



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 12 • AUTUMN 2016

# esprit

*de corps*

# *Iona girls make a difference*

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ESPRIT DE CORPS  
ISSUE 12 • AUTUMN 2016



## Next Issue (Spring 2016):

Let us know how your teachers at Iona impacted your life. Tell us at: [gallen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:gallen@iona.wa.edu.au)



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The English romantic poet, John Keats, in his poem, "Ode to Autumn", immortalised the season with evocative imagery:

*"Season of mist and mellow fruitfulness, close bosom friend of the maturing sun".*

With these words, I greet all Iona Past Pupils and invite one and all to enjoy the Autumn edition of Esprit de Corps. The College focus value for 2016 is 'Community', so a number of items in this publication will implicitly, if not explicitly, reflect this theme. One such feature was the superb production of *Annie* staged at the Regal Theatre in March. Small wonder that this musical has stood the test of time being variously heart-warming, amusing, poignant, vibrant and uplifting. It was a sold out smash hit for the College community. The production is held in late March. Keep an eye on Regal Theatre performances for 2017; don't miss out!

The Presentation Sisters experienced deep sadness in 2015 and early 2016 with the deaths of five Sisters. Sometimes news of such occurrences do not reach the wider community, so the Congregation bereavement notices are included in this edition

of Esprit. These five valiant women made an enormous contribution to the Catholic Church and Catholic Education in Australia. As with our vital ANZAC commemorations, Lest we Forget.

26 April marks the feast of Our Lady of Good Counsel and accordingly, is the Feast celebration day for Sister Consuela Worthington. The date also denotes the anniversary of the death of Venerable Nano Nagle, Presentation Foundress. The Sisters have a reflective Prayer Service on this day which extols Nano's faith and always includes the focus of social justice, particularly the Presentation imperative to reach out and have solidarity with the poor, lonely, hungry and dispossessed. Many Past Pupils are leading exemplary lives of service, giving concrete witness to the Nagle family motto: *"Deeds not Words"* and to the adopted adage for Collegians: *Iona Girls Make a Difference.*

I think you will find their accounts interesting, diverse and uplifting. Do keep the stories and anecdotes rolling in to our Community Relations department.

Let us then embrace the challenge to be merciful people in our families and communities as Pope Francis has so powerfully enjoined upon us. In his words: *"Mercy is the first attribute of God; the name of God is Mercy"*.

There is a lovely excerpt in the British magazine, "The Tablet" by Caroline Wyatt, BBC News Religious Affairs Correspondent. She is referring to the Sacred Heart Sisters who taught her:

*"They taught us so much about the value of a life spent serving God and our fellow humans. They also made clear to us that the worth of a human life cannot be measured in money or possessions, but in the love and kindness in our hearts and the difference we try to make in the world. And that there is very little that a woman cannot do if she sets her mind to it"*.

Apt words for Presentation people.

I do hope our farmers have had sufficient rain for seeding. Happy reading and may God bless us all.

**Anne Pitos**  
*Principal*

"I greet all Iona Past Pupils and invite one and all to enjoy the Autumn edition of Esprit de Corps."

## From the Archives...

### Building a Community

**Iona has always had a very strong inclusive community with 'Community' consistently being a fundamental value nurtured as a part of the College ethos. From the earliest days, Iona has been more than just a 'place' of learning for our students.**

The wider Iona community has always been made to feel welcome by the Presentation Sisters. Despite originally being a closed order, the Sisters were always very hospitable and inclusive. For many students the Iona community also became family and the ties established between students, their families and the Sisters lasted a lifetime.

Some of the pupils in the early years were very young indeed, only two or three years old! Often sole parents with the need to work to support their families admitted their young children as boarders. Sometimes distance was the issue and hence, boarding became their only solution. In the beginning, pupil numbers were very small at Iona, which also fostered this sense of family and belonging.

Student fees too, were minimal, and the Sisters helped to supplement their income by teaching activities such as music and painting.

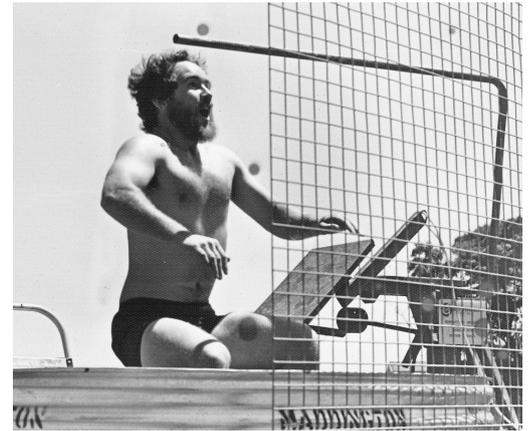
In the beginning the Sisters did everything themselves; from cooking to cleaning and washing to teaching. They also kept hens and a kitchen garden and an orchard producing figs, mulberries, almonds, lemons and grapes. Until the 1940s they also kept a cow for milk. For many years Sr Anne Eastcott was the Sister in charge of the kitchens and Iona's grounds. She was responsible for planting many of the trees and shrubs still growing profusely on campus.

The first decade saw growth and development of the Iona community in many areas. Enrolment numbers began to increase and in 1910 the College initiated the employment of lay teachers with the addition to the staff of an elocution master, a drill master and a music master.

“From the earliest days, Iona has been more than just a ‘place’ of learning for our students.”



feature  
**BUILDING A  
 COMMUNITY**



From the very first year of its inception, Iona celebrated St Patrick's Day, presented concerts for Presentation Day and the end of the school year in order to showcase student talent and achievement and celebrate the unique and diverse community that is, Iona.

Many Past Pupils and their families still return to Iona today for these community events, knowing that they are all still very welcome at their old school.

Our commitment to social justice remains evident through our community involvement in many service group activities, proving that old school community feeling is still as strong as ever.

"Once an Ionian, always an Ionian!"

**Margaret Pember**  
*College Archivist*



Iona Presentation College wishes to acknowledge and pay respect to the following much loved members of the Presentation Sisters, WA.  
May they Rest In Peace.

## **In Pace Christi**

### **Fahey (Sr Albeus)**

Sr Albeus died peacefully at Margaret Hubery House on 10 February 2015. Her self-giving service to the Church spanned 78 years, teaching in Goomalling, Rivervale and at Iona Presentation College. Sr Albeus was a visionary leader of the Congregation for sixteen years whose astute business acumen gave rise to the building of many much needed facilities both at Iona Presentation College and Iona Primary School. Our deepest sympathy to her family in Ireland and Australia and to her many friends.

### **Burns (Sr Joan)**

Sr Joan died peacefully at Hollywood Hospital on 1 March 2015. She served in the ministry for 45 years in many places in the Archdiocese of Perth, the Diocese of Geraldton but most particularly in Brunswick Junction, Mandurah, Goomalling, Iona, Rivervale, Cloverdale, Port Headland and Geraldton. Our deepest sympathy to her friends and family in Australia, the UK and in Ireland.

### **Robertson (Sr Phyllis, formally Sr Eugene)**

Sr Phyllis died peacefully on 28 August 2015 at Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, Drogheda, Ireland after a sudden illness while on a home visit. She served in the ministries of Education, Parish Pastoral Care and Service to the Refugee community for 60 years in many places in the Archdiocese of Perth, the Diocese of Bunbury and Geraldton but most particularly in Collie, Rivervale, Cottesloe and Lockeridge. Our deepest sympathy to her brother and sisters, her family in Ireland and Canada and her many friends and colleagues.

### **Burns (Sr Gabrielle)**

Sr Gabrielle died suddenly at Presentation Convent, Iona, on 24 June 2015. She served for 60 years in the Archdiocese of Perth, as a teacher in Presentation Schools and as the Principal of Iona Presentation College. Sr Burns was the Superior General of the Congregation for 12 years; as a member of the Catholic Education Commission; member of the Inauguration Committee and of the Governing Body of Notre Dame University. In later years Sr Gabrielle served in the Marriage Tribunal of the Catholic Church of WA. Our deepest sympathy to her family in Ireland and England and her many friends and colleagues.

### **Corby (Sr Kathleen, formerly Sr Ambrose)**

Sr Kathleen died peacefully at St John of God Hospital, Subiaco on 10 March 2016. She served for 35 years in the ministry of education as Teacher, Sister in charge of Boarders, and Principal in both country and city schools. Places such as Bruce Rock, Quairading, Beverley, Geraldton and Port Hedland. She was Principal of Iona Presentation Primary School for 10 years. Following her time in education she was involved in Leadership at the Congregation, Pastoral and Parish Ministry and as a Mental Health Care Supervisor. Deepest sympathy to her family and friends both in Australia and Ireland.

“It was so nice seeing the diversity of the bunch and chatting about which paths we’d chosen since leaving school.”



## Class of 2006

**Walking up the steps into the Sports Centre I was more excited than I expected for the Class of 2006, 10 Year Reunion. The school itself and grounds were looking exceptionally nice (they obviously got Jamie Durie in to do a last minute spruce up for the big night) and I felt very proud in that moment that this is the place I went to school.**

Greeted by Sister Mary, Mrs Pitos, current students and a string quartet I immediately felt at ease back in the gym and honestly, felt like I'd never left!

When the reunion invitation came a couple of months ago I wasn't really sure what to expect; who would show up? Has anyone changed? A lot of the girls I hadn't seen since our last TEE exam . . .but all that uncertainty went out the window as soon as we were all together.

About 50 people from our graduating class had such a great night having a few drinks and catching up. It was so nice seeing the diversity of the bunch and chatting about which paths we'd chosen since leaving school. I thought to myself a few times during the evening "Iona girls DO make a difference!"

The feedback from everyone was extremely positive and it was pretty apparent what a fantastic group of women we had in the room.

On behalf of the class of 2006, I would like to say a huge thankyou to Iona for organising such a great event. It was a fabulous night and after attending I will always encourage everyone to attend their school reunions. You will be pleasantly surprised how fun it is! And on a side note, I'd like to know who the school gardener is - I could do with a bit of magic at my place!

**Steph Watson**  
*Class of 2006*



“I was reminded how much I have benefitted from my years at Iona and how truly lucky I am to know a group of women with common and strong core values”

## Class of 1991

**In the evening of 2 April 2016, the Class of '91 gathered to celebrate our 25-Year Reunion. Overlooking the pool and listening to the wonderful music played by Olivia and Alexandra Toussaint-Jackson (10 & 12 O'Halloran) we enjoyed the delectable canapés produced by Iona's boarding school catering team. We were grateful to Sister Mary for spending the evening with us rather than watching her beloved Dockers although, in hindsight, it seems that was the right decision!**

Thank you to Sophie Carrigg (12 Treacey), Karen Canalini and Laura Kendall for welcoming us and ensuring that we did not go hungry or thirsty. Thank you to Georgia Allen for arranging the event and for taking the time to speak with us all.

For us, the Class of '91, it was an interesting evening in which we reminisced, talked about what we do now and looked to what we can achieve together in the future. We managed to do this while assuring each other that we look the same as we did 25 years ago.

As I enjoyed the company of my school friends and talked to Sister Mary, I was reminded how much I have benefitted from my years at Iona and how truly lucky I am to know a group of women with common and strong core values.

My calendar shows an entry on 2 April as my 25-Year School Reunion. That entry doesn't do the event justice. It was a fun and inspiring evening.

**Vicki Butler**

*Class of 1991*





“I didn’t know how to light a fire from two sticks, or climb a tree to collect fruit. Every time I got into a dugout canoe I fell straight in the water...”

## **Making a Difference in the Solomon Islands**

**In 2015 I lived in the Solomon Islands for 12 months as part of the federal government’s Australian Volunteers for International Development (AVID) program.**

I was assigned to live and work in a village school on the island of Malaita working with teachers and students to improve literacy and numeracy outcomes in the school.

Before I set off I wondered what it would be like to live on my own and in a strange country for a whole year. The Solomon Islands is one of the least developed countries in the world. Most people live in traditional leaf houses they build themselves. They survive on income from vegetables grown in their gardens.

Would the locals be friendly? And would I be able to cope without modern conveniences like a ‘fridge and an iPad? My son James helped me look up my new village on Google maps, but my new home was so remote we couldn’t find it! We noticed that there was no road on the island, just one dirt track. What had I gotten myself into?

I needn’t have worried. From the first day I arrived in my village (after a 3 hour ride on the back of a truck to get the 21kms from the main town!) I was taken in and looked after by everyone.



The village elders immediately came by to welcome me. They thanked me for coming all the way from Australia to help in their school, and invited me to join in their almost daily local church and community events.

My neighbour 'lent me' her daughter to help me find my feet. 10 year old June Rita showed me how to clean and cook a fish, wash clothes in a bucket, husk a coconut for the delicious milk and cream that is used in nearly every meal, and to while away the time in the evenings under one solar powered light.

Even though there was no TV or internet and not much to do, I was never lonely - in a village there is always something going on, often right outside your window.

The local school taught Kindy to Year 10. The school buildings are built by the community and parents give their time every Tuesday to maintain the school.

Students paddle to school from the surrounding islands or walk several kilometres from neighbouring villages. They sit three to each desk, and work hard on their school work every morning.

After school they go off to do gardening, collect firewood and do other jobs for their parents in the afternoon.

Everyone was always busy doing something, despite the fact that the intense tropical heat meant we all had to be careful not to do too much too quickly.

Each week at the school I would hold workshops with the teachers to show them how we teach and learn in an Australian school, and then I would help the teachers try out new techniques in their classrooms.

Most teachers in the Solomon's can't afford to go to University, so I did my best to share some of what I have learnt.

I was working with teachers and students who were so hardworking and keen to learn, but who may never get the chance to go further with their education. How lucky we are in Australia to have access to quality education.

I may have been the expert at school, but in all other aspects of life, the villagers politely ignored that I couldn't seem to do anything.



I didn't know how to light a fire from two sticks, or climb a tree to collect fruit. Every time I got into a dugout canoe I fell straight in the water, which was very embarrassing in a place where everyone learns to paddle at the same time as walk. I could only add fish to my vegetarian diet if someone brought me a spare one over.

When I tried to mow the grass with a one metre long 'bushknife', another essential household item that kids learn how to use before they are six, everyone ran away shouting 'helicopter'.

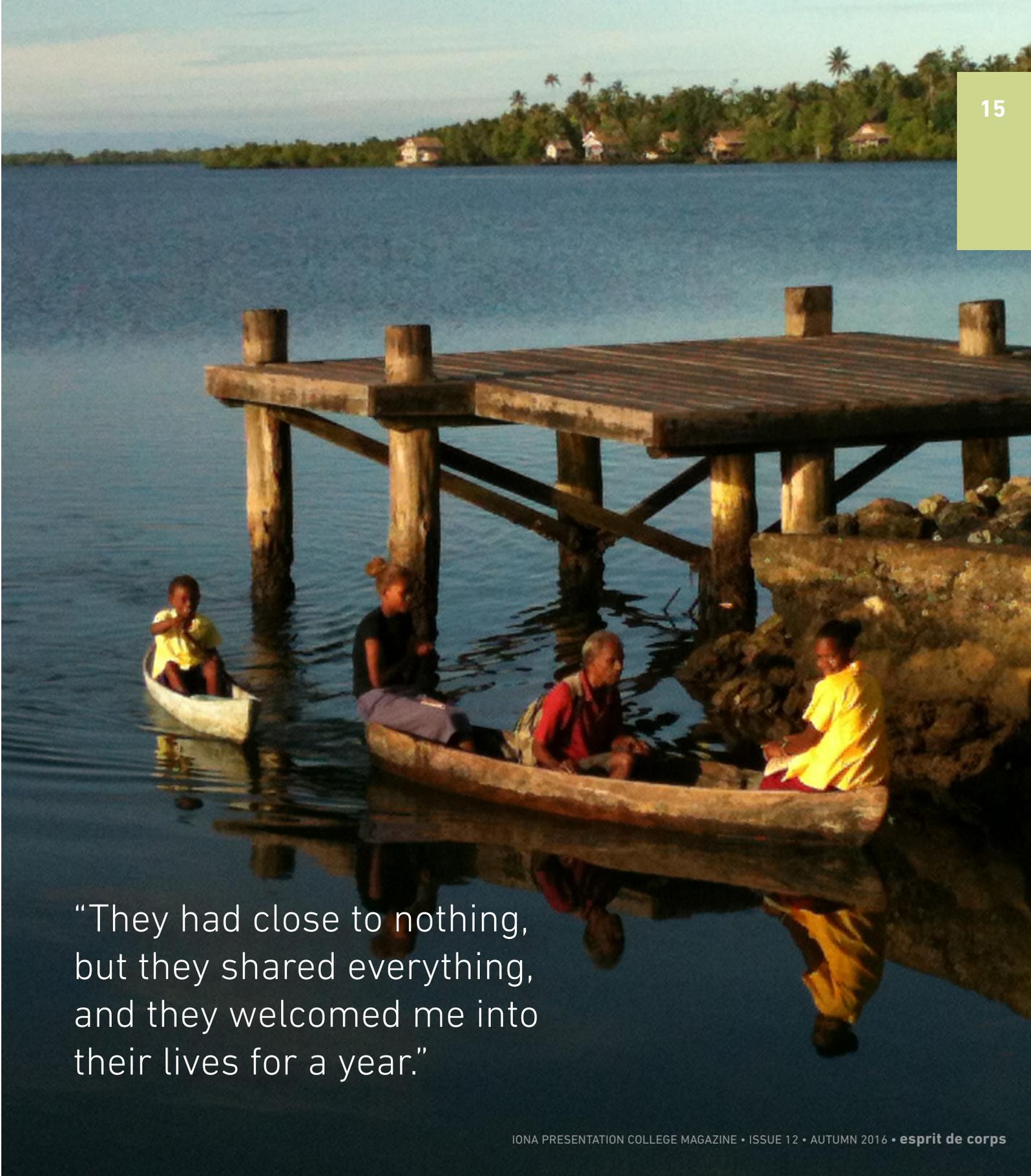
Despite all my faults, the villagers were more than happy to come over and talk to me for hours, delighted by the fact that their village was hosting this interesting stranger for a year.

I shall never forget the kindness and generosity of the people of the Solomon Islands. They had close to nothing, but they shared everything, and they welcomed me into their lives for a year.

As a volunteer I discovered what everyone who has ever volunteered understands: that you may be giving your time and experience but you will always receive much, much more in return than you will ever give.

**Rachel Naisbitt**

*Class of 1988*

A photograph of a group of people in a wooden boat on a body of water. The boat is positioned near a wooden pier structure. The water is calm, and the background shows a shoreline with trees and buildings. The scene is captured in the late afternoon or early morning, with soft lighting. The people in the boat are engaged in conversation, and the overall atmosphere is peaceful and communal.

“They had close to nothing,  
but they shared everything,  
and they welcomed me into  
their lives for a year.”



“I have been fortunate to experience the traditional Swiss culture; taste delicious foods, and learn a new language and new life skills. “



## Exchange to Switzerland

**Since graduating from Iona in 2015, I have been living in Switzerland for almost three months and am having the time of my life!**

Since my arrival in January, I have made every attempt to fully immerse myself into the Swiss way of life. I have been fortunate to experience the traditional Swiss culture; taste delicious foods, and learn a new language and new life skills. My host family and friends at high school have been so welcoming and encouraging, and have helped to make my transition into my new life so smooth.

One of my goals whilst I am living abroad is to learn as much as I possibly can! I am saying 'yes' to every opportunity because it is opening up so many doors! I have learnt how to ski, knit, sew and cook Swiss food. I have also been sledding, Schneeschuhlaufen (snowshoeing), hiking in the scenic mountains and have explored iconic landmarks and cities. I am really enjoying learning German and am able to speak and understand more each week. I have made several presentations and shared all about my life in Australia.

It is not only the tangible things that I have been fortunate enough to learn. I have gained confidence when meeting new people (especially when they speak a different language) and have learnt to adapt to a new culture and different situations.

For those of you who have a passion for trying new things and travelling, I highly recommend going on Rotary Youth Exchange.

**Tenneka Gorey**  
*Class of 2015*



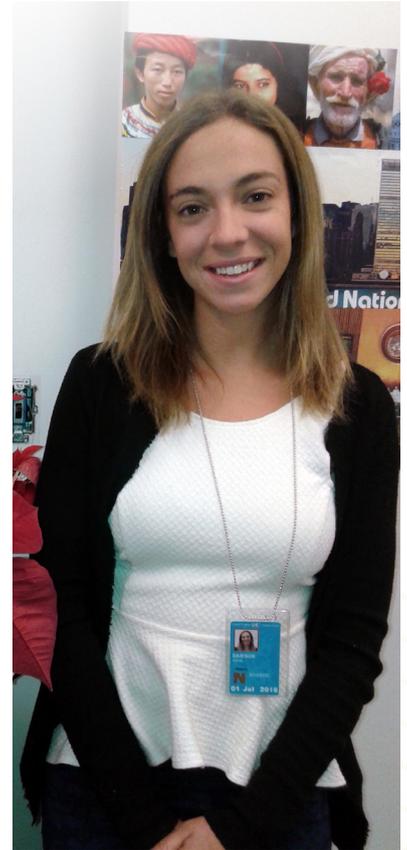
## Consulting with the UN

**On 1 April I flew to New York City to begin a six month internship for the International Presentation Association (IPA), a worldwide organisation of the Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary (PBVM).**

The IPA has had consultative status at the United Nations for the Economic and Social Council since 2000 and I will be assisting the UN representative Sr Elsa Muttathu with her work here, predominately focused on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

My work will stem from a human rights perspective and hopefully draw upon past experiences and activism regarding Indigenous rights in Australia, refugee rights and the rights of the woman and child.

**Olivia Dawson**  
*Class of 2010*



## Pursuing a Passion for Property

**Whilst studying at Iona I completed the INSTEP program. It had always been my dream to work with McGrath Estate Agents as a Real Estate Agent.**

After graduating in 2013, I went to Queensland to study my Real Estate Licence and work with McGrath Estate Agents. During this time, I was able to develop my skills as a Leasing Executive, Front Office Manager and Campaign Coordinator.

The values that underpin Iona, enabled me to find structure after leaving school so that I could go on to achieving my goals.

About a month ago I started working at McGrath Head Office in Sydney, where I work alongside one of Sydney's most elite agents.

I would like to extend a huge thank you to Mrs Pitos, Mr O'Meara and Mrs Easton, who helped me to set a great foundation so that I could go out into the world and live out my passion.

**Emma Hall**  
*Class of 2013*





## Wave Technology

**Hi Everyone! I graduated from Iona in 2008, after being there since Year 8, and had an amazing experience all throughout, especially in Year 12 when everyone was so tight-knit and when the IGSSA swimming flag became ours for the first time!**

I completed Year 12 subjects which allowed me to get in to a Bachelor of Environmental Engineering (Ocean Systems) at UWA alongside a Diploma in Modern Languages (Italian).

As part of my Bachelor's Degree we were required to complete three months of vacation work, which I did at Carnegie Wave Energy.

I then went on exchange to the University of Leeds for a Semester and continued working at Carnegie part time. I completed my undergraduate thesis in 2013 on the Preliminary Validation of Long-Term Global Wave Models for the South West of Australia.

Since finishing my undergraduate degree I have worked at Carnegie as an Analysis Engineer focusing on the environmental data obtained by Carnegie- primarily wave and weather data and the deployment of wave measurement devices. The data is used for wave modelling and site characterisation for projects, in particular the Perth Wave Energy Project and the upcoming CETO 6 Project, off Garden Island.

Alongside work I started my Masters in Environmental Science at UWA in September last year with the goal to learn more about Coastal Environmental Management and Conservation.

**Jess Kolbusz**  
*Class of 2008*



## Robotics, Taking You Places

**After graduating from Iona in December 2015 I flew over to Miami (USA) in March to carry out Work Experience as a Graphic Designer at my Uncle's company, Modern Robotics.**

I have now completed designs for their Robot Box (Spartan Robot Base Kit) and have created posters and postcards and assisted with web design and programming for their new website.

Shortly I am going to St Louis, Missouri to the FIRST World Robotics Championship competition and will soon be able to see what people really think of my work! The box designs are going to be sent out all around the world, which is amazing.

I have traveled a little bit since I have been here too- down to the Miami River, and the Everglades, with still many other places to go before I come home. I have also met some amazing and generous people along the way.

**Denique Russell**  
*Class of 2015*

## Iona takes on WAAPA

**Five members of the Class of 2015 are taking the Western Australian Academy of Performing Arts (WAAPA) by storm this year, studying in a range of courses.**

Congratulations to **Ellen Harvey** who is studying a Diploma in Stage Management; **Courtney Henri**, Bachelor of Performing Arts, majoring in Performance Making; **Rene Nadillo**, Costume Design; **Synaed Roche**, Diploma of Contemporary Music and **Bailey Spalding**, who is studying Classical Voice.

These former Ionians developed their passion for the Performing Arts whilst students at Iona and we wish them all the best in their studies and careers!





## Following the Footsteps to New Norcia

**On 6 September 2015 Donna Cooper (nee Mulcahy: Class of 1982) and her sister Julie Mussared (Class of 1984) set off from St Joseph's Church in Subiaco to begin the first day of the Camino Salvado, a pilgrimage from Subiaco to New Norcia.**

What began as Donna wanting to do something special to celebrate her 50th birthday turned into a special journey for the two sisters, along with a group of 22 others of faith, those with no faith and those seeking faith, from around Australia.

The seven day (approximately 170km) walk follows in the footsteps of Dom Rosendo Salvado, the Spanish Benedictine monk who was the founder and first Abbot of New Norcia.

The journey was many things; not only a physical challenge, but also a time of reflection, connection and renewal. The 'girls' found the pilgrimage to be a wonderful experience!

If anyone would like more information please visit <http://www.caminosalvado.com/>

**Julie Mussared**  
*Class of 1984*



## Giving Back on a Global Scale

**After leaving Iona in 2004, I completed a Bachelor of Psychology at Curtin University, with a fourth year thesis focusing on Children's Learning Difficulties.**

After completing my degree I applied for a Graduate program with the West Australian Government furthermore gaining a position in the Department of State Development's Graduate program.

Whilst working for this Department, not only did I learn a lot and meet great people I started to realise that my interests were in a 'people based' profession, so I looked for work in a related field and in turn gained a position in the Disability Services Commission as a Local Area Coordinator (LAC).

In my role as LAC I soon became an information source for families and individuals living with a disability. Although at times stressful and challenging the good parts of the job always outweighed the bad. Some of the fondest moments I have of my working life since leaving Iona are in this position.

Despite enjoying working as an LAC for two years I couldn't help but fight the desire to travel more. So it was with great enthusiasm that in May 2014 I was successful in gaining work as a nanny for a French family, enabling me to hone my French skills and experience a different culture.

Returning to Perth in 2014 after working for a French family and experiencing all that the French suburb of Saint-Germain en Laye had to offer, I then decided to save for my next overseas adventure. So after a few months of working full time in Perth in



a not for profit organization, I finally saved enough money to move to Barcelona in May 2015 with my partner of two years.

After nearly a year of living in Barcelona I am still in awe of this beautiful city. I live in the centre of Barcelona so I can walk to and from work everyday and take it all in.

Here in Barcelona I work as an English teacher at a local Academy, teaching a range of students from Kindergarten to Corporate. My youngest students are simply adorable and teaching the adults is heaps of fun!

Over the years I have developed a true passion for philanthropy and social work and will continue to pursue a career in this field. I'll also try to dance at least twice a week, one day travel to Cuba and South Korea and eventually have a family. If anyone can give me some suggestions on how to achieve all these things simultaneously, please, let me know!

**Gemma Hilditch**  
*Class of 2004*

“I have developed a true passion for philanthropy and social work.”



## **Alana Maratos**

Class of 2006

Since finishing school in 2006, Alana Maratos (nee Ambrogio) has completed a Bachelor of Arts (Double Major in Italian and English) and a Master of Teaching (Primary) at UWA and is now working as a primary school teacher. She has been lucky enough to have travelled around Africa and Europe and to have also helped teach English in Tanzania and Italy. On 11 July last year, she married Darren at The Basilica of Saint Patrick, and they are both enjoying building a life together.



## **Siajan Fredericksen**

Class of 2011

Siajan Fredericksen (Class of 2011) is excited to announce the new arrival of her baby girl! Her name is Bonnie, a canine now eight weeks old and 4kgs. She'll be taking some time off her studies to look after Bonnie, but is looking forward to the challenges of balancing family and work life.

**We really should catch up...**

## **2016 UPCOMING REUNIONS**

**30 YEARS** (CLASS OF 1986)

7 May 2016  
5.00pm - 7.00pm

**40 YEARS** (CLASS OF 1976)

3 September 2016  
3.00pm - 5.00pm

**GOLDEN GIRLS**

16 September 2016  
10.00am - 2.30pm

**20 YEARS** (CLASS OF 1996)

5 November 2016  
5.00pm - 7.00pm

## **2017 UPCOMING REUNIONS**

(Dates to be confirmed)

**YEAR 13 BREAKFAST**

(CLASS OF 2016)

**5 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 2012)

**10 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 2007)

**20 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1997)

**25 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1992)

**30 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1987)

**GOLDEN GIRLS MASS  
AND REUNION**

For further information regarding these Reunions, or to update your details, please contact Georgia Allen, [gallen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:gallen@iona.wa.edu.au)

## Stepping it up

The Class of 2015 did Iona proud by achieving the following outstanding results:

### SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

- 100% of students attained a WA Certificate of Education.
- A median ATAR of 87.30 with 57% of our students in the top tricile.
- 100% of students who studied a VET program completed their qualifications.
- 39 Certificate IVs (31 in Business and 8 in Preparation for Nursing).
- 2 Certificate III in Media.
- 2 Certificate III in Education Support.
- 8 students completing two Certificate IVs.
- 93.8% of students were offered a first preference for University courses.
- 130 students were offered places at the four public Universities and 13 students at a private University.
- 100% eligible for TAFE.





### **CERTIFICATES OF DISTINCTION**

(In top 0.5% in the subject in WA)

Rachel Apfel

Jemima Durmanich

Lauren Joyce

### **TOP PERFORMING CATHOLIC SCHOOL**

Biological Science

Materials Design and Technology

### **SCSA TOP PERFORMING SCHOOLS**

Biological Science

Drama

English

Italian

Religion and Life

Psychology

Media Production and Analysis

Visual Arts

“A median  
ATAR of  
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## Iona Girls Swim Their Way To Success

**Swimming continues to be a major focus for many of our students and staff at Iona, with team camaraderie and achieving your 'personal best' the main goals for the 2016 swimming season.**

All girls were encouraged to train through Term 4 and in early January and from here our squads and teams were selected.

The Iona spirit remains alive and strong and our outstanding results this year certainly reflected our students' and staff commitment.

This year the mighty Iona Swim team only just missed out on the top spot by a mere 41.5 points at the recent IGSSA Carnival.

PLACE	TEAM	POINTS
1	St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls	988.5
2	Iona Presentation College	947
3	Santa Maria College	923.5
4	Penrhos College	872.5
5	St Mary's Anglican Girls' School	863.5
6	Methodist Ladies' College	829
7	Perth College	791
8	Presbyterian Ladies' College	789

The Year level results were also spectacular and are as follows:

Year 7	8th	Year 8	2nd
Year 9	1st	Year 10	2nd
Year 11	2nd	Year 12	4th

The highlight from the Iona team was the Year 9, 4 x 50m Freestyle record (pictured right). The team of Chimene Cipriano (9 Moynihan), Sarah Overheu (9 O'Halloran), Jemima Horwood (9 Treacey) and Tessa Chapman (9 Moynihan) smashed the old record by over two seconds, formerly held by MLC, in an amazing 1.54.63.

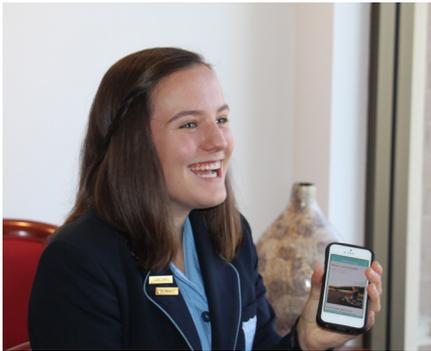
This time was the fastest time recorded by any freestyle relay in all the age groups (even by our Past Pupils). Additionally, in this relay, Jemima Horwood swam an elite time of 27.26 in the final leg. Congratulations!

Congratulations to all students and staff on their fantastic success in 2016, long may you all AIM, ASPIRE, ACHIEVE!



“The Iona spirit remains alive and strong.”





“The College is encouraged to see that young women, particularly here at Iona, understand the impact mental health has on our society...”

## Alexandra gets ‘Appy’ about Mental Health

**‘The Rich Task’, an initiative for all Year 8 students at Iona, is to complete a self-directed learning program and project reflecting on the principles of sustainability.**

Alexandra Prichard (9 Moynihan) however, took her task from 2015 one step further.

As part of her project Alexandra began developing a smart-phone application, “girlgonehappy” providing information and resources on mental health, targeted towards teenage girls. The application was created to break down social stigmas surrounding mental health and to promote a healthy, happy, and sustainable lifestyle for teenagers, raising awareness of mental health and its importance in everyday life.

Alexandra has recently finished production of her app and it is now live on the iTunes AppStore for the world to download. Alexandra’s successful initiative has featured in local print media; on Channel 7 News; she has been interviewed by Girlfriend Magazine for a feature of successful girls under the age of 16; and has been contacted by parenting advocate Maggie Dent, who is keen to support Alexandra and her initiative.

She has also created a website to support her app so that people can gain additional information. It can be accessed at the following link:

<http://girlgonehappy.weebly.com/>

The College is encouraged to see that young women, particularly here at Iona, understand the impact mental health has on our society and the importance of developing an understanding of these issues within the youth of today.

Please support Alexandra and download her app free from the iTunes Store: GirlGoneHappy.



## Embarking on a World Challenge

**While most students were celebrating the start of holidays and the conclusion of their exams, 32 girls and four staff, making up two teams, were heading to the airport to embark on the 2015 World Challenge Expedition to Thailand and Laos.**

The girls checked in and said goodbye to their parents and picked up 'their' budget money. That is correct- the girls had all the money and complete control over the trip!

They organised all of the accommodation, transport, meals and activities for the entire three weeks.

Travelling in a foreign country with a different language and planning logistics for a group of 17-21 was no mean feat, but the girls were extremely proficient- developing team work, demonstrating leadership and working efficiently to ensure that we always had food to eat and somewhere to stay.





Part of the expedition was a service component in which the girls spent time in a Laos Village, assisting the community to build a water tower, ablution block and helping to teach English.

Another component had the girls undertaking a challenging trek in the jungles of Thailand and staying in villages along the way. Together with the service and trekking components, the girls also experienced the culture, through the history, food and people, visited temples, elephant parks, waterfalls and marketplaces.

This unique opportunity requires a large amount of preparation, planning, research and organization and so the girls and staff are to be truly commended for their commitment and efforts.

**Megan O'Leary**  
*World Challenge Coordinator*



“I can’t put into words  
how proud I was to call  
myself an ex Ionian ”

- Past Pupil Sofia Watkins  
(Class of 2014) on attending *Annie*



## On Stage with Annie

**It’s been an exhilarating five months for the students and staff involved in this year’s College production, Annie. All of the hard work and preparation paid off for the cast, crew and production team, with all four shows selling out.**

Our talented girls also performed alongside members of the Iona Mathematics Department, and several other talented male students from other Perth Colleges.

Annie the Musical, featured some of Iona’s up and coming talent, guided by an experienced creative team. The vision for the show was directed by Iona’s Director of Performing Arts, Mr Matthew Aris, who commented, ‘I have genuinely been inspired by the work ethic and courage displayed by the students who gave up so much of their time and took extraordinary risks to stage this show.’

Working on her eighteenth Iona show, Coby Brant wowed the audience once again with her choreography. Aaron Wyatt successfully fulfilled his role as Musical Director. The costumes were designed by the very talented Kathryn Smith, the set designed by Nathan Weyers, vocal direction by Claire Williamson and lighting design by Kerrie Wilshusen.

The repeated comments from the wider community about the professionalism of the production are a definite credit to the cast, crew and production team.

Past Pupil, Sofia Watkins (Class of 2014) said, ‘I can’t put into words how proud I was to call myself an ex Ionian while walking out of the Regal Theatre recently. Not all schools find a way to have their staff members act alongside their students! What a wonderful idea, to show people it doesn’t matter how old or young you are, if you’re in Year 12 and have been dancing all of your life, or a Maths teacher- you can be part of something special. Good on you all for participating and making the most of the sense of community you have offered to you by Iona.’

**Molly Holohan**  
12 Treacey

**Nina Carcione**  
12 O’Halloran

## Home Away From Home

**Living away from home, on the other side of the world for six months, has impacted me in ways that will stick with me for life.**

I stayed in Villa Grove, Illinois with a loving host family and two brothers, Kale (13) and Gunner (10). This was especially different, as I've grown up in a house of predominantly girls, besides Dad.

I made the most amazing memories with my host family, and got to experience things I could never do here in Perth, like snow sledding in the backyard and making 's'mores'. I was taught many things about cars and motorbikes, like how to change a tyre and so much more.

The whole experience I had, living in a small country town (County) with 2000 people was completely different and the lifestyle was a lot more relaxed and fun.

As a Sophomore (Year 10 student) at Villa Grove High School, also known as the VG Devils, I studied seven subjects: Biology, US History, Theatre, English, Foods, Sociology and PE.

My classes were mixed with all different people from Freshmans (Year 9) to Seniors (Year 12), as the school had only 300 students.

At the Co-Ed Public School I attended, I made amazing friends who I still keep in touch with to this day. I was able to do the traditional American High School things like wear free dress to school every day, go to 'homecoming', watch the Friday night Varsity Football Games and sit in the notorious cafeteria for lunch!

In the beginning, I was so nervous travelling alone, but being put outside of my comfort zone was a life-changing opportunity and has taught me to try new things.

I was granted this opportunity through my application to Student Exchange Australia New Zealand, and it wouldn't have been possible without the support of my parents and Mrs Pitos.

**Alexandra Kenyon**  
*11 Treacey*



## An Outstanding Perspective in Production Arts

**We are very proud to announce that two of our highly successful Year 12 Production Arts students from the Class of 2015, Jaimee Porter and Isabel Turner, were recently accepted and exhibited work in the prestigious Year 12 Perspectives Program this year.**

Isabel is the first Media Production and Analysis student from Iona to be accepted into this highly esteemed exhibition. Her film follows five short vignettes, each of which focus on the random and in-discriminatory way that death impacts individuals within society. Isabel's outstanding cinematography and her clear artistic style make her film highly impactful.

Jaimee's artwork, 'Someone's Mum', was created by using objects found in her Grandmother's house such as jewellery, personal items and kitchenware. She then combined it with charcoal, beeswax and oil paint. Jaimee's artist statement reads: "My work portrays my Grandmother, who has been living with dementia for as long as I can remember. My work reflects what she might be feeling inside without memory of her past life experiences, uncertain of the present, let alone the future".

With the inclusion of Media, the Production Arts program continues to grow at Iona. Our ongoing engagement, participation and accomplishments in exhibitions and competitions such as these only continues to raise our profile and affirm the talents of all of our students.

### **Jennifer Winterbottom**

*Head of Production Arts*

*(Visual Arts, Design & Media, Production and Analysis)*



“My work  
portrays my  
Grandmother,  
who has been  
living with  
dementia for as  
long as I can  
remember.”



The Year 12 Perspectives Exhibition is featuring at the Art Gallery of Western Australia until 13 June 2016.

“...no matter what the students’ interest, expertise or passion there is an opportunity for all girls to demonstrate their ability to lead, motivate and mentor”





## Ionians - Making Great Leaders

**At Iona there are many and varied opportunities for our young women to grow as leaders in their own right.**

The success and effectiveness of our young women who embrace their leadership potential is not determined by their popularity or profile but by their service to others, and in the spirit of our Presentation ethos.

Our girls understand that leadership at Iona is the result of a willingness to commit to a wide range of College activities and is the result of a genuine interest in contributing to the life of the College.

Whether this is through a Student Leadership role on the Student College Council or as a Year Captain, House Captain, House Representative or through the Boarding Community Council, opportunities exist for all of our students to develop in their leadership journey.

The extensive array of Co-curricular opportunities on offer for every girl at the College means that no matter what the students' interest, expertise or passion there is an opportunity for all girls to demonstrate their ability to lead, motivate and mentor.

To develop leadership skills, staff at Iona provide many opportunities for students to attend workshops and conferences such as the GRIP Leadership Conference. Here they learn some very important skills: how to motivate others, work together as a team and make meetings and events dynamic.

They learn the importance of using verbal and non-verbal techniques to communicate successfully and how effective body language can be.

All girls are strongly encouraged to take an active role in their own lives both at school and in their own community, as inspired by the teachings of our foundress, Venerable Nano Nagle.



“...students across all Year levels are engaging in learning programs and activities aimed to increase their interest in STEM related fields...”

## Igniting STEM at Iona

**As part of Iona Presentation College's commitment to a STEM focus (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics), students are supported in their development of skills in cross-disciplinary, critical and creative thinking, problem solving and digital technologies, which are essential in many 21st century occupations.**

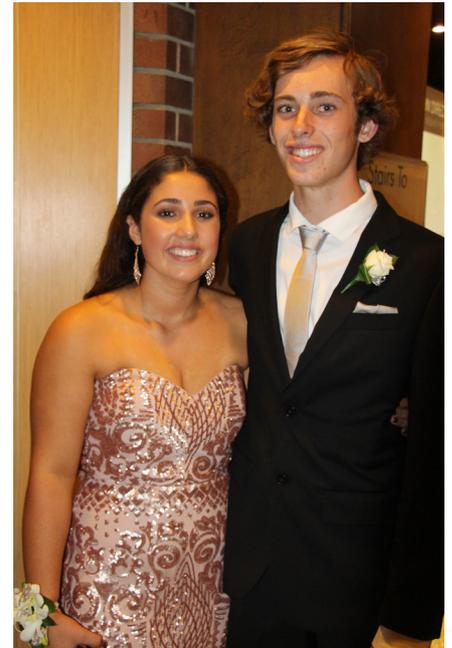
Iona Presentation College students across all Year levels are engaging in learning programs and activities aimed to increase their interest in STEM related fields, whilst improving problem solving and critical analysis skills, giving them foundations which enable them to engage with, and succeed in, the world beyond the school gate.

Within the curriculum Iona girls engage in all areas of STEM. Challenge Science offers to Years 9 and 10 students the opportunity for the girls to study many facets of the science curriculum, not otherwise covered comprehensively in the core science classes. In these classes the girls engage in Coding through Robotics; construction and programming, engineering studies leading to 3D printing and, Engineering and Astronomy mentoring through programs with WA Universities. Epigenetics is a new branch of genetics that the girls are also studying.

The Year 8 elective, ILSA, provides the girls with experience with 3D Computer Aided Design (CAD), Animation technologies, and the study and application of Nanotechnology. Social Physics, a relatively new branch of science will become part of this course next year.

As part of Iona's co-curricular program, students participate in many Mathematical opportunities, including The Australian Mathematics Trust Challenge, Enrichment and Olympiad competitions, with Computational Algorithmic Thinking competition being new this year. Mathematics Mentor is offered where girls are challenged and engaged in unique and challenging mathematical problems and stretched beyond the Year 12 level of Mathematics, and younger students are extended in their use of the Classpad.

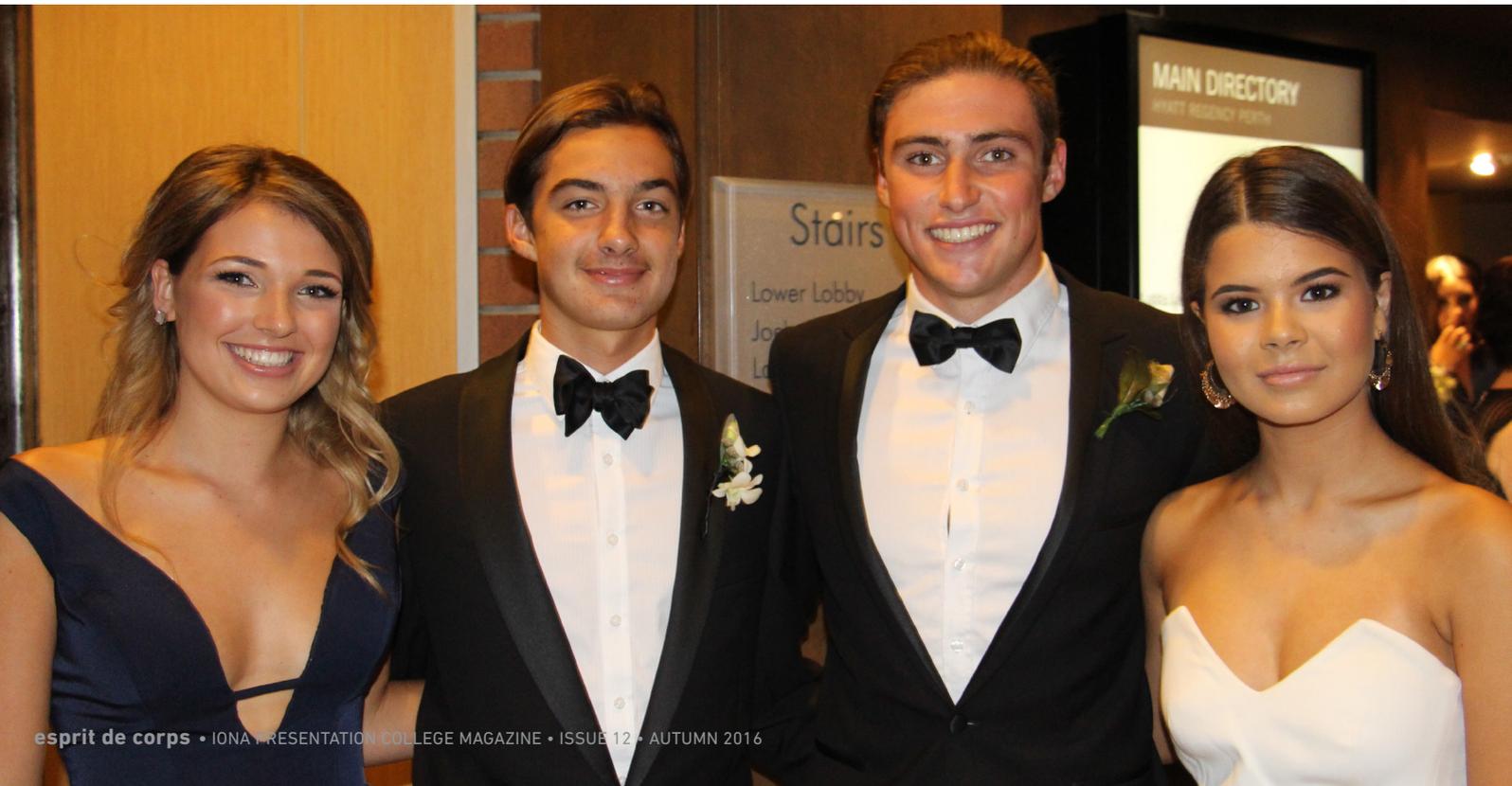
Participating in the da Vinci Decathlon and the Innovation Festival both enable to girls to engage in STEM opportunities, as does the Australian National Chemistry Competition, Big Science Competition and the National Youth Science Forum, all of which our students have the chance to be involved in.

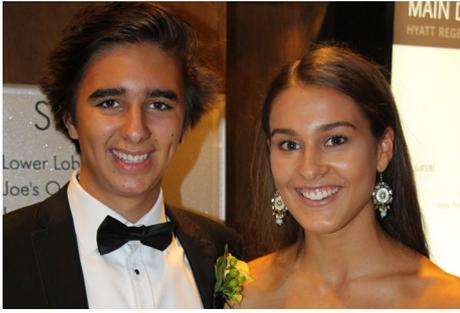


## A Winter Wonderland

3 March was the evening all the Year 12s had been counting down for months. It was the night of our Year 12 Ball, the Winter Wonderland we had all been waiting for. The night rolled around and it was definitely one to remember. All the girls looked gorgeous in their gowns and their dates looked 'dapper' and were dressed to impress. Walking into the venue was an experience like no other, the snow falling from the sky and the blue lighting and décor really made The Hyatt spectacular. The music was fantastic and together we all danced the night away.

**Cody Ritchie**  
*12 Columba*







“By coming along to  
 our annual Quiz Night,  
 you will be helping our  
 Parent Council...”

## Committed to our Community

The Parent Council's aim in 2016 is once again to assist the College to fulfil its educational responsibilities and provide assistance in the building of a strong and supportive community of parents, teachers and students.

This year the Parent Council hopes to further develop the special interest groups at Iona, all of which play a significant role in helping to support our school community. Ranging from the Friends of Music, Friends of Sport, Men of Iona, Iona Ministry, Parent Networks and the Boarder Parent Group, these groups will once again work closely with staff and students to assist in the running of events and learning programs here at Iona.

In the spirit of Catholic cooperation and commitment to Iona's Presentation ethos, the Iona Parent Council will once again host several events in 2016. By coming along to our annual Quiz Night and Movies on the Green, you will be helping our Parent Council to build our community and also raise additional funds that will all help our girls.

If you are interested in joining one of our Parent Groups please contact Georgia Allen on [gallen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:gallen@iona.wa.edu.au). We would be thrilled to have you on board!

# Annual Giving: You can make a difference

## From the Principal

We are proud of our long and rich history of service at Iona, established by the Presentation Sisters in the example of our foundress, Nano Nagle.

The Presentation Sisters, who have given so much to each of us, have been for more than one hundred years a living example of generosity within our community. It is this spirit of giving passed on to generations of students that resounds most prominently with our graduates and stays with Ionians long after they have left the College gates for the last time.

Through our Annual Giving Program, we invite you to contribute to the education of future Ionians by supporting one of our future funds; Building, Library or Scholarships. These funds, allow the growth of Iona beyond what can be supported solely by fee income. All donations through this Annual Giving Program are tax deductible.

Your contribution, whatever the size, will help continue the Iona tradition of providing an education that will empower our students to be discerning, self-reliant, technologically savvy leaders who are able to make positive contributions to the lives of others.

**Anne Pitos**

*Principal*

## Donors

Iona Presentation College would sincerely like to thank the following families who have generously donated between 2015 and 2016.

Kort Family	J A Hughan	F & D Tomasi	M Peris
C Sullivan	N Patterson	Y Johan	P Valentine
A Pitos	A Hube	B Adams	S Schubert
J Hughan			

**Thank you kindly for your support**

## Scholarship Fund- Nano Nagle Bursaries

Nano Nagle has inspired generations to reach out to those who are less fortunate and this continues to be an essential part of our vision for Iona. By continuing this legacy and supporting Iona in the form of a financial donation to our Scholarship Fund, you can assist us to provide an Iona education to a student that might otherwise not be in a position to receive it.

## Building Fund- Nagle Hall Refurbishment

The Iona campus, founded more than one hundred years ago has grown beyond imagining and in coming years, there is much to do to improve Iona's facilities in line with our Capital Development Plan.

With your generosity, we hope to refurbish and transform Nagle Hall into a multipurpose performance and teaching space for future Ionians.

## Library- iCentre Resources

The Library or iCentre as its known, is a vital resource centre and learning space designed to provide a technologically rich environment for our students .

Your donation to our Library Fund will help provide resources to ensure Ionians will continue to graduate with a well-rounded education, confident to embrace technological opportunities well into the future.



Established in 1907 by the Presentation Sisters. A Catholic secondary day and boarding College for girls.

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