



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE  
ISSUE 13 • SPRING 2016

# esprit

*de corps*

SPECIAL TEACHER FEATURE EDITION

# *Tona girls make a difference*

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ESPRIT DE CORPS  
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## Births

Past Pupils, do any of you have news to share of a new addition to your family? Please let us know and send in a photo too.

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message from  
**THE PRINCIPAL**



**The College has been on full throttle with significant occasions held recently viz Year 12 Farewell Day; Presentation Night; Year 12 Graduation Mass and Dinner; 'Create' Production Arts, Design and Textiles Showcase and the Year 12 WACE examinations.**

The College focus value for 2016 has been 'Community' which has neatly combined with the clarion call of Pope Francis for us to be disciples of mercy. This Pontiff has the uncanny ability to be right on target with ideas that fit with the signs of the times. When he speaks or writes, members of spiritual and secular communities pay attention. Quite apart from content, Pope Francis' charismatic personality and engaging manner guarantee a receptive audience. His style proclaims pastoral care as top priority.

"Praise be to you" is the English translation for the title of the Pope's encyclical "Laudato Si". In it, he spells out a broader concept of community. "Living our vocation to be protectors of God's handiwork is essential to a life of virtue; it is not an optional or a secondary aspect of our Christian experience". Music to the ears of all concerned environmentalists, the numbers of whom are growing across the globe. Pope Francis's encyclical frames the natural world as a common good, one that enables the flourishing of all people. Environmental degradation is therefore an act against humanity. The Michael Jackson song, "Heal the World", springs to mind.

In this edition of Esprit de Corps, several Past Pupils have submitted snippets in praise of Iona teachers who had influenced or inspired them. They make for inspired reading; this is one forum where teaching as a noble profession, is given due recognition. Further stories and updates for the first 2017 edition of Esprit de Corps would be very welcome.

I look forward to meeting many of you at upcoming Reunions, and if you can contribute or share your talents with your alma mater, please contact Georgia Allen. I take this opportunity to ask God's blessing on all Presentation people. May each of us be agents of Christ-like mercy and mindful stewards of creation.

Happy reading and may God bless us all.

**Anne Pitos**  
*Principal*

“this is one forum where teaching as a noble profession, is given rightful recognition.”

## From the Archives... A Presentation Tradition

**Iona has been imbued with the Presentation tradition for over one hundred years. It permeates all we do.**

The first group of Presentation Sisters arrived from Sneem in Co. Kerry, Ireland, in 1891 and began their ministry in Geraldton (the northern foundation). A second group arrived in Southern Cross from Hay in New South Wales (via Wagga Wagga and Kildare) in 1900 (the southern foundation). In 1969 the two groups amalgamated to become the Congregation of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary of Western Australia.

The Presentation Sisters were a teaching order and our Sisters opened about fifty schools, some in well-established towns or city suburbs, but many in very remote areas of Western Australia. Schools were set up very quickly, often the very day after the Sisters arrived in town. Numbers grew rapidly and schools flourished in a locality until the need dwindled and so were closed and the Sisters moved on. Most small towns in Western Australia had a Catholic convent and boarding school and often it was under the auspices of the Presentation Order.

Regardless of how education and school management may have changed over the years, Iona Presentation Primary School and College still have a very direct connection to the Presentation Sisters, a heritage to be treasured. Originally most of the Presentation Sisters came from Ireland, some as professed Sisters, others as young girls setting out on a very exciting adventure to the other side of the world. Many completed their education at Iona before being professed.

A number of our Iona students later became Presentation Sisters.

Diana Loubere (Sr Carmel), Class of 1924, was the first Past Pupil of Iona to join the Presentation Order. Her father died when she was only two and when she was just six years old Diana was enrolled



Doreen Frances Patricia  
 Downey (Sr Lawrence)



Susan Marion Van Kessel  
 (Sr Lucy)



Marion Beard (Sr Mark)



Regina Sciesinski (Sr Clare)

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

as a boarder at Iona (1913). She remembered fondly the love and affection showered on her during those years at Iona (see Cork to Capricorn, Marchant James, 1996: 437). Diana Loubere entered the Presentation Convent at Goomalling on 1st January 1925, her First Profession took place at Goomalling on 25 July 1926. Diana became Sr Carmel and over the years also taught at St Francis Xavier’s, Quairading and Assumption, Mandurah, Mosman Park, Rivervale, Claremont, Beverley and Brunswick Junction. She was a gifted primary school teacher as well as having a great talent in music, art, poetry, drama, sewing, needlework and crochet. She was also remembered for her kindness, light heartedness and generosity.

**Margaret Pember**  
*College Archivist*

Listed here are the girls we have identified so far who became Presentations Sisters. If you can add to the list we would be delighted! Please also let us know if any details are incorrect.

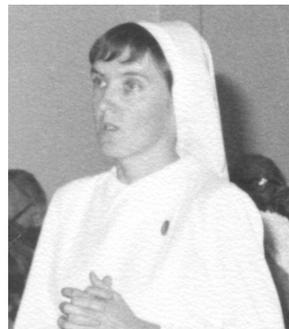
Class of 1924: Diana Loubere (Sr Carmel, RIP) 1926  
 Class of 1930: Daphne Clarke (Sr Cecilia) 1934  
 Class of 1932: Nano Annie Murphy (Sr Josephine) 1933  
 Class of 1941: Palmina Crocetti (Sr Immaculata) 1943  
 Class of 1946: Doreen Frances Patricia Downey (Sr Lawrence) 1951  
 Class of 1948: Eileen Tinning (Sr Rosarii) 1951  
 Class of 1952: Eva Antonietta Crocetti (Sr Maria) 1957  
 Class of 1953: Bernadette Waring (Sr Perpetua) 1955  
 Class of 1954: Maria Giuseppina (Josephine)(Sr Emmanuel) 1961  
 Class of 1956: Nora Ann Moynihan (Sr Annuntiata) 1958  
 Class of 1959: Dorothy Isabel Burrell (Sr Philomena) 1962  
 Class of 1962: Susan Marion Van Kessel (Sr Lucy) 1964  
 Class of 1962: Marion Beard (Sr Mark) 1964  
 Class of 1965: Regina Sciesinski (Sr Clare) 1969  
 Class of 1966: Mary Mackin (Sr Anthony) 1969  
 Class of 1967: Maureen Frances Hayes (Sr Anne) 1969  
 Class of 1967: Catherine Mary Warner (Sr Matthew) 1971  
 Class of 1969: Irene Maria Young (Sr Irene) 1973



Mary Mackin (Sr Anthony)



Maureen Frances Hayes  
(Sr Anne)



Catherine Mary Warner  
(Sr Matthew)



Irene Maria Young (Sr Irene)

# SPECIAL FEATURE

## How did your teacher influence you?

As a significant role model, a teacher inspires, motivates and supports his or her students.

In our special feature, 'How did your teacher influence you?' read the personal stories of our Past Pupils who were guided and nurtured along their Ionian journey by some remarkable Ionian teachers.



## CHRISTINE BOGUNOVICH ENGLISH

There's a quote by one of my favourite writers, the American poet Mary Oliver, that asks: 'Tell me, what is it you plan to do with your one wild and precious life?' When I read it, I always think of my high school English teacher, Christine Bogunovich, and the profound influence that she has had on my life.

I first encountered Miss Bogunovich when I was a dreamy Year 8 student, transfixed by the world of literature and furtively scribbling away at my own stories and poems and I was lucky enough to have her as my English teacher for every year of my high school life.

Miss Bogunovich was an extraordinary teacher and a passionate and devoted mentor. The lessons I absorbed in her classroom prepared me not just for English exams, but for life beyond school. She challenged me not just to be the best writer I could be, but the best person, and to live the most extraordinary life possible. She taught me that I had the whole sky to fly in, that my dreams of being a published writer were achievable and she nurtured my writing talent at every step.

When I published my first novel, I knew that I owed her the most enormous debt of thanks for the unflagging faith she had in my abilities and the expansive sense she instilled in me that anything was possible, even the wildest of dreams, if only I worked hard enough.

**Alice Nelson**  
*Class of 1996*

Whilst I only spent two years at Iona ('81 and '82), many of the teachers and staff at the College had a lasting impression on me and how I now conduct myself in my chosen career.

When I first arrived at Iona, my Boarding School mistress was Sr Annuntiata (Sr Nora). She was there if we needed a listening ear, as we became part of our new environments. As an adult I have been fortunate to have a conversation and a cup of tea with her occasionally and her hospitality and kindness to others is an example I try to emulate.

One of my form teachers was Sr Monica, RIP. As I look back, her calm nature and quiet sense of purpose is something that I still aspire to. Sr Mary was my literature teacher; and whilst she encouraged us to speak out, my skill of editing and proof reading that I employ with document writing, is a legacy from her classes.

Mr Karasavas was my Maths and Physics teacher. From him I learnt that whilst the subjects he taught were serious and required much thought, his talents as a magician, that we viewed as part of a "concert", were awe inspiring and demonstrated to me the balance of seriousness and light-heartedness that is of benefit to all of us.

Mrs Ayres was my biology teacher. Her classes were very informative and often a forum involving many serious science-based questions from her students. As a female who has pursued a career in science, the ability to critically question, discuss and resolve issues that arise is paramount to my daily work; and being present in these classes aided me with this.

I am grateful for these teachers and also all of the other teachers who taught me during Year 11 and 12 at Iona.

**Melissa Kerr (née Amadio)**  
*Class of 1982*

# SR MARY

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

# ALLAN KARASAVAS

## MATHEMATICS



## SANDRA GORRINGE

DRAMA

It has been 16 years since I finished my schooling at Iona Presentation College. I have always been a fiercely independent person and have reflected on this more recently having had children of my own.

My parents raised me to be hard working; to not expect anything for free and to stand on my own two feet. This independent approach drove me to open my own Podiatry practice aged 22 and to buy my first house at 23.

Yes, my parents can be credited for this ambitious drive in my personality. However, a large influence was also my schooling and moreover, my teachers. Having been educated at Iona, my teachers always encouraged us to achieve anything we put our minds to and to have the self-belief that nothing was out of the question!

I was heavily involved in Drama at school and fondly remember Mrs Sandra Gorringer pushing to get the best out of me. She was not satisfied until she thought she had drawn out everything I had to give. Consequently, I excelled in this area.

Despite a shift in modern-day attitudes, I truly believe that it is still important to empower young women entering the workforce today. The expectations placed on us by teachers such as Mrs Gorringer, was to strive to be our best, even in subjects or areas of school life we may not like or naturally do well in. She continually reinforced with us, that what you give in life is what you get back and I will always thank her for instilling this attitude in me.

As my husband and I now run a busy practice with several staff members and two children of our own, I acknowledge that the values I gained from Iona are evident in me as an adult. They have helped to shape my own personal expectations and that of my staff and children.

I have my parents and education at Iona to thank for that!

**Rachel Lange (née Forster)**  
*Class of 2000*





# CATHERINE MCDONNELL

## ENGLISH

My decision to choose a career as an English and Science teacher, has been impacted and influenced greatly by my former teachers, in particular Ms Catherine McDonnell. Her passion for the subject and dedication to her individual students, are the reasons I am competent in English and have a love for literature today. She has inspired me greatly over the years, in all walks of life.

Upon reflection, my time at Iona has not only guided my journey to this point of my life, but has made me an independent, strong-willed and mature woman.

After completing a Bachelor of Arts at the University of Western Australia Majoring in Linguistics, I am now beginning my professional practice as a pre-service Master of Teaching student at UWA.

As I begin my journey in the Education field, I will always stop to remember Iona and the person the school has made me today.

**Genevieve Outtrim**

*Class of 2011*

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feature  
**TEACHER FEATURE**

# ROD O'MEARA AND DAVID SHEEHAN

CAREERS AND INSTEP



Being a shy girl who ran away from school and had severe 'school refusal' along with anxiety, it was clear most had lost hope in me. Most, apart from a few individuals at Iona, who quite literally, saved me.

Now out of high school for three years, I have realised how much of an impact certain teachers have had on me, shaping who I am today.

In Year 11 (2012), Mr O'Meara and Mr Sheehan had just started at Iona, and it honestly felt like a breath of fresh air had just flown in through the gates. Here were two new teachers who did not know about my past and would not judge me, and I was ready for a change; I was ready to succeed. Easier said than done, seeing as I had barely been at school over the past few years. I didn't really know where to start, I was lost, I had no path and I was quite scared of failure. Little did I know how easy and attainable Mr O'Meara and Mr Sheehan would make it for me by setting out a plan and showing me, that with a bit of hard work, I could really thrive and succeed.

I decided the INSTEP pathway was the best path for me, and now I would not change it for the world - the program is incredible and provided me with so many amazing experiences.

They opened my mind to all the opportunities out there, many of which I never knew existed and allowed me to shine through success, obtaining a Certificate of Commendation upon graduation (20 x A grades over two years) and a University Placement.

I am now studying Journalism at Curtin University and am absolutely loving it. It's people like Mr O'Meara and Mr Sheehan, who really impact peoples' lives and change them for the better.

Still to this day, I'm not sure if I would've been successful if it wasn't for them. I will be forever grateful that they believed in me and gave me endless support, setting me up for a long life of success.

**Amy Crellin**  
*Class of 2013*



# DAVID SHEEHAN

HEAD OF YEAR

What I remember most about Mr David Sheehan is how much he genuinely cared about our Year group. As our Head of Year in both Years 11 and 12, he guided us through two of the most challenging years of high school. In that time it was evident that all he wanted was to see us do our best. He went above and beyond to ensure each student in my Year group had a final year of high school filled with memories we will always cherish. I can honestly say that I personally would not have made it through without the support and guidance from a teacher that not only cared for my academic achievements but also my personal wellbeing.

**Felicity Ralph**  
*Class of 2014*

Life is about the people you meet, and the things you create with them. I've met many people through my involvement in sport, which has been one of its real pleasures.

Sue Wiener has without a doubt been one of the greatest influences of my sporting career, teaching me that the process of actualising our gifts and our potential in sport, is one of the most exciting and satisfying adventures of all.

Initially as a student and then as a Past Pupil returning to coach various IGSSA sports, it has been truly amazing to watch the transformation of Sport at Iona under the guidance of Mrs Wiener as Head of Sport. Those of us so fortunate enough to have experienced Mrs Wiener's leadership can attest to her passion and her unique ability to make each and every girl on a sporting team feel valued.

It is true what they say, "Iona girls make a difference", and it is the teachers at Iona, coupled with their passion and drive, that has encouraged me to truly believe I can be a better person, encouraging me to aspire to achieve all I can in life.

Although I have made some incredible memories with all of my teachers at Iona, one person in particular has stood out in my mind, Mrs Sue Wiener. Her drive and commitment to Iona and her students is inspiring.

Not only has she guided me through my time at Iona, her wisdom and encouragement even now as a Past Pupil, has provided me with countless opportunities in terms of sport, employment and my studies.

Mrs Wiener has taught me to be fearless; to follow my passion, make my own path and always find joy in the doing, I can't thank Mrs Wiener enough.

As they say 'A good coach can change a game, a great coach can change a life'. Mrs Wiener is truly one of the greatest.

**Emily Loughnan**  
*Class of 2005*

Mrs Wiener's tough love approach has shaped my view of what I am able to achieve, and I know for sure that if I have female children they will be attending Iona on the off chance that they have a teacher with the same impact as Mrs Sue Wiener.

**Brielle Jarrett**  
*Class of 2010*



# SUE WIENER

SPORT





# PRESENTATION SISTERS

I arrived in Australia many years ago from West Malaysia, a frightened and timid girl to complete my final years of schooling at Iona as a boarder. This decision was made by my parents to give me every opportunity to develop and reach my potential and I thank them for this.

Needless to say, the early days of this new experience was daunting and at times overwhelming. There was so much to take in and schooling was quite different to the system I had left behind. In those days, boarders slept in what is now the Year 12 block verandah with almost no privacy! Boarding food wasn't as bad as in *Oliver Twist* but was no comparison to the delicious meals served today. Despite all of this, my recollection of my schooling at Iona is one of great fondness and love. I settled into school well and participated in school life with enthusiasm.

I credit this to the Presentation Sisters who welcomed overseas students with affection and warmth. They embraced us and showed us care and kindness, recognising the differences between the two cultures. Their time and effort will never be forgotten.

To Sister Joan Evans who was the boarding mistress at the time, Sister Gabrielle, RIP and others, I thank them for their firm guidance and loving direction. It is their influence, their strength and their hard work that has helped me do my best and to give without counting.

Their teachings on basic values and their selfless generosity has helped me develop a sense of social justice, compassion and concern for the poor and the needy. I thank Sister Carmel, a lady of quality and elegance who encouraged excellence from all of her

students, for her consistent guidance. One of her sayings that I have never forgotten, "Anything in extreme is vulgar" seemed funny at the time, but on reflection makes some sense now. She helped me develop into an independent person and to have a sense of self.

My decision to become a teacher was inspired by Sister Carmel, and I have now come full circle as a teacher at Iona myself. To the Presentations Sisters I give my love and my gratitude. It is because of them that I sent my two daughters, Rachel and Sarah, to Iona who also carry the Presentation ethos in their adult lives.

**Jennifer Forster**  
*Class of 1971*

# SR PAULA QUINN

## MUSIC



I was at Iona through the 80s when Sr Paula was the fearless leader of the music department. Speech Night always included a whole-school performance of Handel's Hallelujah Chorus in parts. Sr Colette would provide crowd control while Sr Paula somehow taught this complex music to the whole school, musicians and non-musicians alike. It was amazing.

My strongest memories of Sr Paula come from my piano lessons. She had this myopic, elfin quality that somehow matched her Irish accent. "Jesus, Mary and Joseph!" were invoked constantly, usually when it became obvious that I hadn't done any practice. She was fiercely intelligent, very funny and unfailingly kind.

My entire working life has been spent in the performing arts and Sr Paula is part of the reason why. A superb musician herself she was somehow able to communicate the function of art without explicitly articulating it. When my mother died suddenly in Year 9, the school had the sense to let me disappear to the music department for hours at a time and play. Sr Paula was sympathetic without being sentimental. She wrote me a list of all the great pieces she thought I was up to tackling and I spent the next year or so working through them, learning about art and putting myself back together. It was the best therapy possible and absolutely formative for me as a person.

To me, Sr Paula's artistic gifts were indistinguishable from her spiritual gifts, somehow it was all the same thing. A while ago one of our daughters asked me to explain why I believed in God in as few words as possible. She had just been playing a Bach prelude and I think the question came out of the music. My answer was that I didn't need any words, a couple of those chord progressions would suffice. I think Sr Paula was behind that answer, and that I must be one of hundreds who were changed for the better by this remarkable woman.

**Rachel McDonald**

*Class of 1986*





# PAT PETTIGREW

ENGLISH

# JOAN EASTON

BOARDING

# LINDSAY SIMON

SOCIAL SCIENCE

I had a number of teachers who influenced various aspects of my life. Even thinking about a number of them makes me emotional because of the impact they had.

Mrs Mack, my Year 10 Religion, Media and English teacher, made me believe that no matter what others said, if you believed you could do something, then you could.

Mr Simon, my Year 10 SOSE teacher taught me to take life seriously. Occasionally people in positions of authority will impact your career in what seems to be a negative manner. Depending on the way you view this impact determines the way in which it will affect you. Always look at things as if they're a chance to grow or learn.

Mrs Pettigrew gave me the confidence and self-belief that I hadn't had for a lot of high school. She gave me tough love and the encouragement I needed and is a key factor in my school and post-school success.

I'm aware at many times during my schooling at Iona I gave Mrs Easton a headache, something she shared regularly with me! But something I didn't realise until finishing was that she cared so much that she was willing to call girls out when they were wrong, or misbehaving. So many of my teachers would try and sugar coat criticism, but Mrs Easton told it to you straight. To this day, I can say she is one of the most kind-hearted, beautifully-natured people I know. Not only does she put others before herself, she does so without a word of complaint. The Iona community will not be the same without her and her hilariously, honest humour.

**Mary-Kate Ledger**

*Class of 2015*

# JOHN HIBBLE

## MATHEMATICS & PHYSICS



I am absolutely positive that over the years that he has been at Iona, Mr Hibble has left his heartfelt mark on a plethora of people, much as he did me.

I was fortunate enough to have Mr Hibble for Physics, Mathematics and Maths Specialist in my Year 11 and 12 studies at Iona and I honestly could not name a more altruistic man. It is not only the outstanding level of experience that he brings to the classroom that makes him an exceptional teacher, it's the passion and enthusiasm he exudes for his students' success. There is no intention for his subject to do well, it is a desire for every single one of his students to fully understand the content and its context and for them to feel completely comfortable if a big test or exam was approaching.

Obviously the entire Iona community is aware that all of the staff at Iona are phenomenal at what they do, it is just that I believe Mr Hibble is the unspoken hero of our school.

His benevolence and zeal for the education of his students is one that I will always remember, his encouragement for each of us to pursue a career in whatever we chose allowed me personally to continue on to university feeling like I could achieve anything.

I am so very grateful for the education I had at Iona and all the teachers I had, but if there was one person who I believe had the greatest impact on me it was the wonderful, Mr John Hibble and I am forever indebted to him.

**Sarah King**  
*Class of 2015*

# ROBIN SHEPHERD

FAMILY AND COMMUNITY

In life we come by many people who help us, inspire us and teach us. I was very lucky to attend Iona Presentation College where I made friends for life and teachers who instilled valuable lessons in me. One teacher that helped me and inspired me was Mrs Shepherd, my teacher for 'Family and Community' studies. I remember always looking forward to going to Family and Community to learn and discover something new. Through her positive personality she created a safe and welcoming learning environment that catered to diverse learning styles, where everyone felt safe to share and express ideas.

Mrs Shepherd was a lovely teacher and an amazing person. I hope one day that I can be half the person she is. I would like to thank her and Iona for everything that they have given me as I would not have developed into the individual I am without them. I have learnt so much and became a part of a community where I am inspired to make a difference.

I will never forget my time at Iona; it has helped shaped the person I am today.

**Destiny Boyd**

*Class of 2013*



## ANNE MCPHERSON

ENGLISH

A serendipitous thing happened to me this weekend when I bumped into a new acquaintance. 'Did you go to Iona, class of 1989?' she asked, having recognised my face 27 years after we last met.

For numerous reasons that aren't relevant to this article, I haven't attended a single reunion or performed an Iona 'Google search' since I left school in 1989. But strangely enough, over the past few years I had been reflecting quite a lot on how fortunate I had been to attend Iona for five years, during a period of my life that was experiencing major personal upheaval. I received a solid grounding in my education, as well as an inner strength that has helped me weather quite a few storms.

I believe things often happen for a reason. My 'new' Iona connection mentioned that the school was seeking stories relating to how teachers had influenced Past Pupils. I feel an immense sense of gratitude at being given an opportunity to say thank you to my past English teacher, Anne McPherson (Miss A Mathews), for instilling in me a love of reading and writing that has not only grown stronger with time, but is something that I am striving to cultivate in my own children.

I didn't continue my studies at university, but my working life has relied heavily on the English skills that I gained at Iona. Over the past few years, my writing has taken more of a creative form. It's the creative side that has triggered such fond memories of English lessons with Mrs McPherson. I smile when I think of how I used to look forward to English exams, when I could test my creativity under pressure.

I really appreciate this opportunity to say thank you.

**Marie McLean (née Wood)**  
*Class of 1989*



# MATTHEW ARIS

## PERFORMING ARTS



Over the years I've spent at Iona, the majority of my days were spent in the Performing Arts Department; it was like a second home for me. Through going to Iona I discovered my intense passion for the Performing Arts, which has led me to study at WAAPA. This would not have been possible without the ongoing support and inspiring teaching from people I now consider as huge role models. In particular, Mrs Coby Brant, Mr Joshua Brant, Ms Rachel Gorman, Ms Lauren Staniforth and who could forget Mr Matthew Aris.

Mr Aris, or 'Maris' as we would like to call him, has given me so much to help pave my way in the industry. His passion, drive, honesty, straightforwardness and humor will always be truly inspirational.

The way he approached our classes and musicals was nowhere near ordinary! It was always such a fun, cooperative, comfortable environment where we would be pushed to our limits but only for the best! From these classes I have gained so much invaluable knowledge; and I can't wait to take it with me into the big wide world. He has not just helped me grow as a performer but as a person and I will always be eternally grateful for that. Thank you Mr Aris!

**Bailey Spalding**  
*Class of 2015*



# SANDRA MANNING AND FIONA DOCHERTY

## VISUAL ARTS

I recently submitted a Past Pupil news item about my participation in an art festival in Sydney called the Beams Festival. In my update, I reflected upon my art classes with Mrs Manning and Miss Brooksbank, because their teaching undoubtedly had a strong influence in my studies and subsequent career as an art teacher and practising artist. To this day I still recall a sage piece of advice from Mrs Manning about not filling up our water jars all the way. (This was because that way, if we were to accidentally knock it over, it was only half a jar full of water to be spilled! Genius!) I now pass along this wisdom and even more valuable aspects of art making practice, history and criticism that I picked up to my own students.

I attended Iona Primary School and the College from 1990- 1999 and remember every single one of my teachers fondly. They were there at 6.30am to train for cross country with us, they were by the pool encouraging us to try new dives and at the track helping us with the finer points of baton changes. They taught us social etiquette and deportment, how to chop an onion properly, to sew, how to give a proper handshake, to be a respectful audience member, to be a humble winner and a gracious loser. They taught us academically

rigorous content, unpacking the works of Shaw, Hardy, Steinbeck and Dickens. They took us on study tours and immersed us in culture and languages. I remember them to be experts, indefatigable, authoritative and witty. One even had magic powers (Mr Karasavas)!

Whether it is delivering formal training in an educational setting or imparting life skills to our own children, we as people mostly teach how we were

taught. Now that I am a teacher, I am so grateful that I may draw from my experiences as a former student at Iona and can only aspire to emulate my teachers. I feel privileged to have had the opportunity to receive what I consider to be an exceptional education and to be able to publicly say thank you to my teachers (and also sorry for talking so much in class). Iona teachers make a difference.

**Shavaurn Hanson**  
*Class of 1999*



# CARMINA HARVEY

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

My five years at Iona were well and truly life changing, I definitely would not be the person I am today, without the support of all the wonderful and inspiring teachers who taught me.

One of the teachers who had a profoundly positive impact on me, was Mrs Harvey, my Years 11 and 12 Religious Education teacher.

She was a committed teacher who I found very engaging. She spoke about faith in a way that made it relevant in

our everyday lives. She spoke of her own faith, which guided and shaped her life.

As a role model and as an educator with a strong faith, she allowed us to discuss issues without judgement. I remember her saying something along the lines of, 'this is what I believe and this is what I am going to teach you but you are welcome to share your opinion as long as you do it in a respectful manner'.

I believe this class had a profound impact on my life, my values, my tolerance and my understanding of my Catholic faith tradition. Even today, I reflect on those classes and think that if more people lived their lives this way, the world would be a better place.

**Tessa Flugge**  
*Class of 2008*



## Farewell

This year we say farewell to three iconic members of our Iona Community; Gabby Dean, Joan Easton and Sue Wiener.

We would like to take this opportunity on behalf of the entire Iona Community, past and present, to thank all three of these amazing educators for their years of service and for being exemplary role models both to our students and staff. You will all be sorely missed.

Good luck and God Bless.



**Joan Easton** has been a member of the Iona community since 1979, teaching a myriad of learning areas and students. During her time at Iona she has been employed as the Head of Physical Education, also teaching PE Studies, SOSE, English, Work Studies and coordinating the INSTEP program. Joan was also Head of Year 8 and 12 and in recent years, Head of Boarding. Joan will forever be known for her genuine care for her students and her fair, firm and flexible approach.



**Gabby Dean** commenced her teaching life here at Iona in 1999 and by the end of 2016, will have taught English and Media to Ionians for 18 years. Gabby has also worked as part of the Community Relations and Development Team during her time at Iona. In recent years Gabby has become an avid photographer continually impressing staff with her skill and expertise for beautiful photography. Gabby often takes centre stage at the Year 12 Fun Concerts, adding her wit and humour to skits performed with Allan Karasavas and John Hibble.



**Sue Wiener** commenced her teaching life at Iona in 2005 and for 11 years has been the heart and soul of the Iona Sports Department. Sue has taken Iona's performance at IGSSA competitions from strength to strength, and in particular, leading Iona to winning the Boans Trophy in 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011. Her enthusiasm and passion for the success of all Ionians and her drive and commitment to Sport at the College has truly been an inspiration to us all.

“It’s hard to believe that 20 years has passed already, but it was great to see everyone back again, and the years have certainly been kind!”



## Class of 1996

**On the evening of 5 November 2016, the Class of '96 convened in the Iona Sports Centre surrounded by the wonderful art recently exhibited by current Ionians.**

We were thrilled that so many of the 96ers were able to make it, especially with so many of us spread out across the country and further around the globe.

While it was really great to catch up with so many old friends, it was also important to recognise those absent friends who couldn't be with us.

Our Head Girl Peta Cartwright (née Millard) who had done such a great job tracking everyone down through social media, was unfortunately not able to travel over from interstate. Peta sent some lovely words and best wishes that I was able to share on her behalf.

On a sadder but important note, Mrs Pitos shared some moving words from Ms Hurley, in a fitting tribute to our much loved and dearly departed Leah Blinkhorn, who remains with us always in our hearts and minds.

It was great for so many of us to be able to share stories, memories and photos of our years with Leah and all the other girls from back in the school days.

Thanks to everyone involved in making it a special night, particularly to all the school girls who gave up their time on a Saturday evening, and the wonderful performers from the Clarinet Choir, who entertained us playing a lovely set in the background. A school reunion wouldn't be complete without the warmth and kindness of Sr Mary, and it was wonderful to have her there also.

It's hard to believe that 20 years has passed already, but it was great to see everyone back again, and the years have certainly been kind!

Thanks also to Georgia Allen for organising all the details for the event and spending the evening with us.

I think the difficulty the organisers had moving us on from the school at the end of the evening was testament to a good time had by all! In the desire to keep the conversations going, there were rumours of trying to arrange an annual catch-up, so clearly there remains a strong bond between the Class of 96.

**Irina Cattalini**  
*Class of 1996*



“Interestingly enough, quite a few of our old class have daughters at the school now with several of us in the same year groups.”



## Class of 1986

**Saturday 7 May, saw about 25 of the Class of '86 make their way back to school for our 30th school Reunion, in the fabulous Iona Sports Centre overlooking the pool.**

Both of these facilities didn't exist when we were at school so it was an impressive return to the school grounds for some of the classmates who haven't seen the school and its fantastic progress since we left.

It was wonderful to see familiar faces and reminisce about our school days and swap stories of what we're all up to now.

Interestingly enough, quite a few of our old class have daughters at the school now with several of us in the same year groups. We were thrilled to have our dear Sr Mary (Sr Anthony in our day) join us. Our esteemed Deputy Head Girl, Rachel MacDonald (Watt) gave her usual brilliant address, complete with funny anecdotes but also poignant memories of classmates who sadly didn't make it to our reunion, with special thoughts for our friend Ciara Glennon, lost way too soon.

As the function drew to a close at the school, we weren't finished telling tales so a few of us went to the Cottesloe Hotel and kept talking for a little longer. We all really enjoyed the opportunity to get together and many thanks to Mrs Anne Pitos and the school for hosting us. Special thanks to Mrs Karen Canalini and the students for their tireless work on the night.

**Kate Smyth (née Morgan)**

*Class of 1986*





“...it was splendid to see everyone come together once more as a really tight-knit year group.”

## Class of 1976

**The Class of 1976, celebrated in style at The Esplanade, Fremantle on Saturday 12 November amongst 32 other classmates.**

With many travelling as far as Canberra, Yass and regional areas of WA, it was splendid to see everyone come together once more as a really tight-knit year group.

Despite some being Day Bugs and others, Boarders, our group of Ionians have always considered themselves to be a really cohesive group, who have always done their best to stay in contact and meet for get-togethers and milestone reunions.

Lunch was booked for 12pm this day, but the chatter and laughter continued much into the afternoon and evening, proving to be another memorable day and significant event in our Ionian story.

As we said our goodbyes, promises were shared to maintain contact, and mini-meetups have been planned before our next big reunion. Many felt it apt for 3yrs time- when we turn 60!

Georgia Allen (Iona, Community Relations and Development), came to meet the girls at the beginning of lunch and commented how nice it was to see us all come together as a group. She also passed on warm wishes from the Principal, Anne Pitos, Sr Anthony (now Sr Mary), Sr Lucy, Sr Joan Evans and general Iona news.

We now look forward to celebrating our next reunion together, 50 years, when we finally become Golden Girls; but, I have a niggling feeling we might see each other before then.

**Anne Oliver**  
*Class of 1976*



“In my Class, three Polish girls completed their Leaving certificate... it was like coming to Heaven!”



## Golden Girls Reunion

**The Presentation ethos is very much in evidence on the annual Golden Girls day and this was certainly the case at this year's get together.**

Over 85 Golden Girls reunited in September this year, to celebrate the inauguration of the Class of 1966; with our very own Sr Mary Head Girl of that year, and to reunite once more as classmates and friends.

The opportunity to catch up and reminisce about school life is always greatly appreciated by past students and in particular our Golden Girls with many travelling far and wide to attend this special day.

With the news of the close of Boarding in the coming years at Iona, many of the Golden Girls reflected on just how influential and special the sisters have been to them:

- It's so nice that Iona is still on the same site... I come back every year... it's just like coming home...
- They taught us to be compassionate and kind to everyone...
- I was an only child, my Mother died when I was six [c1955] so I came to board at Iona ... they looked after me as if I was their own.
- It was incredibly special when a sister died... two died while I was here... the sister was treated with special respect and love...I remember we tolled the Angelus and lined the road to the gate with a guard of honour... all crying our eyes out...
- The sisters kept us so busy that there really wasn't time to get up to too much mischief... they were also so busy with teaching, looking after and feeding us...they were remarkable!
- As displaced persons from Poland after the war... mothers and children without fathers... we lived in camps in Africa for years... no-one would take us except Australia.... a wonderful scheme...In my Class, three Polish girls completed their Leaving certificate... it was like coming to Heaven!



past pupil news  
**IONA'S VERY OWN  
 GOLDEN GIRL**



## Iona's very own Golden Girl

**Iona Presentation College's annual Golden Girls Reunion was all the more special this year, when much-loved staff member, Presentation Sister, and Head Girl from 1966, Sr Mary Mackin was inducted into the Golden Girls. This very special group of ladies are acknowledged for their 50 years or more since leaving Iona.**

Sr Mary attended Iona as a boarder from the age of 14, hailing from rural Tammin. Young Mary certainly thrived in her new surrounds, for as well as being an exceptional student, Dux in Fourth and Fifth year, she was a natural leader, excelling in drama and music and winning many awards.

In 1969, Mary became a Presentation Sister, making her Profession at Mosman Park, and for many years was known as Sr Anthony.

Sr Mary, as she is now fondly known, has always been a positive presence at the College, and continues as a staff member to this day.

Whilst teaching techniques have changed, Sr Mary states the values of an Iona education remain the same.

"Of course we have seen classrooms change from using chalkboards to laptops; and teaching adapt from direct instruction to more contemporary enquiry-based learning, but in many ways, Iona hasn't changed much at all," she said.

"We have always hoped to produce well-rounded graduates who will make a difference in the community, and be well-mannered with a strong work ethic."

"The broad-based education we offer students is reflected in the feel of the school, and has been for over 50 years. I put it down to prayer, providence and passion!"

"Every day I come through the gates and love the buzz that I feel from teenagers; they are so refreshing!"



## Treading the Boards

**After graduating in 2009, I studied Performance Studies and Creative Writing at Curtin University, gained an acting agent and have been working regularly in theatre, film and television in Perth.**

I moved to London in January to follow my passion in theatre (which I owe largely to Iona!) and have now been lucky enough to gain a place studying a Masters of Acting at the Bristol Old Vic Theatre School in England, one of the most prestigious drama schools in the UK, where the likes of Daniel Day Lewis and Sir Patrick Stewart received their training – an incredible opportunity for which I am both extremely grateful and extremely excited!

**Tessa Carmody**

*Class of 2009*

## Political Pursuits

**After graduating from Iona in 2005, I studied a Bachelor of Arts degree majoring in History, Politics & International Relations. I had the incredible opportunity to study abroad in Spain and also in Ireland where I worked as a political intern in Parliament House in Dublin.**

After completing my Honours and not knowing what career path I wanted to follow, I decided to take off and see the world. I travelled extensively through India, then Central and South America, before obtaining my qualification to teach English in Colombia. After eight months of teaching English, I developed a genuine interest and enthusiasm for the profession. In 2013 I moved to Vietnam, where I taught in schools and at a university for a year before moving back to Perth to complete a Graduate Diploma in Education.

These last two years I have enjoyed teaching Humanities, specialising in Modern History. I challenge my students to become actively interested in the subject and how it relates to the world around them. Through my passion in this field I developed a strong desire to participate in the political process.

As a result, I will be running as the Labor candidate for the Seat of Cottesloe in the upcoming State Election. I hope to challenge the political status quo and represent my community to the best of my ability.

**Caitlin Collins**

*Class of 2005*





*Pictured above is Emily Loughnan ('05), Amanda Wiener ('05), Emily Wiener ('08),  
 Alexandra Wilson ('05)*

## Congratulations

Congratulations to Amanda Wiener, Past Pupil from the Class of 2005 who recently married Craig Simmonds in Queenstown, New Zealand. Amanda was supported by an all-Ionian cast of bridesmaids.

## We really should catch up...

### 2017 UPCOMING REUNIONS

(Dates correct at time of print)

#### **YEAR 13 BREAKFAST**

(CLASS OF 2016)

Friday 10 February 2017

#### **5 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 2012)

Saturday 18 February 2017

#### **10 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 2007)

Saturday 11 March 2017

#### **20 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1997)

Saturday 11 November 2017

#### **25 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1992)

Saturday 1 April 2017

#### **30 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1987)

Saturday 27 May 2017

#### **40 YEAR REUNION**

(CLASS OF 1977)

Saturday 2 September 2017

#### **GOLDEN GIRLS MASS AND REUNION**

Friday 15 September 2017

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

Keep up to date with Reunion news, visit our website... [iona.wa.edu.au](http://iona.wa.edu.au)

## Welcome to IPPA, Class of 2016

**The IPPA community which now consists of over 5000 members, would like to warmly welcome the Class of 2016 to the Iona Past Pupils Association.**

As a member of this association, Past Pupils will have the opportunity to stay connected to Iona via a range of functions, events and reunions.

In 2017, IPPA plans to re-launch itself and will be looking for Past Pupils who would like to take an active role in developing the association.

Our plans will include developing an IPPA Mentoring Program, initiatives that provide aid and support to existing students and fundraising suggestions to support the College's strategic plan.

If you are interested in getting involved, please contact Georgia Allen, [gallen@iona.wa.edu.au](mailto:gallen@iona.wa.edu.au)





## Iona's Musical Crescendo

**The Music Learning Area is a place where students come to learn, to find solace in their personal practise, to embrace their creativity, to rehearse and create with their peers and to laugh and discover. As a staff, we are always delighted to see students' talents grow as they continue through the program. With every performance comes new challenges, and the Iona girls certainly rise up to every challenge!**

The Music program at Iona continues to grow from strength to strength. Currently, we have 170 girls enrolled in instrumental lessons, and 13 co-curricular ensembles rehearsing weekly. In 2017, we will offer 16 ensembles giving more students the opportunity to participate in the growing program.

Iona students show their love of learning in every performance they give. With over 60 performances every year, each girl is given the opportunity to showcase their talents and perform to appreciative audiences.

A few highlights of the year are the annual Music Night, Music Camp and Presentation Night. This year's Music Night theme was "ABBA Spectacular" and the girls performed to a capacity Nagle Hall. Music Camp was held at Swanleigh Campsite and saw 120 girls engage in masterclasses and physiotherapy workshops with some of Perth's most in-demand professionals. Presentation Night is a fitting celebration of all students' efforts, and our en-massed orchestra provides all music for this event, which is always highly commended.



Another event the College takes part in, is the Catholic Schools Performing Arts Festival. This year, the College had great success with Year 12 student, Alexandra Toussaint-Jackson receiving two overall winner shields, and one scholarship award. Alexandra was awarded the Sisters of St John of God shield for Voice, the Oblates of Mary Immaculate Shield for Flute and the Catenian Association Scholarship for Flute.

As Plato says, "Music is a more potent instrument than any other for education" and we couldn't agree with him more!

**Chiara Kingwell**  
*Head of Music*

"In 2017, we will offer 16 ensembles giving more students the opportunity to participate in the growing program."



## A Kimberley Immersion

**In August this year, several Year Ten students, Mr Vlahov and Miss Moore were blessed with the opportunity to participate in a week long immersion to the outstanding East Kimberley region of Western Australia.**

Here they were warmly invited to spend five days in Halls Creek at Warlawurra Catholic School getting to know the rich and diverse 'Red Hill Mob' and immersing themselves in their classrooms and community.

Mrs Susan Scanlon, school Principal, staff and students of Warlawurra delighted in sharing their culture, traditions and unique learning environment.

The Iona students spent their days assisting in the classrooms, playing sport and other games and exploring some of the beautiful gorges and water holes in the area. At the end of the week in Halls Creek the group took time to explore Kununurra, Lake Argyle and El Questro Station.

Participation in this program was both an enriching and enlightening experience with girls coming away feeling a great connection with the Red Hill people.

We look forward to visiting Halls Creek again next year and hope to welcome some of the Warlawurra students to Iona in 2017.



## CREATE Success

**The annual Creative Arts Exhibition, CREATE 2016 was a dazzling display of colour, energy and creativity.**

Themes represented at the exhibition included the local environment, portraiture, landscape, memory and reflection, childhood and social commentary.

Displays flowed in a gallery setting through different year groups and highlighted the progression of skill and expertise, with the Year 12 works the real stars of the exhibit.

On opening night, guests were treated to a runway parade, showcasing a selection of work produced by Textile students in Years 7-12 and accompanied by our enthusiastic staff band, "The Nano's". Budding fashion designers shone in their garments and wowed the 800+ crowd with the spectacular fashion extravaganza.

Students of Media worked within various forms and genres throughout 2016. From Film Trailers, Reality TV promotions and Thriller sequences to Mockumentaries and Experimental Short Films. Students produced their own works, screening them to captive audiences in an alfresco setting under the stars.

The festive atmosphere of opening night was enhanced by the inclusion of food trucks and a sausage sizzle by the Men of Iona.

Congratulations and thanks to all involved on a very successful exhibition. We now look forward to CREATE 2017!





“The Men of Iona look forward to helping Dads build and nurture their relationships with their daughters.”

## Introducing the Men of Iona

### 2016 has seen the resurgence of the Men of Iona.

This group of Iona Men, consisting of Dads and significant other males, have united once again to build their networks and to work towards supporting their daughters and the wider Iona community.

The primary focus of the group for 2016 was simply to get to know each other. This was made possible by several social events organised throughout the year. Having a chat at The Tradewinds and a yarn at another local venue, Dads were able to get to know each other and share their stories. For many, having this opportunity to listen to others' experiences of raising teenage daughters was really invaluable.

The Men of Iona then came together at CREATE, the Creative Arts Exhibition to do what some Dads do best- cook a mean BBQ! We thank the Dads whole-heartedly for giving of their time to support the College in this way.

In 2017 the Men of Iona plans to organise a range of events for Dads and their daughters. From bare-foot lawn bowls, to camp-outs and movie nights, to information sessions and advice on raising girls, the Men of Iona look forward to helping Dads build and nurture their relationships with their daughters.

If you are keen to be a member of the Men of Iona, then please contact Georgia Allen, Community Relations and Development at Iona. Georgia will put you in contact with the coordinator of the Men of Iona, Mr Steve Young. You won't need to do anything else- just turn up!



# Annual Giving: You can make a difference

## From the Principal

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

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

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

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

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

**Anne Pitos**  
*Principal*

## Donors

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

Gwen Steffen	Margaret Latham
Pat Pettigrew	Rita Quartermaine
Robin Burrridge	Sharon Schubert

**Thank you kindly for your support**

## Scholarship Fund- Nano Nagle Bursaries

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

## Building Fund- Nagle Hall Refurbishment

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

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

## Library- iCentre Resources

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

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



**IONA**  
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

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

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