



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE
ISSUE 15 • SPRING 2017

esprit

de corps

Iona girls make a Difference

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Copy: Community Relations and
Development Team

Editors: Georgia Allen
Cathy Broad
Laura Kendall
Sr Mary Mackin

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Front Cover: (L-R) Sr Catherine Warner and
Kathleen Bacich (née Glynn)
(Both Class of 1967)

Back Cover: Class of 2017

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ESPRIT DE CORPS
ISSUE 15 • SPRING 2017



Next issue:

Where in the world are you?

Past Pupils, please share with us stories of your journey. Where have you been and where are you going? Together, help us to grow our school and come on a journey with us, from our humble beginnings to our exciting future!



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message from
THE PRINCIPAL



This year the College has focused significantly on the value of Social Justice which has reflected the myriad of events and activities our girls have willingly undertaken.

Together, students have honed their efforts and have worked hard towards developing the value, that as Ionians we all hold so dear; 'to begin taking an active role in defending personal rights by showing compassion and working together to help those in need.'

MAD Week, an initiative carried out with the enthusiasm of our 2017 College Leaders, Lauren Fleming and Maddy Smyth, involved just that. Activities ranging from the 'Ponytail Project' to cake stalls, to raffles, proved exciting and rewarding for our students and had additional benefits to the wider Community.

By emulating Nano's motto, 'deeds not words', our students continue to foster the value of, service above self, and that striving to make a difference, whatever that means to them, really does count to preserving Nano's ideals.

This culture of 'service to others' has developed over the 110 years of Iona's history, and continues to have many positive implications, thus shaping the lives of many of our Past Pupils, who are also on their own life journey.

In this latest edition of the Esprit de Corps you will read about how so many of our Past Pupils have found a way to give back in their daily lives, both in the work they do and by the lives they lead.

In a fitting tribute, marking the Presentation Sisters' 110 years of service to Iona, their commitment was acknowledged with an auspicious occasion, a Mass, whereby Archbishop Timothy Costelloe SDB thanked the sisters once again, for their vibrant and faithful expression of the spirit.

Since their arrival in 1907 and establishing Iona in 1908, these pioneering sisters instigated the legacy that the school now adopts. The Presentation Sisters instilled Christian values in our students and certainly established Iona's foundation as a Catholic learning community. And now, in the transfer of governance to Archbishop Costelloe, our task will be to have Nano's lantern burn ever brightly.

We thank Congregation Leader Sr Kathleen Laffan and all the Presentation Sisters for their tireless work, commitment, love and support, and together we will continue to celebrate their journey, taken together.

Presentation Night 2017, held again at the Perth Convention and Entertainment Centre, provided another moving homage to the Sisters.

I would like to thank all involved in preparing another momentous occasion, celebrating the influence of the Sisters to our College, along with the Graduation of the Class of 2017, and the achievements of excellence awarded to so many of our students.

I look forward to seeing you all at upcoming reunions and events and please remember to keep us informed of your whereabouts and the stories you have to share.

Enjoy Esprit de Corps, Spring 2017.

God bless to you all.

Anne Pitos
Principal

“From very small and humble beginnings with an enrolment of about 30 by the end of 1908, Iona has now grown to a projected enrolment of well over 1000 in 2018.”

From the Archives...

Passing on the Lantern

During Nano's life-time the Presentation Sisters established schools for the poor, homes for aged women and the fallen, and trained catechists to send out on missions. Emphasising a broad education as vital, the Sisters' educated students from all socio-economic demographics.

From very small and humble beginnings with an enrolment of about 30 by the end of 1908, Iona has now grown to a projected enrolment of over 1000 in 2018.

The Buckland Hill property, known as Chateau Perseverance, was sold to the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Perth, Matthew Gibney, for the Presentation Sisters in 1907. The house had a commanding position with views to the river and the ocean. On 11 September 1907, the Sisters moved to the chateau and so the Iona Presentation College journey began in Mosman Park.

For over 80 years the Iona Principal was a Sister from the Presentation Congregation. In keeping with the times, lay staff increased over the years and finally lay principals were introduced in the 1990s. Sister Consuela Worthing was our last Sister Principal (1983-1991).

A number of our Iona students became Presentation Sisters. The first was Diana Loubere of the Class of 1924, who became Sr Carmel. Since then at least twenty others have continued the Presentation tradition in this way.

The Sisters will continue to be a strong presence in our Iona family. We thank them for the way they have nurtured and shaped so many young lives over the years. We will hold you in our hearts and prayers as we all go forward.

God Bless you all.

Dr Margaret Pember
College Archivist/Historian



“...we were
welcomed by
this tiny sister
who had the joy
and love of God
shining in her
eyes.”

The Power of One

On returning to India in 1965, I was able to visit my brother Frank S.V.D who was on Mission north of Kolkata (formerly known as Calcutta). I was met at the airport by Frank and two missionary friends. All three were anxious to meet Saint Teresa of Kolkata (Mother Teresa).

We made our way to the Convent and were welcomed by this tiny sister who had the joy and love of God shining in her eyes.

We were invited to a large building with rows of mats down each side-these were for the destitute, poor men. To walk among them was a shock and also a blessing.

Further on, a home for women. Returning to the convent, Mother Teresa placed a tiny infant in my arms- this child was picked up in the rubbish just that morning. They had many small children who they tried to keep alive with small amounts of liquid. That tiny infant died not long after.

Mother Teresa invited Frank to offer Mass the following morning at 5.00am. I felt so blessed to be present with the community at this Mass, it was most certainly a culture shock as well as an enormous blessing for me.

This enduring image of Mother Teresa is of a smiling woman, eyes bright with God's love.

Sr de Lourdes Mansfield pbvm



SPECIAL FEATURE

Cemented in the rich history of Iona and its Presentation ethos is the value of service to others.

Read how some of our Past Pupils have found ways to 'give back' and make a difference. The journeys they have taken, often in leadership roles and in some ways how the experience and joy of giving, has not only nourished their souls but has come as a big surprise, even to them!

Pictured here Layla Goncalves (10 O'Dowling) and students from Warlawurra Catholic PS during the Halls Creek Immersion 2017

Making Service Count

It has been quite a few years since I studied at Iona, but the 'Iona-girl' mentality never goes away. I know I smile when I see girls in the distinctive light blue summer uniform and hat making their way to and from school.

In my work life I am currently the State Manager for WA for Chartered Accountants Australia and New Zealand. I and my team of 12 staff look after the 6,500 CA members, and further 1,200 provisional members going through the CA program, here in WA.

When I was contacted by the school a few months back to host some of the Accounting students and tell them about Chartered Accounting and career options in business, I was very excited. I even dug out the old London Tan blazer complete with badges still attached, to show what us Old Girls had to endure, before the winter uniform was changed to a better colour!

It was a privilege to speak to the Accounting students about the importance of professional associations and networks, and it got me thinking about the first professional networks that we form, those of our friends and classmates in high school. It is important to know you have people you can rely on and call upon, and the Old Girl system definitely works for that!

I continue to look for opportunities to give back – whether to the school, or to the community. For example, I am currently working with the Financial Toolbox, offering financial literacy options to women in different life circumstances; I sit on a not-for-profit Board, and I also mentor high school and tertiary students through the Smith Family and Curtin Almuni.

It is up to us, Ionians past and present, to live the ethos of service to others. The ideals of the Presentation Sisters don't finish when you graduate at the end of Year 12, and the Iona community spirit remains strong within us all, throughout our lives.

Aymee Mastaglia (née Bartlett)
Class of 1994



Giving Back, the 'Write' Way

A couple of years ago at the grand old age of forty-three, I decided I'd better get my finger out and try my hand at writing fiction. I'd spent the previous decade or so at home with my two daughters and before that had a steady career in media and public relations.

In 2015, I was deep into writing a womens' fiction novel when my daughter came home from school and told me the story of Amanda Todd. Amanda was a Canadian teen who tragically lost her life in 2012 after being extensively cyberbullied. Throwing the novel aside, I gave myself over to writing a novella for teens—I didn't want another teen to die because they felt hopeless and lost.

This year I had the opportunity to return to Iona during the CBCA Book Week to share the message of my book, 'Jenna's Truth' and to talk to the Year 9 cohort a little about the life of an author. I wanted the girls to know that being an author is hard work and one where you need to get used to a high level of rejection. At the same time, I wanted to encourage them to strive for their ambitions and dreams.

Interestingly, it is often in the giving back that we are most rewarded.

German social philosopher, Erich Fromm expressed the joy and reward of giving back so well when he wrote: "Giving is the highest expression of potency. In the very act of giving, I experience my strength, my wealth, my power."

Nadia King (née Hamid)

Class of 1989





A 'Principal' Role

I am currently the Principal of Dili International School (www.distimor.org), something that I never planned or imagined.

For me leadership training started while I was at Iona. In particular, the years I had Sandra Gorringe as a Drama Teacher. Between being in productions and drama classes, her words of wisdom and constant encouragement left a huge impression on me. Sandra always encouraged me to be the best I could be. She expected a lot, but only because she believed we were all capable.

I was only average at school and didn't do so well in the final Year 12 exams, but Sandra ensured I knew I was not just average and was able to be whatever I wanted to be. I could never have been Anna in *'The King and I'* while in Year 12, without knowing she was there to guide and lead me.

I attribute my time as a teacher and now as a Principal, to having been at Iona and in particular my involvement in Music and Drama. Receiving the Drama prize in Grade 12 and having the confidence to articulate and express myself is what got me into university. It was my CV and interview, not in my exam results.

I am extremely proud of the work my team and I carry out at DIS. We aim to inspire caring students to achieve their full potential as reflective lifelong learners who contribute in local and global communities with confidence, empathy and integrity. A philosophy I developed whilst at Iona, and that I try to emulate not only personally but in my work-life too.

Olivia Soares (née Lavis)
Class of 1997

Photo courtesy of Hugh Milley

Helping to Bridge the Gap

Teach Learn Grow (TLG) is a not-for-profit organisation which seeks to bridge the gap in educational disparity between metropolitan and rural education throughout Western Australia.

My first experience with TLG was in December of 2016 when I attended Brookton District High School as a volunteer tutor. I then travelled to several rural schools throughout WA conducting free one on one mathematics tuition to the students there.

On this trip, my eyes were opened to the devastating disparity in the

standard of education that many of these rural students receive, and I made a promise to continue making a difference, once the program had ended.

On return to Perth I applied to join TLG's executive committee, of which I am now manager of the Recruitment Team. In my role, I am responsible for overseeing the entire recruitment process and ensuring that the most inspiring volunteers are recruited. This December, I will be embarking on my second Rural Program, this time as a coordinator, to Mullewa District High School.

The notion of 'giving back' is one which strongly defines the way in which I live my life.

Iona instilled a desire in me to do all within my capabilities to help those less fortunate than myself. I act on this desire everyday through the work I do for TLG. By giving back to these students I am able to bring them one step closer to having the same privileges and standard of education that I was blessed with at Iona.

Maddie Stillman
Class of 2015

Maddie Stillman pictured below, third row, third from left.





“The Presentation Sisters are the ultimate example of service to others and of giving back to their communities.”

Deeds Not Words

I have very fond memories of my years as a student at Iona, so much so that I felt it was a “no brainer” to send our two daughters here (Madeline, Year 12 and Annabelle, Year 10).

We were always told, that as soon as you passed through those front gates on Palmerston Street, we were all equal, no matter where you had come from, and whatever your family’s situation, we are all here now, and we are here for each other. It was the instilling of this “service above self” attitude that I always wanted for my own girls.

Working as a Personal Assistant, I went on to work and travel overseas. Upon returning to Perth, I completed further studies to become a Finance Broker. I have had many fulfilling experiences in my professional life however, the most satisfying career I have ever had is motherhood and parenting. If you ever need to be reminded of “service above self”, become a mum!

As a family, we have thoroughly enjoyed being part of the Iona community since Kindy in 2004, and with our eldest

daughter Maddy graduating this year, it’s been a steadfast commitment full of lasting friendships, happy memories and heart-warming moments.

I particularly enjoy catching up with the amazing Presentation Sisters, some of whom taught me at school. It’s always so nice to hear their stories, and a definite reminder of how their selfless and tireless work in the community has made such a difference to people’s lives both here and abroad. They are the ultimate example of service to others and of giving back to their communities and it’s because of them, and their founder Nano Nagle, that “deeds not words” is the cornerstone of life as an Ionian. I have enjoyed the opportunity to give back to Iona and with Annabelle in Year 10, I will continue to do so for a few more years to come.

Kate Smyth (née Morgan)
Class of 1986

Passion For Justice

I often think that it was the values instilled in us at Iona that developed my passion for advocacy and access to justice.

After graduating from Iona in 2008, exactly 30 years after my mum Michelle Walsh in 1978, I went on to study a Bachelor of Law/Arts at the University of Western Australia. Throughout university, I worked and volunteered for a number of different not for profit organisations, including an Aboriginal youth program in the Goldfields, an Aboriginal education program, Legal Aid and the Cape York Aboriginal Land Council in Cairns.

After graduating university, I moved to Sydney where I now work as a lawyer for the Aboriginal Legal Service. I work in the Care and Protection and Family Law Practice, representing parents in the Children's Court who have had children removed from their care. The Aboriginal Legal Service advocates for Aboriginal children who are taken from their families to be placed with family or within their community. As lawyers, we challenge agencies working with Aboriginal families to maintain children's connection to culture and identity.

I recently had the opportunity to travel to New York City, to observe in meetings with child welfare experts and community organisations. The aim of the trip was to learn about innovative strategies used in NYC that could be replicated in Australia to reduce the overrepresentation of Aboriginal children entering the child protection / out of home care system. It was inspiring to listen to stories of lawyers, judges, politicians and members of the community, all advocating for equality and law reform for vulnerable and disadvantaged people.

I am really excited to be working in community law, and hope to continue to learn and build skills in order to be a strong advocate for social justice.

Sophie Green
Class of 2008



100 Years of Women in Policing

In 2010, Yola Holden (née Hube- Class of 1988), truly had her eyes opened to the horrific work of a Police officer within the Major Crime department of the WA Police Force. She witnessed the horrific world of homicide investigation, the city life of police officers and the huge workloads that the officers endured.

But for Yola, it was an opportunity to give back. To support those police officers, both professionally and personally, making it an extremely rewarding experience.

Yola now works as an Intelligence Analyst within the Human Source Management Unit and has this advice for those wishing to go into the Police Force.

'Women in WA Policing are amazing. From Assistant Commissioner to new recruits. Remember: always to talk to each other, never doubt your capabilities and continue to challenge yourself as an individual. Policing is so diverse and there is always a place for new faces and those just willing to give it a go.'

We congratulate Yola on her amazing work and dedication to the Police Force and the people of WA. Your work will truly inspire Ionians into the future.

(Information and photo sourced courtesy of www.police.wa.gov.au)



Saved by Kindness

Prior to joining Iona in 1976, my education was interesting and challenging. As a research scientist and university lecturer, my father's academic pursuits had the family constantly on the move, and by the end of Year Ten I had attended seven different schools! Thankfully, Iona was the eighth school, and where I finally settled.

The constant school changes involved making new friends and dealing with mismatched school curriculums which did not improve my self-confidence or academic progress. In fact, on arriving at Iona, I quickly developed a reputation with the Sisters for my propensity to arrive late and sometimes not at all.

The Iona Sisters saw through this reckless behaviour and rather than punish, they focused on my future potential. They approached my mother and persuaded her to send me to boarding school. By then my mother had separated from my father and as such, as a single mother of five, she was concerned about how she would manage the fees. The Iona Sisters, determined to deal with my reckless behaviour, made arrangements to ensure no financial obstacles stood in the way.

The determination and kindness of the Sisters saved me from academic failure.

In 1977, I graduated from Iona and gained admission to the University of Western Australia where I initially studied Economics and Languages, later moving to the Law Faculty. I have enjoyed a happy and successful career since graduating from Law in 1984.

At the age of 29, I was appointed as Solicitor-in-Charge of the Family Law Division of Legal Aid, Western Australia. At 34, I became the youngest female to be made President of The Family Law Practitioners Association of Western Australia and, at the age of 35, I was invited by the Chief Judge of the Family Court of Western Australia to accept a 12-month appointment as an Acting Magistrate.

Later, aged 36, I became a partner in the law firm, Ilbery Barblett, and in 1999 I returned to the Family Court as a permanent full time Magistrate where I have worked ever since.

In those important years of 1976 and 1977, Iona Presentation College gave me the gift of understanding, acceptance and encouragement. The generosity of the school and its leaders created opportunities for me which might otherwise have passed me by.

I have never underestimated the importance of the opportunity given to me by Iona and by my Catholic education. I have tried to demonstrate the same qualities of acceptance and understanding by giving back the gifts I received, and by helping others to create opportunities for themselves.

I have endeavoured to give back to my community by teaching Religious Education and running a Sacramental Program for five years at my local parish church. I have also worked with a number of charitable organisations. Between 2012 and 2016, I was a Board Member of the Heart, Lung Transplant Foundation of Western Australia. I worked with surgeons, nurses, transplant recipients and their families raising awareness of organ donation and fund raising for the purchase of medical equipment.

As a cancer survivor myself, I have also undertaken pastoral work with young women diagnosed with cancer.

My religious and academic upbringing has been a gift from God and a gift that I hope to return in any way that I can.

Maintaining my connection with Iona Presentation College, and its community, is a big part of that.

Lisa Stewart (née Podger)
Class of 1977





A First-Class Education

Since graduating from Iona in 2009, it has become more apparent to me just how privileged I was to receive an Iona education. The education provided to me whilst at Iona was first class. Not only for its strong academic focus, but for its well-rounded approach in other areas of education too—from Sport, to Culture, Well-Being and Social Justice. Iona continues to instil in its students an understanding of social issues and the crucial importance of 'giving back'. Ionians are privileged to have access to exceptional teachers and resources, and the opportunities to develop academically and as well-rounded individuals.

In my field of law, there are many vulnerable groups who have limited or no access to legal assistance or representation and so, I'm fortunate that my employer has a significant focus on pro-bono work and community involvement. This has given me the opportunity to go on secondment to community legal centres and to assist in providing legal services to the homeless, and those seeking asylum in Australia.

For students and graduates of Iona, there are many ways to use your skills to give back to your community. It might be tutoring for under-privileged students, or helping to run Art, Drama, Dance or Sport Lessons in your area. These activities can be fun and rewarding, and they help you to build on the skills you gained whilst at Iona. I encourage you, as a former Ionian, to make the most of your Iona education and find your own way to give back to your community and the world.

Louisa Harris
Class of 2009

Learning from Teaching

When I graduated from Iona in 2010, I knew I wanted to be a teacher. I even recall telling my Drama teacher, Mr Aris, that this was my plan, but that I wanted to explore something different first. 'Seventeen-year-old me' thought this meant studying a commerce degree at UWA.

At the end of Year Twelve, I volunteered on an Edmund Rice Camp. This experience completely changed my life and gave me the opportunity to actively contribute to my community by volunteering on camps for disadvantaged and at-risk children.

I later went on to work for the organisation for three and a half years, managing a program in the Pilbara and Mid-West regions. It was there that I found the opportunity to 'explore something different.'

This journey then led me to study Teaching.

Today, I am a teacher at Clontarf Aboriginal College, Waterford where, as a trained primary school teacher I teach mostly Year 7s and 8s,

Whilst at times teaching can be challenging, I absolutely love coming to school each day. The students I teach are full of life and are constantly teaching me something new. We have students who travel to Clontarf from all over the country, so I feel lucky to be regularly learning about new language groups and cultures. The love of learning demonstrated by the students in my Junior classes reminds me why I love teaching so much. The boys in my Junior Maths class often beat me to my classroom every day, ready to play a game of financial bingo!

One of the greatest experiences provided to me while working at Clontarf, has been the opportunity to work alongside so many incredible Aboriginal staff members. I am so grateful for their assistance in making my lessons relevant and exciting, as well as culturally appropriate.

In 2018, I will be taking up a position at St Mary's College in Broome. I am extremely excited to use what I have learnt from Clontarf and apply it to my new role in the Kimberley region.

Courtney George
Class of 2010

(Courtney, pictured below, second from left)



Golden Girls

Was it really fifty years since we walked through the Iona grounds? Here were girls greeting us who were old enough to be our granddaughters! The uniforms of 1967 had been revamped twice since our schooldays, there was barely a trace of the old “London Tan” and the gloves were long gone. The school grounds had been completely remodeled and it was difficult to place old classrooms, but there seemed to be a constant stream of memories that were as fresh as yesterday.

Our fifty-year reunion for the class of 1967 was about to begin. It was a slightly unnerving experience trying to reconcile older faces with the 17 year old girls we once were but the nametags were a God send, and we had a wonderful time renewing old friendships, catching up on the intervening years and recalling school days over a beautifully prepared morning tea.

Mass followed in the old church which I could remember being built when I was in Primary School and was the pride and joy of Father (later Monsigneur) Murphy. The service was delightful with the voices of the Iona school choir and performance by the liturgical dancers. Mrs Anne Pitos, the Principal of Iona, welcomed the Class of '67 into the “Golden Girls” and presented each member with a gold pin.

Lunch was a delicious buffet which was greatly appreciated, but didn't for one second interrupt the constant chatter and laughter of the ninety Golden Girls.

It was wonderful catching up with all the nuns, and particularly the nuns from our own Class of '67, Sr Cathy Warner and Sr Frances Hayes. There were some members of the '67 class who were unable to attend but we remember them with love and hope everyone is available to celebrate our 70th birthdays in 2020!

On behalf of all the ladies attending and especially the class of 1967, I'd like to say thank you so much to all the organisers, school children and volunteers who participated in making this day such a memorable, warm and happy occasion.

Lesley Dobson (née Wray)

(Class of 1967)





Class of 1977

It was a wonderful opportunity for the Class of 1977 to get together recently on the grounds of Iona at our 40-year Reunion.

Special thanks to Anne Pitso and the Community Relations and Development Team for organizing the event, and to Sister Mary and Sister Lucy for their attendance as well, it was really special to have you both there.

Everyone present made such an effort to attend, especially those class members who now reside interstate and in country Western Australia.

I asked all in attendance if they could please make contact with just one class member for our next Reunion and then we should achieve 100% attendance at our 50th, which would be fantastic!

We all felt the absolute importance of staying connected in this ever-changing world and were also so thrilled to help promote the wonderful work that Iona continues to do in educating girls for life.

Deborah Brady
(Class of 1977)





Managing a database of over 7000 alumni is a huge task and at times we lose contact with our IPPA for various reasons. This recent inclusion of a photographic baby montage in several local newspapers helped us to get in contact with the Class of 1977 again, ensuring a wonderful turnout to their 40-year Reunion.



Class of 1997

It was wonderful to catch up with the Past Pupils of 1997, who attended our 20 year reunion on 11 November. Chatting amongst old friends, I couldn't help acknowledge what an impressive bunch of women I was amongst! From health care professionals, educators, accountants, home makers, business owners dedicated mothers and more, the room was alive with conversation about what we have achieved over the last two decades.

We were treated to a tour of the College. Whilst there are nooks and crannies that I remembered like the back of my hand, other aspects of the grounds and buildings have evolved beyond recognition. I felt so proud to be affiliated with the school which stands impressive and proud.

Thank you to Mrs Pitos for hosting this event, Ms Herley (the Principal from our senior school days), and past teachers for attending – you all kept us on the straight and narrow all those years ago! Thanks, of course, to the Presentation Sisters who attended the reunion; your kindness continues to shine, and we thank you for keeping us under your wing during our days at Iona.

We were warmly welcomed and spoilt by a group of current Iona students, who were wonderful hosts and entertainers, and are testament to the fact that "Iona girls make a difference."

On behalf of all who attended, and all those who wanted to be present, I pay tribute to the Iona community, and say thank you, for nurturing us, and allowing us to be the best versions of ourselves, 20 years on.

Gabrielle Vogl (née Reid)

(Class of 1997)







“It was lovely to see both Sister Mary and Sister Flora looking as spritely as ever and to hear updates about the College....”

Class of 2015

It has only been two years since we left the College, but the first school reunion for the Class of 2015 was such a great way to see everyone again.

On Saturday 9 September, we met at the Sports Centre for some food and a few drinks and to watch the sun go down. Only two years on and many girls have been studying abroad or interstate, travelling, or some even working full time and starting up personal businesses. Even with all this time passed, it feels like we left only yesterday with girls from the cohort as friendly and familiar as always.

It's not always easy to arrange catch-ups with everyone with such busy schedules and it was so great just to see people and reconnect with friends, some of which I haven't seen since graduation night!

I would like to thank Mrs Pitso on behalf of the attendees for hosting this event for us, and to the Community Relations and Development team, along with the student helpers. It was lovely to see both Sister Mary and Sister Flora looking as spritely as ever and to hear updates about the College. It's so nice to still feel close and part of the school community as lifelong Ionians. Thank you to everyone who came and I can't wait to see where everyone is at, come the 5-year reunion in 2020!

Hanna Hughes
Class of 2015



“New connections have been forged and old ones renewed.”

Sydney Reunion

*The venue was charming,
the wine flowed well,
the food just right,
and the company of old girls
truly delightful.*

Well, some not so old! Quite a range of ages! This made the conversations engaging and the stories shared, so memorable. New connections have been forged and old ones renewed. Our home town of Perth and Iona seemed not so far away, as we mingled and attempted to 'quietly' sing the Iona Anthem.

Thank you to Principal, Anne Pitos and the Community Relations and Development Team for organising the afternoon.

Vicky McGahey
(Class of 1977)



We really should catch up...

2018 UPCOMING REUNIONS

(Dates correct at time of print)

YEAR 13 BREAKFAST

(CLASS OF 2017)

Wednesday 7 February 2018

5 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 2013)

Saturday 17 February 2018

10 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 2008)

Saturday 10 March 2018

20 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 1998)

Saturday 10 November 2018

25 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 1993)

Saturday 7 April 2018

30 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 1988)

Saturday 19 May 2018

40 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 1978)

Saturday 25 August 2018

GOLDEN GIRLS MASS AND REUNION

(CLASS OF 1968 AND PRIOR)

Friday 14 September 2018



With the close of the Boarding House in 2018, we invite all Boarders to a...

SPECIAL BOARDERS' REUNION

Saturday 24 November 2018

3.00pm - 6.00pm



For further information regarding these Reunions, or to update your details, please contact Georgia Allen, gallen@iona.wa.edu.au
Keep up to date with Reunion news, visit our website... www.iona.wa.edu.au



Congratulations, Emily Loughnan!

(Class of 2005)

Emily Loughnan was recently crowned at the Ironman World Championships – Kona, Hawaii, 14 October 2017, in the 25-29 Age Group 2017 as the overall Female Age Group Ironman World Champion.

Emily completed the gruelling course in 9 Hours and 44 minutes which was 22 minutes faster than the 2nd place 25-29 Female and 14 minutes faster than 2nd place overall Female.

Emily won the 2016 Half Ironman World Championship and is now a Two Time World Ironman Champion.

Congratulations Emily, Iona is very proud of you.

Congratulations, Tessa Flugge

(Class of 2008)

Congratulations to Tessa Flugge (Class of 2008) and Jérémy Valléry who recently celebrated their wedding on the grounds of Iona on 30 September 2017.

We wish you both a lifetime of happiness.



A tribute to Olivia Gabriella Natasha Mansfield (née Grida)

6 January 1975- 25 October 2017

Attended Iona: 1986-1991

It is an honour for all of us to have known Olivia- a daughter, sister, wife, mother, granddaughter, niece and friend. She had a deep impact on many lives and will always be remembered as kind, quick witted, wise, dedicated, insightful, travelled, accomplished and a beautiful person inside and out, with much style and grace. She was an accomplished sportswoman, with her talents shining at Iona in Tennis, Basketball and Netball. After school, she completed a degree in Media and Communications and worked her way up in advertising and print production, hosting esteemed and successful roles at JMG Marketing, The Health Department and more recently, Advance Press where she was an integral part of the management team.

Olivia met her soul mate, Stephen Mansfield in 2011, married and brought a beautiful boy into the world this year.

She was a cherished boarder at Iona, where she met her close group of boarding school friends that remained like a sisterhood to her for more than 30 years.

Olivia tragically passed peacefully after a short illness. We pay tribute to the angelic voices of the Iona Chorale and the heartfelt contribution by Iona at her funeral service. We pray for Olivia's husband Stephen, her baby Benjamin and parents Iolanda and Charlie Grida.

So that Olivia's legacy will always live on, we would truly appreciate if any Iona Past Pupils that knew Olivia could find time to write down their memories of the time shared with her. It is hoped these memories will be compiled in a book for Benjamin as he grows, so that he can understand the wonderful person she was.

Please forward to Stephen's email address: stephenjmans@gmail.com



YEAR 12 FATHER DAUGHTER DINNER

Dancing Dads!

Providing a unique opportunity to dance the night away with your Dad, was the inaugural Year 12 Father Daughter Dinner held recently at Fremantle Sailing Club.

The venue provided a great backdrop for Dads of all ages, shapes, sizes and fitness levels to participate in some daggy, 'Dad dancing'.

The evening was also a very special evening for our Year 12 students to give thanks and show appreciation for the role that their Dad has played in their life thus far.

We would like to thank all involved in making this evening such a memorable one for our Year 12s and their beloved fathers.





The Life of a Medical Student

Harry Perkins Institute of Medical Research is an amazing facility located in the QEII facility in Nedlands.

Over the seven floors of this cutting-edge facility, scientists work on internationally collaborated projects in the quest to understand diseases such as cancer, diabetes and asthma.

Our Year 9 and 10 Hyperscience classes visited the Institute recently, where they were introduced to the life of a scientist. Working in a PC2 lab, the students became familiar with the protocol of working in a more sophisticated laboratory and used equipment not normally seen in a high school, PC1 laboratory.

The Year 9 class started the day learning about Henrietta Lacks, a woman who died from an aggressive form of cervical cancer in 1951, at the age of 31. Her cells are still used today for many experiments, due to the rapid growth of the cells. Students were able to isolate and stain HeLa (Henrietta Lacks) cancer cells using equipment such as

micropipettes and centrifuge. They were given a tour of the facilities and met scientists working in the building who explained their current studies.

The Year 10 group learned the process of PCR (polymerase chain reaction) as a tool to amplify DNA for laboratory use. After conducting PCR in the lab using a thermal cycler, the students used Gel Electrophoresis to check their results. They later had their DNA samples sequenced to identify the Braf gene mutation of a Melanoma patient.

The Biodiscovery Lab is a result of Lotterywest funding. On behalf of Iona we are very appreciative of the opportunity to experience this amazing facility and experience the life of a Medical Scientist.

It was a delightful afternoon with more than \$3,000 raised for Presentation charities.

"Working in a PC2 lab, the students became familiar with the protocol of working in a more sophisticated laboratory and used equipment not normally seen in a high school..."



Staff LEAD the Way

Five Iona staff members have been recognized for their service and leadership at the recent Catholic Education Western Australia (CEWA) breakfast.

Lindsay Simon, Sr Mary Mackin and Michael Rebeiro were recognized for 40 years of Outstanding Service to Catholic Education.

Gemma Thomson (Class of 2006) and Katrina Prendergast were selected for LEAD Awards for Excellence, for the exciting and innovative projects they created for the students at Iona.

LEAD (Leadership, Engagement, Accountability and Discipleship) Awards for Excellence were first presented in 2014, to acknowledge projects and initiatives by teachers and schools that practically demonstrate the four principles of Catholic Education WA's strategic direction.

Gemma's LEAD Award was in the Category of Discipleship, for the Year 11 RE General Presentation Faith in Action Project. The Project was focused on Year 11s, delivering practical, inquiry-based learning opportunities and increasing awareness of social issues. A website was created as the platform for guiding students through projects that touched their hearts, informed their minds and transformed their actions, now and in the future.

'Learning about homelessness has changed my perspective. I cherish those who give me opportunities to move forward and reach my full potential. I now have a better understanding of the need for the Church to help people. Sometimes in our lives, we all need guidance; the Church can help people find themselves and reflect on their purpose.' – Sana Brotherson (11 Treacey)

Katrina's LEAD Award was in the category of Engagement for the Hyperscience program at the College.

'The Hyperscience course has allowed students to work on projects and extend their knowledge beyond the normal curriculum. More importantly, it has allowed students to be challenged and excited about their learning in a STEM context. The course offers students authentic learning opportunities and allows them to engage with industry professionals.' – Debra Powell, Deputy Principal - Studies.



Pictured here, Gemma Thomson
and Katrina Prendergast (L-R)

"This year proved to be a most special occasion as we celebrated 110 years of Presentation Education at the site of Iona..."



Presentation Night 2017

The Iona community recently came together at the Perth Convention and Entertainment Centre, to mark one of the most important events of the year, Presentation Night 2017.

This year proved to be a most special occasion as we celebrated 110 years of Presentation Education at the site of Iona, and paid tribute to the extraordinary work of the Presentation Sisters.

Produced by gifted outgoing Director of Performing Arts, Mr Matthew Aris, the evening provided a heartfelt walk down memory lane, encapsulating the true meaning and ethos of the Presentation Sisters, and all that they have done for the myriad of students who have passed through the Iona gates throughout its rich history.

Guest speaker, Dr Jane Power, Associate Professor- University of Notre Dame and Past Pupil (Class of 1978), reflected on her time at Iona and the many Presentation Sisters who had such a profound influence on her education. We thank her for giving so generously of her time to speak at our Presentation Night this year.

Led by Master of Ceremonies, Mr John Hibble, this auspicious occasion also celebrated the exemplary achievements of our students and provided an opportunity to bid our Class of 2017 a fond farewell.



Iona Students MAD for Social Justice

The Student Leadership Council at Iona Presentation College ran a week-long fundraising event focused on Making a Difference (MAD) recently.

A cake stall, raffle, a game of 'Peg Attack' and the opportunity for students to deck themselves out in pink accessories were amongst some of the activities the girls enjoyed.

"Peg Attack was an idea that Maddy and I came across while networking at one of our leadership conferences. This activity is created to foster unity within the Year groups, and really added an element of fun to the girls' week," said Lauren Fleming, Head Girl.

The students also ran the 'Ponytail Project,' giving girls the opportunity to donate a minimum of 20cm of their hair to make wigs for women suffering from cancer.

"Students who participated in the Ponytail Project were sponsored by family and friends, and the money raised went to Breast Cancer Care WA, a local Cottesloe charity helping women and their families affected by breast cancer," said Maddy Smyth, Deputy Head Girl.

Other funds raised throughout the week of MAD activities were donated to ACRATH (Australian Catholic Religious Against Trafficking in Humans),

an organization committed to working towards the elimination of human trafficking in Australia, the Asia Pacific region and globally.

"The College's core value and focus for 2017 has been *Social Justice* and so, we chose ACRATH. Not only because the organisation was founded by Sr Lucy Van Kessel, one of the Presentation Sisters, but because we believe that the work they do to give all trafficked people equal rights, is very much in tune with the idea of ensuring justice for all," said Maddy.

"By showing support to people in need, we are advocates of Social Justice in our community. This is the message that we want to spread to the girls and hope that they will learn about Social Justice in a fun and interesting way."

MAD week will be run again in 2018, so if you would like to support it into the future, please contact the College on 9384 0066.







Matthew Aris
(Teacher, 2009-2017)

Matthew commenced work at Iona in 2009 and after nine years of service to the College as a Performing Arts Director, teaching Drama, Speech and Drama and Media, he has finally decided to change direction and move on to a new career path.

Matthew claims, "my highlights package at Iona would rival Lance Franklin's in the AFL! Musicals, Tours to NYC and Presentation Nights. I am proud of these achievements, but it is the day to day interaction with students – the Iona wave, smiling faces and lots of laughing – Iona students really make me laugh! I will certainly miss that. My most special memory however, will always be my last, watching the beaming faces of the Presentation Sisters following this years' Presentation Night tribute. It was a special evening and it will be cherished forever."

And for his final curtain call, Matthew vows, "to always follow the example set by Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters." We most certainly will too.

Thank you Mr Aris for all that you have done for Iona, its students and our community.

We will miss you.



Susan Dyer
(Teacher, 2009-2017)

Susan commenced at Iona in 2009, working as a Mathematics and lower school Science teacher for a great nine years.

She remembers with fondness the Celebration days.

"St Pat's Day, the Carnivals, the beginning of year Masses and the Year 12 Farewell Weeks. These really special days have always managed to bring the whole school together," she said.

"It is this caring spirit of Community that I have cherished so much in my time at Iona. I have always been astounded at the amazing talents of all the girls. When you witness the amazing Productions, Music Nights, and end of year Art Showcases, it is so heart-warming to feel the pride and see the support for each and every girl.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at Iona. The girls have been an absolute joy to know and teach, and the staff are amazingly friendly and supportive. The love and care that I have experienced here will always make my time at Iona very memorable."

We wish you all the best for your future endeavours, Sue, and thanks for all that you have done.



Helen Duff
(Teacher, 1993-2017)

When making the decision to take on a six-week maternity replacement position, never did Helen believe, that she would still be here 25 years later!

Helen commenced her role as Science Teacher in 1993 and since then has taken on various teaching roles within the College. From lower school Science and Maths, to upper school Biology, Human Biology and Integrated Science.

Helen highlights the annual Year 11 Biology Field Trips to Rottneest as some of her most rewarding teaching experiences. And her 'WOW' moments? That's easy says Helen, "these come every year when I show girls how to focus a microscope for the first time! I hear that sudden intake of breath and amazement that something so small could be so beautiful."

Each year and with each new year group, Helen reflects on a familiar question, "Mrs Duff, why did you want to work at Iona?" To which she famously replies, "I have three boys of my own and have always wanted a girl, and now, I have 900 of you!"

Helen looks forward to spending more time with her own granddaughter, Heather, who will help to be a constant reminder that she now moves on to a new adventure, swapping 900 girls for just the one!

We will miss you Helen, good luck.



Leonard Morgan-Brown
(Teacher, 1974-2017)

After over four decades at Iona, 43 years in fact, Leonard Morgan-Brown has finally decided to hang up his Iona boots and try on retirement for size.

In his extensive time at Iona, Leonard has almost taught every subject in the Curriculum! From Physical Education, Health Education, Human Biology to Science, and Maths.

Leonard reminisces, "when I first arrived at Iona, the majority of the staff were Nuns in black habits, a handful of lay staff and some, like Jock Hetherington, teaching Maths part-time. Speech Night at Iona in 1974 was under the stars on the grass next to the Convent, somewhat different to our Presentation Night this year, and Presentation Days in the 70s were celebrated by taking all the girls and staff to Rottneest for the day!"

"Although my plan originally was to stay for three years. Now, 43 years later, through the many changes I have seen, the one 'constant', has always been the amazing influence and spirit of the Presentation Sisters."

Thank you, Leonard, for your tireless work at Iona. Inspired by Nano's philosophy, 'deeds, not words', you have emulated this in your actions every day and in every way.

We will miss you.



Key Dates 2018

EVENT	DATE	DETAILS
St Patrick's Day Mass and Fair	Friday 16 March	12.00pm Memorial Park, Mosman Park
Open Mornings	Tuesday 13 March Thursday 22 March Monday 10 September	9.30am - 11.30am, Iona Sports Centre 9.30am - 11.30am, Iona Sports Centre 9.30am - 11.30am, Iona Sports Centre To register your attendance please visit www.iona.wa.edu.au
College Production: <i>Thoroughly Modern Millie</i>	Friday 23 March - Sunday 25 March	The Regal Theatre, Subiaco Tickets can be purchased at www.ticketek.com.au
Iona Ball	Saturday 1 September	Optus Stadium Further information regarding this event will be sent out soon

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.

To make a contribution, please visit our website:
<https://www.iona.wa.edu.au/view/our-community/annual-giving>

Anne Pitos
Principal

Donors

Iona Presentation College would sincerely like to thank the following families who have generously donated in 2017.

Mrs Carol Brinkman	Vince & Vanessa Carbone
Gaschk Family	Goodall & Co Accountants
Mrs Alicia Hube	Rick & Paula Maggi
Joe & Julieanne O'Dea	Mrs Patricia Pettigrew
Riddle Family	Dolce & Salato
Mrs Sharon Schubert	Mrs Rhonda Solomon
Sparrow Family	Judith Wilkinson & Ultan Stephenson
Mr Ian & Mrs Kylie Sydney	Mr & Dr Wilfred Sun
Tang Family	Ms Carmel Tilley
Mr James Thackray & Mrs Liz James	

As well as our many anonymous donors.

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.



Welcome to IPPA, Class of 2017!



IONA
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

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

33 Palmerston Street
Mosman Park WA 6012
Telephone: 08 9384 0066
www.iona.wa.edu.au