



IONA PRESENTATION COLLEGE MAGAZINE
ISSUE 14 • AUTUMN 2017

esprit

de corps

Iona girls make a difference

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Next issue: Leadership

Past Pupils, share your stories about your leadership journey or about a leader in the Iona community who has influenced you? Please send to communityrelations@iona.wa.edu.au



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message from
THE PRINCIPAL



The College has been a hive of activity this year, with many significant occasions to celebrate.

Our girls have spent quality time together, building friendships, developing confidence and settling into their new peer groups, with an array of motivational activities including leadership conferences, innovation festivals, pastoral care days and peer support activities.

We have celebrated great success at the Interschool Swimming Carnival, enjoyed the magic of musical theatre watching *Cinderella*, welcomed the community to our St Patrick's Day Mass and showcased our beautiful College to prospective families at our Open Mornings.

I was very proud to announce the decision to remerge Iona Presentation Primary School with the College. This as an exciting new chapter in Iona's future and a decision made in the very best interests of the students at the Primary School and the College. The remerge will enrich and strengthen our already strong community and I look forward to the opportunities it will bring.

The remerge will formally take place on 1 January 2018. If you would like to find out more please do not hesitate to contact me via email: apitos@iona.wa.edu.au

Iona girls make a difference

With a strong belief in the capacity and responsibility of young women to make a significant contribution to the world around them, Social Justice is our focus value for 2017.

All students, past and present, are encouraged to take an active role in defending personal rights, showing compassion and working to help those in need. As our Head Girl, Lauren Fleming said, "Iona girls are known to make a difference. This is and has been a major endeavour for generations of Ionians and in 2017, we are going to bring it to a whole new level."

At Iona, we encourage our girls to live through and practise social justice in the College and beyond. In 2017, we want our girls to focus on helping others through deeds, not words, developing a deeper understanding of their roles as global citizens.

Underpinning all that we do at the College, is our Presentation ethos, a rich tradition of service and commitment to social justice. We prepare our girls to be proactive and generous citizens of their world, long after they exit our gates for the last time.

Many Past Pupils are leading exemplary lives of service and in this edition of *esprit de corps* we celebrate their wonderful achievements as they campaign for social justice.

I look forward to seeing and meeting many of you at upcoming reunions, events or College Open Mornings. Do keep sharing your wonderful stories and experiences with our Community Relations Department.

Happy reading and may God bless us all.

Anne Pitos
Principal

Nano Nagle and Social Justice

Nano Nagle was the daughter of a wealthy, society family. She was sent to Paris and Ypres to 'finish' her education after early schooling in a local hedge school. As a young woman, she was wilful and lively, causing concern for her parents. Inspired by her sister Anne, and open to the poverty and inequity that she saw around her, Nano searched her heart and responded with action that has changed thousands of lives world-wide.

Nano would not have thought in terms of 'social justice' but her actions were truly 'socially just', that is: 'just in terms of the distribution of wealth, opportunities, and privileges within a society.' (English Oxford Dictionary). She responded in the most challenging of circumstances: educating children in secret schools when Penal Laws forbade the setting up of schools for Catholics, caring for the poor and dispossessed and sharing everything with them until she had scarcely enough for herself. Working at times through illness and often through adversity, Nano gave her 'all' to the poor and needy of Cork.

From a project with small beginnings in Cork city, Nano created a legacy that still thrives almost 250 years later. Her vision — crossing geographical, political, religious and social frontiers — of 'deeds not words', embodies a variety of ministries, especially education, faith and spirituality, social and pastoral health care and healing. She wrote, "If I

could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power."

In WA, that service continues in the work of Presentation Sisters and Presentation People in education at many levels; pastoral care of many including children, the elderly, Aboriginal people, victims of trafficking, those in hospitals and homes; prayer and spiritual support; social justice activity and simple sustainable living.

The Presentation Sisters have a deep desire to bring about the Kingdom of God and so commit to listen to God's call in the daily realities of life, to live simply, sustainably and hospitably, to be agents of healing and reconciliation in our world, to care for the health of the earth and to 'spend themselves for the poor' and those who suffer.

Sr Lucy van Kessel *pbvm*



“If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power.” (Nano Nagle)



From the Archives...

Iona Students Making a Difference

One of the many gifts given to the Presentation community by Nano Nagle is the responsibility to address social justice issues. Schools were for Nano, a primary way of addressing the root causes of poverty and the systemic injustice of the Penal Laws in Ireland. She believed that education gave children a sense of their own dignity as well as practical skills and knowledge to rise out of poverty. She also ensured that they had a sound religious education.

Nano's other 'lantern works' included visiting those who were sick, elderly, imprisoned and destitute – often at night, walking through the dark and dangerous streets of Cork by the light of a flickering lantern. No wonder she was voted the "greatest Irish person of all time".

(<http://presentationsociety.org.au/about/our-founder>).

Following in the footsteps of Nano Nagle as we do, Social Justice is a core value at Iona. It emphasises tolerance, freedom, and equality for all. All students are encouraged to take an active role in defending personal rights by showing compassion and working together to help those in need wherever and whenever they can. We expect our girls to leave Iona with a maturing sense of social justice, which hopefully they will exercise throughout their lives. From Kindergarten through to Year 12, students are encouraged to act ethically and sensitively towards individuals and social, cultural, economic and environmental issues. By developing strong social justice awareness and striving for social justice our students can help those less fortunate and make a positive contribution to society.

Service groups and activities have long been an important component of the Iona curriculum. In the past, service groups have included the Young Christian Students' group, Amnesty International and the Red Cross. Service groups today include the Young Pressies, the Young Vinnies, Community Cook-up, and the Enviro Group.

Iona Care is the College's special Christian Service-Learning Program which was formalised in 2008. The motto of the program is "A call to service". The aim of the program is to encourage students to participate fully in the community at all levels and develop a lifelong ethos for

helping those less fortunate. The Iona Care Program is introduced to students in Year 7 with students required to complete a numbers of hours of service throughout the year. In Years 7 and 8 this is within the College community. In Year 9 the focus is on family. By Years 10 and 11 each student contributes 20 hours of service in the wider community.

Another service opportunity offered to students is the annual immersion trip. In 2015, the girls gained first-hand experience working with Indigenous children at St Joseph's Catholic Primary School in Kununurra, and in 2016, the Warlawurra Catholic Primary School at Halls Creek. Such programs broaden the students' experience and allows them to make a significant contribution to a less advantaged community. The students learn much about the importance of our indigenous communities retaining their traditions and culture and a greater understanding of the challenges faced by these communities.

Iona students participated in a World Challenge trip to Asia in 2011, where they provided service work in Laotian orphanages and the slums of Bangkok. Another group went to Thailand in 2015. In 2018, students are anticipating a trip to the Presentation missions in Chennai-Mithra-Kolkata-New Delhi.

From this exposure to social justice many girls develop a real commitment to helping others which lasts a lifetime. Sometimes this may be an extension of their private lives, and others, part of what they do in their professional lives. Just three examples from the Class of 1982 illustrate the

“Following in the footsteps of Nano Nagle as we do, Social Justice is a core value at Iona.”

incredible impact the exposure to social justice at Iona has on our students. In 1993, Past Pupil and current teacher Sharon Schubert volunteered at Shishu Bhavan in Kolkata, the Children's Home Mother Theresa opened for abandoned street babies and children in 1955. She also volunteered at Mother Teresa's Kalighat Home of the Pure of Heart, a hospice for the sick, destitute and the dying. Sharon also took a group of students from Servite College on Pilgrimage to the south of India, near Bangalore in 2004. Leonie Parentich has been helping people get access to quality medical care and financial assistance in times of need so that they are treated with dignity and fairness. Kylie Groves is doing pro bono legal work with not-for-profit organisations and is on the board of Shelter WA, advocating for the homeless and affordable housing.

No doubt there are many other Iona pupils, both past and present, still making a huge difference. Long may it continue!

Margaret Pember
College Archivist



Photos: Sharon Schubert - Pilgrimage to South of India, near Bangalore

Class of 2016

It was a hive of activity as the Class of 2016 returned to the College for the inaugural Year 13 Reunion Breakfast in February.

Mrs Anne Pitso welcomed the girls back to the College, congratulating them on their successful completion of Year 12 and their ATAR examinations, before introducing Past Pupil and Head of Religious Education, Ms Gemma Thomson, as the guest speaker for the morning.

Ms Thomson spoke about her connection to the College and the importance of holding a piece of 'Iona' in their hearts. She encouraged the girls to share their Iona experiences with those beyond the College community, to ensure other girls have the same opportunities they have.

It was a very special morning for the students who attended, as they shared stories of their summer and discussions about their future.





Class of 2012

On a warm February evening, over 20 Past Pupils gathered at Cott & Co in Cottesloe for a 5 Year Reunion.

Principal Mrs Anne Pitos welcomed the girls, who were busy catching up on what has happened over the past few years. With many university degrees being completed and new careers being embarked upon, it was wonderful to see and hear the stories of this cohort. We look forward to catching up with more of this year group at their 10 Year Reunion in 2022!







“The greatest part of the reunion, for me, was reconnecting with friends I haven't spoken to in many years and reminiscing about the memories of our times at Iona...”

Class of 2007

It was such a fantastic opportunity to catch up with so many beautiful girlfriends after 10 long (but in many ways short) years.

I would personally like to sincerely thank the Iona staff for making the night possible. Whilst some were able to make the reunion from interstate or overseas, others were dearly missed.

For the night itself, I personally found it fascinating and inspiring to see where everyone's unique journey has taken them since the Iona days. Some fantastic career highlights from doctors, nurses, teachers, scientists, musicians and writers (only to name a few) and some beautiful family stories shared from mothers and wives.

Past Principal Margaret Herley was unable to attend but sent the following words to be read out:

"Give them my best wishes, I wish I could have been there to share the occasion with them. Remind them that I still expect great things of them, because Iona girls should be making a difference in all their varied and many aspects of life.

I do wish them well in all they undertake and the challenges they will face throughout life; and I wish them joy in each other's company this evening, and for years to come..."

The greatest part of the reunion, for me, was reconnecting with friends I haven't spoken to in many years and reminiscing about the memories of our times at Iona; memories of academic success, personal achievement, pure joy and entertainment from friends, and maybe a few rebellious memories too.

I think we could all agree that we were very lucky that Iona gave us a fantastic start to our adult lives and it's great to know that the Iona community is still strong. It's a privilege to be a part of it.

Sarah Evans
Class of 2007



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“The ladies travelled from far and wide to see their peers...”



Class of 1992

The Class of 1992 had a gorgeous afternoon of nibbles and drinks at the College, as they met for their 25 Year Reunion in April.

Principal Mrs Anne Pitos welcomed the ladies, as they busily caught up on the five years since their last reunion.

The ladies travelled from far and wide to see their peers, including Head Girl Daniella Pereira who travelled from Melbourne and Deputy Head Boarder Kartika Schaufler from Singapore.

They were thrilled to see Sister Flora and Sister Mary, and had a very special appearance from Head of Mathematics Allan Karasavas who taught many of the ladies when they attended the College. Pianists from the College provided lovely music for the afternoon, as friends reconnected, sharing laughter and the odd tear.

Many thanks to those who joined the cohort for a wonderful afternoon reminiscing about their school days. We look forward to seeing you all again in five years!



Improving the Community's Understandings of Violence Against Women

After graduating from Iona Presentation College, I studied a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Communications) at The University of Western Australia.

While the law fascinated me, I was eager to explore how I could also use my passion for writing and research to engage in social justice issues. That is when I decided to move interstate to study a Master of Journalism at The University of Melbourne.

During my studies, I came to learn more about the social epidemic of violence against women and the important role the media plays in informing the public about what is arguably one of Australia's biggest crime, social, economic and human rights stories.

In Victoria, there is a bright spotlight on this issue with the recent Royal Commission into Family Violence and many domestic violence sector organisations working hard to improve the community's understanding of the issue.

I volunteered for the peak body Domestic Violence Victoria in 2014 and worked on a small media project, which developed into my minor thesis. Following that, I was hired as the research assistant at the Centre for Advancing Journalism on a number of related projects aimed at harnessing the media's potential to prevent violence against women.

These include '*Violence Against Women: A media intervention*' in which we are studying whether the Victorian media's coverage has improved journalists' perceptions of the issue and what impact this is having on the public.

This project has also involved creating a social media intervention called Uncovered.org.au that is aimed at creating a constructive dialogue with journalists and other interested parties about the media's reporting of violence against women.

We were also contracted by the national body *Our Watch* to develop a curriculum for journalism students and professionals on how to better report on the issue.

While working on these projects, I also began my Doctor of Philosophy. This is where my legal and journalism worlds collide as I am studying the media's reporting of court trials involving intimate partner homicides.

Intimate partner homicides are where the victim was either a former or current partner (wife, girlfriend, ex-partner) of the perpetrator. It is common that these homicides occur at the extreme end of a long history of other types of violence such as financial or emotional abuse. In Australia, at least one woman a week is killed by her intimate partner.

Some of the problems in the media's reporting of these incidents and all types of violence against women that we are working to improve include victim blaming, sensationalism, the perpetuation of myths and stereotypes, relying only on authoritative voices and excluding the broader social and gendered context in which violence against women occurs.

My PhD is focused on the complex legal restrictions and rules of evidence that make it difficult for journalists to report on intimate partner homicides when they proceed through the courts. This is problematic because it means that journalists either shy away from reporting on the issue all together or do so in a way that does not represent the whole story.

I will be studying the media's reporting of different court cases, observing trials and interviewing journalists over the next two years.

Ultimately my aim is to understand exactly how these legal restrictions are impacting journalists reporting on intimate partner homicides and in doing so, improve the media's skill set and confidence to safely report on trials within the law but also in a way that improves the community's understandings of violence against women.

<https://www.uncovered.org.au/>

Annie Blatchford
Class of 2007





“It is my belief that Iona opened doors for me which have enabled me to become the person I am today.”

Peace through Understanding

After graduating from Iona in 2002 I travelled to the Netherlands to complete a 12 month cultural exchange program with AFS whose motto is '*Peace through Understanding*.' I feel that this continues to ring true for me today, as I continue to strive to understand the ways of others in everything I do.

In 2008, I graduated from The University of Notre Dame with a Bachelor of Education specialising in Early Childhood Education. I have been teaching for eight years, including a remote posting followed by schools in the Wheatbelt area. I am now undertaking a number of leadership opportunities involving students with Special Educational Needs.

Throughout my studies and career, I have endeavoured to build on 'peace through understanding' through extensive travel and volunteer work. While teaching in remote WA, I established a *Play and Stay Program* encouraging Aboriginal mothers and their young children to play together and become more comfortable within the school environment. This is a program which I have now established in other schools.

I have travelled to Africa twice and worked with underprivileged children in the townships of South Africa, visited orphanages and schools in Tanzania, along with distributing essential supplies throughout Cambodia.

My most recent and perhaps most remarkable venture is taking on the full-time care of three foster children through the Department of Child Protection and Family Support. Although initially agreeing to short term placements, we are now over 12 months on and these three young ladies seem set to become permanent members of my family. The last 12 months have been challenging, heartbreaking and exceptionally rewarding. The eldest will start high school next year, so I am now looking at moving from the Wheatbelt closer to our city centre in order to provide my foster daughters with the best possible opportunities in life and 'peace through understanding'.

It is my belief that Iona opened doors for me which have enabled me to become the person I am today.

Liz Hourn
Class of 2002

A Diplomatic Exchange in Hong Kong

I was recently chosen to be one of seven young Western Australians to take part in a diplomatic exchange program in Hong Kong.

Organised by the Department of Local Government and Communities (Office of Multicultural Interests and Youth Affairs Council of WA) we were selected as a result of our commitment to youth innovation and leadership within our communities. The aim of the program was to create friendships with Hong Kong delegates, understand the differences between our cultures and engage in discussions about youth innovation and the creation of opportunities for youth.

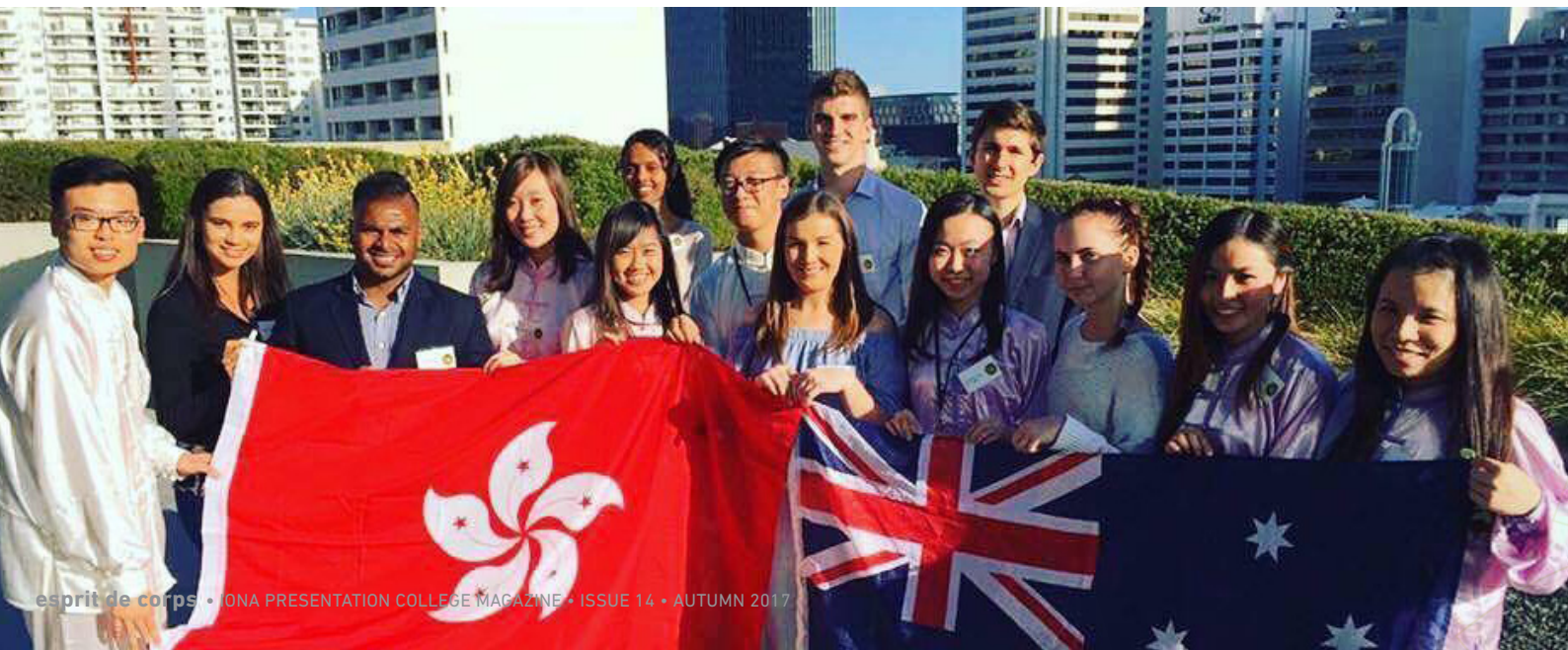
We hosted the Hong Kong delegates in October 2016, during which we showed them our city and taught them about the exciting youth engagement opportunities available in WA.

In February 2017, the West Australian delegates travelled to Hong Kong, where we were immersed in a week of incredibly exciting activities. Highlights of the trip include visiting street markets, temples, museums, trying a variety of new food (I do not recommend chicken feet!), exploring outlying islands and hidden caves, seeing the 'Big Buddha,' visiting the Legislative Council Complex and getting up close and personal with a panda.

It was an extremely enriching experience where I learnt a lot about the Chinese culture, politics, issues China is facing and innovative ways they are resolving problems.

It was an honour representing WA in this exchange, during which I made some wonderful friends and shared some exciting ideas for a positive future.

Brittany Smeed
Class of 2014





Positive Education

I am currently working in Singapore as an education psychologist at an international school. The pressure the students face in Singapore is very high, especially in terms of academic output, so my role is to educate students on stress management. I also support the students individually through one-on-one counselling.

My top tips for managing stress:

- Get organised
- Communicate
- Get enough sleep
- Enjoy a healthy diet
- Exercise
- Prioritise
- Laugh
- Enjoy life

To further support the students, we have created a committee at the school, focusing on 'positive education.' We are in the midst of creating a wellbeing questionnaire to screen staff and students at the school. I feel my role is highly important and it is a rewarding yet demanding job.

Bianca Kelly
Class of 2005



Paying it Forward

I grew up in a small community south of Perth, and if there is one thing a country upbringing teaches you, it's the strength that comes from giving back to and being part of an active community.

I've worked in all corners of the globe and have seen what a relatively small amount of 'giving back' can do to a community who otherwise wouldn't have access to any outside help, so I decided to build it into my business model.

Every year, I knock on the doors of schools in communities that don't have access to governments who can provide them with excellent teacher training and professional development programs (like ours does in Australia). It's my way of 'paying it forward' by volunteering my time and skills to a community in need of teacher training, curriculum development, or whatever their specific skill set entails.

If you would like to join me on these experiences or donate to the cause (schools are always in need of basic school supplies), please contact me.

Maria Doyle
Class of 1995

Iona girls can do anything

I graduated in 1999 and was honoured to receive the Mary Mackin Prize for the Arts in Year 12.

Following my graduation, I completed a Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Law degree at UWA with First Class Honours. I then started work as a corporate lawyer before taking maternity leave for the birth of my first child, Thomas, in 2011.

In 2013, I experienced some difficult events which changed my perspective on life in many ways. My brother-in-law was killed in a car accident in April 2013. At the time, I was pregnant with my second child, Sophia. A few weeks later we discovered I had a very rare and life-threatening complication with my pregnancy. I was hospitalised on bed rest until my daughter was born premature at 34 weeks.

While I was in hospital, I began contemplating what I had achieved and what I still wanted to achieve. My condition had the potential to result in massive haemorrhage and is the primary cause of maternal death. I decided to apply to undertake my Master of Laws at the University of Cambridge, as this was what I had always dreamed of. Thankfully both myself and my daughter survived the delivery and I was accepted into the LLM course at Cambridge.

With our two young children in tow, my husband and I moved to London in April 2014. I began my LLM specialising in Public International Law at Cambridge and graduated with First Class Honours in 2015. It was the most amazing experience of my life and also the most challenging. Even though I was in an all-female college (Newnham College), I was the only LLM candidate with children. After graduating I began working in the world's only boutique public international law firm, Volterra Fietta, and have advised governments and companies on various matters from human rights to the laws of war.

I am currently working for the firm as a consultant from Perth. I recently returned to London to run the 2017 Marathon in order to raise funds for a charity which conducts research into premature birth, miscarriage and still birth, a cause close to my heart.

I would like to thank Sister Mary and Iona for giving me the platform to be able to achieve all that I have.

Amanda Murphy (née Dunne)
Class of 1999





“My heartfelt thanks to the College for making Social Justice the focus value for school community life this year and into the future.”

A Passion for Social Justice

This year marks 20 years since I graduated from Iona. It is amazing to reflect on the many adventures I have journeyed since that time. From studying abroad in Italy, completing a PhD in medical genetics, and now working as a genetic counsellor, times have been busy!

My husband Paul and I are blessed with three beautiful daughters. We look forward to our youngest two joining the Iona family from Year 7.

I want to share with the Iona community, an insight into my passion for Social Justice — the College focus value for 2017. I sincerely hope it always remains a core value of the College.

I was very heartened to learn that the Justice Educator from Caritas Australia has visited the College to provide a professional development session for teachers, centered around the topics of poverty, social justice, the principles of Catholic social teaching and ways of incorporating them into the classroom curriculum.

We look forward to our daughters being nurtured at Iona, and further learning about:

- Inequality in our world and the responsibilities that it brings
- The core principles of Catholic social teaching and their relevance to school policies and practices
- How the agencies of the Catholic Church actively bring the gospel message to life; and
- The importance of awareness raising and actions of solidarity.

My heartfelt thanks to the College for making Social Justice the focus value for school community life this year and into the future.

Gabrielle Reid (née Vogl)
Class of 1997

Real Food, Real You

Originally a Badgingarra farm girl, I boarded at Iona from 1984 to 1988 and was Deputy Head Girl. I am a former veterinarian, teacher, and now a food consultant who helps women transform their relationships with food and with their bodies.

I have spent many years watching as (mostly) women become overwhelmed with what they should or shouldn't be eating. Many years watching women stress themselves out, dieting and worrying about their weight and their bodies.

I absolutely believe that the answer is not being on a diet or following a food trend. This so often turns into stress, guilt and sadness. Our obsession with 'health' has made us lose track of the 'happy' around food. It has created a hostile relationship with food instead of a happy one.

My main motivation for Real Food Real You came from my (then) nine-year-old daughter. Alice is my oldest daughter. She climbs trees, is a lover of gymnastics and does all the normal activities that a kid does. When she had just turned nine, she came to me and said, 'If I eat this (mini) sized chocolate bar I will have to go for a run to the gate and back so I don't get fat'. The gate is about 200 metres from our house. She was asking me if she should worry about being fat? Can you believe that? A gorgeous and normal nine-year-old girl worrying about being fat. It made me think what the hell are we doing to our daughters? Why is dieting and poor body image the norm? Why are we teaching them this?

My goal is to bring the diet industry to its knees. Marketing is aimed at women — young and old — who are vulnerable and body-conscious, believing that they need to buy weight loss shakes, do 5,872 sit ups a day or eat so few calories a day that they end up denying themselves food they actually enjoy



and end up being confused and angry at food. Food shouldn't be confusing.

I am now a Global Ambassador for the Body Image Movement and I am committed to making real change. I love making a positive difference to women's lives, knowing that it will change the lives of their daughters and generations of women to come.

Kate Tonkin
Class of 1988



Bailey Spalding joins Hi-5

After leaving Iona in 2015, Bailey Spalding has had many exciting and 'dream come true' experiences.

Whilst performing in Iona's production of *The Wiz*, Bailey met Mr Ian Westrip, who accepted her as a classical voice student. This led to her being accepted into WAAPA to study a Diploma of Classical Voice.

At the conclusion of this course, Bailey was offered the opportunity to study a Bachelor of Music - Classical Voice, as well as a position in the Musical Theatre Diploma Course, both at WAAPA. This was a dream come true for Bailey and something she had aspired to for many years.

At around the same time, Bailey's agent, Now Actors, suggested she audition for Hi-5 as Channel 9 were taking the show free to air and wanted a whole new cast.

Bailey submitted a video audition and was asked to join the producers in Sydney a week later.

Joining 450 performers, all vying for the five positions, Bailey went through many audition cuts. On the third day of auditions, she was told there were six graduates from WAAPA's 2016 Bachelor of Musical Theatre who had short cut the first few auditions and were now in the mix — the competition, all of a sudden, got very tough.

Bailey returned to Perth while the producers made their final decision, and on 29 November 2016 she was asked to complete a final audition. A day later, Bailey was invited to join the new cast of Hi-5 — another dream come true!

Bailey is very grateful to Iona Presentation College for the amazing opportunities she had working with Matthew Aris and Coby and Joshua Brant.

Brooke Spalding, Bailey's Mum said that having a drama teacher like Matthew Aris; performing at the Regal Theatre from Years 8 to 12; working in such a professional environment; and completing her ATAR in Drama and Dance, really pushed Bailey to be her best and helped her get where she is now.

She thanked Iona for investing in a brilliant Performing Arts Department, and Matthew Aris for being such a tough but fair mentor, commenting that it is much more challenging in the professional world of performing arts.

"She (Bailey) has been able to handle the pressure very well thanks to the excellent coaching in her schooling years, which has now helped her find her way to success."

Bailey is absolutely loving her role as a member of Hi-5. She is currently filming the new series of the show in Malaysia, which will be out in April this year.



From Iona Presentation College to Fiona Stanley Hospital

To the right is a photograph of Jelena Benic Lozić (Class of 2002) and my youngest sister, Amy Randazzo (Class of 2003). Both Jelena and Amy recently graduated from The University of Notre Dame Fremantle, School of Medicine, with MBBS (Honours).

Amy and Jelena first met at Iona and became friends through our sister Jessica (Class of 2002) and through their participation in Iona's extracurricular sporting teams. Since Iona, they both pursued careers in other fields. Amy previously worked as a chartered accountant for Ernst and Young and Jelena worked as a community pharmacist.

Through happy coincidence, they met again whilst applying for medicine and both were accepted to UNDF in the same year. They have been good friends ever since, and this has helped them through this very challenging degree. They are currently both working together as new doctors at Fiona Stanley Hospital.

Notre Dame has an excellent reputation for producing compassionate, well-rounded doctors by incorporating social justice programs in the curriculum. For example, both have participated in local community health initiatives, and have worked in the Kimberley and other parts of rural WA as a result of this degree. They are now using these skills to look after the health of their community. I believe their decision to change careers and study medicine at Notre Dame embodies the social justice value instilled in them through their time at Iona.

Renee Randazzo
Class of 2001



Lara Sawyer awarded the 2016 Year 12 Perspectives People's Choice Award

Lara Sawyer, Class of 2016, was awarded the 2016 Year 12 Perspectives Act-Belong-Commit People's Choice Award for her work.

Comprising four portraits, her work uses the imperfect surface of metal drum lids to reveal Lara's insight into the challenges facing the agricultural industry.

"My series of rusted and decaying portraits visually represent the diminishing respect from the mainstream towards the agricultural industry in Australia," she said.

The winner of the People's Choice Award is the artist whose work received the most votes by members of the general public.

Along with the enormous accolades she received, Lara won a \$250 Gallery Show voucher.

Along with Lara, Ella Anderson-MacKay, Amy Burnett, Angela Prangnell, Phoebe Howie and Alexandra Toussaint-Jackson were invited to showcase their visual arts, media and performing arts talents at the 2016 Year 12 Perspectives Exhibition.



We really should catch up...

2017 UPCOMING REUNIONS

(Dates correct at time of print)

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 (CLASS OF 1967 AND EARLIER)

Friday 15 September 2017

SYDNEY REUNION

(ALL YEARS)

Saturday 28 October 2017

20 YEAR REUNION

(CLASS OF 1997)

Saturday 11 November 2017

To attend one of these Reunions, please visit www.iona.wa.edu.au/past-pupils

For further information regarding these Reunions, or to update your details, please contact
Cathy Broad on cbroad@iona.wa.edu.au

Keep up to date with Reunion news and visit our website: www.iona.wa.edu.au



Principal Mrs Anne Pitso with Ella Anderson-Mackay, Principal's Award for Highest ATAR recipient.

Academic Achievement 2016

Congratulations to our Class of 2016. We are incredibly proud of your achievements and look forward to seeing you prosper in the future.

Class of 2016 Academic Achievement highlights include:

SENIOR SECONDARY OUTCOMES

- One of 16 schools in the State to achieve 100% graduation
- One of five schools in the Catholic System to achieve 100% graduation
- Ranked 17th in the State out of 185 schools
- 77% of students received an ATAR
- A median ATAR of 86.7
- 21 Certificates of Distinction
- 42 Certificates of Merit
- 41.7% of students achieved a Certificate of Distinction or Merit
- 100% of students who studied a VET program completed their qualifications
- 44 Certificate IVs (34 in Business, 3 in Preparation for Nursing and 7 in Education Support)
- 12 Certificate IIIs in Education Support
- 12 students completed an additional Certificate III
- Only school in the State where 100% of students completed a Certificate IV qualification

Certificates of Excellence

Amy Burnett (Visual Arts)
 Julia Morahan (English)
 Isabella Nathan (Visual Arts)

Top Performing Catholic School

Biological Science
 Material Design and Technology
 Visual Arts

SCSA Top Performing Schools

English
 Media Production and Analysis
 Modern History
 Politics and Law
 Religion and Life
 Visual Arts





A St Patrick's Day Celebration

Iona has always celebrated St Patrick's Day. With our strong Irish tradition inherited through Nano Nagle and the Presentation Sisters, we continue to give thanks and celebrate on 17 March, honouring St Patrick and our Irish heritage.

Undoubtedly one of the most popular celebrations in the Iona calendar, our primary and secondary students, their parents and many Past Pupils flocked to Memorial Park to celebrate our St Patrick's Day Mass and renew connections with the broader Iona community and their much-loved school.

Following the St Patrick's Day Mass, our very popular House Fair was held at the College. Students enjoyed lunch with their friends and a variety of activities, including a silent disco, photo booth, many fair-type games and the ever-popular dunking machine, where numerous teachers sacrificed their dignity to end up in the tank.

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



A Cinderella Story at Iona

Iona's musical theatre team delighted audiences with their contemporary take on Rodgers' and Hammerstein's Tony Award winning musical Cinderella in March.

A visual feast for audiences, the production had striking costumes, exciting choreography, magical music and all the moments you love, including the pumpkin, glass slipper and a fairytale ending.

"The talent and work ethic of the cast and crew was exceptional, we are truly delighted with what we created," said Matthew Aris, Director of Performing Arts.

Jade Spirito was a beautiful Cinderella with dazzling stage presence and a delightful voice. She was supported by her very impressive Stepmother, Hannah Howard, and her spirited and funny stepsisters, Courtney Preston and Mikaela Giancaspro.

Along with impressive performances by the main cast members, including Georgia Wilson (Fairy Godmother), and Apryle Richards (Queen), the vibrant chorus were confident and a delight to watch.

The warm and full sounding orchestra, conducted by musical director Aaron Wyatt, did a fantastic job accompanying the beautiful stage voices.

Congratulations to the cast, crew and musicians involved. It was a wonderful production that highlighted the depth of talent at Iona Presentation College.



"The talent and work ethic of the cast and crew was exceptional, we are truly delighted with what we created."
(Matthew Aris, Director of Performing Arts)



A Wonderland Ball

The Ionian Wonderland Ball was a night to remember for our Class of 2017. Held at the Hyatt, the girls and their partners looked absolutely gorgeous as they danced the night away. Their smiles lit up the room as they carried themselves with great decorum and maturity.





DADS AND DAUGHTERS BOWLING

At Iona, we cherish family involvement. Throughout the year, we hold various events so that Mums, Dads and community members can join us at the College. Father/Daughter breakfasts, Mother/Daughter high teas and parent social functions all assist in building the camaraderie of our community.

A stunning evening for our Dads and Daughters bowling

The Men of Iona hosted the inaugural Dads and Daughters Bowling event in February. It was a magnificent night and a great bonding experience for the families involved. Throughout 2017, the Men of Iona plan to organise a range of events for Dads and their daughters, including camp-outs, movie nights, information sessions and advice on raising girls.



Bonding over breakfast for our Year 7 Mothers and Daughters

It was a morning of quality time and laughter for our Year 7 Mothers and Daughters, as they enjoyed breakfast at Fraser's State Reception Centre in King's Park overlooking the river and Perth City.



An afternoon of relaxation at the Year 11 Mother/Daughter High Tea

Our Year 11 Mothers and Daughters had a gorgeous afternoon at Fraser's State Reception Centre, Kings Park on Sunday 7 May. It was a time to stop, reconnect and celebrate a beautiful afternoon together.



Annual Giving: You can make a difference

From the Principal

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

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

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

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

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

Anne Pitos
Principal

Donors

Iona Presentation College would sincerely like to thank the following families who have generously donated in 2016 and 2017.

Mrs Gay Branchi Ms Alicia Hube
Mrs Margaret Latham Ms Jessica Thompson

As well as our many anonymous donors

Thank you kindly for your support

Scholarship Fund- Nano Nagle Bursaries

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

Building Fund- Nagle Hall Refurbishment

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

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

Library- iCentre Resources

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

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



IONA
PRESENTATION COLLEGE

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

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