



# esprit de corps

IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 20 • 2020



Front Cover Remote Teaching and Learning  
took on many different forms  
throughout COVID-19

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*Making a Difference, Together*



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# message from THE PRINCIPAL

**2020 has brought with it some strange and uncertain circumstances indeed. The impact of COVID-19 worldwide, has had devastatingly tragic ends for some and undoubtedly worrying times for all. The Iona community have not been immune to the impacts of this virus with many families also being affected in one way or another. Yes, we have been faced with challenging times, but together we will prevail as a strong, cohesive and resilient community.**

The wider community would be proud to know that as a College, we were one of the first schools in WA to embrace remote learning. This was vitally important in order to better protect our students, but also provide some certainty of approach for everyone. The result of considerable planning and preparation, this approach to remote learning not only built on the existing foundations of a contemporary Iona education, established over the last few years, but showed that as a College, we were as well-prepared and determined to excel as ever.

Innovation at Iona didn't just start today. It is a methodology and value cultivated throughout the 112 years that is Iona Presentation College. Nano Nagle in her approach, had a great vision to help those impoverished and on the margins, and it is that same bravery and forward thinking that brought five Presentation Sisters from Kildare, Ireland to Western Australia in 1907 to establish Iona, a centre for faith and learning.

This year, we acknowledge the great work of our Presentation Sisters, our Heritage and Tradition, and celebrate innovation in a way that's not been celebrated before. We acknowledge the work of our passionate teachers who have been called to adapt to a new way of teaching and learning, sparking an abundance of creativity, collegiality and collaboration.



As we observe our school community responding positively to this ever-changing environment, we also take the time in this latest issue of *esprit de corps*, to celebrate the innovation, forward thinking and buoyant approach of our Past Pupils who, in their own ways work to become leaders, entrepreneurs and visionaries. Read their stories on page 4.

The Iona community coupled with the IPPA network of thousands, is a rich web of progressive, brave, intelligent and bold individuals, who are leading the way, their own way-truly making a difference, together.

God bless,

**Anne Pitos**

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

# message from THE CHAIR OF IPPA

## Welcome to our latest edition on Innovation.

We continue to hear and see our Past Pupils demonstrating Innovation and Courage. This edition highlights the vision of a few of our Past Pupils in their remarkable journeys for innovation, leadership and forward thinking.

We certainly enjoyed a productive 2019. The inaugural IPPA Networking Breakfasts held in May and October 2019 were a great success. The theme for the next breakfast, we are hopeful will be held on 29 October, is Social Justice. We look forward to being hosted at the Supreme Court of WA by Larissa Strk (Class of 1992). All Past Pupils are warmly welcomed to attend. If you have a story to share, would be interested in becoming a panellist, or would like to know more, please get in contact with Georgia Allen at the Colledge.

As a way of providing support and a solid network in the early years following school graduation, the Young IPPA are also planning another social event this year.

Developing a Past Pupil Mentoring Program is also in the pipeline. Thanks to our Mentoring Sub-Committee who are working on a pilot program with a hopeful launch either late this year or early in 2021. Please register your interest in becoming a mentor or mentee at the IPPA website.



The IPPA website [www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](http://www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au) is a great source of information for all Iona Past Pupils. Register to become a mentor or mentee, check out the latest photo galleries from reunions and events, search for a member you've lost touch with and even check out your old College Annuals. The IPPA website is a terrific resource and 'walk down memory lane' for all of you, our cherished IPPA members.

An ALL Boarders' Reunion is also planned for 17 October 2020, which we hope will go on to become a biennial event. We would like to thank the wider boarding community and the Former Boarders' sub-committee for their continued support and for establishing this great initiative. I do hold hope for all of our Past Pupils and families working in agriculture, that the season is a productive one.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge that we are dealing with a new way of life, at this time. I urge all Ionians to stay connected with each other. If you know there is someone within our community in need of support, please be in touch.

The *esprit de corps* can now be read either online or received as a hard copy publication. So, whether you prefer to hold the magazine in your hands or read it on screen, the option is yours. To make this selection, please let us know your preference here: [www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/news & photos](http://www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/news&photos)

Keep positive everyone, be future focussed and connected in your daily lives.

Warm regards

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



# Vision FOR Innovation

This year we celebrate our Presentation heritage as a foundation for embracing and building our future.

Read here the remarkable and everyday stories of Ionians who, with the backing of a solid Iona education, have boldly gone out into the world and are making their mark, with their own unique vision for innovation.



## A SPARK FOR SCIENCE

**When I commenced my high school education, I had no idea what career path I wanted to pursue, however I was aware that science made sense to me yet had no real passion for the subject. It was when I attended my first Physics class with Mr Rebeiro in Year 10 that the curiosity spark was ignited for me as he seemed to approach Physics in a way that I had not experienced before. Since then that same curiosity, passion and drive for knowledge in the field of science has continued on into my adult life. In Year 11, I also studied high level maths with Mr Hibble, and the faith he had in my abilities made me feel that I wasn't just someone who 'liked' science and maths, but that I was someone who really had the ability to turn it into a successful career.**

Following graduation from Iona in 2013, I moved to Melbourne and have undertaken a degree in Electrical and Computer Systems Engineering at Monash University. Over the course of my degree I have been able to fine tune my skills and have been fortunate enough to focus on; Intelligent Robotics, Computer Vision, Neural Networks and Deep Learning.

Learning to code in six languages throughout my degree has also

given me the ability to write and complete programs for Facial Recognition, Music Genre Classification and large-scale Simulations. For my Honours thesis, I have teamed up with the Conceptual PlayLab in the Faculty of Education at Monash University to build an app in Virtual Reality. My vision for the app was to integrate technology in support of an evidence-based model of early childhood education. My work supports a ground-breaking model for the teaching of STEM to young children in play-based settings. My work will contribute to the research of the Conceptual PlayLab that is funded by the Australian Research Council Laureate Fellowship scheme.

I completed an internship during the 2019/2020 summer at Deloitte where I worked in the Cyber and Forensics Department. During that time, I wrote neural networks and large-scale pattern recognition code. I also participated in and won a 'Hackathon' across Australia. A Hackathon is a competition to find security risks and vulnerabilities in a range of websites and data structures- it really was fun putting my skills to work.

I now look forward to commencing a graduate role with Deloitte in

September 2020, where I will be working in Risk Advisory. In this position I will be able to apply the skills learnt through my degree in real world situations.

I feel very strongly that I have got to where I am today because of the foundations I received from my teachers at Iona.

**Abbey McLean**  
*Class of 2013*



# VISION FOR INNOVATION

## LIFE TOOLS FOR A LIFE IN THE ARTS

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Following graduation from Iona in 2017, I travelled to London and Berlin visiting the West End and exploring the acting industry. Once back in Perth, I trained under NIDA graduate Giulia Petrocchi, before then moving to Sydney in 2019.

In Sydney, my time was spent studying under former Bell Shakespeare Director, David Fenton and Australian Dance Artist, Anca Frankenhaeuser (London Contemporary Dance Theatre) before training at the Hub Studio in Sydney with Kevin Jackson (former head of NIDA) and Imara Savage (2018 Resident Director for Sydney Theatre Company). The experience will always be so memorable. It takes a lot of hard work to get these doors open and suddenly you are acting alongside people you watched growing up, definitely a 'pinch me' moment.

In December last year I was then accepted into the Actors Centre Australia (ACA) to complete a Bachelor of Performing Arts Acting Degree. With only 24 places offered worldwide and alumni from ACA including the great Hugh Jackman, Harriet Dyer and Georgie Parker, I felt so honoured and exhilarated to be accepted.

The past two years have been incredible to say the least! Recently I featured in my first full length feature film with John Paul Young, which is due to come out in selected cinemas later this year and have performed in multiple professional productions in Sydney.



I was then cast in *bstreetsmart*, an Australia-wide production aimed at students, to deliver road safety messages. This involved performing to 20,000 audience members at Qudos Bank Arena. Witnessing each student be so impacted by the performances is something I will never, ever forget. Not to mention being able to meet and work alongside some of the best trauma surgeons in the world and help raise awareness about young-driver responsibility, is undoubtedly something that will stay with me forever. See more here: <https://bstreetsmart.org>

I have now begun developing my own work, directing theatre pieces and working closely with Masters-students at Sydney Arts College. As a result of funding being cut from the Federal Arts Department and after finishing University, I hope to then start working on my own production company which will focus on giving young artists a voice. Performing Arts is

something that I am so passionate about and I know that it can so positively impact the lives of young adults.

As a school student, Iona was so accommodating with me in my pursuit for an acting career. But looking back now, what I have really taken away from my Iona-life are the principles that were instilled in me. Teachers such as; Gemma Thomson, Linda Archer, Cheryl Ainsworth, Sharon Schubert, Ioanna Amperiadis, Patricia Pettigrew and Rod O'Meara were fantastic and inspiring mentors. These teachers had a profound impact on me in many ways and I certainly would not be where I am today without them.

I will always be grateful for the 'life tools' Iona provided me, and for the belief that I can be innovative and brave and lead in my own way in an industry I love.

**Storme Bauchop**  
Class of 2017

## GENDER, NO LIMIT TO OPPORTUNITIES

**At the 30 year reunion for the class of '89 last year, it was a real opportunity to reflect on the impact of our education at Iona and the traits we had developed as a cohort.**

Talking to my class mates, it was apparent the strong sense of social justice instilled in us at school was still a major influence on our lives today. Many of us are in service industries, volunteer groups and just good humanitarians. As a teacher and now Principal in the Wheatbelt region, I am passionate about ensuring rural students have a quality education and are on a pathway that will lead to further education or employment.



A photograph of three students in school uniforms (black jackets with white collars and school crests) leaning on a metal railing in a farm setting. The student on the left is a young woman with long brown hair, smiling and holding a small green plant. The student in the middle is a young woman with dark hair pulled back, smiling. The student on the right is a young man with short brown hair, looking towards the camera. The background shows a large, open-sided structure with a corrugated metal roof, likely a farm shed or greenhouse, with various pipes and equipment visible.

I believe my education in a single sex school, surrounded by strong female role models, has taught me to not let my gender limit my opportunities. As the first female Principal of the WA College of Agriculture in Cunderdin, I had to step outside of both my comfort zone and the farmer's wife

stereotype to take on this role, including the unorthodox decision to live and work two hours away from our family farm in Southern Cross.

At high school, I was surrounded by a strong group of loyal female friends, who encouraged and supported me. I have learned the importance of

replicating this model in my career too, with a broad network and some excellent mentors, as well as providing that to other leaders in my region.

Last year I was lucky enough to be selected to go to Harvard University as part of the WA Public School Principal Fellowship Program. This opportunity has really made me grow as a leader and realise that so often female leaders think they have to tick all the boxes before applying for a promotion or trying something innovative. I have learned the importance of courage in leadership, being prepared to take a risk, being resilient, ensuring all stakeholders including students have a voice and to never stop learning.

**Sally Panizza**  
*Class of 1998*

BLENDING HEART WITH SCIENCE





**I don't think you ever truly appreciate the value of an education until you are old enough, or far enough away from it to reflect and see the results.**

I was fortunate enough to have had 12 years at Iona and will be forever grateful for my education, both for the teachers who delivered it and to my parents who made the sacrifice. I certainly would not be where I am today without their support.

Currently, I reside in the Netherlands with my husband and have done so since 2016. For the last few years I have enjoyed my role working as a Manager of Clinical Trials at Janssen, the Pharmaceutical division of Johnson & Johnson.

If you asked me when I left school in 2000 that my chosen degree of a Bachelor of Science in Nursing would lead me to where I am today, I would never have believed you.

In Year 12, I was told prior to my final exams, that I could study Primary Teaching at Notre Dame University. The pressure was off! I now knew that I could go to university even in spite of my TER! But, at the last minute I decided that perhaps nursing was more for me and so, I put my teaching plans on hold.

I wasn't overly academic and only really knuckled down in Year 11 and 12 with the help of a few dedicated teachers who saw something in me, enough to adapt their teaching style for a 'non-traditional' student.

My Year 11 and Year 12 Human Biology teacher – Mrs Wellington was the person who really sparked my interest in science. She was a phenomenal teacher and I attribute her to choosing to study science at university. My Economics teacher – Mr Simon also taught me valuable skills, not any that helped my university

degree, but those which helped me understand the world of banking, finance, and economics - all such important aspects of everyday life.

In each and every year, my teachers taught me many valuable lessons that to this day I can still recall and draw upon in life. From the value of hard work and dedication, to the importance of faith, kindness and friendship.

After graduating from Curtin University, I worked in a hospital as a Registered Nurse and then after some time working in London, I began my career in clinical trials back in Perth at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital. I was involved in trialling some incredibly novel treatments for people with respiratory conditions such as Cystic Fibrosis, Asthma, COPD and Pulmonary Fibrosis. I actually came across another 'old' Ionian in my work and we instantly clicked! Even though there were decades between our educational experiences, we seemed to really understand each other and had the same set of values and morals. Some of the same qualities that I admire in my dear school friends today.

My current role at Janssen sees me managing clinical trials for vaccines such as Ebola, HIV, RSV, Polio and most recently the COVID-19 vaccine.

Whilst my role keeps me very busy, I am incredibly proud of the company's aspiration for innovation- an aim to create a world that blends heart, with science and ingenuity to profoundly change the trajectory of health for humanity.

I learnt a lot from my years at Iona, and am incredibly thankful, proud and happy that the strong educational foundation has helped me to be where I am today.

**Annalise Vujcich** (*née Wohlsein*)  
*Class of 2000*





## AN ENTREPRENEUR IN THE MAKING

### **I have always done things a little differently.**

I didn't really understand it during school, but on reflection I often felt like I never 'really' fitted into any one group, rather, I fitted into them all. Since leaving school I have met other like-minded people and fortunately feel that I have now found my tribe. In my experience, I have come to understand that leaders tend to fit into many groups rather than just one, and great leaders are adaptable.

I loved the different opportunities that were available to me at Iona. Opportunities to explore Sport, The Arts, Academics and Religion. These experiences provided tests and experiments of leadership skills that I now use in everyday life. I am particularly grateful to those teachers who 'pushed that little bit harder' and provided such great support. Iona provided a safe place for me to find my courage, allowing opportunities for my natural determination and innovation to flourish.

I have never found conversation or 'small talk' easy. Time spent travelling across Australia, Malaysia and Singapore over the past three years and listening to and learning from more than 50 leaders through the Entrepreneurs Organisation Network has taught me some very important lessons. Having the ability to ask an amazing or even the 'perfect' question is invaluable. I am now on a personal journey to learn what my question actually is, but first I must listen. I believe God gave us one mouth and two ears and we should use them in that ratio.

If I am accurate, and 'luck' is really where preparation and opportunity meet, then I am ready to submit to a lifetime of preparation. I believe if I can clear my mind of the noise that surrounds it, then I will have the clarity to see the opportunities as they present themselves earlier than my competition.

This approach has already brought me success. I am the single largest shareholder and Brand Manager,

of a tech start-up, Eyevert based in Perth which delivers information systems for public transport. In addition, I am also the single largest shareholder and Managing Director of an eco-friendly company, Ecotriology- which imports and distributes bamboo fibre products -all designed to replace single-use plastics.

The vision I have for these and other companies I will be involved with, is to 'fail quickly, but learn quicker', and to always remember that, 'one of the most valuable assets in an entrepreneur's textbook is their network'. Such has become my mantra for pushing me out of my comfort zone and talking to people- as mentioned, not one of my strongest character traits.

The mantra I live by comes from a saying by a Hindu Priest that grew up right here in Perth, 'we become good at what we practice.' Dandapani and practice I will.

**Phoebe Howie**  
*Class of 2016*



## A LEAP OF FAITH

**Iona taught me to push boundaries and think outside the box. I have always been one to live by the motto 'work smarter not harder', whether that was utilising class time to the fullest to ensure I had no homework at night or choosing the best academic pathway for me at the time. In this case, it was a matter of balancing school and sport, and I knew in order to excel in the classroom, whilst also trying to compete at an international level for high jump, I needed to take a take a different approach.**

It was at this time, that I learned about the INSTEP program, and with the help and guidance of my teachers I was opened to a world of opportunities. My decision

to choose the non-traditional INSTEP for Years 11 and 12 was scary, I was questioned multiple times how I was expected to go to university without an ATAR, and I was nervous to choose a path that I knew had previously held some stigma. I knew however that it was possible to go to university, and was honestly not that hard, and so I became determined to lead the way and prove it could be done.

It was a difficult decision to make, and at times I felt inferior to my peers for not following the traditional road to graduation. However, the day I was accepted into university, I knew it was all worth it and that hopefully, I would be able to inspire others who were

on the edge of choosing which pathway to take, that it could be done.

After one semester at university, I decided I needed a change. To get the most out of my high jump career and be the best I knew I could be, I needed a greater work, sport and study balance, and so I decided to seek out the USA NCAA Collegiate Sport System.

Four years on, I am now on a full athletic and academic scholarship at California State University, Long Beach. I get to live out my dream of travelling the United States, competing against the best in the world for high jump, whilst my schooling, medical care, and living expenses are all financially covered.

Moving to another country, on the other side of the world has been one of the most daunting and testing experiences of my life, but I wouldn't have it any other way. Like my choice to choose INSTEP, I knew that stepping outside of my comfort zone and seeking the unknown would only help me to grow, learn, and become a better person.

Looking back now, from being told I would never make it to university, to now being here in the US, about to graduate with a degree and a wealth of experience, I feel so proud of what I've been able to achieve. I hope I can be an inspiration to those going through the process right now that anything is possible if you put your mind to it, and don't be afraid to push the boundaries. Take the leap and step outside the box, It's all worth it in the end.

**Clare Gibson**  
*Class of 2015*

# VISION FOR INNOVATION

## FOUNDING HEARTWOOD





**Innovation to me is a result of having the confidence to do things differently, and showing courage despite the outcome.**

There were many situations at school in which I had very little experience, and no idea what I was doing, but I seized the opportunity to throw myself in the deep end and challenge myself.

I tried my hand at nearly everything on offer including debating, piano eisteddfods, choir, cross country, volleyball (and just about every other sport) and never excelled particularly at anything but all of these experiences taught me how to fail gracefully, take risks, make new friends, and laugh at myself.

Throwing my hat in the ring, with so much on offer at Iona, also helped me to figure out what I

enjoyed and how to respect and admire the talents of others.

Recognising talent and being able to effectively collaborate is one of the skills that I found and that was nurtured at Iona. My education at Iona really did teach me the importance of team-work, which is essential to bringing an innovative idea to life.

I launched Heartwood a little over six months ago with a small team who have been crucial to building a strong brand and bringing our concept to life with fabulous experiences and consistent service. The friends I made at Iona also continue to be a source of inspiration and support to me and my business.

We are a multi-brand wellbeing and clean beauty retailer, and the hero of our brand is Indian

sandalwood – a rare botanical that my family has grown sustainably across Northern Australia for over 20 years.

We have built a highly experiential environment with Australia's first 'make your own' parfum bar, exceptional facials and massages (with amazing music and scents – not your average spa experience), and an amazing selection of natural beauty brands, including our own Heartwood Indian sandalwood products.

No other brand has built products exclusively to bring the benefits of Indian sandalwood to life, and we will continue to evolve our brand and innovate with our products and experiences using the collaborative attitude that was built at Iona.

**Alex Wilson**  
*Class of 2005*

# HEARTWOOD

## NATURAL HARMONY



# VISION FOR INNOVATION



## ON A LEADERSHIP JOURNEY

**Regional communities know all about innovation. In fact, I think we're the definition of it. Given our relatively smaller populations compared to our city cousins, we've adapted to having less access to otherwise broadly proffered social services and economic stimuli, fostering creativity and making the most of what we've got. Which is why tourists so often fall in love with the quaintness and personality of our remote postcodes. We upcycle whatever resources we do have and depend heavily on the people within our community to have it thrive.**

It may have been the upbringing in my regional hometown of Wongan Hills that taught me the value of community, but it was my five years of boarding at Iona that taught me how to lead that community in making a difference.

It was 17 years ago that I was elected as Head Boarder and it was the first of many steep learning curves in my continuing leadership journey. The experience of being the big sister to 105 other girls was exciting, humbling and daunting, all in one breath. But I also knew that every one of those girls had my back, like any sister would, and were an asset to making our boarding experience the best it could be. Leadership is not about having the answers but generating the questions and drawing upon

the resources you have at hand. My first question was "How can we make that first year better for boarders?" and the answer came from my boarding sisterhood. We developed a 'Big Sister' program where all the new boarders in Years 8, 9 and 10 were buddied up with a boarder who'd been at Iona for at least a year already. It was a huge success and I still keep in contact with my 'little sister' almost two decades on!

That experience taught me about innovation in the sense of looking differently at what you already have and finding a new way of creating value. And it also fostered my regional childhood lesson about the importance of people and community.

My leadership journey has continued to have those challenging yet insightful steep learning curves which have put me in good stead for the leadership positions I now have in the regional development and agricultural industries. Including, two Ministerial appointments, various NFPs and an ASX-listed company. And the best part, I am professional 'big sister' or mentor to many others across Australia and Papua New Guinea, including susa bliong mi ('my sister' in PNG Tok Pisin) Philmah pictured here.

**Elizabeth Brennan**  
*Class of 2003*

# VISION FOR INNOVATION

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## THE IMPORTANCE OF FAMILY

**It is not until one has children of their own and follow them through their educational journey that you fully appreciate the importance of schooling. It is crucial, not just in providing a solid education to allow one to achieve ones' dreams, but also the school's ethos, traditions and values shape the moral compass that steers you through life.**

Iona Presentation College provided me with an education that allowed me to follow my dream of studying Medicine and its strong ethos underpins my core value in life which is the importance of 'family'.

I studied Medicine at UWA graduating in 1994. After studying diligently at school, my university years became some of the most enjoyable years of my life. It was a time to celebrate my achievements and enjoy the journey. I went on to further studies becoming a consultant physician specialising in the field of Geriatric Medicine and have spent most of my career working in the public health system at Sir Charles Gairdner Hospital.

Medicine and working in the public health system has been an excellent career for me. It has allowed me to combine both

having a family and a successful career. The early years were challenging with the constant juggle of young children and work but now my children are older and more independent I have been able to focus more on my professional goals.

Medicine is a very rewarding career. I am privileged to be able to go to work each day and interact with, treat and care for some of our most vulnerable members of society, the frail aged.

Medicine however brings so many more opportunities than just clinical work. Working in a tertiary hospital has provided me with opportunities to be involved in teaching, both medical students and junior doctors, as well as cutting edge research and innovation. There is nothing like a world pandemic to drive change and innovation at a pace we have never seen before. It will fundamentally change how we practice Medicine in the future from how we deliver care at the bed side to how we plan for and manage crises on a large scale. The challenges of COVID-19 have been enormous but exciting to be a part of.

Working in the public health system also brings with it many leadership opportunities. These are probably the most daunting yet rewarding challenges I have faced. Recently being appointed a board member of the East Metropolitan Health Service has been a steep learning curve but has allowed me to contribute to public health care on a much greater scale. It has taught me never to underestimate what you are capable of and never shy away from a challenge as the rewards will be great.

What I am most proud of and consider my biggest achievement in life is my four beautiful children, Ailish, Toby, Liam and Angus. This I have by no means achieved alone. It takes a generous and involved partner and father, caring, engaged and very helpful grandparents and a strong school community that can support your parenting and reinforce your values. All of these I have been fortunate enough to be blessed with along the way.

**Denise Glennon**  
*Class of 1987*

## CLASS OF 2019 YEAR 13 BREAKFAST

**On Thursday 13 February the graduates of the Class of 2019 were warmly welcomed back to the College for the Year 13 Breakfast. The morning was filled with smiles and laughter as we all joined together again on the College Green and caught up on our summer holidays and talked about our future plans.**

IPPA Chair, Jane-Mary Richardson invited us back to the College as members of IPPA, reminding us of the wider network of Ionians we are now a part of, and that while we will all go in different directions we will grow together

nurtured by a community spirit that stands behind every Ionian.

Past Pupil Nela Kosec (Class of 2005) shared her story about her life after graduating from Iona and how she has navigated challenging times. As new graduates it was an inspirational and relevant story to remind us that life may not always go as planned but reassured us the values, friendships and lessons Iona has provided us with will guide us in our future. We thank Nela for her honest and courageous speech.

On behalf of the Class of 2019, I wish to thank Mrs Anne Pitos, Georgia Allen and the Community Relations and Development team along with the IPPA committee for coordinating the event. Our gratitude also extends to the staff who attended and the SLC for assisting in the morning.

It's exciting to think about what the future will bring to us all and where everybody's journeys will take them, and I wish you all the very best.

**Sophia Spadanuda**  
*Class of 2019*







## CLASS OF 2015 5 YEAR REUNION

**The girls from the Class of 2015 attended the much anticipated 5 Year Reunion in February of this year. We all met up on a Saturday afternoon at the Cottesloe Beach Hotel for drinks and nibbles and to chat.**

It was great to see both the girls I catch up with on a regular basis and some whom I haven't seen since Graduation Day. Thank you to everyone who attended, it was so lovely to hear the stories about exciting travel experiences, the diversity in career paths for everyone but also just to reminisce about our time at Iona – which we can't believe was five years ago!

We'd like to extend a big thanks to Mrs Anne Pitos, Mr John Hibble and all the lovely teachers who took time out of their Saturday to come and say hello. We'd also like to thank Georgia Allen for the work she put into organising this reunion and making it such a lovely afternoon.

Time has really flown by and I'm sure we'll soon be catching up again and be able to see the final product of the renovations going on at Iona – something we're all very excited about. We're all looking forward to seeing what's in store for everyone in five years' time at the 10 Year Reunion when I'm sure there will be plenty more stories to share.

**Hanna Hughes**  
*Class of 2015*



## CLASS OF 2010 10 YEAR REUNION

**On 14 March, when social gatherings were still permitted, the Class of 2010 were fortunate enough to come together in the College Sports Centre for our 10 Year Reunion.**

The opportunity for us to gather was a great way to reminisce on our time at the College, catch up on life since Iona and find out in person about the adventures each of us have been on over the past 10 years. We also had a tour of the campus, where we could not believe how much had changed in the past decade, but also how familiar things were, some things had not changed at all.

While it would have been great to have the whole year group in attendance, those classmates who were unable to attend due to being interstate, overseas or unavailable, were never far from our thoughts during the evening.

Thank you to College Principal Anne Pitos, Georgia Allen and her team, staff that attended the reunion and of course, the Class of 2010.

Looking forward to catching up again in 2030!

**Bree Sambell**  
*Class of 2010*





## YOUNG IPPA LAUNCH

**In December 2019, Young IPPA was launched at an event held at The Leftbank, East Fremantle. This event provided a chance for Iona graduates from the Classes of 2008 to 2018 to get together and reminisce over the good old days, as well as continue building on this important network.**

So, who are Young IPPA?

Young IPPA includes all graduates of Iona, who are one to ten years out of school. A sub-committee of the wider IPPA Executive Committee, the group aim to nurture relationships amongst the younger members of our Past Pupil network. By providing support and through the organisation of social occasions, their aim is to build a strong and active part of

the wider Iona community- staying connected and having fun!

There was a great turn out across the year groups at the launch event and so wonderful to hear what all the girls have been up to. Not to mention, the ripples of difference they are making in their own communities and afar - Iona girls living the motto and continuing to make a difference where they can.

This event had been much anticipated, with excitement building since the initial Facebook post months prior. The girls knew that this event would be a chance to reconnect with familiar faces and have a great fun night together and was the start of something special as an Ionian.

Many thanks go to Georgia Allen, the Young IPPA committee and the IPPA Executive for all their support and for the organisation that ensured Young IPPA found its legs.

Now that Young IPPA is well and truly up and running, the plans for 2020 are exciting. All going well, and with the hope of social distancing restrictions lifted post COVID-19, we plan to again hold a similar event in December.

So, please keep your contacts updated with the College, keep an eye out on the IPPA Social Media platforms and most importantly 'continue talking' to your Iona friends.

**Milla Harris**  
*Young IPPA Representative  
Class of 2018*



# BETTER *Late* THAN NEVER!

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

Please save the date, keep your fingers crossed, and join us at Iona **SATURDAY 20 FEBRUARY 2021**

Further details and how to book will be coming soon  
We can't wait to see you there!

2000

1995

1990

1980

1970

COMBINED REUNION

## WE REALLY SHOULD CATCH UP...

### 2021

Reunions will be held for the following classes in 2021. Please keep an eye out for information!

|               |   |
|---------------|---|
| CLASS OF 2020 | YEAR 13 BREAKFAST                             |
| CLASS OF 2016 | 5 YEAR REUNION                                |
| CLASS OF 2011 | 10 YEAR REUNION                               |
| CLASS OF 1996 | 25 YEAR REUNION                               |
| CLASS OF 1991 | 30 YEAR REUNION                               |
| CLASS OF 1981 | 40 YEAR REUNION                               |
| CLASS OF 1971 | 50 YEAR REUNION - BECOME AN IONA GOLDEN GIRL! |
| CLASS OF 2001 | 20 YEAR REUNION                               |

## WE ARE LOOKING FOR A CLASS REP

Would you be interested in working with our Community Relations team to bring your Class Reunion to life?

Please contact Georgia Allen  
[georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au)

**IPPA, have you updated your contact details recently?**

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

## WORKSHOPPING THE FUTURE

**Making a decision on just 'who' you're going to be, and 'what' you're going to study in the future, is not an easy one. Not to mention having to make this decision when you are only 15 years old.**

Shining on a light on their own decision making, personal experiences, highs and lows, study re-directions and complete career changes, a group of Past Pupils from the Classes of 1991 to 2015, visited our Year 10s last year, for a terrific new initiative, 'Workshopping the Future'.

The event began with a moving keynote presentation by Kelly Jones (*Class of 2005*). You may remember her amazing story from Issue 19 of the *esprit de corps*, where she stated that '16 years ago, as a Year 10 student, I had absolutely no idea what to do with my life!'

Kelly's path soon became clear to her when one day she passed a road accident and made the decision to then and there shift course and do whatever it would take to become a paramedic. If you remember, Kelly, wasn't even sure if she was capable of taking a university pathway. Knock back, after knock back, Kelly eventually got there- but it certainly wasn't easy! Her story of resilience and perseverance was an important message for our Year 10 cohort to hear. Her story, by no means, ended there! Kelly then put her mind to studying to become a doctor. You couldn't hear a pin drop in the room as Kelly surprised our girls with yet another example of sheer Ionian grit and determination.

Following on from Kelly's inspiring introduction, students were then invited to over a morning, hear stories and experiences of a range of Past Pupils working in different fields. They learnt just how they got there, what courses they studied, what changes they made and importantly, what their job 'actually' looks like every day.

Students heard from IPPA working in the fields of Nursing, Teaching, Engineering, Law, Small Business, Marketing, Human Resources, Science, Pharmacy and Physiotherapy. By providing an extensive list of fields, students were able to choose which session to attend, what was of interest to them, what they wanted to know more about and enabled intimate and real-life conversations to be had.



Thanks to the following IPPA members who gave up their valuable time to be a part of this mentoring experience.

**LAW:**

**Caitlin Liddelow** (Class of 2011)  
**Georgina Sullivan** (Class of 2009)

**SCIENCE:**

**Grace Peris** (Class of 2013)  
**Adela Simich** (Class of 2015)

**ENGINEERING:**

**Carmel Matthews** née Italiano (Class of 1991)

**PHARMACY:**

**Irene Karaterpos** (Class of 2009)

**TEACHING:**

**Hannah Girling** (Class of 2010)

**PHYSIOTHERAPY:**

**Nicole Berlinger** née Burnby (Class of 1999)

**NURSING:**

**Rachel Steadman** (Class of 2008)  
**Sophie Blackett** née Alexander (Class of 2009)

**ENTREPRENEURS:**

**Isabella Mitchell** (Class of 2009)  
**Alex Wilson** (Class of 2005)

**MARKETING:**

**Caitlyn Quartermaine** née du Toit (Class of 2008)

**HUMAN RESOURCES:**

**Lana King** née Johnson (Class of 1994)

**MEDICINE:**

**Kelly Jones** (Class of 2005)

We hope to run this program some time again in 2020.

So, if you have a story to share or are interested in being a mentor at our next 'Workshopping the Future' event, please get in touch with Georgia Allen [georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au)





Your gift,



# her future

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

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

To give by phone call Georgia Allen at 9384 0066

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

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

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

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

Create your long-lasting connection to Iona today.

## THE BACKGROUND - HOW WERE WE SO READY?

**Throughout history, great times of crisis have prompted great technological advances and none other than COVID-19. Iona's response to this pandemic was extraordinary. Our prompt response wasn't a surprise though. It was a strategy enacted through meticulous planning and preparation over many years that built on strong foundations of using technology to support learning.**

In recent times, the College has focused on how best to develop 21st Century skills, readying our students to engage in a global, online workforce. In an environment that promotes risk-taking, learning from our failures, and celebrating our many successes, teachers of all abilities, eagerly implemented a remote learning program and the results have been simply outstanding.

Strategies such as,

1. Providing teachers with clear expectations for lesson delivery, time frames and assessments.
2. Identifying teachers who may need a higher level of support and pairing them with a technology buddy who provided compassionate assistance.
3. Identifying 4-5 high performing applications that allowed teachers to easily adapt their current teaching practices to an online platform.
4. Providing adequate time for professional development on lesson delivery systems.
5. Re-purposing existing hardware that enabled collegial support. For example, tablets and document cameras were readily made available amongst departments to ensure that all teachers were well resourced.

The College camaraderie blossomed throughout the weeks and teachers worked together to

build engaging lessons for online instruction. As we jumped into the first few days of remote learning our teachers became innovators, using a variety of creative methods and problem-solving techniques.

In the learning space, the 21st century skills developed from this experience will exceed far beyond the content standards set. Students have become skilled communicators, able to self-regulate their learning and collaborate with their peers using ICT.



*ANNA DAVILA (DIRECTOR OF INFORMATION AND LEARNING TECHNOLOGIES)  
WITH KELLY SMITH (DEPUTY PRINCIPAL)*

**Iona's swift response to remote learning throughout COVID-19, was met with equally swift messages of gratitude from parents and the wider community.**

See below a snippet of the heartfelt messages sent by our community.

Communication between the College and the community has been excellent. Thank you! The *technology and systems currently being used to continue the children's education are also extremely impressive...*

*You're doing an excellent job catering to all the children's individual needs with patience, kindness and enthusiasm.*

*Moving our daughter to Iona last year has been one of the best decisions we've made.* However now, more than ever, we're thankful for the opportunities and education she is receiving.

PARENT OF YEAR 5

The *transition into remote learning was seamless* for our daughter, she has settled into the daily program with complete ease.

Thank you for continuing to *provide a supportive environment and holistic education*, your efforts have been above and beyond.

PARENT OF YEAR 11

I've been really impressed at how all the teachers handled it and *continued to teach amazing lessons* in a different way.

PARENT OF YEAR 8

Our thanks Iona for being so organised, preparing the girls to study and learn at home. So far so good, *our daughter is connected to her friends in her learning groups* and seems to know exactly what's going on.

PARENT OF YEAR 7

I am truly *grateful for the selfless act of school staff* consistently prioritising the growth and development of the students in their care - thank you.

PARENT OF YEAR 12

I am *absolutely convinced each and every day that Iona is an amazing school* and the way you have lead this situation is to be highly commended.

I am *very proud to be an Iona Mum*, the support we have felt has been overwhelming and many other families are watching our situation in awe as you are making it as easy as it could be.

PARENT OF YEAR 8



## EXCEPTIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

**Year 12 is a very special time in our students' lives. Time filled with special occasions, academic rigour and a myriad of opportunities to round out their school life.**

We are incredibly proud of the efforts of all of our students and are thrilled that our Year 12 cohort for 2019 achieved 100% WACE graduation.

Each year General Exhibitions are awarded to the top 50 students across all of Western Australia and in 2019, we are proud to announce that Iona received three General Exhibitions.

Congratulations these remarkable students, **ALEXANDRA PRICHARD, ELLEN ENGELKE** and **PHILIPPA NEWMAN**.



Alexandra achieved an ATAR of 99.2 which places her in the top 1% of Australian students. During Year 12 she studied Religion and Life, History, Media Production and Analysis, Literature, Chemistry, and Human Biology. She was awarded a Certificate of Excellence for Religion and Life, which placed her in the top 0.5% of candidates in this subject. Alexandra was also the recipient of a Certificate of Distinction for her overall results in Years 11 and 12. Alexandra has been accepted into the University of Western Australia to study a Bachelor of Philosophy, Majoring in Medical Science and Sociology.



Ellen received a General Exhibition for achieving the highest ATAR for an Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in the state of Western Australia. Additionally, she was in the top 0.5% of students in Human Biology, receiving a Certificate of Excellence. Ellen also was also the recipient of a Certificate of Distinction for her overall results in Years 11 and 12. She studied Mathematics Applications, English, Human Biology, Politics and Law, and Religious Education General. Ellen has been accepted into Curtin University to study a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery.



Philippa was awarded a scholarship to the Australian National University in Canberra, to study a Bachelor of Arts and Science Double Degree in Statistics, French and Philosophy. Philippa gained an ATAR score of 99.90, placing her in the top 1% in Australia. In addition, she received a Certificate of Excellence for Literature gaining an outstanding, 100% in her WACE Literature Exam! Philippa was also awarded a Certificate of Distinction for her overall results in Years 11 and 12. The subjects she studied in Year 12 were Religion and Life, Literature, Physics, Chemistry, Maths Specialist and Maths Methods.

# ACADEMIC RESULTS IONA YEAR 12 CLASS OF 2019

*at a glance...*

**100%** WACE GRADUATION  
Ranked Equal 1st

**3** GENERAL EXHIBITIONS  
Awarded to the top 50 students in the state

**12%** Achieved an ATAR above **96**

**MEDIAN ATAR 87.25**  
16th in the state

**40%** Achieved an ATAR above **90**

**1st** Top Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander student in the state

**79%** Achieved an ATAR above **80**

**SUBJECT EXHIBITION**

- Religion and Life

**SCASA HIGH PERFORMING COURSES**

- Chemistry
- English
- Geography
- Literature
- Media Production and Analysis
- Modern History
- Politics and Law
- Psychology
- Religion and Life

**SUBJECT CERTIFICATES OF EXCELLENCE**

- Human Biology
- Literature
- Religion and Life

**15 Certificates of Distinction**  
**48 Certificates of Merit**

**ACCESS LEARNING ACHIEVEMENTS**

- Community Services, Health and Education for outstanding achievement
- Australian Super Vet Award
- 98.4%** of ACCESS students obtained a Certificate III or higher
- RANKING 2 IN THE STATE**

**TOP CEWA SCHOOL** MEAN SCALED SCORE

- Religion and Life
- Drama
- Geography
- Indonesian
- Media
- Psychology



**IONA**  
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

## GIVING, NOT JUST A DONATION



**Consider this. Mrs Hin, a Vietnamese woman is in her mid-50's. She is a long time widow, with three children – a son who is in the Army and never comes home, a daughter who has married and despite living in a nearby town rarely visits and a son who attends the local school. Mrs Hin is a rice farmer, and weather-dependent she farms two crops of rice a year which she stores in her house- a 5 x 3 metre room- with no furniture, hard floor and her entire life belongings. Apologising profusely that she has nothing to offer visitors as they arrived, because she was too poor. Mrs Hin, was the recipient of the inaugural Vietnam Immersion's Community Service Project in the rural district of Mai Chau, Vietnam.**

Late in 2019 a number of Year 10 and 11 students, travelled from Iona to Vietnam spending several days working alongside local builders, to construct Mrs Hin a brand-new kitchen and the first 'flushing toilet' block in the village.

Some of the duties performed by staff and students included, but were not limited to, mixing cement from scratch, moving over 4000 bricks by hand, laying and grouting bricks, digging foundations and rendering the kitchen and toilet buildings. All participants showed amazing grit and resilience, as well as a willingness to communicate with the local people, despite the language barrier.

Prior to departure in November 2019, students had already fundraised over \$3000 and were determined to raise as much money as was needed to give Mrs Hin a new life. Seeing Mrs Hin finally take ownership of her new facilities, built by our immersion participants- staff and students, was an emotionally fulfilling experience for all.

'When you walk in the footsteps of a poor Vietnamese woman like Mrs Hin, it is impossible not to be touched by her humility, simplicity, sense of justice and warmth towards us as visitors. Upon returning home to Perth and reflecting on the Community Service Project, as part of the

overall Vietnam Immersion experience, we were immensely proud to have flown the Iona flag and made a positive difference to Mrs Hin's life.'

**Gemma Thomson**  
*Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity*



## A NEW ERA FOR IONA BOARDING

**We are thrilled to announce that our Iona Presentation College boarders have a new home-away-from-home at the St Hilda's Boarding House.**

Iona Presentation College and St Hilda's Anglican School for Girls have entered into a new innovative era, working together to offer rural, regional, remote and overseas families a comfortable and practical living environment at the newly refurbished Boarding House.

This innovative collaboration allows our boarders to have an Iona education,

whilst enjoying the social benefits of a larger boarding community.

Located a short stroll from Iona, the Boarding House offers a family-oriented lifestyle from Years 7 to 12. Recreational facilities include sports courts, a swimming pool, an oval, a gymnasium, a multi-purpose flexible recreational space and outdoor areas for barbeques and socialising. Academic facilities include the Library and Technology Centre which is open at night and at weekends, and a prep and study area specifically for boarders.





Our boarders will be amongst a group of young women whose tradition is still very much a part of the Iona community today. At Iona there is a strong belief in the capacity and responsibility of our young women to contribute significantly to their community, whether it be at school, or in her regional, rural or remote home.

We are proud to say that Iona is a close-knit community where the girls can feel safe, and with close ties to the Boarding School at St Hilda's, this feeling of safety allows them to build confidence.

Iona Presentation College has a long-standing relationship with many rural, regional and remote WA families. This unique opportunity has been designed to build on that relationship, providing young women a local Mosman Park home for those who want an Iona education.

**To find out more please contact  
College Registrar,  
Mrs Theresa Loughnan via email,  
[theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au),  
phone (08) 9384 0066  
or by viewing our website,  
[www.iona.wa.edu.au/boarding](http://www.iona.wa.edu.au/boarding)**



## ITS SHOWTIME!

**Each year since 2014, Iona has been ranked as one of the top-10 schools in Western Australia for Media Production Analysis.**

In this article, learn what the Media Production and Analysis Course is all about . . .

### **WHERE DID IT ALL BEGIN?**

As an ATAR subject, Media Production & Analysis (MPA) began in 2007. Prior to that, it had only been reserved as a middle-school (Years 7-10) elective as the cost of purchasing the then-expensive audio-visual equipment, kept it out of reach for many schools. Now, as the cost of digital technologies has reduced, the purchase of professional AV equipment is much more affordable offering schools the opportunity to enable this 'industry-standard' media education.

### **WHAT IS STUDIED IN MPA?**

Media students in Years 9 and 10 develop their 'media literacy' by studying, then learning to replicate a range of popular media forms and genres, including Action Films, Teen Films, Music Videos and Suspense Cinema. Along the way they are taught to develop critical-thinking skills and approach the mass-media as critical, rather than passive consumers.

In Year 11, students first learn about what makes media 'popular' by studying and analysing popular culture and its close relationship to audiences and their dominant values, attitudes and ideologies. Students study a range of media



forms and genres, including new media forms such as social media, memes, and interactive content, as well as music videos, Short Films and Reality TV.

In Year 12, ATAR Media Production & Analysis students study Alternative and Independent Media; media work produced in order to make a social or political comment, rather than entertain a mass audience. Students also study Propaganda and learn to critique news-media by considering the political agendas and power-structures which have shaped their points of view. For their final ATAR Examination, as well as a written examination, students produce a 3-5 minute Short Film or Short

Documentary which expresses their own point of view on a topic, theme, or issue.

Since 2016, Iona students have had successful entries in Media Perspectives. This event, open to the public, runs across several Perth cinemas, from Innaloo, to Mandurah and Bunbury. This prestigious event showcases the top 18 ATAR Media Productions from Western Australia. Iona has had successful entries since 2016, with two out of the 18 films selected in both 2018 and 2019 being films produced by our students. One of these films, 'Artifice' by Krista Ricupero (*Class of 2019*) was also voted on unanimously by all Media Perspectives judges.

#### WHERE TO FROM HERE?

Each year as a subject, MPA equips a small cohort of students with the practical skills and critical understanding required to enter the Media industry, or at least pursue post-tertiary studies in areas including Sociology, Political Science, Communications, Public Relations, Advertising and the Creative Industries.

The subject also provides them with a vital, critical understanding of the media messages they receive every day and the many factors that have gone into shaping them.

## WELLBEING . . . WE TEACH IT. WE SPEAK IT. WE LIVE IT.

**Having recognised that the first essential step for effective learning and growth to occur, this year, an area of focus for the College is the Wellbeing of both students and staff.**

As educators, we acknowledge that for us to be our very best, and be positive role models to our students, we must also continue to keep our own Wellbeing top of mind.

A range of initiatives and goals have been thoughtfully created for

2020, aptly led by our inaugural Senior School Wellbeing Captain and her Wellbeing Team.

Each term will be focused on a specific area of Wellbeing. With the four focus areas for 2020 being:

**TERM 1 - CHARACTER STRENGTHS**

**TERM 2 - GRATITUDE**

**TERM 3 - POSITIVE EMOTIONS**

**TERM 4 - GRIT**

These focus areas will be implemented through activities and initiatives not only in Homeroom (daily), but additionally,

at Year Levels. Wellbeing Weeks, in specific subject areas and at staff development days. Wednesdays have even been coined 'Wellbeing Wednesday' where the entire College will be sure to make their health and wellness a priority.

With an integrated and engaging approach, we are excited to make the health and wellness of our community an integral part of our 21st Century curriculum.



A photograph of three children playing with green slime on a table outdoors. The child in the center is wearing a blue dress and a brown hat with 'IONA' written on it. The other two children are wearing orange shirts and hats. They are all smiling and looking at the slime. The background shows a tree trunk and a wooden structure.

## WHY THE REGGIO EMILIA APPROACH?

Iona's Early Years Learning Team is inspired by the founder of the Reggio Emilia philosophy, Loris Malaguzzi, whose belief is that, 'nothing is done without joy.' With this in mind we have developed a pedagogy that views the child as a strong, capable and resilient learner, rich with wonder and knowledge. We believe early learning is essential for all children and enables each child to reach their full potential.

As educators, we recognise that families are the children's first and most influential educators. At the centre of the Reggio Emilia approach is a strong sense of community and engagement between children, parents and educators.

In the early years, we build our programs around the individual developmental needs of each student in all areas. We strive to build on the variety of skills, interests, experiences and knowledge that they bring into the classroom and recognise that the environment plays a key role in both supporting and extending children's development and learning.

As educators, we encourage and value learning through play. We believe that children who engage in quality play experiences are more likely to have well-developed memory skills, language development and are able to regulate their behaviour, leading

to enhanced school adjustment and academic learning.

We allow children to build on their understanding of their world, through many means. Every child brings with them deep curiosity and potential and this natural curiosity drives their interest to understand their world and their place within it.

We take a holistic approach to teaching and learning in the Iona Early Years. This ensures that children develop personally, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually as well as developing the cognitive aspects of their learning.

## GOING THAT EXTRA MILE

**19 February 1942.**

Darwin was bombed by the Japanese and repercussions were felt all over Australia. Numerous schools in Perth, both public and private, organised the evacuation of students to rural areas for continued education. Iona Presentation College was one of these schools. Sisters Matthew Townsend, Perpetua Townsend, Albeus Fahey and Pius McGrath accompanied a small number of boarding and day students to the rural township of Beverley and the Beverley Presentation Convent. Past Pupil Violet Shanahan (née Chauncy) also remembered some students being evacuated to the Goomalling Presentation Convent.

Concerns over the safety, welfare and continued education of children was at the forefront of Presentation Sisters thinking at that time. A maxim that they have always lived by- to go that 'extra mile', always ensuring the safety and health of the community, whilst maintaining education for their students.

Another example of Presentation kindness, hospitality and initiative is seen in the embracing of the

'Polish Girls'. On 14 February 1950, over a thousand Polish refugees arrived at Fremantle Harbour (*Daily News*, 29 April 1950, p. 5). Many of these passengers were women and children, not knowing if husbands and fathers were still alive. Upon arrival at Iona's Boarding House, space was at a premium. So, with ingenuity and flexibility, the sisters set up beds on enclosed verandas for our new Australians. Sister Joan Evans (Boarding House Mistress) and students welcomed and grew to love the 'Polish Girls'. The love and support these girls experienced has remained with them beyond their graduation and they remain proud Ionians today.

68 years after Presentation Sisters evacuated students, family members and friends to Beverley, another evacuation of sorts has occurred. Schools all over Western Australia, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic moved to 'evacuate' the familiarity of the school campus and commence a new type of 'remote' learning from home. (Read more on page 32)

In a 'Coronavirus' world providing a continued holistic education has been of utmost importance.

Our teachers have continued to emulate Presentation traditions of care and nurture to all students whilst preparing them well for remote learning.

College Support staff enhanced the work of teachers by providing technological support and upskilling, enabling work from home to occur seamlessly. School Psychologists too, stayed in close touch with students, checking on the health and happiness of each child during this phase of social isolation.

As Term 2 2020 begins, educational circumstances have changed yet again. Students and teachers are back in the classroom enabling face to face teaching and learning to occur. Where the College believes the best educational outcomes can be achieved.

The combination of Presentation traditions, teachers who inspire and an adaptable learning environment that has and always will promote innovation, ensures the Iona community continues to move excitingly into the future.

**Marelda Kelly**  
Assistant to College Archivist



Join us for a Tour Today

Life at Iona is full of opportunities, inspiration and learning  
A place for friendships to be formed and wonderful experiences to be shared

To arrange a private tour of either our  
Senior or Junior School campuses, please  
contact Mrs Theresa Loughnan

T 08 9384 0066

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

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



**IONA**  
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

CO-ED PRE K-6 | ALL GIRLS 7-12

*Making a difference, together*

**A Catholic School, Pre K-12.  
Boys and Girls Pre K-6 | All Girls 7-12.  
Established in 1907 by the Congregation of Presentation Sisters (W.A.) Inc.**

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**Senior School**

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



**IONA**  
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IONA PAST  
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ASSOCIATION



**IPPA**