

A group of women are laughing and smiling in a room with large windows. The woman in the foreground on the left is wearing a light-colored turtleneck sweater and has her hand near her face. The woman on the right is wearing a white lace-trimmed blouse and has her hair in a bun. The background shows other people and large windows with a view of a brick building.

# *esprit* *de corps*



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 24 • 2022

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Iona Presentation College respectfully acknowledges the Whadjuk people of the Noongar Nation as the Traditional Custodians of the land upon which this publication has been created and pay respect to Elders past, present and future.

Together, as a Catholic Presentation community, we acknowledge the contributions of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Australians and non-Aboriginal Australians to the education of all children and people in this country we all live in and share together.



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27



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# FROM THE Principal

**Recently I have been reflecting upon what makes Iona such a special place and I keep returning to its strong sense of community.**

I think we would all agree that it is the people that make a community, and I feel so incredibly blessed to have met so many inspirational people in my brief time at Iona. Students, parents, caregivers, Past Pupils, staff, and our Presentation Sisters all fulfil an important role in creating and building upon the wonderful foundations that were laid 115 years ago.

This year, our beloved Presentation Sisters have not been able to connect with our community in the usual way because of the COVID-19 pandemic. So, as a community, together we have become extra creative, rediscovering new and interesting ways for our students to continue to learn and appreciate the many sacrifices made by the Sisters over so many years.

Watching significant events from the balcony has certainly become a feature!

When commissioning Year 12 students, the Sisters witnessed students reading their pledge and journeying up the Avenue and past the Convent.

On St Patrick's Day, our Year 12 students celebrated Mass with the Sisters looking on from above - there was not a dry eye in the house as students turned to the Sisters and sang together a beautiful Irish Blessing.

Our Year 2 students participated in a traditional May Day procession with the Sisters watching over them, as they carefully placed a crown of flowers on the statue of Mary located next to the Convent.

I would like to share with you a recent quote from one of our Presentation Sisters.

"I came to Iona in 1954, in about Year 2 or 3, and throughout my schooling I learned that the real precious values are those you carry away with you and that you keep connecting with over the years. I often think, that is what keeps us connected, and to me it is something to do with the Iona heart."

There is no doubt that this heart is at the core of the Iona community.

*Once an Ionian, always an Ionian.*

God bless,

**Robyn Miller** *B.Ed., Med(RE), MEdL*  
*College Principal*





“Alone we can do so little;  
together we can do so much.”  
HELEN KELLER

## FROM THE Chair of IPPA

**I would like to firstly thank my predecessor, Jane-Mary Richardson née Ellis (Class of 1989), for her enthusiasm and very hard work as Chair of the IPPA committee over the last few years. JM oversaw the introduction of, amongst other things; Networking Breakfasts and a fabulous Mentoring Program, as well as assisting recent graduates in the building of Young IPPA. Her direction, input and guidance will be greatly missed.**

I am now excited to step into the role of Chair to build on these initiatives and to lead and represent IPPA for current students and especially our Past Pupils. I thank College Principal, Robyn Miller, and the Community Relations Team, particularly Georgia Allen, for this great opportunity and the support and encouragement they have given to me and to the IPPA committee and sub-committees.

Helen Keller once said, “Alone we can do so little; together we can do so much.” It is the power of what we are able to achieve together in a community of hearts and minds that makes us strong.

A true community doesn't just happen - it's not about being in the same space at the same time. It's about being connected and being responsible for what happens to ourselves and to those around us.

Our Iona community, and the spirit of service and of giving back for the greater good, is the grounding that we all take into the world, and as you can see in this issue of *esprit de corps*, a great many of us spend our lives giving back in service to the community in one way or another.

After our school years are over when we leave Iona, and the community we have had supporting us during this time, how many of us take the opportunity to pause, look back and appreciate the cocoon of comfort that was built around us? Do we fully appreciate the wealth of generous support, aid, and sense of family that the Iona community provided?

As you peruse the pages of this issue of *esprit de corps*, I ask you to take a moment to reflect on your role in the Iona community, and to give thanks for the amazing network of support that we continue to share, whoever we may be and whatever our contribution.

A strong community like ours takes courage, strength and determination across generations, as well as empathy and compassion for all of its members. We should all be so, so proud to be part of this great Iona community.

**Aymee Mastaglia** née Bartlett (Class of 1994)  
IPPA Chair



# Community

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In this special feature, we explore stories of Community.

Ionians who are people of a 'welcoming heart' who have built a sense of belonging through strength and kinship.

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Annie Kennedy Class of 2012

# My happiness, my meaning

After graduating from Iona in 2012, I took my time deciding what I wanted to do and didn't jump straight into university. I wasn't a high academic achiever and I had some tough times in high school, so instead I jumped from job to job and experience to experience. I travelled through Southeast Asia for three months and then onto Europe; any place I could explore, I went.

When I turned 20, I thought it was time to focus on building a career. I attended Notre Dame University to study Nursing but after a year, decided it wasn't for me. I spent the next two years working at a café in Fremantle, as well as coaching after school sports at Iona. I was very grateful to be given that opportunity because it led me to choose the type of work I do now.

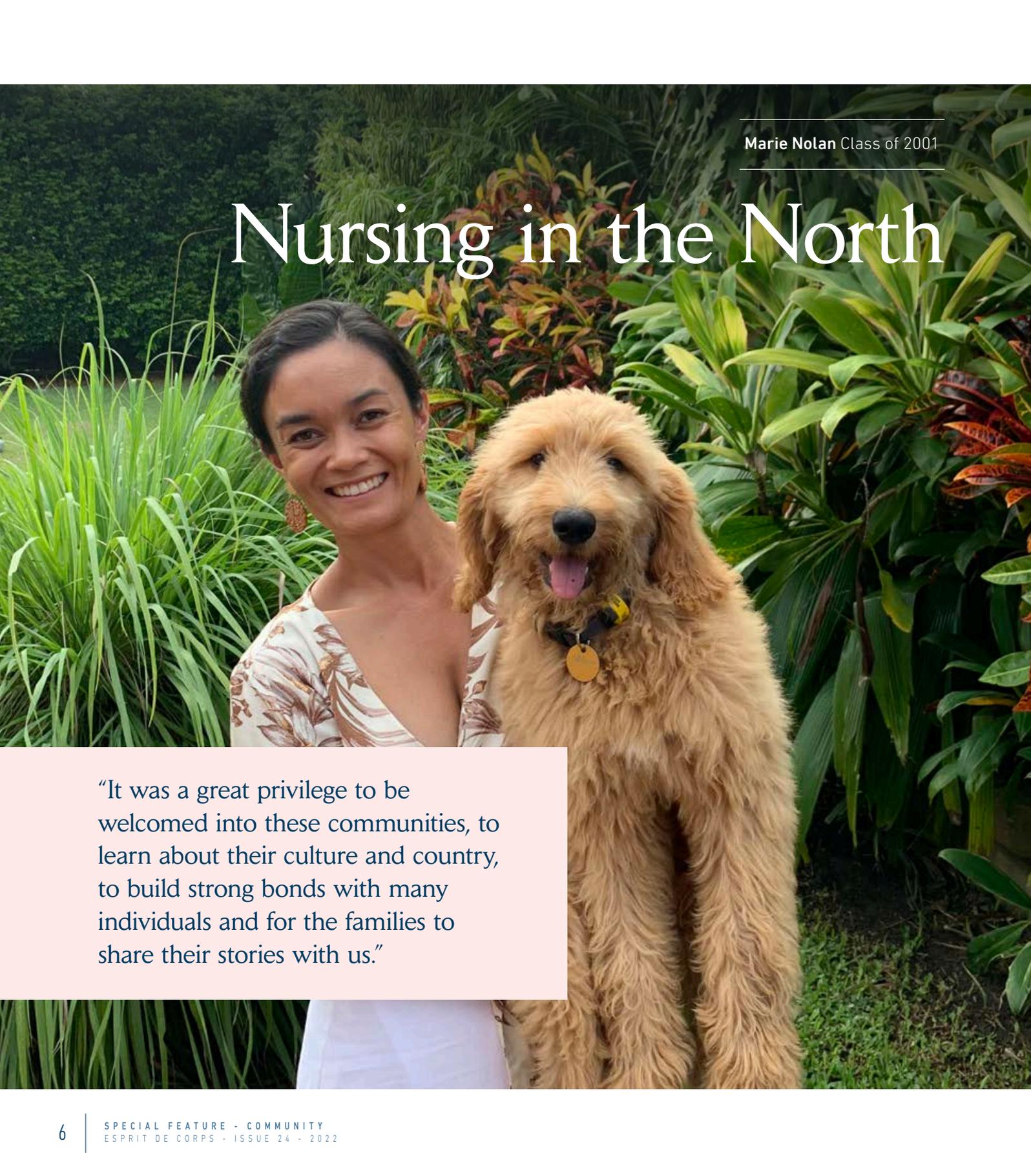
In 2018, I started a Bachelor of Youth Work at Edith Cowan University. I was hooked after my first lecture and felt like I'd finally found my purpose. The following year I received the opportunity of a lifetime to complete my year-long practical placement in England. This was an amazing experience, working at a drop-in youth centre in a low socio-economic area with young people who had experienced all sorts of trauma and disadvantages.

When I returned to Australia, I finished my degree, graduating at the end of 2020. At first, I balanced working at a couple of youth services whilst still coaching soccer at Iona. I took pride in my job as a coach, and it gave me the confidence I needed in my job. In high school I felt I would never find that 'thing' that I was meant to do, but with time and support I did.

Now I have found a job that fits. I am a Youth Housing Worker at Youth Place in Fremantle. Youth Place is run by St Patrick's Community Service (St Pat's), a well-known homelessness service and community housing provider in the south metropolitan of Perth. I currently case manage around 20 young people who are homeless or at risk of homelessness. My main goal is to find them long-term suitable housing. I also help with outreach support such as helping young people with their education, mental health and finances.

The way I support young people today is partly because of what I have learnt and absorbed from the people who supported me. I think about some of the teachers and peers I had at Iona and take different parts of their approach towards me and apply it into my practice in community work with young people.

**"I find giving back to the community and working in the sector that once helped me, brings me happiness and has given my life meaning."**

A woman with dark hair, smiling, stands next to a large, fluffy, light-brown dog. They are in a lush garden with various green plants and flowers. The woman is wearing a white top with a brown floral pattern. The dog is wearing a black collar with a yellow tag.

Marie Nolan Class of 2001

# Nursing in the North

“It was a great privilege to be welcomed into these communities, to learn about their culture and country, to build strong bonds with many individuals and for the families to share their stories with us.”



Moving to Australia's north had always appealed to me since my days as an Iona Boarder, and after graduating from Nursing at Notre Dame in 2004, the idea became a reality.

I first nursed in small country towns in WA's Wheatbelt before moving to Derby. This was a great introduction to life above the Tropic of Capricorn - exciting, fun, hot and many nursing opportunities.

I then moved to the Northern Territory and took a role on the Orthopaedic Ward at Royal Darwin Hospital before moving into the area of Alcohol and Other Drugs. This work saw me spend the next eight years working within the urban region, as well as travelling to remote communities across the top end to help provide education on the harm and effects of substances, specifically volatile substance use.

I worked alongside Elders, families and other organisations, to provide support to clients, some of whom were in their teenage years. Our goal was to enable a break from substance use, allowing their bodies and minds to regain their health and become strong again.

It was a great privilege to be welcomed into these communities, to learn about their culture and country, to build strong bonds with many individuals and for the families to share their stories with us.

It was also a great comfort that my sisters, Vicky and Kathy, had moved to take up teaching roles both in Darwin and remote communities. Plus, I had one of my 'Iona sisters' at a community in East Arnhem Land. Jessica Bath *née Neesham* (Class of 1999) was teaching at a local school, and her husband was working for Clontarf supporting the young Aboriginal men. *Iona girls* (and their husbands) *make a difference*, certainly rings true here!

The North is such a unique and beautiful part of Australia, and I feel very fortunate to have experienced it so intimately. We would often travel by light aircraft to visit the communities, and I always wore my St Christopher medal as there were many hairy flights! You never knew if you would be dodging big dark storms on the way home to Darwin or diverting elsewhere to stay overnight.

Whilst I loved building such close bonds with the communities, the work was very challenging, and you would often question whether you were making a difference. Around this time, I was taking a break from the job to resume work at RDH. To my great surprise, I was given a very moving send-off from one of the communities. The Health workers gifted me some locally-designed shirts and thanked me for supporting and working alongside them.

I've recently made the move back to Perth to be closer to family, my new little niece and friends. I am enjoying this time settling into my new life back here with my boyfriend and dog Winnie, and getting back to see my parents on the farm in Lake Grace. But my time in the North has shaped me immensely and I am feeling the call to return to work to help provide care and support to others within our community.

# Creating a sense of belonging

The restaurant and catering business has always been a big part of my life.

I grew up in Kalgoorlie where my parents ran the Kalgoorlie Hotel. Famous for its pizzas and friendly atmosphere, it was a fun and vibrant childhood surrounded by family, and our adopted family - the hotel guests.

My mum was an Ionian, and so (perhaps reluctantly) I became an Iona Boarder for Years 11 and 12. I was soon swept up with making new friends - both day girls and boarders - enjoying the different activities the school and the Boarding House had to offer and taking friends back to Kalgoorlie on long weekends.

Not long after graduating from high school, my family moved to Perth where we opened our café, Pizzacas. Located on a back lane in Scarborough, our purpose for the past 15 years has been to create a friendly and relaxed dining experience that serves authentic Italian cuisine.

It is a family affair at the café. Whilst my dad has hung up his chef's hat, both my parents work tirelessly behind the scenes, my aunty bakes the cakes and sweet treats, and even my son works at the neighbouring pasta shop between his studies and football commitments.

While I was managing the café, I also began a grazing platter business, KaraKara. This was an exciting and challenging new venture as not only did

I have to learn the fundamentals of building my own business, but also how to grow the brand creatively. From weddings to baby showers, race meets to corporate events and birthdays - we did everything! What I loved most about the job was seeing people come together around one of our platters to celebrate a special occasion - that was a real privilege.

When COVID-19 hit, the landscape of the food industry changed rapidly. KaraKara took a hiatus while we focused on our core business. In those immediate few weeks, we had to respond quickly in order to adapt. We changed our website, included a delivery service for the first time, and expanded our pick-up repertoire. What was really important to us was staying connected to our customers who may have been feeling isolated at home and disorientated from all the change.

At our pasta shop, which is located two shops down from the café, we created a different family meal for every night of the week. We knew that it wasn't just businesses that were struggling but also families that needed a helping hand. The packages were generously portioned at affordable prices. We hoped that this would give our customers something to look forward to and a taste of normal life, particularly in those early lockdown periods.

We have a strong community spirit at the café. Many of our regulars come into the shop three or four times a week, sometimes even twice a day. So, we knew that with the COVID lockdowns this could affect their sense of belonging. When we came through the other side, we definitely felt a stronger bond with our regulars. People were calling up to book out tables, and there was a real sense of camaraderie. It had also been an education in the importance of supporting local. It

felt like because we'd supported our community, now they wanted to support us.

We are in the process of opening up a new venue on the same lane we started Pizzacas all those years ago. A crazy move during COVID times perhaps, but it's a testament to the tight community that we have built. In essence, we wanted to build something new for our regulars. For the past 15 years they have been supporting us, and now we want to give them something special in return. The new Pizzaca Pizzeria Bar will still have all the old favourites for our community to enjoy but in a fresh new setting with some extra pizzazz.

“Our customers are at the heart of what we do. We may not always know what is going on in their lives, but as I teach my staff, when someone comes in we need to make them feel welcomed, as we might just be the best part of their day.”



# Defined by Community

**Gabrielle Groves** *née Neesham* Class of 1992





I have never known a time in my life that my family have not been involved as volunteers at the Melville Water Polo Club. My earliest recollections at the age of four centred on weekends and holidays assisting my father, his brothers and other club members to construct a purpose-built water polo pool at Bicton Baths. Endless hours of physical labour, fundraising, and time away from family was endured to achieve the greater goal of providing our community with a resource that could be enjoyed by all.

**“From generation to generation, the importance of community and service has been a constant on both sides of my family.”**

My grandparents instilled a strong sense of service in the community through their involvement and participation in both school and parish roles. Currently, there are over twenty immediate and extended Neesham family members who are actively involved at the Melville Water Polo Club on a volunteer basis, in various roles.

My involvement at Melville Water Polo Club began 12 years ago when my daughters started to play water polo. After a few years, I was asked to take on a volunteer role as Team Manager and, since that time, I have managed multiple junior girls' teams at all levels of competition; including many current and past Ionians. In 2017, I was approached to manage the Fremantle Water Polo Mariners, who play in the Australian Water Polo League. This role requires me to wear many hats, but the most important element of my role is the support and pastoral care of players.

I have been very fortunate in my life to have had a very special connection to Iona, which has helped me in my volunteer roles. I am a Past Pupil, my children are Past Pupils and I have been teaching in the Junior School since 2003.

During my time at Iona, Sister Maureen Moynihan has been the most influential person for me professionally and personally. Her gifts of empathy, active listening and sage advice are qualities that I strive to utilise in all aspects of my life. My personal experiences as a teacher and volunteer, and the Iona Presentation College core values of service and community, reinforce that, “Every person is defined by the community she belongs to.” ORSON SCOTT CARD

*Photo Credit: Parkhill Visuals*

A woman with sunglasses on her head, wearing a light-colored button-down shirt and blue jeans, is crouching in a vast field of green, leafy plants. The field stretches far into the distance under a warm, golden sunset sky. In the background, there are some trees and a building.

# Giving back to Community

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Tara Vermeersch *née Brand* Class of 2001

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“The community is really special, full of generous and intelligent people who are always willing to help one another.”

After graduating from Iona, I completed my Bachelor of Commerce/Arts at UWA and worked in Human Resources. I loved working in this field but alas, I'd also fallen in love with a farmer and I packed up and moved to Cascade, about 110km north west of Esperance!

Initially it was difficult to adjust to the change of pace from corporate life. We're a long way from everywhere, often declining invitations to special events because we are working. The seeding and harvest seasons seem to stretch out longer every year and our income is too dependent on global markets and weather.

Despite this, we've always known how incredibly blessed we are to work within our own business and to raise our sons in this idyllic space. The community is really special, full of generous and intelligent people who are always willing to help one another. I've seen this so many times but especially after the devastating bush fires that swept through our area in 2015.

In 2020, a handful of like-minded farmers started working on the idea of a community foundation where farmers from the Esperance area could collectively contribute and give back to the wider community. We wanted to share some of our success with those who were facing challenging times and to invest in opportunities that will help Esperance to thrive, to make it a place anyone would want to live, work and play.

It has taken almost two years to establish the Esperance Ag Fund, but in May we announced our inaugural grant recipients. Through grain and cash donations from farmers we were able to gift \$70,900 towards local projects. It is a significant first step in our plan for the Esperance Ag Fund to make an ongoing investment in our community.

We formed as a named fund under the Fremantle Foundation. If you haven't heard of the Fremantle Foundation, I urge you to Google this amazing organisation because it is a good news story from our own backyard that we all need to hear.

My time at Iona nurtured my belief in service to the community. Mrs Joan Easton (former Head of Boarding) was a great mentor to me. We worked in Vision Generation together to raise money for our Indian sponsor child, Shoba, and ran the 40 Hour Famine each year. I always admired Mrs Easton's kind, yet no nonsense, outcomes-focused approach, and I think I've carried that with me ever since.

# Creativity and Community go hand in hand

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**Morgan Schaafsma** Class of 2012

@openhandscreative  
www.openhandscreative.com

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Creativity flourishes when supported by community. When starting my business, Open Hands Creative, back in 2019, I knew I wanted to connect like-minded people and form a space where they felt inspired to create openly. Our main mission is to unlock and uphold creativity in adults through accessible workshops, events, and educational art practices. Open Hands offer a variety of eco-friendly arts and crafts workshops all around Perth. We celebrate nature and give back to Mother Earth by making sustainable choices. We strive to be a waste and plastic-free business and are in the process of offsetting our carbon emissions.

Community is celebrated at Open Hands workshops. We have big, long tables and encourage open conversations. We often say, you can learn as much from 'the teacher' as you can from 'the stranger' across the table. There is something so special about sharing a creative experience with like-minded people; it feeds the creative soul. We all need connection; connection to ourselves, connection to others, connection to nature. I am extremely grateful that Open Hands can fulfil this need, especially during a pandemic where we feel isolated and unsupported at times, creativity can reconnect and uplift us.

My favourite part of my job is meeting new people and seeing what they create when supported and encouraged at our workshops. It reminds me of the support and guidance I received during school. I often think back to my high school years at Iona and am thankful for the opportunities I was given to nourish my creativity. I am thankful for the girls that joined me in the art room at lunch time and I am thankful for the inspiring teachers (shout out to Ms Bird and Mrs Winterbottom). It was our very own little community and is what compelled me to start a business on the same foundations: creativity and community.





“We all need connection; connection to ourselves, connection to others, connection to nature.”

# Kidney Queen

Maria Wyer *née Papalía* Class of 1992



This is not only my story, it is also a wonderful story of community.

It is true to say that I simply wouldn't be here today without the support of my family and friends, many of whom are fellow Ionians. It was in fact the 'gift of life' donated by a classmate many years ago, that has kept me alive and healthy and able to tell my story.

Let's rewind the clock a bit.

I was diagnosed with a rare form of kidney disease at nine months old. Despite it destroying 75% of my kidney function, I managed until I was 18 years old. Not long after graduation in 1992, I became dependent on the support of a dialysis machine for 12 hours a week. Needless to say, my final year at Iona was a struggle with end stage renal failure, however my teachers and dear friends remained unwavering in their love and support which was a great comfort.

It would be six years before I received a kidney transplant from my beautiful mother. 12 months later, I met the man of my dreams and we were soon married. We lived happily in Gracetown, Dunsborough and then Cowaramup. It was whilst on a 12-month road trip together, that I



contracted E.Coli - sadly, this would mark the demise of my kidney transplant.

Despite the efforts of both western and eastern medicine, we could not save my kidney, and after 13 years to the day, I was back on dialysis. My weight plummeted to 35kg and I had 10 litres of fluid on my lungs - I was in a very, very bad way.

I had always kept journals when I was younger and so, without the energy to take the concerned phone calls from family and friends, I started to write again. That is when, 'Kidneyqueen' was born - my saving grace.

I began a regular online blog which was shared far and wide, and which became nothing short of a miracle. It made it to my Class of 1992 Facebook page and into the hands of an angel.

Erin Coyne (also Class of 1992) and I weren't close at school but we had a mutual respect for one another. We went our separate ways after graduation, Erin becoming a mum of four and a nurse, and I moved to the South-West. It truly was miraculous that Erin read my blog.

Completely out of the blue, Erin made contact, explained her story, good fortune and health and that she would be honoured if I accepted her offer of donating her kidney.

The process we both went through was long and complicated, but after 12 months of testing, coping with the ups and downs of my fragile condition, Erin was able to donate her kidney to help save my life.

Although her kidney was not a match, we still went on to become part of a donor exchange program. Together, Erin and my husband both joined the national 'kidney lotto'. This national register is for people in a similar situation with a willing incompatible donor. In the end, Erin was a match to someone in Victoria, the Victorian donor was compatible to someone in Queensland, and their donor was compatible to me!

We celebrated eight years 'kidney strong' in February this year.

Erin and I have an incredibly strong connection going through this uniquely humbling experience together. We showed each other mutual respect as we clearly had the same values - to treat others as you would like to be treated, as everyone has a story and, for the most part, life is challenging for everyone.

Erin too faced a tragedy that no mother should ever bare in April 2021. I could not take her pain away in the same way she did for me, but it was a great comfort to just be there for her.

After a life of trauma, I was diagnosed with PTSD in 2017 and for years did not recognise myself. After making some life changes, relocating from our beautiful home in Cowaramup, starting a journey of mindfulness practice, accepting therapy and changing career, I began to once again, see 'me'.

I also realised, the true meaning of life, that money and 'things' really mean nothing.

I gave up my senior role, began working at Vinnies and studying a Certificate III in Community Services at TAFE. Coordinating volunteers and working in the welfare department made me feel like I had truly found my purpose.

Not once, but twice, I had won the ultimate lotto. The prize of life! As humbling as this experience was, I struggled to live a normal life and wanted so much to 'give back'. I tried to do too much, too soon, which at times was undervalued. So, I retreated, reset, slowed down, learnt to adjust to my new life and what I could now do with a healthy body.

My life is now dedicated to developing a greater understanding of grief and bereavement support. My husband and I are downsizing to have more time to spend together, exploring our backyard with our two beautiful kelpies.

At age 47, I hope to keep learning new skills and exploring the opportunities this life has to offer. Life has been incredibly difficult at times but also so kind. I plan to continue to be brave, be bold, and be kind, and always remember that we, as a community, are all in this together.



Your gift, her

# future

For the Iona stories yet to be told...

This year marks the 115th anniversary of Iona Presentation College.

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 Iona education and opportunities, which may otherwise be unattainable.

Create your long-lasting connection to Iona today.

Give your gift in one of the following three ways, and be part of the Iona stories yet to be told...



1. Scan the QR code
2. Visit [www.iona.wa.edu.au/yourgift](http://www.iona.wa.edu.au/yourgift)
3. Call Georgia Allen 9384 0066

# Haven't attended an IPPA Networking Breakfast yet? Why not?

In 2018 when IPPA was reinvigorated, it was the mission of the IPPA committee to provide opportunities for IPPA to re-connect and re-engage. And so, in 2019, IPPA Networking Breakfasts were introduced and, after many successful events, have become a staple event in the alumni calendar.

Centred around the College values of Heritage and Tradition, Excellence, Community (2022), Social Justice and Compassion, Courage and Integrity and Love of Learning, the IPPA committee work diligently to come up with interesting topics, and a panel of diverse Ionians ready to tell their stories.

After several years, the events have grown in popularity with amazing attendance from a huge cross section of Ionians. We've welcomed young graduates ready to connect, Golden Girls ready to be inspired and everyone in between.

Look how we got started . . .

## 2019 Courage & Integrity

30 MAY 2019

**THEME** How can you be successful in business, whilst giving back at the same time?

### HOST

Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994)

### PANELLISTS

Elizabeth Brennan (Class of 2003)  
Vicki Butler (Class of 1991)  
Lisa Stewart (Class of 1977)

24 OCTOBER 2019

**THEME** Career Transitions and Pathways

### HOSTS

Renee Steenkamp *née Sequeira* (Class of 2006)

Elaine Dias *née Sequeira* (Class of 2004)

### PANELLISTS

Kathryn McNee (Class of 1985)  
Nadia Vinciguerra *née Duca* (Class of 1994)  
Aimee Jones (Class of 2002)

## 2020 Social Justice & Compassion

29 OCTOBER 2020

**THEME** Social Justice

### HOST

Larissa Strk (Class of 1992)

### PANELLISTS

Kirsten Trott (Class of 1992)  
Julie Sprigg (Class of 1993)  
Melissa Edwards (Class of 1989)

## 2021 Excellence

27 MAY 2021

**THEME** Leadership

### HOST

Gemma Thomson (Class of 2006)

### PANELLISTS

Caitlin Collins (Class of 2005)  
Sarah-Jane Hobson *née Meyer* (Class of 2006)  
Jill Dawson *née Noonan* (Class of 1983)  
Danicia Quinlan (Class of 1989)

Our event for 2022 will be held 7.30am | 27 October | @ Iona  
Please keep an eye out for more information and how to register.

These events are for all IPPA and are designed to ENGAGE, SUPPORT, CONNECT and most certainly INSPIRE.

We can't wait to see you, your friends and classmates there!





# Mentoring 2022

**The IPPA Mentoring Program for 2022 was launched this year on the grounds of The University of Western Australia.**

Despite the challenges of COVID-19 and being unable to host the launch breakfast at Iona, the IPPA sub-committee pooled resources and secured a fantastic space for the 2022 launch.

In its second year, the IPPA Mentoring program is set to be another huge success with 15 pairs signing up for this invaluable experience. Past Pupils have volunteered from a diverse range of backgrounds, ages and expertise. Such a rich tapestry of experience and wealth of knowledge to support each other on many individual and varied pathways.

Now supported by an IPPA Mentoring sub-committee of five Past Pupils - most local and one taking part as an organiser all the way from London - pairs were matched and a plan was put together for Past Pupils to commence.

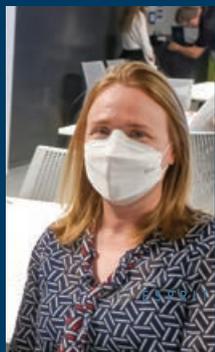
The launch breakfast was facilitated by the committee, with the highlight being Ali Nielsen's (Class of 2016) personal reflection of the inaugural program as a mentee and of the close bond she has developed with her 'angel' - her mentor, Fiona McRae *née* Kerr (Class of 1992)

If you have ever considered imparting your knowledge, inspiring others to go out and be 'great' or would really love the advice and wisdom of someone more experienced, then the IPPA Mentoring Program is for you!

The format of the program is so simple, rewarding, and enjoyable.

- STEP 1** Learn more and submit your request to be involved here: <https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#mentoring>
- STEP 2** Wait to be matched and for the committee to be in touch
- STEP 3** Attend a breakfast - meet your partner
- STEP 4** Work with your partner to determine your goals and how the partnership will work best for you both.
- STEP 5** Attend a conclusion sundowner and help us to grow the program!

It is true what they say; you really only get out what you put in, and Iona girls, really do and can *make a difference*.





# IPPA Combined Reunion

Following an excellent Combined Reunion 'Better late than never' held in 2021 - the decision was made to host another joint reunion this year for the Classes of 2017, 2012, 2002, 1992 and 1982 - and wow, what an event!

Over 150 Ionians attended a fabulous party in our beautiful new learning centre, the Albeus Fahey Building.



What began with a thorough tour of our new building, ably led by Year 12 student leaders, continued in a wonderful opportunity to catch up, chat, mingle, reminisce and be entertained.

Delicious food and a magnificent afternoon with weather to die for, was accompanied by the relaxing tunes of a three-piece band, who added such a fun and festive vibe to the occasion.

Although designated areas were provided for each class, the Iona community grew and grew as classmates throughout the generations caught up with sisters, aunts and friends - such a wonderful display of the continuity of community spirit here at Iona.

Plans were made for future catchups and a promise to see each other more often.

Newly appointed IPPA Chair, Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994), spruiked the successes of IPPA, inviting everyone to join in at future events and initiatives, and College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller, took everyone on a nostalgic walk down memory lane. Our beloved Sr Mary (Anthony) Mackin also welcomed back all Ionians as her 'extended family' to this very special event.

Thanks so much to all guests, helpers, Sisters and staff who attended who made the IPPA Combined Reunion for 2022 such a happy and successful one.

We are thrilled to now be able to celebrate these important milestones together, shared in a beautiful space where we can truly come together as a community, in celebration of our rich Iona history, and make plans together for the future.



2017



2017



1992



2002



1982



2012

# Empower Me, Inspire Her



"Life changing moment and day - full of love and friendship."



"Thought provoking."



"Believe in yourself."

The IPPA Committee recently celebrated its most successful event to date, a one-day symposium called **Empower Me, Inspire Her**.

The event was the mastermind of a dynamic group of Past Pupils - Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994), Amanda Doyle *née Spiers* (Class of 1992), Abbie Durtanovich *née Robson* (Class of 1992), Michelle Morgan *née Drinkwater* (Class of 1990) and Nela Kosec (Class of 2005) - and was designed to provide all Iona women - Past Pupils, mums, daughters, sisters and grandmothers with the opportunity to take a day out for themselves, to reconnect and to be inspired. And what a day it was!

With keynote speakers in **Justin Langer** AM (Dad to Grace Year 11 and several IPPA members) and **Lyn Beazley** AO FAA FTSE the audience was enthralled - stories of resilience, intelligence, wisdom and experience - you could hear a pin drop.

Then the sessions began - and what great diversity and interest they provided.

**THE FINANCIAL TOOLBOX** hosted by **Aymee Mastaglia** had everyone rethinking, reinvigorating and improving their financial knowledge. With experts in Superannuation, Financial Planning and Wills and Estates the topics covered were certainly broad and informative- What exactly do I do with my superannuation? How can I be better at saving my money? Who can help me construct my will? Facebook @financialtoolbox

**Josephine Muir** (Class of 1987) from **NOISY GUTS** provided a hysterical look into our digestive systems and how we can all improve our gut health! Jo very cleverly took a topic that affects us all and made it so interesting, funny and helpful. [www.noisyguts.com](http://www.noisyguts.com)



"An inspiring day with so many connections."





**Lois Key Smith** from **CAREER WISDOM** spoke to our audience of close to 90 women on the importance of making connections using the tools available to us - such as the power of harnessing LinkedIn. She had us chatting and considering what could be our next step in our working lives.  
[www.careerwisdom.com.au](http://www.careerwisdom.com.au)



**Ryah Eastman** (Mum to Mikaela in Year 10) from **FLAIR BY RYAH** empowered us all with the skills to dress with intention, confidence, joy and flair. Her presentation added so much to the event and culminated in a lot of fun - a glass of bubbles and hands-on fashion tips. Huge thanks to our models in Jess Langer (Class of 2014) and Silvana Gohil née Varone (Class of 1990) on the day - you were amazing!  
[www.flairbyryah.com](http://www.flairbyryah.com)



**"I feel ready to be me!"**

And, last but certainly not least, **Vicki Butler** (Class of 1991) spoke about her involvement with the not-for-profit charity, **DRESS FOR SUCCESS**. She shared heart-warming stories of the wonderful impact this charity has had on women, and how we, as Ionians, can do our bit to 'give back'.  
[www.perth.dressforsuccess.org](http://www.perth.dressforsuccess.org)



**"Great community to be part of."**



**"Grateful! Thank you to everyone who helped put this amazing day together."**

All in all, with the array of dynamic and diverse speakers, a delicious lunch, a wonderful space in our state-of-the-art new Learning Centre, and a room full of amazing women - the day was a resounding success.

IPPA plan to run a similar event each year and look forward to seeing lots of new faces, making new connections and supporting all Iona women to be the best they can be!



**"Sensational, thank you!"**

# Thank you...



**The College would like to thank the contributions made by IPPA to the various committees and sub-committees here at Iona. Your wisdom, expertise and time is so greatly appreciated.**

Opportunities arise frequently for IPPA to give back and be involved in the life of Iona.

Please contact Georgia Allen [georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au) to learn more and keep an eye out for 'Expressions of Interest' in which you can register your willingness to be of service to our very special and connected Iona community.

We would like to thank the following Past Pupils . . .

## **Empower Me, Inspire Her Event Committee**

Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994) - CHAIR

Amanda Doyle *née Spiers* (Class of 1992)

Abbie Durtanovich *née Robson* (Class of 1994)

Nela Kosec (Class of 2005)

Michelle Morgan *née Drinkwater* (Class of 1990)

## **Finance and Risk Committee**

Elizabeth Fells (Class of 1994) - CHAIR

Natasha Leedman *née Fawcett* (Class of 1988)

Claire Smith (Class of 2001)

## **IPPA Executive Committee 2022**

Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994) - CHAIR

Elizabeth Brennan (Class of 2003) - BOARDERS

Donna Italiano (Class of 1990) - BOARDERS

Amanda Doyle *née Spiers* (Class of 1992) - EVENTS

Nela Kosec (Class of 2005) - EVENTS

Gabriella Re Matthews (Class of 2010) - MENTORING

Grace Rompotes (Class of 2012) - MENTORING

Sasha Callaghan (Class of 2005)

Milla Harris (Class of 2018) - YOUNG IPPA

Bree Neesham (Class of 2001)

Donella Pengelly (Class of 2012)

Morgan Schaafsma (Class of 2012)

## **IPPA Former Boarders' Sub-Committee**

Elizabeth Brennan (Class of 2003) - CO-CHAIR

Donna Italiano (Class of 1990) - CO-CHAIR

\*\*Under development\*\*

## **Mentoring Sub-Committee**

Gabriella Re Matthews (Class of 2010) - CO-CHAIR

Grace Rompotes (Class of 2012) - CO-CHAIR

Vicki Butler (Class of 1991)

Francesca Kavanagh (Class of 2011)

Melissa Quai Currie *née Quai* (Class of 1993)

## **Parent Council**

Amanda Doyle *née Spiers* (Class of 1992)

Abbie Durtanovich *née Robson* (Class of 1994)

Ann-Margaret Frank *née Unger* (Class of 1986)

Dona Griffiths *née Schwarzbach* (Class of 1992)

Claire O'Malley (Class of 1987)

Danielle Sullivan (Class of 1989)

Jane Sutherland *née Mattes* (Class of 1987)

## **Property and Planning Committee**

Debra Brown (Class of 1982) - CHAIR

Nikki Graham (Class of 2005)

Louise Symonds *née Barrett* (Class of 1982)

## **School Advisory Committee**

Debra Brown (Class of 1982) - CHAIR

Elizabeth Fells (Class of 1994)

Kylie Groves (Class of 1982)

## **Young IPPA**

Milla Harris (Class of 2018) - CHAIR

\*\*Under development\*\*





# REMAINING 2022 IPPA Events and Reunions

We can't wait to see you!

<b>IPPA WORKSHOPPING THE FUTURE</b>	Tuesday 26 July
<b>IPPA MENTORING CONCLUSION SUNDOWNER</b>	Friday 23 September
<b>GOLDEN GIRLS' REUNION CLASS OF 1972 AND BEYOND</b>	Friday 16 September
<b>IPPA ALL BOARDERS' REUNION</b>	Saturday 15 October
<b>IPPA NETWORKING BREAKFAST</b>	Thursday 27 October 2022

The information contained in this schedule is current as of the date of publishing, however may be subject to change.

**To ensure you keep up to date with all IPPA events and initiatives, please keep your contact details current here: [www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](http://www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au).**



| Engage | Connect | Support | Inspire

To view IPPA photo galleries, keep up to date with our events follow us online

[www.facebook.com/www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](https://www.facebook.com/www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au)

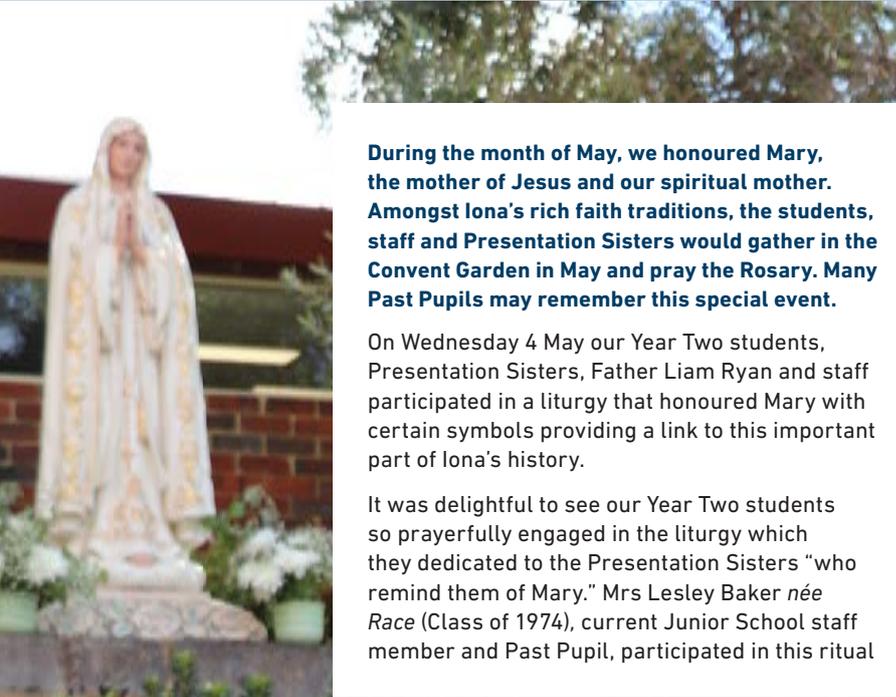


[www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](http://www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au)



**IPPA**  
IONA PAST PUPILS'  
ASSOCIATION

# Honouring Mary



**During the month of May, we honoured Mary, the mother of Jesus and our spiritual mother. Amongst Iona's rich faith traditions, the students, staff and Presentation Sisters would gather in the Convent Garden in May and pray the Rosary. Many Past Pupils may remember this special event.**

On Wednesday 4 May our Year Two students, Presentation Sisters, Father Liam Ryan and staff participated in a liturgy that honoured Mary with certain symbols providing a link to this important part of Iona's history.

It was delightful to see our Year Two students so prayerfully engaged in the liturgy which they dedicated to the Presentation Sisters "who remind them of Mary." Mrs Lesley Baker *née* Race (Class of 1974), current Junior School staff member and Past Pupil, participated in this ritual



during her time as a student and said that she found it equally moving to see the Year Two students reconnect with our faith tradition today. Lesley also fulfilled her life-long dream of being able to place the crown on Mary.

Congratulations to Miss Annie Hunt, Miss Gemma Thomson (Class of 2006) and Year 2A on all of their wonderful preparation to make this liturgy so special. It was a beautiful occasion.



**It was delightful to see our Year Two students so prayerfully engaged in the liturgy which they dedicated to the Presentation Sisters "who remind them of Mary."**





# Bionic Arms

**Throughout Term 2, students in Year Six have been completing a Biomedical Technology STEM project. The project aims to develop 21st century skills including, but not limited to, critical thinking, collaboration, creativity, communication, coding and learning autonomy.**

Following the Engineering Design Process, students worked in small groups to design, construct, test and operate a bionic or prosthetic limb.

The project will culminate in a prototype showcase, with the aim that each prototype is dexterous, providing movement which mimics typical functionality of the chosen body part.

The first three lessons of the project were full of experiential learning opportunities. Students have had a chance to further develop their STEM skills with a newspaper tower building challenge, and constructing and testing a model of the human hand, all whilst learning about anatomical structures.



# Happy Campers

**This Semester has seen two major camps take place for some adventurous Ionians!**

First up was our Year 6 students who attended Forest Edge Recreation Camp in Waroona. The theme for the three days was 'Expand Your Paradigm'. Highlights included orienteering, abseiling, rock climbing, crate climb, the big fox, low ropes, making and racing billy carts, and of course, the delicious food!

Teamwork, communication, inclusivity, patience, resilience and perseverance were amongst the many skills the students were asked to develop. We look forward to seeing these skills being utilised in the classroom throughout the remainder of the year.

The growth and maturity that the students developed in such a short period of time was phenomenal, and they made their teachers very proud.

Only a couple weeks later, Year 9 students set off on their six-day expedition in the Karridale bush. They had a great time stepping outside their comfort zones with a range of activities - from abseiling, high ropes courses and hiking, to simply living without the luxury of Wi-Fi!

The students were met with some challenging wet weather in the first few days, but they maintained their can-do attitudes and sense of adventure, tackling each task with smiles on their faces.

It was a week of learning new skills and developing life-long friendships - an experience our students will remember as a highlight of their time at the College.



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# Year 12 Ball - A Winter Wonderland



**The Year 12 Ball is a much-anticipated event with excitement building, in many cases, from the moment they start senior school.**

This important and special rite of passage provides an exciting opportunity for students to celebrate their final year together as a cohort and have a night of fun, before knuckling down to complete their last year of school.

For the very first time, the Class of 2022 Ball was held in the River View Room at Optus Stadium. With the theme of 'Winter Wonderland' on full show, students and their guests were treated to a truly magical evening.

As the girls arrived, they were greeted by College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller and Head of Year 12, Mr Brendan Coutts. After formal introductions were made, guests enjoyed mocktails on the Terrace. Upon entering the Ballroom, Head Girl, Astrid Fleet, Deputy Head Girl, Isabella Prendiville, and Year 12 Captain, Asha Smith, officially welcomed everyone to the event. After a delicious dinner, students then danced the night away!

Despite the threat of another COVID-19 lockdown, the event went ahead without any hiccups.

Albeit in masks for the entirety of the evening, guests enjoyed a wonderful night, full of celebration, a little bit of glitz, satisfied tummies and aching feet! It truly was a wonderful evening - a night to be remembered, always.



# Iona's Young Archie Nominations

**The Archibald Prize is one of Australia's oldest and most prestigious art awards. Since its inception in 1921, the prize has been awarded to some of Australia's most important artists.**

In 2013, the inaugural 'Young Archie' competition was established, inviting budding artists between the ages of five and 18 to submit a portrait.

This Semester, our Year 11 Visual Arts ATAR students have been studying a unit on the theme of 'Identity', with the first few weeks focussing on exploring a wide range of mediums, for example; graphite, charcoal, ballpoint pen and oil pastels on upcycled backgrounds. The students were given source images of various woman, the identity of whom are only known to the teacher.

The girls, whilst experimenting with their drawing techniques, were encouraged to try to establish and get creative about who their subject may in fact be, and to consider how they will portray her 'identity' in a final artwork.

Our Year 11 girls are an incredibly talented group, and we had many beautiful drawings from which to select entries for this year's Young Archie. Here are our final seven, which have been mailed off to Sydney to be considered in the finals.

We wish the students the best of luck!



# Open Mornings 2022



Prospective families and Past Pupils with an interest in an Iona education, are warmly invited to attend an Open Morning in 2022.

Meet College Principal, Ms Robyn Miller, staff and students, take a tour of our vibrant campuses and enjoy a delicious morning tea.

**Senior School Tour**      Thursday 8 September 2022

Friday 9 September 2022

**Early Learning Tour**      Wednesday 14 September 2022

For further information, please contact  
College Registrar Mrs Theresa Loughnan,  
[theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:theresa.loughnan@iona.wa.edu.au)



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