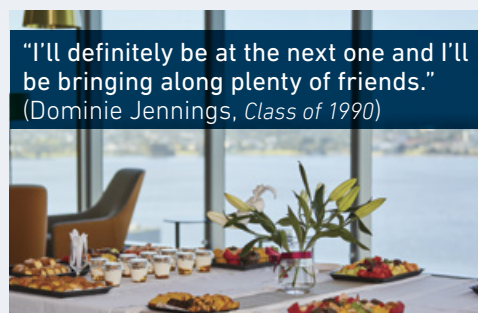
IPPA Networking Breakfasts are held biannually in May and October and are open for all Past Pupils of Iona.



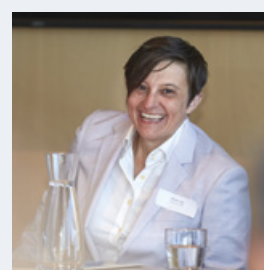
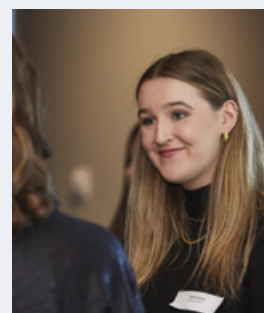




"One of the best 'sermons' I've ever heard."  
(Abbie Durtanovich née Robson, Class of 1994)



"I'll definitely be at the next one and I'll  
be bringing along plenty of friends."  
(Dominie Jennings, Class of 1990)



"As a teacher, I've been to so many Professional  
Development Days- this was by far the best one  
I've ever attended." (Kate O'Malley, Class of 1989)







# PILOT MENTORING PROGRAM

## - LAUNCH 26 MARCH 2021

### IPPA is very excited to announce the unveiling of a pilot Mentoring Program

Due to be launched 26 March 2021 this program aims to:

- Provide a unique opportunity for Past Pupils of Iona to expand their networks and build direct connections with other generations of alumni.
- Allow early and mid-career Ionians to tap into the skills and knowledge of more experienced Ionians, building professional connections knowledge and insights.
- Provide a rewarding experience that enables experienced Ionians the opportunity to make a meaningful impact on those who are early in their career and life path.

### Proposed Program

As a voluntary program, the IPPA Mentoring Program will be complimentary for all mentors and mentees. The program will be comprised of three main events:

#### LAUNCH

The program will be launched at an event where tips on mentoring will be provided.

#### 6-MONTH PROGRAM

Pairs will be expected to meet at least four times over a six-month period.

#### CLOSING EVENT

At the end of six months, there will be a closing session, where participants will be asked for feedback on their experiences.

### So, what kind of mentoring?

The mentoring relationship can explore (but is not limited to) the following:

- Career advice
- Seeking professional opportunities and 'foot-in-the-door' techniques
- Inspiration from someone who has done what you aspire to do
- Life support and life issues
- Juggling careers and families
- Tips and strategies for daily life

### APPLY TO BE A MENTOR

**Please register at the Business Networking Hub:**  
[ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#businessnetworkinghub](https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#businessnetworkinghub)

### APPLY TO BE A MENTEE

**Please register:**  
[ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#applytobematchedtoamentor](https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#applytobematchedtoamentor)

**Applications are now open and will close 1 March 2021.**

A young girl with dark, curly hair is smiling warmly at the camera. She is wearing a light blue short-sleeved school uniform shirt with yellow piping on the collar and cuffs, and a blue apron with dark straps. She is sitting at a desk in a classroom. In the background, other students in similar uniforms are visible, and there is a bright orange wall with some papers or posters. The text "Your gift," is overlaid in white serif font on the lower right portion of the image.

Your gift,





# her future

For the Iona stories yet to be told...  
**GIVE YOUR GIFT RIGHT NOW**

For more information and to give online please go to  
[iona.wa.edu.au/payments](http://iona.wa.edu.au/payments)

To give by phone call Georgia Allen at 9384 0066

Compassionate educators, the Presentation Sisters have devoted their lives to education. Their generous gifts over more than 100 years have had an enduring impact and have been the life-changing difference to so many.

In honour of this spirit of giving, we now invite you to help continue the mission of Nano Nagle.

**Give back to our Scholarship Fund and your donation will assist future Ionians to unlock their full potential.**

Your thoughtful gift will assist in providing an Ionian education and opportunities, which may otherwise be unattainable.

Create your long-lasting connection to Iona today.

## IONA WINS IGSSA

**For the first time in its 57-year history, Iona Presentation College has won the IGSSA WA Dunklings Perpetual Trophy for Overall Champion School in Athletics.**

In what was a splendid day for both track and field; Iona won the Laurie Packham Trophy for Overall Track School and the Elizabeth Davenport Trophy for overall Champion Field School.

Two Year 7s set new records; Madison Naish for hurdles and Ava Fraser-Edwards for shotput.

Iona performed magnificently at each Year level, coming 1st overall in Year 8, Year 10 and Year 11/12.

Year 9s were 2nd by only one point away from first and the Year 7s came 3rd overall in a very tight contest.

Congratulations to the entire Athletics squad, staff and coaches, for enabling this wonderful victory!









## PRESENTATION WOMEN

**Iona Presentation College has a rich-history, dating back to 1907 when the College was established by the Presentation Sisters. With this rich history comes a significant story, a story that has now been brought to life in the form of an eighty-square-metre mural in the heart of the Campus.**

The mural is part of the Presentation Reflection Walk, designed to highlight and celebrate the College's heritage and to represent the story of Nano Nagle, the Presentation Sisters and the Iona community.

"We wanted to bring Iona's story to life in a way that would capture people's attention," said Anne Pitos, Principal at Iona Presentation College.

"The mural is bold, bright and captures the colours, the people and the places relevant to the history of Iona Presentation College."

Mikaela Miller, the artist commissioned to create the mural, is an emerging artist and designer based in Fremantle. Over the past 12 months, her creative process has involved interviewing senior staff, students, Presentation Sisters and community members to develop an understanding of the College's history and how that history relates to people today.

"What struck me was how strongly students value the history of the College and there is a strong connection to the legacy of Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters. Students feel connected to these women through history,"

Mikaela explained. With a passion for the natural world, Mikaela has used her love and knowledge of flowers to highlight the geographical journey of Iona; moving from Ireland to Geraldton and finally to the banks of the Swan River in Mosman Park.

When preparing her 'canvas,' or in this case an 80sqm wall, Mikaela used a floral grid system which in itself looks like a beautiful work of art.

She explained that rather than using the standard grid system to get the proportions of her work right, she likes to freestyle with a floral grid, especially when creating portraiture.

"I don't generally call myself a portrait artist but sometimes the right story calls for it, and when it does the squiggle grid can be a great method to get my proportions right," Mikaela explained.





**“Public art like this, makes places special!  
It makes you grateful for small things  
and makes you realise how happy art  
makes you feel,”**

**said Georgia (Year 5).**

“I had a few staff and students baffled when I started my squiggle grid at the beginning of the process.” Situated in Cove Lane, a vibrant outdoor space where students can work together in a more relaxed setting, the artwork adds to the inner-city style laneway vibe. The Lane also acts as a reminder of Nano Nagle’s vocation through the laneways of Cork, another nod to the meaningful history behind the College.

Having Mikaela on campus, creating her art in front of the students, has been incredibly rewarding for those interested in production arts.

Over four weeks of installation, students have had the opportunity to chat with Mikaela, watch her work and enjoy seeing a professional artist bring a laneway wall to life.



## JUNIOR SCHOOL UPDATE

**The Junior School continues to grow, with several classes now waitlisted.**

To enquire about a place for your child or to attend a private tour, please contact College Registrar Mrs Theresa Loughnan, [theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au) or 9384 0066

So, what's news on the Junior School campus?

Here is a snapshot.

### GIFTED AND TALENTED AWARDS

The focus of the Gifted and Talented program in 2020 has again been on creative and critical thinking skills, innovation and problem-solving. Students are presented with new ways of learning, showing their adaptability and enriching and extending their understanding. Students in the Junior School's Gifted and Talented Program recently participated in the annual, Cluedunnit. This competition run by the Law Society of WA, involves students successfully interpreting and solving a fictitious crime. Our students were presented with medals for their exceptional investigative work and were also recognized by a contingent of legal representatives.

### JIGSSA WIN

We are proud to announce that at the JIGSSA Athletics Year 5/6 carnival this year our Year 6s won the Pennant and the Year 5s finished a close second by three points. Following up on the efforts and outstanding win by our girls in the Senior School, we are thrilled with this brilliant effort by our Junior School team.







## LITTLE LANTERNS

In 2021 we aim to introduce a Playgroup on the Junior School campus aptly named, Little Lanterns. Building a strong sense of community is at the heart of an Iona education. As such, the Playgroup will provide an opportunity for families to get to know each other, be supported by one another and build early connections even before their child starts school.



## PLAYSCAPE WINS AWARD

Iona's Junior School playscape has once again been recognised as an award-winning landscape architect project. Winning the AILA WA Landscape Award for Health and Education Landscape, and the AILA WA People's Choice Award recently at the 2020 Australian Institute of Landscape Architects (AILA) WA Chapter Award night.

The playscape provides endless opportunities for children to play, climb, swing, hang, create, problem solve and have fun. Natural stone slab steppers, polished concrete slides, concrete soak well steppers, timber logs and timber forts have been used to create a variety of surfaces for children to negotiate and enjoy.

The playscape was described by judges as a project that delivers educational learning spaces that are at the same time playful, engaging, perfectly scaled for young children and immaculately detailed.



## ROBOTICS

STEM, Engineering and Robotics continue to be a focus for innovation and 21st century learning in the Junior School. This program continues to ignite passion for all students who have a love for a challenge, design and technology. Students in the Junior School participate as a part of a Lego Robotics team and collaborate on projects, guided by specialist teachers.



## CREATE GOES VIRTUAL

**This year 'Create', Iona's annual Art Exhibition went virtual.**

By taking advantage of available technologies, we were able to extend our talented students' work to a wider audience.

Our virtual gallery was launched on 6 November in The Forum of our stunning new learning centre, The Albeus Fahey Building. Year 12 students and their families attended an intimate opening night to view their work and were treated to delicious canapés prepared and served by Year 10 Food & Technology students.

If you would like to view the gallery and the remarkable work of our students, you can do so here at any time, [iona.wa.edu.au/create2020](http://iona.wa.edu.au/create2020)

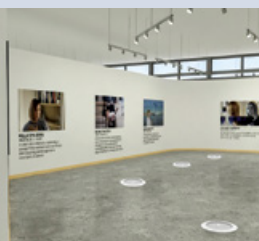
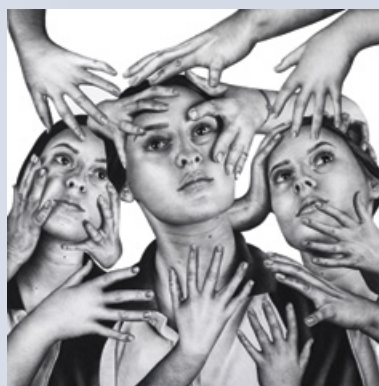
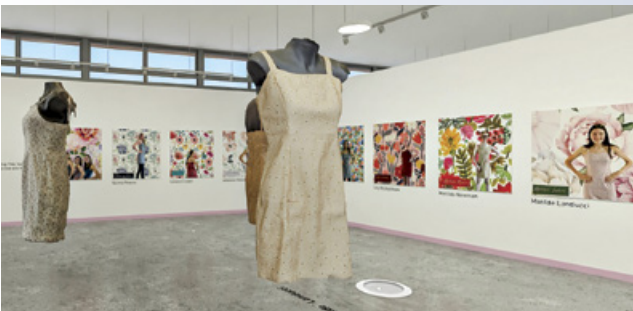
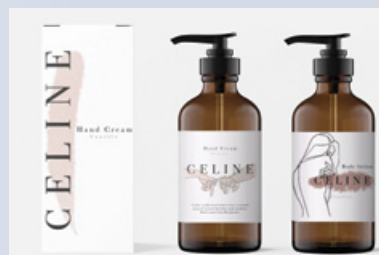
The sheer talent and dedication of both staff and students is to be commended and acknowledged in what is an exceptional demonstration of their work, passion, skill and love for the Production Arts.



**SCAN TO  
VIEW GALLERY  
ONLINE**









## PARENT COUNCIL UPDATE

**Despite the challenges of 2020, the Iona Parent Council, and its sub-groups of Parent Representatives have had another terrific year.**

From organising regular social functions for parents, Dad & child events, organised by the Men of Iona, the annual Iona Classic, to a very successful sell-out event at Royal Freshwater Bay Yacht Club.

The Iona Parent Council continue to work with the College to provide opportunities for families. Opportunities to build and connect and ensure a happy, connected and vibrant Iona community.

We look forward to welcoming all parents to a new initiative next year, a Welcome Sundowner, scheduled for Sunday 21 March. This will be a wonderful opportunity to come together as a whole college and celebrate the start of the 2021 school year.

We look forward to seeing many Iona parents there!

**Teresa Leone**

*Chair, Iona Parent Council Chair*









## STAFF FAREWELLS

### IAN ANTHONY

Ian arrived at Iona ten years ago joining as our Business Manager. Ian's contribution to Iona has been simply outstanding. Coupling financial acumen and an understanding of the Presentation charism of Iona. Ian led teams with vision and effected many changes, including developing and installing systems across the entire operations, contributing significantly to the development of the Strategic, Business and Capital Development Plans.

Not only has Ian been an enormous support to the College Leadership team and in particular College Principal, Anne Pitos, Ian has supported and worked closely with the College Board and Committees, the staff and parents, always seeking a positive outcome.

As a College, we wish to pay you Ian a heartfelt tribute. You are certainly welcoming, diplomatic, lucid and insightful, purposeful and tireless in your endeavours and we thank you for your diligent and faithful services to our community.

Ian has now accepted a position at Scotch College and it is with much sadness we bid him farewell. May God guide you and bless you and all your undertakings beyond Iona.

### DAVID MURPHY

I have worked at Iona for a decade, commencing Term Four 2010, in the Mathematics and Science Departments. Having graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Physical Education and Mathematics, I drifted towards teaching Mathematics and intermittently with the PE Department. I was also a House Coordinator for Moynihan from 2012 – 2014 and Head of Year from 2015 to the present day. I have been Head of Year 7 (for a quick semester), Head of Year 9 and Head of Year 10. I have also coached various Soccer teams, Volleyball teams, Softball teams and contributed to the Cross-Country teams via the creation of Running Club back in 2015.

Iona is a very special place to work and as a result there are many highlights. The Sisters, the staff and the students make it a really unique place to call work. Many students who have joined us from different schools have mentioned that it does not feel like coming to school; from a staff member's point of view, at times, it does not feel like coming to work.

As a highlight, it is hard to look past Mr Karasavas's Fun Concert during the Year 12's 'farewell week'. I will never forget his magic tricks and in particular the time he made Sr Mary float. Hilarious!

I would like to sincerely thank the Presentation Sisters for blazing the trail for female education in Western Australia. We really do sit on the shoulders of these amazing women who deserve all of the credit and more.

Secondly, I would like to thank Mrs Pitos for giving me the opportunity to work at such a wonderful College. I was very young when I started here in 2010 and Anne took a huge chance on me. Thankfully, it paid off and I am very happy and proud of my ten years at Iona

Thank you also to staff and students for your friendship and collegiality over the years. I truly appreciate it.

The next chapter in my life begins in 2021 when I join the staff at Hale School in Wembley Downs. I am looking forward to challenging myself in an all-boys environment; one that I am sure will be a lot different, but equally as rewarding.

Thank you and God Bless, Iona Presentation College; I wish you nothing but success for many years to come.







## DEBBIE O'SULLIVAN

I've been a teacher and an education assistant in Iona's Junior School for 27 years. My first contact with the Junior School was when we enrolled our daughter in Year One in 1989 and our son in Pre-Primary in 1993.

As I was taking our son into his classroom on day one, he was very reluctant to leave me.

Sr Maureen Moynihan, the then Principal saw what was happening and asked me what his interests were? I answered, 'football' and immediately she reached into her pocket for a \$5 note and suggested I go straight to the shop to buy a football for him. That same day, Sr Maureen made my son, 'in charge' of Pre-Primary football. Thereafter, he loved going to school. I will always be grateful for her sensitivity and intuition on that day.

One morning, a few weeks later as I was leaving the Junior School, Sr Maureen, knowing that I was a teacher, approached me again and this time asked if I could stay on for the day to relieve a staff member who had just called in unwell. The following year was my first official year at Iona teaching Year Four Religion and Maths. The next year I taught one of the two Pre-Primary classes. A few years later I opted to become an Education Assistant. It's been over 15 years since that day.

Iona's Junior School has an extraordinary spirit and sense of community – a spirit of nurturing, not just of teachers nurturing students, but of parents and families supporting each other. I'll never forget when a young Iona father of two was diagnosed with a terminal illness. The support for both his wife and children emotionally as well as practically, was outstanding.

I've had a wonderful 27 years at Iona and in my retirement, I want to give back to those less fortunate, play a little golf and hopefully be looking after grandchildren.

## MARG PEMBER

I came to Iona as the archivist in 2009 thinking it would be a good transition into full retirement. I thought that after a couple of years I would have sorted out all the history of Iona and there would be nothing left to do! Well, after 12 years that still hasn't happened! The size of the collection has at least quadrupled over the decade and still continues to grow at an amazing rate.

It has been a delight delving into the history of Iona. Even after so long, I am still finding treasures that fill in the gaps in the story of Iona. Every new box one delves into is like Christmas morning! Surprise after surprise!

It has been a privilege and a real pleasure being part of the Iona family. Thankyou Anne for giving me the opportunity to work in the Archives Department and for your continued support and generosity over the years. Thank you also to our wonderful Presentation Sisters whose presence is still strongly felt here in the College and especially in the Archives. And finally, a big thank you to all staff right across the school, from teaching and support staff to the boys on the property team, the team in IT, and the girls in the library. You all make Iona what it is today.

Long may it continue!

Have a great Christmas with your family and friends and a wonderful 2021. God Bless!



# FROM THE ARCHIVES

## FIFTY YEARS AGO...

**As we were unable to have our Golden Girls Day this year, I would like to remember especially those girls who graduated in 1970, and what a year it was!**

We had about 500 students enrolled and quite a small staff at the time.

Enrolments had gradually increased in both the Junior and Senior schools and there was now quite a waiting list for boarders.

With plans underway for new boarding accommodation, Iona was staffed with a good mix of Presentation Sisters and lay teachers, about 30 in all. The Principal, Sister Carmel Ryan and the Head Girl, Julie Howlett.

Two Iona Past Pupils made their First Profession at Iona in January 1970: Sr Anthony (Mary) Mackin and Sr Anne (Frances) Hayes.

In July of 1970, Mother General Albeus Fahey and Sr M Carmel Ryan travelled to Rome and were honoured with a private audience (a "Bacio-Mano") with His Holiness, Pope Paul VI.

1970 was the last year Iona girls sat for the Junior Examination (Year 10 or 3rd Year, as it was known then). Academic results were extremely pleasing with the Iona overall average pass rate of 86% far exceeding the overall state average of 73%! Nursing and Teaching Bursaries and six Commonwealth Secondary Scholarships were won. Leaving results were also excellent

with a pass rate of 100%. 21 girls sat the Leaving Examinations, eight students were awarded University or Tertiary Education Scholarships and the Dux of the College was Anne Lee.

Iona also performed well in other fields such as Music, Drama and Debating, winning a number of awards. The seniors were again awarded the shield for choral speech, making it the fifth win over the previous six years. Kerry Kirby was the winner of the junior section of the Speaker of the Year Competition- a fifth straight win for Iona! And Freida Popen attained the distinction of an A.Mus.A in piano, a really fantastic achievement at the age of 17.

"It's Academic" was filmed at Channel 7 studios and Iona achieved second place to St Louis.

The annual May Day Procession was held in honour of Our Lady, and Susan Fitzgerald was chosen to crown Our Lady's statue in the Convent grounds.

Sport continued to be an important part of school life here at Iona in 1970, with the Athletics Team placing second to St Gertrude's (New Norcia) in the Interscholarship competition. They would have to wait until 1971, to finally win the competition! In the house competitions, St Anne's were victorious at both the Swimming and Athletics carnivals.

The Legion of Mary and Young Christian Students continued to draw strong student support.

The main dramatic production for the year was Justice (adapted from The Merchant of Venice). Sister Clement won the Producer's Award. Linda Skrols (née Shylock) won Best Supporting Actress Award and Agnes O'Neill (née Portia) received an Honourable Mention.

The Mikado was presented at Speech Night with about 50 girls ranging from first to fifth year taking part.



As was tradition, the year ended with Speech Night. This end of year celebration has continued annually since December 1908, the first year the college enrolled pupils (2 February). The guest speaker for the 1970 Speech Night was Monsignor John Murphy.

Class of 1970, we look forward to inaugurating you as Golden Girls next year!

**Dr Margaret Pember**  
Archives & Heritage Centre







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