



# esprit de corps



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 25 • 2022

## CONNECT

### SOCIAL MEDIA

Follow Iona Presentation College online so that we can continue to *Engage, Connect, Support* and *Inspire* each other.



### Iona Presentation College

[www.facebook.com/ionapresentationcollege](http://www.facebook.com/ionapresentationcollege)

[www.instagram.com/iona\\_presentation\\_college](http://www.instagram.com/iona_presentation_college)

[www.linkedin.com/school/ionapresentationcollege](http://www.linkedin.com/school/ionapresentationcollege)

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

### Iona Past Pupils Association

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

<https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au>

### IN THIS ISSUE

Cover

Editors Georgia Allen, Phoebe Tempra

Design Natalie Collis

ISSN 1836-9820

Printer Daniels Printing Craftsmen

### ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

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.



# Contents

FROM THE PRINCIPAL	2
FROM THE CHAIR OF IPPA	3
SPECIAL FEATURE: COMMUNITY	4
IPPA NEWS	18
COLLEGE NEWS	26



29



32

For all editorial enquires or feedback please contact

**Team Leader, Community Relations and Development**

Georgia Allen

(+61 8) 9384 0066

[communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au)

# FROM THE Principal

“Community: To be a people of ‘welcoming heart’ and kindness who create a sense of belonging where each member of our community is valued.”

**The foundations of Iona Presentation College have been firmly laid over many years by our Presentation Sisters through their warmth, generosity and service. Their presence, albeit in a different capacity, is as important today as it was 115 years ago when they first arrived in Mosman Park. Through modelling and following their example, our College has continued to develop a strong sense of connection and built a community of great compassion and service. Sadly, we farewelled four Presentation Sisters, who died this year; Sr Catherine Ryan (Joseph), Sr Esther Quinn (Veronica), Sr Agnes Griffin, Sr Benedict Mansfield, Sr Aquinas McMahon and Sr Frances O’Halloran. May they all rest in peace.**

The value of ‘community’ has been our focus for 2022 and I applaud the many initiatives that have emerged in a year that has possibly been our most challenging in navigating our way through a pandemic. I am so incredibly proud that the Iona ‘can do’ spirit has shone through, and that IPPA has continued to thrive and flourish over the course of this year.

When I reflect upon the year travelled, there are so many examples I could share, but there is one that has made a lasting impression. The words of Coretta Scott King, “the greatness of a community is most accurately measured by the compassionate actions of its members” reflect the very essence of this new initiative established by IPPA.

Centred upon welcoming the Graduating Class of 2022 to IPPA formed the impetus for holding a breakfast in the Sr Albeus Fahey building. As part of this occasion, students received a special blessing from IPPA women hailing from a range of graduating classes. In addition, students received a personalised gift package from IPPA, which contained a handwritten individual message from a former student. This was so greatly appreciated by Year 12 students and confirmed the powerful message of,



*‘Once an Ionian, always an Ionian.’* The Class of 2022 leave our community knowing they will always be supported and now form part of a strong and resilient group of women.

I often reflect upon how traditions are formed, and I can now confidently say that this initiative has already become a tradition, thanks to the wonderful IPPA network.

God bless,

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



## FROM THE Chair of IPPA

**As 2022 draws to a close, it's important that we all take some time to look back and reflect on how far we have all come as Western Australians. We only have to think about our circumstances this time last year to know how everyone managed to pull together in a time of crisis and ride the wave, as it were!**

It only seems fitting that this year's theme for Iona was to focus on our wonderful community. And this year, it is evident that the groundwork that the IPPA team have laid in the past few years, has truly started to build momentum. The initiatives and presence we have developed in our alumni and wider community, now provide opportunities for all of our past pupils to feel a true connection with one another and be a strong presence in our community.

This year saw the second iteration of our mentoring program, building one-on-one networks and connections between women of similar industries, interests and/or life paths. A great many of these mentoring matched pairs have gone on to build wonderful lasting connections, linking our IPPA generations and gaining inspiration and insight from those who have blazed the trail before us.

As in Ms Robyn Miller's introduction (page 2), for the first time this year, IPPA had a presence at the Class of 2022's last

day. This was a really special and moving moment for everyone! There were even a few nostalgic tears (mostly from the ol' Ionians!)

The IPPA committee have held many successful events this year, but none more than our inaugural symposium, Empower Me, Inspire Her. I am still buzzing with pride from the experience. In fact, I am regularly approached by Iona Mums and Past Pupils who attended this truly inspirational day and who are also utterly in awe of the event! It was such a gift to have so many diverse and dynamic speakers, who contributed to an amazing programme that the day simply flew by! Attendees certainly skipped out with added 'flair' and motivation to live their best life!

Please **SAVE THE DATE** for Empower Me, Inspire Her 2023 - 24 June 2023.

Please don't miss out – seats will fly out the door, numbers will be capped and it's going to be spectacular!

This issue of the *esprit de corps* is themed on the well-known Saint Mary Mackillop quote, to 'never see a need without doing something about it' which has married beautifully with the College's value focus of Community. The features herein, certainly explore the myriad ways Ionians continue to give back to others and of themselves and they really are impressive. This issue is best served with a cup of tea and a comfy couch, we hope you enjoy the read.

It is so easy to get lost in our own day to day and be blinkered by the needs around us. As we move with lightning speed into 2023, let's all resolve to be more mindful - to stop, look around and focus on the outside. Let's all do one thing to improve our little corner of the world. Our individual effort may be small, maybe just putting out the neighbour's bin when they have forgotten! But perhaps it just takes that one thing to start a chain of good, and together all the little things we do may come to affect a, positive change or a lasting impression. We won't know until we do.

It is so true what we all know to be true that, Iona girls really do *make a difference!*

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



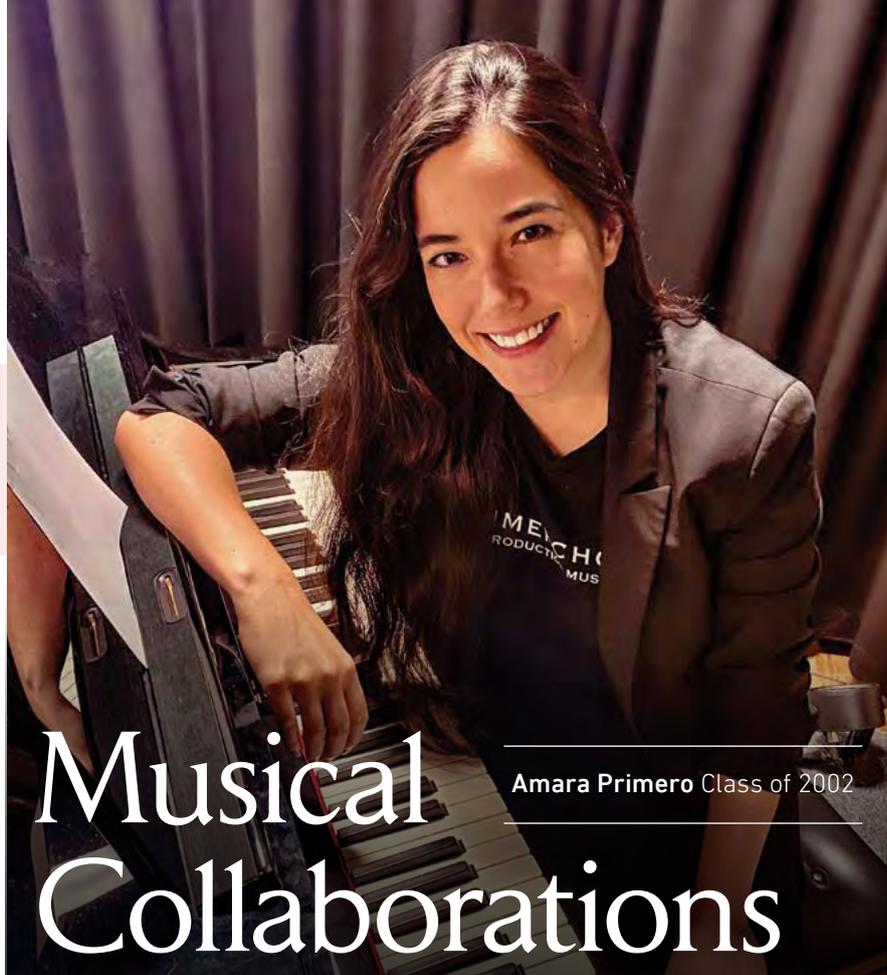
# Community

---

In this special feature, inspired by the compassion of our Foundress, Nano Nagle to be people of action.

Through 'not words, but deeds' this issue celebrates the Past Pupils who, with the foundation of an Iona education, have seen a need and have found ways to 'do something about it.'

---



**As a proud Ionian from the Class of 2002, it was with great honour that I was able to contribute to the celebration of the 115th anniversary of the College this year.**

As a composer, I was invited by Gemma Thomson and Georgia Allen to utilise my skills to write a song that would acknowledge the 115th year of Iona, but that would also remain timeless.

The community collaboration was wonderful - to be able to reflect back on what it means to be an Ionian and part of this community, was a nostalgic experience. With the strong values that Iona stands for, the song more or less wrote itself and with the familiar phrase of, 'Iona girls making a difference,' it only made sense that this should be the title of the song.

Another project that was special in the 115th celebrations was a video, 'The Heart of Iona'. Co-produced by Iona's Community Relations and Development Team and Crimson Sky, this video was created to capture the essence of Iona, past and present. My part in composing and producing the underscore for this was exceptionally sentimental. It was a poignant trip down memory lane, revisiting the beautiful images of the school grounds and seeing familiar faces from my time at school, all entwined with the current staff, students and friends who now call Iona home.

Through these two very special opportunities I have been able to give back to the College in a way that has been so rewarding.

# Musical Collaborations

Amara Primero Class of 2002

I am the founder and CEO of Primerchord Production Music — a production house that delivers music to film, TV and advertising clients. Founded in 2018, we have grown in composer-size and client-size and I feel so blessed to work with an exceptional team of very talented musicians.

Day-to-day, my career is filled with composing and producing music for various projects, from collaborating on TV shows for Hollywood production studios, such as Reese Witherspoon's Hello Sunshine to writing music for home-grown content for major networks and streaming services.

2022 has been a year of creative story-telling and to be able to include Iona as part of my project achievements is truly heart-warming and a real honour.

**The community collaboration was wonderful - to be able to reflect back on what it means to be an Ionian and part of this community, was a nostalgic experience**

---

Hellene McTaggart *née Workman* Class of 1999

---



# The key, is time

One of my earliest memories is of playing under a big shady tree in Bibra Lake with my brother and some friends. The sounds of shovels swinging, fresh paint rolling onto walls and the easy chatter of adults. These were the happy sounds of my parents working with others to fundraise and build the first permanent home of Blue Gum Montessori School in the mid-80s.



**The town of Mingenew in WA's Midwest was like a foreign planet to me when I started visiting my now husband, Ben, back in 2003. I was a cello playing, arts management student and very much a Perth girl - Dunsborough was my idea of trip to the 'country'. I was way out of my comfort zone in this land of open plains and sports loving, tractor driving, grain farming people. But the spirit of community and the simple act of putting your hand up to help-out was something to which I could relate.**

Ben and I run a broadacre cropping and cattle operation with his brother Jamie and wife, Carine. Like many people in Mingenew we hold multiple community roles and volunteering is a big part of our life. In addition to my business manager role on farm, I also work part-time alongside IPPA alumni, Elizabeth Brennan (Class of 2003) in her consulting firm Agdots and am the proud mum of two busy and happy boys.

Our Shire is made up of approximately 400 people who, like many small towns, are reliant on volunteerism to provide social, recreational and essential services - our day care, post office, community resource centre, local farm research and development organisation are all managed by volunteer boards. Community committees and volunteers coordinate sports, cultural, arts, aged care and tourism programs, services and events. Local fundraising to support these initiatives and build and upgrade recreation infrastructure is ongoing and would be in the hundreds of thousands each year.

When I meet new people they often comment about how lucky I am to have such a wonderful community. The thing is, 'community' isn't something that is left to 'luck'. The culture of community is due to a very conscious and consistent effort of so many to contribute to something that is bigger than ourselves.

Community isn't unique to a certain location or a certain age, it can happen anywhere and at any time. It's about getting out of your comfort zone and volunteering, which, I believe is the biggest key to developing community.

The best thing about volunteering is there are very few barriers to entry. Just turning up, with an open mind and being willing to give something a go is enough. It's the teamwork and unconscious culture of mentoring that makes volunteering so powerful.

Having career pursuits outside of my farm business has always been a priority, however over the last 10 years, at times it just wasn't possible- limited child-care options, the long and unpredictable hours of a farming business and my regional location all making it a bit too challenging. However, voluntary and semi-voluntary board roles have provided huge professional value (skills, experience and networking) during this time and continue to be thoroughly rewarding. Currently I am a Shire of Mingenew Councillor and a member of the Ministerially Appointed Grain, Seeds and Hay Industry Funding Scheme Management Committee. I love that I can contribute strategically to my industry and community in amongst my other commitments.

I greatly enjoy the diversity of people I get to meet and work alongside as a volunteer- it is a great leveller, as no matter your background or station in life, everyone's time is worth the same. I was an ambulance officer for three years and this role gave me an insight into the lives of the some of the most vulnerable. When you're operating at a high level of anxiety and stress the 100km to hospital can feel like 1,000km. It was a humbling experience to listen to a patient's life story and I am a more compassionate and empathetic person because of it.

Volunteering is not all good vibes and great times. It can be hard work as it carves out time from your busy life and there are instances where there is certainly an over-reliance on volunteers, with 'burn out' the casualty.

For those who would like to volunteer here are my top 6 tips . . .

- 1/ Take on opportunities and keep notice of volunteer roles that are right on your doorstep
- 2/ Regularly check out [www.volunteeringwa.org.au](http://www.volunteeringwa.org.au)
- 3/ Check out your local Council! Specialist community development staff will happily direct you to local opportunities and organisations.
- 4/ Follow your passion- many arts, cultural, historical, environmental stewardship and sporting organisations are not for profit and rely heavily on volunteers.
- 5/ Local school P & C- there are always jobs to do that are simple and easy.
- 6/ Promote the value of volunteerism in your workplace. Consider adding volunteer leave as an option in your employment package, integrate questions around volunteerism and community contribution into your recruitment process.

I'd like to finish by saying, that I'm not a quote-type of person, but I have one stuck to my computer that keeps me grounded and motivated. To me, this quote by legendary regional volunteer, Cathy M McGowan AO says it all.

**“Community engagement is to be part of a team, to turn up, sign up and speak up, to put your hand out to others and give them a leg up”**

# Living a life of purpose

“If I could be of service in serving souls in any part of the world,  
I would gladly do all in my power.” NANO NAGLE

**1 September 2022 marked 47 years since my mother fled East Timor due to civil unrest and the illegal occupation of the Indonesian army. My father had stayed behind to fight for self-determination for his beloved country. I was four at the time and my sister Nidia, five. In my mum’s despair, she only managed to grab our potty and cutlery sets along with just the clothes on our backs. Together, we set sail on a tugboat and clung in fear with a hundred others. Luckily the Lloyd Baker Norwegian merchant ship happened to bump into our boat and eventually 1100 refugees landed in Darwin.**

On arrival, I was given clothes, food and toys and people spoke to me in a language I didn’t understand. However, it was this simple act of kindness from complete strangers which instantly provided me with a sense of belonging. To this day, it will be a feeling I will never forget.

After one week we were transferred to the Perth Graylands Migrant Hostel, where we were supported by WA Portuguese club members and local community groups. This was to be my

first encounter with Sr Michael Hammersley from Iona – a most warm and gentle person who, with the support of local Catholic school families, made sure every East-Timorese family had their basic essential needs met. She also ensured that all children were enrolled at school - the younger children to St Thomas the Apostle, and the teenagers to Iona Presentation College and John XXIII College.

I had exceptional teachers from Years 1 to 7 under the leadership of Principal Sr De Sales (now Mai dec) and Vice Principal Sr Kevin (now Maureen). These two young Iona Presentation Sisters taught and cared for me and all other families and challenged us to do our very best.

As I moved into Senior School, I had the opportunity to continue learning and develop my love for sport. Yet, it was through involvement in service groups such as volunteering with Red Cross that I had begun developing a better understanding of how I too could advocate for the rights of all humans. Sr Consuela, Sr Colette (now Sr Kathleen) and Sr Anthony (now Sr Mary) instilled a very strong sense of service to all in the Iona community and supported each and every one of us to achieve our goals.

After graduating Iona in 1989 I volunteered at the Claremont PCYC, where I helped my good friend, Leonie Warner, teach toddler gymnastics. This work led me to opt for a career in early childhood education and care. I worked in various private, community based childcare centres, out of school hours and vocational care services.

In 1999 my surfer husband Garth and our two daughters Caitlin and Gabby moved to Margaret River. I operated my own family day care service so I could make a living and look after my own children at the

same time. This gave me an opportunity to meet new families and network with other community services to support the needs of families. After five years of running my family day care business, I began work as a lecturer for the childcare courses at South Regional College of TAFE and then worked with Goodstart Early Learning.

Once my daughters had completed high-school, I dedicated more time to volunteer in parish activities. As the president of the Margaret River Branch of CWL Catholic Women's League, we are involved with St Vincent De Paul Welfare and family home /bound visits which support local cancer projects. I also provide mentorship to two Year 8 Senior School students through the ED Connect organisation.

As a member of the Parish Pastoral Council and coordinator of the service outreach ministry group, I oversee parishioners who volunteer with St Vincent De Paul and who are Safeguarding Officers. I also oversee the Youth Group and assist by regularly picking up bread, fruit and vegetables for donations.

For the past 7 years our parish has been supporting seasonal workers from Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, Timor Leste, Tonga and Vanuatu. Currently there are 3400 seasonal workers in WA. As part of the PALM (Pacific Australia and Labour Mobility Community Connections Programme) scheme, employers are provided access to a reliable, returning workforce when there is not enough local Australian labour to meet seasonal demand. These workers are away from their families for 1 to 3 year contracts. It is my role to engage these workers in



cultural and sporting groups in their communities so to improve their personal wellbeing.

To ensure ongoing success of the program and optimum welfare for the workers, I participate in a national advisory council for PALM. This Community Connection Program is a significant and vital partnership with the Uniting Church, Pacific Island Council of Queensland and the Pacific Island Council of South Australia.

47 years ago I arrived in Australia as a refugee and it is without question that my parents' love and sacrifices have paid off. I count my blessings every day. There is a great myriad of wonderful people in our community who with just one simple act of kindness can, and do, make a difference.

The sense of belonging to a new community that I so warmly felt at the age of four, has positively impacted me and will continue to challenge me to reach out and help others.

My advice to you all – please take every opportunity that comes your way, no matter your age or circumstance, as you only have one chance to live a purposeful life.



# Kulin Bush Races

Helen King *née* Cunningham Class of 1983



**Being a country girl, I have always had a sense of community. Growing up in Tambellup where my parents were active members of the town, I had role models from an early age, and reflecting now on my time as a boarder at Iona, I can see how Iona strengthened my existing community values.**

I moved to Kulin in 1994, the same year a community meeting was held with the view of invigorating life back into the town. One idea was to hold a picnic-style horse race and in 1995 the first Kulin Bush Races was held. Over the past 27 years the event has grown bigger and bigger and now, there are just so many ways you can be involved. When my children were young, the obvious place for me to get involved was in the Kids' Tent! Many years later, I am now working alongside them in the Wine Bar!

If you live in Kulin, the Bush Races are not just one weekend of the year. The busy bees out at the racetrack start weeks before the race weekend and are great fun and a wonderful way for your whole family to become involved in the community. Our children become dab hands at painting, weeding, cleaning, and building and they learn what it is like to belong to a community. Not only do they learn valuable life skills, but I also know my children received mentorship along the way.

Kulin hums with excitement on the days before the Races as eventgoers roll through town. Locals bask in pride as we showcase our town, then on Friday and Saturday during the main event, all 250 of the volunteers get to enjoy seeing the pleasure on our visitors' faces as they soak up the Bush Races experience. On Sunday, the volunteers band together again to pack down the event, before we begin planning for the next year.

The Bush Races have bred generations of volunteers and it is not uncommon to have three generations involved. Family members, who have moved away from the region return to Kulin for the weekend to work, and though a shift at the Bush Races is very busy, it is so rewarding. The Bush Races draws our community together and is a fantastic way to rekindle friendships with people who you just don't see any other time of the year as you work side-by-side.

The Bush Races has certainly achieved its goal of putting Kulin on the map and at the same time, made our community even stronger.

**I don't think I ever made a conscious decision to become a community volunteer; it is just something you do, especially when you live in a town like Kulin!**

# Giving back to the law

**I always had an interest in studying the behaviours of others, usually criminal behaviours, and especially how these behaviours could affect the lives of many. My interest led me to looking more into domestic violence – criminal behaviour in intimate relationships which seemed to be either not discussed or denied. Domestic violence is a pattern of physical, sexual and/or emotional violence by an intimate partner in the context of coercive control and, although many people know they need to leave a domestic violent relationship, there wasn't much information about what steps to take to actually leave such a relationship and where to go from there.**

To delve into this topic further, I decided to undertake a PhD in Public Health (Curtin University), investigating how Australian women who had experienced domestic violence were able to recover from their experiences and look forward to a future that was no longer defined by their experiences. At first, it was very difficult to find women who were willing to discuss their experiences (as my research was pre-#MeToo) but eventually, I was able to find many women who were willing to share. Many of them were terrified but considered their experiences invaluable, hoping to assist others in the same situations.

As I was completing my PhD, I decided to undertake a Bachelor of Laws (Murdoch) as I felt domestic violence was not appropriately discussed and dealt with in Law. Many victims/survivors of domestic violence are unaware of their legal avenues following separation and many lawyers are unaware of how to assist if their clients were victims of domestic violence.

My legal and research background allowed me to join the YourToolKit.com committee. YourToolKit.com is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to leave an abusive relationship and the aftermath of leaving. The free website covers an array of financial, legal, psychological and many other services committed to assisting those in abusive relationships.

Currently, I am a solicitor at Clairs Keeley Lawyers and lecturing in Population Health (Curtin).

**The concept of 'giving back' was instilled during my time at Iona – the teachers were engaging, committed and willing to do just that little bit extra to help.**

I hope with my roles in the legal sphere and academia, I am able to 'give back' to the community, especially in my chosen field of domestic violence.



---

Sarah Visser Class of 2006

---

# A way to shine

**I look back on my experience at Iona and am so grateful for the chances I had to lean into the different things that would help build the person I am, the whole person. I fondly remember Sister Mary and Sister Flora as they moved through the school. Women who reverberated a sense, to me at least, to show up and to share with a caring open heart.**

After a gap year working in retail, I began a Bachelor of Behavioural Science, majoring in English Literature at Notre Dame in Fremantle. Central to my studies was the theme of social justice. Often along the course of the degree I felt that worry of "Where will this degree lead?" I'm so grateful for the paths that opened in front of me. I began volunteering at a women's night shelter called the Sisters Place for homeless women where I got to reconnect with some of the Presentation Sisters. I saw women who were incredibly vulnerable and felt the weight of systems that had failed them. But I also saw the care, dignity and hope that was kindled through a hot cuppa, clean comfy bed and volunteers who had shown up without judgement.

My first job out of Uni was at Headspace (National Youth Mental Health Foundation). The focus of my role was to help break down the stigma of asking for help. I would often speak at whole school assemblies about wellbeing and the services Headspace offered and how young people could access support. Looking out at the sea of faces my main hope was that the person who needed it would now know they could ask for help, not feel so alone in their hardship, and know there were services that would show them care and respect.

After having my two children I worked part time for other mental health type services in similar roles. At the end of

2019 I saw a job advertisement for a national not for profit called GIVIT. I'd never heard of GIVIT, but it was one of those moments where the job description leapt off the page - I had to have that job! And was so happy to get it.

GIVIT is about connecting generosity with genuine need and ensuring people have exactly what they need, when they need it. Over 600 support services across WA use GIVIT to ask for the donations that their client's urgently need. Each day I am blown away by the generosity of everyday people donating things that can literally change a life, be it a bike for a child to get to school, a laptop for a mum to study to help rebuild her life after domestic violence or a grocery voucher for a family who will otherwise have no food on Christmas day.

My hope and driving motivation, is that every person has what they need to live and to shine and I am so lucky to work at GIVIT where this is realised.



I fondly remember Sister Mary and Sister Flora as they moved through the school. Women who reverberated a sense, to me at least, to show up and to share with a caring open heart.



A young girl with braided hair, wearing a light blue school uniform with yellow trim, is smiling broadly while sitting at a desk. She is holding a yellow pencil and appears to be working on a project. In the background, another student in a similar uniform is visible, and the setting is a classroom with bookshelves.

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

# Golden Girls' Reunion



## **This year's Golden Girls' Celebration was another joyous occasion and reunion.**

The Class of 1972 were our newest inductees and they certainly relished in the opportunity to catch-up with old friends and reminisce about their school days. It was lovely to see their amazement and feel their enormous sense of pride, as they witnessed first-hand the growth of Iona in the 50 years since they've been gone.

Kicking off the event was the opportunity for our Golden Girls to take a journey, a 'Reflection Walk' around our Senior School campus. The walk, which you can read more about on page 32, was a poignant reminder of the story of the Presentation Sisters and linkage to Iona's rich history. Aply led by Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity, Miss Gemma Thomson (also, Class of 2006), our guests were simply in awe of the installations and the historical significance of this project.

Following the walk, for those who attended, Monsignor Long led our visitors in a beautiful Mass.

Student guides then escorted our visitors to the Staff Community Room, where they enjoyed a magnificent lunch, a feast to delight all senses.

Next year, we will inaugurate the Class of 1973 at the 2023 Golden Girls' Mass and Reunion Friday 15 September 2023, so IPPA – please remember to keep all of your contact details up to date, so that we can get an invitation to you!

Update your details here:

[www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au](http://www.ippa.iona.wa.edu.au) or simply phone Georgia Allen at Iona Presentation College, 9384 0066





# All Boarders' Reunion

**When the old boarding house came down in 2018 to make way for our new learning centre, the Sr Albeus Fahey Building, the College made the important commitment to keep all of our boarders very much at our hearts and in our lives. As such, the decision was made to host a bi-ennial All Boarders' Reunion as a way of staying in touch.**

This year the event was hosted in our wonderful new Staff Community Room and was attended by close to 50 former Iona boarders. It was so wonderful to see so many familiar faces and those whom we haven't seen in a while.

Together, boarders from across generations and eras chatted, mingled and reminisced about their days at Iona.

Led by a sub-committee of IPPA - our Former Boarders' Sub-Committee representatives - Pip Girdler *née Lynch* (Class of 1982), Donna Italiano (Class of 1990) and Donna Franklin *née Gallinagh* (Class of 2000) led an interesting and exciting discussion and brainstorming session with guests about the tribute to Iona Boarders which will be unveiled in 2023. It has been so wonderful to have the input of so many boarders that will ensure the voices of so many are heard and recognised in this tribute.

The All Boarders' Reunion for 2023 was a lovely event and despite making the commitment to catch-up every two years, in 2023 we hope to bring everyone back together again for the unveiling of the Iona All Boarders' Tribute.

Boarders – Please 'Save the Date' for Saturday 4 November and we'll see you there for the exciting unveiling!



# Mentoring 2022

**The IPPA Mentoring Sub-committee comprised of IPPA volunteers; Grace Rompotes (Class of 2012), Gabriella Re Matthews (Class of 2010), Vicki Butler (Class of 1991), Melissa Quai-Currie (Class of 1993) and Francesca Kavanagh (Class of 2011), ran another very successful Mentoring Program this year, despite the hiccups caused by Covid-19 in the early parts of the year.**

The Mentoring Program was launched in 2021 and, now into its second year, is beginning to build a wonderful momentum for those who are looking for a bit of advice and support, and for those who are hoping to give back.

Thank you to all 2022 participants for what is a mutually beneficial program that truly *makes a difference*.

If you are keen to be involved in 2023, please keep an eye out for information as it comes to hand. Ensure your emails are up to date – or, you can even register right now below . . .

**REGISTER TO BE A MENTOR**

**REGISTER TO BE A MENTEE**

**LEARN MORE HERE . . .**

<https://ippa.iona.wa.edu.au/#mentoring>





# IPPA Networking Breakfast



**On Thursday 27 October, we were delighted to hold our IPPA Networking Breakfast for 2022.**

The theme for the panel discussion was this year's College value of focus, 'Community' – to be people of a welcoming heart who create a sense of belonging where each member is valued' and wow, the discussions were absolutely fantastic!

Thanks to our wonderful host Maria Doyle (Class of 1995) and panellists; Hellene McTaggart *née Workman* (Class of 1999), Bree Neesham (Class of 2001), Tara Vermeersch *née Brand* (Class of 2001) and Maria Wyer *née Papalia* (Class of 1992), who each gave so generously of their time to the event.

Maria held her own beautifully as a very accomplished host and posed a range of questions to the panellists. We explored the community roles they have each played and how they themselves have given back. Turning then to how their community has helped them in times of real need, was both emotional and inspiring. Their vulnerability and strength to shine was a real credit to them all.

Thankyou to our amazing IPPA committee led by Chair, Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994) who coordinated another amazing event and provided hands-on support! The IPPA Networking Breakfasts have grown and

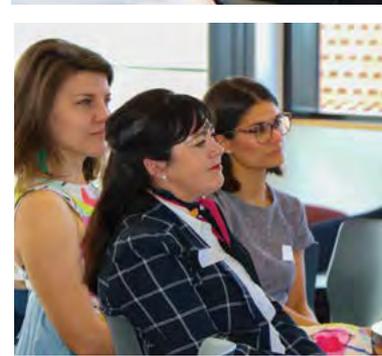
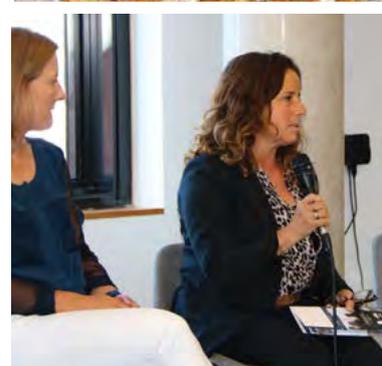
developed since their inception in 2019 and are truly the most uplifting events you will attend. Each year the committee amass the most dynamic and diverse speakers, prepare a poignant and relevant theme and put together a polished event. If you haven't yet attended, please 'Save the Date' for 29 October 2023, when we will do it all again.

The topic for 2023 will be along the lines of 'Social Justice and Compassion', so if you are keen to tell your story as a panellist or host, please get in contact with Georgia Allen at the College.

We would also like to thank the 50 or so Past Pupils, former staff, current staff and Presentation Sisters, who took time out of their busy lives to come along this year. Your ongoing support of these events ensures the events are successful year after year.

The IPPA committee would also like to acknowledge Iona's Community Relations and Development Team, without whom, none of this is possible.

It certainly does take a village of a welcoming heart to bring these events to life.



The IPPA Networking Breakfasts have grown and developed since their inception in 2019 and are truly the most uplifting events you will attend.





# Sounds of Generosity

**The College would like to sincerely thank the Dodds family for the donation of their mother's violin which has been in their family for over 100 years.**

Our Music department and our students are so grateful for this extremely generous donation.

Please read here an excerpt from a letter received by Pauline Ibbs née Dodds which tells this very special story . . .

*Dear Ms Miller*

*My name is Pauline Ibbs and, along with my daughter and sister, I am a Past Pupil of the college.*

*We have within the family my late mother's violin which was made in Germany over 150 years ago and has been in our family for well over 100 years.*

*Our mother was taught music at St Joseph's Victoria Square. Her father died when she was young and her mother worked hard to put her four children through school.*

*According to family history Mum was a very good music student, achieving exam results at an elevated range. When undertaking exams her violin always drew interest from her examiners who apparently commented on its beautiful tone. Like many other women of her generation, the Depression meant she left school after her Junior Certificate to take up employment. She continued to practise with what was later to become the West Australian Symphony Orchestra. However, she married and did not pursue her musical career. Indeed, none of her children ever heard her play. Sadly, her musical talent skipped our generation and none of her children learned to play an instrument.*

*The violin has recently been professionally restored by the well-known luthier Andre Ozturk and we believe it should be played and given another life. We are gifting it in perpetuity to the College, in memory of our mother. It is our hope that it could be on loan to a student with suitable talent to warrant the use of it during their tenure at Iona, after which time it would be returned to the College for future talented students. Both my sister and I have very clear memories of the Sisters supporting students who would otherwise not be able to afford tuition and/or instruments. We would like to support that work.*

*Kind regards,*

**Pauline Ibbs née Dodds**  
Class of 1967



# Tennis Update

On 31 March 2022 Iona Presentation College put together a wonderful team of IPPA members, to join in the annual IGSSA Tennis Competition.

Hosted at Reabold Tennis Club, the day consisted of a round robin competition against all seven IGSSA schools in which all teams played doubles.

Congratulations to PLC who were overall victorious on the day.

The greatest win of all was to play together, enjoy a day of exercise in the sunshine, some fun and laughter and a delicious lunch.

Thanks to our players;

Simonne Ventouras *née Churack* (Class of 1983),  
Karen Beament *née Bailey* (Class of 1987),  
Robyn Hegney *née Sadler* (Class of 1984),  
Jacqui Wood *née Brooksbank* (Class of 1985),  
Vanya Kelleher (Class of 1986),  
Paola Lovi (Class of 1984),  
Jane-Mary Richardson *née Ellis* (Class of 1989)  
and Amanda Doyle *née Spiers* (Class of 1992)

If you are keen to play in 2023, please contact Georgia Allen at the College:  
georgia.allen@iona.wa.edu.au

# 2023 IPPA Reunions and Events

We can't wait to see you!

<b>Year 13 Breakfast</b>	Thursday 16 February
<b>Combined Reunion</b>	Saturday 6 May
<b>Empower Me, Inspire Her</b>	Saturday 24 June
<b>Golden Girls' Reunion</b>	Friday 15 September
<b>IPPA Mentoring Launch</b>	Thursday 23 March
<b>IPPA Mentoring Sundowner</b>	Thursday 21 September
<b>IPPA Networking Breakfast</b>	Thursday 19 October
<b>IPPA All Boarders' Reunion + Tribute Launch</b>	Saturday 4 November

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).**

**Please also follow us on Facebook at IPPA – Iona Past Pupils' Association and LinkedIn.**



/ 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](http://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

# Celebrating 115 Years of Iona



**2022 marked 115 years since the arrival of the Presentation Sisters in Mosman Park. This milestone was commemorated with celebrations across both our Junior and Senior School campuses.**

On 5 September, our Junior School enjoyed a fantastic day full of fun, games, and visits from some very special members of our Iona community! Following a liturgy in the morning, there were tabloid sports on the oval, 'olden days' games played in classrooms, a petting zoo, and some of our treasured Iona Golden Girls visited the students to talk about school life many years ago. There was even a visit from 'Nano Nagle' who made a quick visit to say hello to Bolt the Alpaca at the petting zoo.

Staff and students had the most wonderful day, but they weren't the only ones! Golden Girl, Maureen (IPPA Class of 1955), shared with us some beautiful words about her visit to the Junior School:

"What a fantastic day and such a great idea - I loved every minute of it and trust the students did too! Such a beautiful group of students - made me so proud to be an Ionian. I was a little anxious about how the day would pan out but, in the end, I didn't want it to finish!"

*We would like to acknowledge the life of Leonie Williams née Griffin (Class of 1965) who sadly passed to God not long after her visit to the Iona Junior School. Leonie was a beautiful person and a wonderful Ionian, and she will be missed. RIP Leonie.*

Later in the week, it was time for the celebrations to continue at the Senior School campus, and what better way to do so than with an Iona House Fair!

Our College Green hosted a variety of activities including mini golf and the highly anticipated Interhouse Tug-of-War competition, while the Sports Centre had a Velcro 'sticky wall' and Zumba, which proved to be incredibly popular with crowds of students dancing up a storm all afternoon.

The day was complete with the sliming of a staff member, voted by the students. In the end, it was Mr Jordan Tirli, Dean of Students, who was the 'lucky' winner of the vote.

Celebrations across both campuses were wonderful opportunities to gather as a College community and celebrate Iona in its 115-year glory.





**IONA**  
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

115  
*Celebrating*  
Years



# Welcome to IPPA, Class of 2022

## On 14 October, we welcomed our newest IPPA members - the Class of 2022!

Every year, the Graduating Class take part in a variety of events to celebrate their final days at the College, including a special Graduation Breakfast. This year, the breakfast took place in the Staff Community Room at the Senior School campus for the first time. This was a great way to mark the transition of our Ionians from Year 12 to the 'adult' world.

Year 12 students led the beginning portion of the breakfast, thanking their Homeroom teachers and Head of Year. Then, it was over to IPPA to introduce themselves. Chair of IPPA, Aymee Mastaglia *née Bartlett* (Class of 1994), was joined by Michelle Morgan *née Drinkwater* (Class of 1990), Grace Rompotes (Class of 2012),

Morgan Schaafsma (Class of 2012), Danielle Churack (Class of 1985) and Sr Mary Mackin PBVM (Class of 1966).

Together, our IPPA representatives welcomed the Graduating Class into our Past Pupils' Association, shared their wishes for the students on their journeys ahead, and presented them with a small gift from IPPA.

It was a beautiful morning to celebrate our amazing Year 12 students as they begin the next chapter of their Iona journey. Thank you to our fantastic IPPA members for making the celebration such a heartfelt occasion.

"Our wish for you is simple: carry your memories of Iona with you in your heart, forever. Always remember the lessons you have learnt and the friends you have made. Cherish the journey that led you to this very moment and know that wherever life takes you in this world, you will always have a place here, and a community to welcome you with open arms."

EXCERPT FROM IPPA'S ADDRESS TO THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 2022, 'OUR WISH FOR YOU'



# We are the Champions!

**What a day it was at the WA Athletics Stadium on Tuesday 13 September. Despite the persistent rain and wind, it was the perfect day for a back-to-back-to-back win as Champion School!**

We are immensely proud of our Ionians who represented the College so well, not only in their performances on the track and in the field, but also on the sidelines. The sportsmanship and support our students consistently show one another, is always wonderful to see.

A big thank you to all staff and coaches who helped our athletes prepare for the big day! The hard work really paid off as we brought home the following results:

IGSSA WA Dunklings Perpetual Trophy for Overall Champion School in Athletics

The Laurie Packham Trophy for Champion Track School

The Elizabeth Davenport Trophy for Champion Field School

Year 10 Pennant = 1st

Year 9 Pennant = 1st

Year 8 = 2nd

Year 11/12 = 2nd

Year 7 = 6th

#IONAstrong





An approach to 'service above self' and 'giving back' has always been at the heart of an Iona education. Inspired by the selfless and generous work of our Presentation Sisters, Ionians for 115 years have found ways to give back to the community, not only locally, but across the wide plains of Australia and abroad overseas. As Sister Mary Mackin PBVM (Class of 1966) reinforces often, service is about "making a positive Christian difference in our world".

## Creating a Culture of Service

For many Past Pupils and current students, fundraising for the Iona Missions has been a widely supported "way of Iona life". In days gone by, a Mission Box on the Prayer table held pride of place as a reminder to always focus our attention on those in need. Students and families at Iona would be encouraged to fill their classroom mission boxes all year around, but particularly during the season of Lent, with coins and cash whilst encouraging their neighbours and friends to contribute.

Whilst the boxes are still prominently featured around the College, and still contribute to the College fundraising priorities, we have adopted an approach to mission and service that intentionally aligns us with the priorities of our Presentation Sisters, both locally, nationally, and internationally; an approach that educates our students minds, informs their actions and calls them to be a voice for the voiceless.

The question at the forefront of our minds is “as a College, how can we provide a platform for service to spark transformative change in our students and provide them with opportunities to continue to develop empathy, a sense of justice and a spirit of generosity?”

Working in the role of Justice Representative for the Congregation of the Presentation Sisters Western Australia, Gemma Thomson, Dean of Mission and Catholic Identity (Class of 2006) is setting the vision for a revolutionary grassroots program for Co-curricular service at Iona, which could easily be termed, ‘From IONA to the U.N.’.

The alignment of the College Co-curricular service groups to the International Presentation Association (IPA) Education and Action for Justice Global Strategy has provided great scope in transforming traditional student Co-curricular opportunities for service at Iona. In our Senior School, our Young Pressies have focused on global issues pertaining to Women and Children such as Human Trafficking and Poverty, whilst our Enviro Group have achieved Catholic EarthCare Certification as their various initiatives at the College, are underpinned by the Sustainable Development Goals. In our Junior School, deepening an understanding of the variety of Presentation ministries has been a focus, as well as working towards both “not just a handout, but a hand up” for those on the margins.

Ably supported by dedicated Co-curricular staff leaders, students at Iona are learning to drill deeper to learn, discover and advocate for the ‘global needs’ of today. Together with staff our students are developing new initiatives that will promote true advocacy and understanding amongst their peer study body. Service Programs that will nurture the ‘why?’ and the ‘what?’ of an ever-changing world. A world in which we are called to respond to the needs of our times with compassion, sensitivity and courage.

Students are developing relationships with each other and as a College, we are partnering by choice with a range of organisations to support their work. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to share and collaborate directly with the International Presentation Association’s UN representative; a lay woman who represents Presentation Sisters and Presentation People from over twenty countries around the globe. College service initiatives feature regularly in UN submissions; one example being for the Commission on the Status of Women.

At Iona, we pride ourselves on our graduates being compassionate, grounded, outward thinking individuals, with an innate awareness for those in need. Ionians, both past and present, are unique. Grounded in our rich Catholic Presentation tradition of being of service to others, this approach to Co-curricular service that fosters global connections, builds empathy, encourages collaboration and critical thinking and strong communication skills, will ensure that our students are well-equipped to continue going ‘one step beyond’ the gates of Iona.



# Iona Wins Big!

**On Friday 14 October, the College was conferred the CEWA QCE Peoples' Choice Award for 2022 for our Presentation Reflection Walk.**

**Miss Gemma Thomson, Head of Senior School, accepted the award on behalf of the College, while three of our treasured Presentation Sisters were also present: Sr Lucy van Kessel PBVM, Sr Anna Fewer PBVM and Sr Mary Mackin PBVM.**

The QCE Awards recognise programs and initiatives in Catholic schools across Western Australia that support their vision of providing Christ-centred, student-focused, engaged learning environments.

A beautiful pilgrimage that honours the heritage and tradition of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia, the Presentation Reflection Walk aspires to educate about the Venerable Nano Nagle Narrative, honour the diverse contributions of the Presentation Sisters in Western Australia and connect existing historical items of significance on the Iona campus, to the mission of Presentation people today.

Designed for a local and global audience, thirteen stations are accessible in three modes: a face-to-face guided tour, a self-guided in person tour using QR codes or an online tour. Stations are narrated by Presentation Sisters, Past Pupils and Current Students.

Now more than ever, we appreciate that we are standing on the shoulders of the giants who have come before us; the Presentation Sisters.

These pioneering, faith-filled women of courage, integrity, justice and compassion, paved the foundation for the outstanding centre of learning that is Iona today; a place from which the Gospel can be spread and a Catholic school that is Christ-centred and student focused.

Given the multi-model design of the project, the Presentation Reflection Walk has significantly impacted the formation of students, staff and the community in a number of ways. Staff new to the College learn Iona's faith story through the pilgrimage; our Year 7 students undertake the walk as part of their transition into the Iona community; our Past Pupils reflect and remember how they have been formed in the Catholic Presentation tradition when they return for celebrations; our students from Pre-Kindergarten to Year 12 use it in their learning, whether it be for Visual Art, History, Design or Religious Education. It is a formation tool that offers a myriad of creative opportunities for both teaching and support staff to utilise.

It is our hope that students, staff, and community members enjoy our Reflection Walk; that they can feel the presence of God and Nano as they journey through our campus in person or online, and that they can feel, see and hear the essence of the rich heritage and tradition that is Iona Presentation College; a Catholic school in the Presentation tradition.

View the Presentation Reflection Walk online here:  
[www.iona.wa.edu.au/presentation-reflection-walk](http://www.iona.wa.edu.au/presentation-reflection-walk)





# Open Mornings 2023

Prospective families and Past Pupils with an interest in an Iona education, are warmly invited to attend an Open Morning in 2023.

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 30 March**  
**Friday 31 March**  
**Friday 8 September**

**Early Learning Tour**      **Tuesday 4 April**  
**Wednesday 13 September**

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



**IONA**  
PRESENTATION COLLEGE



BOOKINGS ARE ESSENTIAL  
SCAN THE QR CODE OR VISIT:  
[www.iona.wa.edu.au/openmornings](http://www.iona.wa.edu.au/openmornings)

*Making a difference, together*

**Girls and Boys Pre K-6 | All Girls 7-12**  
[www.iona.wa.edu.au](http://www.iona.wa.edu.au)

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

**Junior School**

Buckland Avenue  
Mosman Park  
Western Australia 6012  
T 08 9286 9100  
E admin@iona.wa.edu.au

**Senior School**

33 Palmerston Street  
Mosman Park  
Western Australia 6012  
T 08 9384 0066  
E admin@iona.wa.edu.au

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



IONA PAST  
PUPILS'  
ASSOCIATION



IPPA