

Verity

Volume 32, August 2016

Stawell Gift

Interview with Stawell Gift Winner and Semi Finalist, Talia Martin and Cleo Anderson

Easter Picnic

The Loreto Gardens came alive to raise money for the Loreto Gari-Uai Primary School in Timor-Leste

Treasure from the Past

College Archivist Fiona McKenny discusses an intriguing donation to the Archives Centre

Loreto Weddings

A new section on our recently launched website, celebrating weddings in the stunning Loreto Chapel.



Loreto
COLLEGE BALLARAT | EST. 1875





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Talia Martin, courtesy of The Courier

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From the Principal

Ms Judith Potter



*“Life is a workshop, not the gallery... .
Never do anything by halves; be earnest in all you do.”*

Mother Stanislaus Mulhall ibvm (1851 – 1923)

On Friday 20 May, Year 9 students, staff and guests joined together for the Blessing and Opening of The Mulhall Centre, the contemporary learning facility for our Year 9 students created through the transformation of the hall. Father Justin Driscoll led the Liturgy of Blessing and Sister Margaret Sculley ibvm formally opened The Mulhall Centre. We are delighted that through the naming of this centre we can acknowledge and celebrate Mother Stanislaus Mulhall, one of the early members of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, or Loreto Sisters, travelling to Australia and making a significant contribution to education. Mother Stanislaus Mulhall was a visionary woman who, as Provincial, founded the University of Melbourne's St Mary's College in 1918. This College was a long dreamt of achievement, providing education and accommodation for the young women of Victoria pursuing a University education. It offered the means for the girls of rural areas in particular to continue their education in a safe and secure environment with the spiritual and physical support of the Loreto Sisters. Today, almost a hundred years later, many of our graduates continue to benefit from the opportunities offered by St Mary's College.

We are ever mindful and grateful for the contribution of all who have gone before us. As an enthralled audience member of the recent highly

acclaimed Loreto College and St Patrick's College production of Les Miserables in the Loreto Abbey Theatre (Mary's Mount Centre) I reflected on the many Council and Council Committee members, past pupils, architects, builders and friends of Loreto who had contributed to the creation of this wonderful facility over almost ten years, from dreaming to designing to funding to building. We will continue to build on all that has been gifted to Loreto College by those who have gone before us and we will leave much upon which to build by those who follow us in the decades and years to come.

At the time of writing this I am looking forward to a period of reflection and study as I commence leave. During my period of leave, the school will be in the capable hands of Ms Elizabeth Till (Executive Deputy Principal) who will take on the role of Acting Principal.

I am excited to have this dedicated time to reflect on my role as a leader of a Catholic school in the Loreto tradition and to learn more on neuroscience, positive psychology and the future of learning in a global and digital world.

College Board

Mr Shane Carey

This year has been a year of completion of strategic projects and it has thus been timely for the Board and Board Committees to spend time on reflection and review as we plan for the next five, ten and twenty years from a Governance perspective.

It has been pleasing to witness and to hear what has been achieved for our students through the state of art facilities, in the wonderful Loreto Abbey Theatre in the Mary's Mount Centre.

The vision for this centre was a purpose built set of dedicated spaces that would allow our students to be taught in professional surroundings using modern methods and ever developing technologies. Students learning at all levels of the performing arts, dance, singing, public speaking, debating, drama, music, stage

craft and theatre design, recording, sound and lighting would have the opportunity to develop to their full potential... we now see this vision being lived out.

The vision for the redesign and development of the Mulhall centre to meet the growing needs of the College has also come into fruition. The formal Blessing and Opening of the Mulhall Centre on 20 May, 2016 was indeed a great celebration of contemporary learning opportunities for Loreto College.

As our students and staff enjoy learning and working in these new contemporary spaces, we remain ever grateful for our historic foundations as we respectfully blend old and new in future planning and Governance of our Loreto Catholic education.



College Co-Captains

By Eva Gillett and Hannah Armstrong



An opportunity came our way a few weeks back, when we were dressing up the Mary Ward sculpture for the Walkathon, to take a closer look at some of the quotes that can be found at the base of the statue. One in particular really caught our attention: “This is verity – to do what we have to do and do it well.”

These words got us thinking about the second term of our role as College Co-Captains and all the things that have been done well, in the name of Loreto. What immediately came to mind was the success of the Walkathon, and how well the school community embraced the purpose of the day. Our community accepted their individual and collective responsibility to contribute money, resulting in the \$23,000 that was raised for our sister school Gari-Uai in Timor-Leste.

As the term has progressed, we have come to recognise that doing things well allows us to have success that can

be either grand or humble. The brilliant *Les Miserables* production grew from a meeting in November of 2015, to a one hundred voice choir that delighted the Ballarat community in June of this year. The opening of The Mulhall Centre was a fitting occasion to honour the legacy of a talented and driven woman, Mother Stanislaus Mulhall. Even the installation of the Year 12 kitchen came about because of something that needed to be done and a small group of people working hard together to ensure the best outcome.

As we write this, our final article for Verity as Co College Captains, we are putting in place the final arrangements for GB Day. We have had to do so much; filming, organising, planning and scheming and we hope to do it well on Thursday 21 July, 2016. As the sun sets on our time as leaders, we can take the words of the Verity quote away with us, knowing that Loreto College is indeed a school that does what it has to do and does it well.



Opening of The Mulhall Centre

Within the imposing heritage fence, Loreto College has innovatively converted an aging structure into the Mulhall Centre, an inspiring contemporary learning environment for Year 9 students. The Mulhall Centre was officially blessed and opened on 20 May, 2016 by Father Justin Driscoll and Sister Margaret Sculley (ibvm).

The blessing and opening was attended by invited guests including current and past members of the College Board and Committees, the Architects and Builders, representatives from Loreto Schools, St Patricks College and the Catholic Education Office, Loreto Staff and Year 9 students, who actively participated in the formal ceremony.

Following the relocation of the music and drama faculty to the Mary's Mount Centre in 2014, the opportunity arose to convert the retired space to meet the growing needs of the College. Morton Dunn Architects worked with the College to overcome restrictions of the existing structure to meet modern day teaching facilities and requirements. The final design of the Mulhall Centre is an airy, light filled creative learning space, based on modern teaching pedagogy, with extraordinary flexibility of work spaces to enable students and teachers to move in and out of classes and into break-out spaces with ease.

This area of the College has had a number of reincarnations in its time. Past pupils will recall the space

as an outdoor area, an enclosed gym and a converted music and drama space, however, this latest incarnation is the most creative. The Mulhall Centre caters for six classes of Year 9 students in light filled classrooms with breakout spaces, mobile state-of-the-art furniture and sound proof operable walls that open up to house the entire Year 9 unit. The glass walls are intricately surfaced with waves of College House colours and inspiring quotes for young women, from the founder of Loreto College, Mother Gonzaga Barry (ibvm).

The ten month construction by Nicholson Construction throughout 2015 was the final stage in a Master Plan that also saw the development of the gymnasium change rooms and the addition of a the spectacular Loreto Crest that can now be seen overlooking the Loreto College rowers on the waters of Lake Wendouree.

Principal, Judith Potter stated, "It has been a delight to witness this creative, flexible and light-filled learning centre being enthusiastically embraced by our year 9 students and their teachers."

"It feels like home here, its feels safe and comfortable, felicitous and optimistic!" says Year 9 Co-ordinator and Teacher, Kelli Baird. "There is an enormous sense of pride, which is also reflected in the Mother Gonzaga Barry quotes on the walls. We all know we are extremely fortunate, it's just a terrific space for learning."

Excerpt of the Homily for the Opening of The Mulhall Centre

By Father Justin Driscoll

Naming this Year 9 facility the Mulhall Centre is quite inspired. Not only because of the enormous contribution that Mother Stanislaus Mulhall and hundreds of Loreto Sisters have made towards the learning and teaching of young women in Ballarat and from Ballarat throughout Australia, Vietnam, East Timor and beyond, but because of the particular ministry that Mother Stanislaus Mulhall offered. She was a spiritual guide and mentor, as the one who directed the formation of young women who sought to enter the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary and become Loreto Sisters, and following the death of Mother Gonzaga Barry, the founder of the Loreto Sisters here in Ballarat and Australia, she as Provincial, led the Loreto Sisters beyond their infancy and initial growth towards maturity in this country. In many ways she was a threshold woman – who accompanied others on their journeys and entered into what we might call liminal spaces as they left one phase of their lives and prepared for the next.

*She was a
spiritual guide
and mentor, as the
one who directed
the formation of
young women*

As a centre for Year 9's this Mulhall Centre is a threshold space, for you, the first cohort of year 9's to leave the junior years of 7 and 8 and prepare for the senior years to follow. So too as part of your growth as young women, crossing into gradual maturity, this environment is the one in which you will discern your own future directions, where the many and unique gifts that you possess will be fanned into a flame. This Mulhall Centre is in itself something of a rite of passage – a dedicated, liminal space where you as Year 9's who don't quite fit or belong with the cohorts on either side of you. This is an in-between space for you who are also in something of an in-between stage of your lives. With Mother Stanislaus as the patron and guide of this centre, may her wisdom accompany you, may her spirit guide you and may her faith inspire you to become who God wants you to be so that in being so you will as St Catherine of Siena said, 'set the world on fire.'



Mother of the Year

Pauline McKenzie is a past pupil of Loreto College Ballarat. She is a mother of eight and grandmother of 16. Pauline has lived in Papua New Guinea as part of Australian Volunteers Abroad Scheme and has organised aid for devastated countries affected by natural disasters. She established a group called Grandmothers Against the Detention of Children (GADRC). She has fostered babies and welcomed into her family various people in need of housing and support. For these acts of compassion and nurturing, amid so many others, Pauline was recognised for her extensive volunteer work with an OAM.

In 2016, Pauline was nominated for the Barnardos Victorian Mother of the Year Award and from a field of over 4,000 entries, received that accolade. On the basis of that Award and the fact that the month of May celebrates Mary, the mother of Christ, Pauline was invited to our May Liturgy, to deliver a homily based on her own experiences of motherhood and mothering.



An excerpt of Pauline's homily

At the Paralympics – A Modern Parable.

It was late. We were tired, my friend and I. We had returned from a great night at Olympic Park. But after two weeks volunteering for the Equestrian Paralympic events at Horsley Park, we were tired. We didn't talk much. Resignedly, we lined up for a taxi at the Blacktown Station. The shuttle buses had finished and we still were 20 mins away from home.

There were about 15 people waiting for taxis. We didn't take much notice of them. Just the usual sort of people waiting for taxis at 11.30 pm. Shift workers, students, perhaps some who had dined out and shouldn't drive home. Not that Blacktown is a place to dine out, just a transitory place, pretty bleak really.

The taxis were not bleak though, they rolled up every couple of minutes and the queue shifted quite quickly.

We didn't talk much, my friend and I. We were too tired. When we noticed the drunk staggering to get his bag, we didn't comment. He lurched back and leaned against the

“You take this cab, mate. You have been waiting a long time. I will get the next one”

fence. He had lost his place in the queue. To ignore him was to be polite, not to comment was to be secure. We didn't talk my friend and me, we were too tired.

The queue moved forward, not long, only about 5 more taxis to come and it would be our turn, and then it happened.

A clearly disabled man, a double amputee, stepped forward and took the drunk by the arm, gently, respectfully. “You take this cab, mate. You have been waiting a long time. I will get the next one” He opened the back door and guided his inebriated acquaintance into the taxi. He gave a friendly wave as he walked on his stumps to the next taxi, opened the front door and maneuvered himself in.

I am not sure if he was an athlete, this young, good looking amputee. I think he was Australian but who cares, he won gold as far as I was concerned.

My friend and I didn't talk much...this time, it was not that we were too tired.

Treasure from the Past

By Fiona McKenny, College Archivist

In 2012 former Loreto College Archivist, Mr Michael Taffe, was invited to inspect an old shearing shed at Bellbrae whose contents might be of interest.

Mr Taffe expected to “pick up a box of something, but the items just kept coming”. He was immediately captivated by the extent of the historical collection inside this inauspicious outbuilding. Hoop dresses, shipping logs, photographs, personal correspondence and antique objects were just some of the many items.

As an archivist, the collection represented a rare moment of discovery, containing a wealth of significant historical information ripe for preservation for future generations.

Comprehensive and sizeable it was immediately apparent this collection was special. Stored in wool bales, drawers and boxes and untouched since the death in 1978 of the last, reclusive family member, this collection represented a time capsule of personal family memories intertwined with that same family’s significant contribution to the cultural history of regional Victoria.

The collection was deemed of such significance that its custodians eventually distributed and donated its contents to three institutions: Loreto College Ballarat, the Australia National Maritime Museum in Sydney and the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

And the Loreto College Ballarat connection? All four sisters in this family, Clara, Naomi (Mid), Honor (Queen) and Mary Kathleen (Girlie) Bell, attended Loreto Abbey Mary’s Mount as boarders.

Of further interest, two of the sisters subsequently became Loreto nuns, Clara - Mother Aluigi Bell and Honor - Mother Andrew Bell.

The contents of the collection donated to the Loreto College Archives, comprised photographs, letters, diaries and other memorabilia, all offering an intriguing insight into life as a Loreto student at the end of the 19th century, and also life as a Loreto nun providing education and leadership to successive generations of Loreto girls through the first half of the 20th century.

The collection contains one of the last letters written by Mother Gonzaga Barry prior to her death a few weeks later in 1915.

“Dear Mr Bell,

When Mother Hilda wrote to you I was quite incapable of attending to business matters but felt anxious to have all settled ... before I went to a better world...

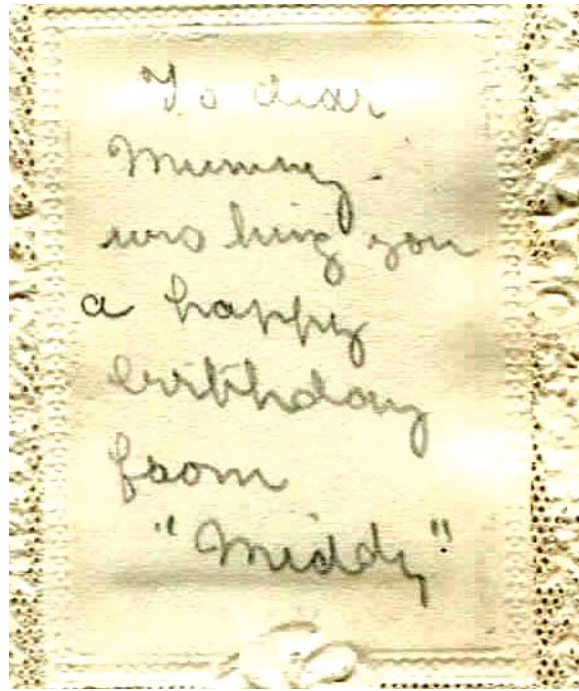
Ever your sincere old friend Mary G Barry IBVM”.

There are letters between the Bell sisters as boarders at Loreto Abbey and their mother back at home.

“My dear Mummie and Daddy,

There will be only one more Sunday to write to you, and then we shall be able to talk instead of write.

Please Mummie will you send us our fares, and please will you tell us in your next letter whether we are to take home the three trunks...



The Examinations commence on Thursday... don't forget to pray for us...I shall have to practise very hard, now they are so near..

Rev. Mother and community send their kind regards to you all.

I remain your loving child - Mid"

Letters from the girls' mother suggest some things never change! Mrs Bell writes to her daughters at boarding school:

"Dear Mid,

Just a hurried line to say I cannot find the black velvet cap. I am sure I sent it up with the costume. Find out and let me know at once if you have not got it.

Much love from Mummy."

and

"My dear Children

I am not sending the parcel tomorrow, as I do not see the use of sending things in half-dozen different lots it would require a fortune for freight -.. you all have such an off-hand way of putting things, if you'd only explain a little, I would know exactly what was required - let me know as soon as possible"...

The collection holds correspondence between the girls and their friends from Loreto, and emotional war correspondence between the girls and their brother Harold Bell, and their brother in law Captain Paddy O'Byrne.

Like every great story, the history contained in the collection is tangible and recognisable to us all. It evokes the stories of great promise, the successes of life and those times coloured by family tragedy.

PART 2: in the next issue of Verity more about the Bell Girls.



Running Like the Wind

Loreto Girls' Stawell Gift Success

By Elise Karslake, Loreto College Sports Trainee.

“At the start I picture the race in my head, particularly getting off to a good start. The end brings with it a mixture of relief, and hopefully excitement if I have done well.” Cleo

Two talented, high performing athletes are not only an inspiration to see flying down the track; their achievements to date, at only seventeen and fifteen years of age, are equally admirable. Cleo Anderson (Year 12) and Talia Martin (Year 10) both competed in the 2016 Stawell Gift and were extraordinarily successful. It is an unprecedented achievement that both a semi-finalist and the winner of the Stawell Gift are current students of Loreto College.

This year marked Cleo’s fifth year competing at Stawell, having twice previously run in the Women’s Gift Final, and previously also part of the Little Athletics competition. The Stawell Gift is a particularly special family occasion for Cleo, as both of her parents have previously competed in the historical event. Cleo describes her parents as her biggest inspiration, along with her coaches and teammates in the POD Squad (Peter O’ Dwyer Squad). “They are all extremely motivated to do well and Mum and Dad were both runners who achieved some great things in their running careers”, Cleo said.

Cleo developed a love for running in Primary School however she described her competitive focus and ambition developing later. “I began taking it a little more seriously and training properly at the end of Year 7”, she stated. Cleo’s ultimate dream is to be successful within the Victorian Athletic League – particularly at the Stawell Gift. She trains for two hours, six days a week, combining a mixture of sprints and technique work with anaerobic training and plyometrics - an outstanding commitment for a Year 12 student. Cleo has achieved great things in her running career so far, having qualified for the Nationals at the Victorian Championships; an achievement she says is one of her favourite running memories to date. When asked where she sees herself in five or ten years’ time, Cleo responded “I’d like to keep running, but also have an alternative career; still involved in sport, maybe something like physiotherapy.”

At only 15 years of age, Talia Martin’s world completely changed earlier this year when she became the 2016 Women’s Stawell Gift Champion. The Year 10 student, still in disbelief, said, “when it finally



*Talia Martin with her Stawell Gift trophy.
Photo courtesy of The Courier Ballarat*

occurred to me that I was the winner, I did not in my wildest dreams think it could be true. I was overwhelmed with pure joy and happiness.”

“I remember when I was at the starting line before my race at Stawell; it felt like my entire body was filled with butterflies. I was incredibly nervous and I tried to distract myself to calm down. Once I was called to the blocks, I remember the whole crowd became silent. The race itself is a blur to me and I cannot remember anything from it except the very moment when I crossed the finish line and I realised that I had won. Words cannot describe how I felt – I was on top of the world.”

Talia has been competing at Stawell for five years, and says she particularly loves the Stawell Gift meet. “Even before I began competing in the event I remember going just to watch - I absolutely loved the atmosphere... and when I ran my first race there in 2012 it became that bit more special...Stawell is my favourite.” Talia developed her passion for running when she first started Little Athletics at eleven years of age. “I loved the feelings that I had after I finished a race, and I also loved the idea of constantly attempting to make progress and improve on my personal best.” Also a member of the POD Squad, Talia trains five to six times a week taking part in the same style of sessions as Cleo. She says it’s her supportive teammates in the POD Squad who motivate and inspire her to keep striving for excellence in the sport. “They really push me through each training session and encourage me to do my best. If there is any stage during a training session where I am struggling, they do a fantastic

job of motivating me and telling me to keep going.” Talia says her ultimate goal in her athletics career would be to one day represent her country in the 200 metres which is her favourite event. “I have lots of hard work and training to do before I would be able to run at this level, but it is something I would love to do.” When asked where she sees herself in five or ten years’ time, Talia said she hopes to have the best of both worlds – to be travelling all around Australia and the world pursuing a career that she loves while still running competitively and enjoying the sport as much as she does now.

Moments after the Stawell Gift race in an interview, Talia said she would like to buy a hover board with her prize of \$40,000. Since then, she is very thankful to have been given a hover board from ‘Kaiser Baas’ - and has had some time to think about how to spend the big prize; “I would love to buy a car in the future and go travelling around the world.”

The Stawell Gift, running since 1878, is a highly prestigious meet on the athletics calendar, and its reputation continues to grow - attracting elite athletes and a great deal of media attention. Athletics greats such as Cathy Freeman and Sally Pearson have sprinted down the same track as these two talented girls, and many other Loreto Girls in years past. Both girls feel privileged to be able to compete in the event and say “It is a real honour to have the opportunity to run amongst Olympians and World Champions”. The Loreto community is extremely proud of their achievements.

Maria Myers AC

Honoured for her Philanthropy



*Maria Myers AC at Loreto College 2016
Photo courtesy of The Courier Ballarat.*

*“My every day
was filled with
generous hearted
selfless altruistic
women.”*

“I believe in the paramount importance of education in enabling people to live a richly rewarding life... if I can see what needs to be done and how to do it I feel compelled to act.” The unwavering beliefs of Past Pupil Maria Myers AC have lead her down a successful path that has enabled her to assist others, consequently culminating in her most recent accolade, a Companion in The Order of Australia. The nation’s highest Australia Day Honour was awarded to Maria and her husband, Mr Allan Myers QC AC earlier this year. Maria was recognised for her work in the arts, culture, education and Indigenous rock art programs.

Maria spent her schooling at Loreto, her primary years at Mandeville Hall in Toorak and her secondary schooling at Mary’s Mount in Ballarat. It was throughout these formative years that Maria’s philosophical ideals began to take shape. “My every day was filled with generous hearted selfless altruistic women. My family was equally Christ and love centered. Open handed generosity to all was Christ’s love in action,” she said. This influence has driven Maria to become exceptionally active in progressing the education of girls in regional cities. “Loreto Ballarat was my school. If it is to continue to offer the best education possible to the next generation of students, the girls who have been educated there must help take responsibility for delivering that outcome. Responsibility for the education of girls at Loreto Ballarat into the future lies with us all. “

Her ‘hands on approach’ sees Maria sit on boards and committees and actively seek to further these organisations’ objectives “by helping find support or promoting their activities.” Maria sits on the Loreto College Board and Development Committee providing unwavering support and invaluable input and has been a generous donor to the College; particularly to the building of the Mary’s Mount Centre, the contemporary performing arts space which opened in 2015.

Another area which Maria is passionate about is working with Indigenous Australians. One of Maria’s philanthropic highlights is her role as the Chairman of the Kimberly Foundation, advancing the understanding of Indigenous rock art, something she describes as a “world changing initiative.” Through the program Maria spends extended periods of her time in the Kimberley area working directly with Indigenous Australians.

Although Maria is “delighted” to have received the Order of Australia, “at the same time I am fully aware that the achievements being recognised are the result of many people’s work,” she said. This statement is an accurate reflection of this dedicated philanthropist.

Les Misérables

*By Mrs Marcella Crowley,
Director of Co-Curricular Performance*



Loreto College and St Patrick's College students took on the monumental task this year of performing *Les Miserables* - the most performed and loved musical in the world. There was much admiration and consternation about the choice of this difficult musical for secondary school aged students, however, the cast of *Les Miserables* wowed sell out audiences with their professionalism, acting and singing skills; with many people saying it was the best school production they had seen in years.

Les Miserables was staged in the new Mary's Mount Centre over five shows from Wednesday 1 June to Saturday 4 June 2016. Audiences were taken on a journey through nineteenth century France as the characters find themselves caught up in the middle of one of France's final revolutions. The story follows the life of the main character Valjean who is seeking redemption after being "nineteen years a slave of the law." The main theme of the musical is the importance of love and compassion in life.

The music of *Les Miserables* is part of the brilliance of this show with musical numbers such as "I Dreamed a Dream", "One Day More", "Castle On a Cloud", "On My Own", and "Do You Hear The People Sing" being the highlights. Many students played in the orchestra including Yasmine FitzGerald and Nick Carter on

clarinet, Phoebe Johnson on flute, Tess O'Keefe on percussion, Damian Johnson on bassoon, Bec Ballantyne on keyboard and Zoe Hocking on drumkit.

The students in the lead roles impressed audiences with their mature approach to acting complex characters and events with Nathaniel Corboy as Valjean, Emerson Tolliday as Javert, Madison Veal as Fantine, Lucy Nolan as Eponine, Anna Tinney as Cosette, Tiernan Somers as Marius, Charlotte Crowley as Madame Thenardier, Daniel Hillman as Mr Thenardier and Daniel Sully as Enjolras.

The students were led by an experienced production team with direction by Marcella Crowley, musical direction by Joshua Vucicevic, production by Marcia Phillips and Deb Cummins, costumes by Janine Hillman and lighting design by Stephanie Greet. The students were dedicated to rehearsals for eight months after school and on Sundays to achieve a brilliant standard on stage. The cast was also supported by a large team of people behind the scenes led by Nathan Sims and Simone Jans, including the backstage crew, lighting crew, hair dressers and make-up artists. Set designs by Quinn Muller helped create a wonderful setting as the backdrop for this epic tale.



Easter Picnic

By Mrs Judy-Ann Quilliam

Director of Marketing, Community Relations & Fundraising



On a pleasant Sunday morning on 20 March 2016, Loreto College hosted our second Easter Picnic for the Loreto Community within the manicured grounds and gardens of the College. Much to the delight of almost two hundred bunny-faced children who darted gleefully through the grass and plants in search of elusive chocolate eggs; and their parents who enjoyed coffee, cake and pleasant music from the performing arts students, whilst seated on a blanket in peace.

Over five hundred people registered to attend the event and a total of one thousand, five hundred dollars was raised towards the building of the Loreto Gari-Uai Primary School in Timor-Leste.

The 2016 event developed on positive feedback from those who attended the inaugural Easter Picnic held in 2014; which indicated that past students delighted in the opportunity to return to the College grounds with their young families to celebrate Easter. The Friends of Loreto and the Marketing, Community Relations and Fundraising team managed the planning and coordination of the 2016 event; with the key to the

success of this year's event being the involvement and participation of many current students on the stalls and activities.

The free event was promoted within the College to the Loreto Community and families were encouraged to BYO picnic or purchase food and refreshments from a small number of stalls. The cup-cakes, coffee and "Bangerz in Bread" stalls were busy all day, whilst children occupied themselves making Easter Baskets, jumping on the Jumping Castle, racing in sacks and egg and spoon races and having their faces painted in a myriad of Easter colours and designs. The highlight of the day was the visit from the Easter Bunny and the gigantic egg hunt, with every child finding an assortment of yummy eggs and plenty of choc-filled smiles.

Many attendees also enjoyed the introduction of the Loreto Chapel Tours to this year's event. The tours were conducted by two Year Eleven Religious Education students and proved popular and informative throughout the day.

The picnic started at 11.00am and finished at 2.00pm, however there were many guests still on the grounds at the end of the day eagerly waiting the draw of the Easter Raffle. In the weeks prior to the event, students and staff throughout the College donated an enormous amount of eggs for the Egg Hunt and Raffles; as a result, there was plenty for all, and the anticipation of having their names drawn out for a prize drove many into somewhat of an Easter Egg Frenzy!

Attendance and activities at the 2016 event confirmed the Easter Picnic as date firmly fixed on the annual calendar of events for the College. Feedback collated from this year's event is assisting planning for a bigger event in 2017, with more food stalls, music and activities planned to entertain a lot more enthusiastic, chocolate-gobbling, bunny-eared guests.

Some of the delightful feedback shared by our survey respondents was:

"Family friendly. Lots of space to picnic and relax felt 'safe' - with small children the grounds were secure. Jumping Castle was fabulous! Easter Egg hunt/craft/face painting was enjoyed by all ages."

"Thank you so much for running this event. It was nice to be back, and this time with our families. Loved it!!!!"

"The whole family (3 generations, 2 families plus some friends) enjoyed themselves and thought it was a great event. The grounds were lovely".



Writing Her Own Success

*By Mrs Shona Hendley,
Communications Officer*

*Past Pupil
Melanie
Joosten talks
about her
successful
career as an
author.*





Images of Melanie during her time at Loreto College.

Charles Dickens once wrote, “A wonderful fact to reflect upon, that every human creature is constituted to be that profound secret and mystery to every other,” (A Tale of Two Cities). The fascination of people, their behaviours and decisions underpins Loreto College past pupil, Melanie Joosten’s (Class of 1999) career, as an award winning novelist and social worker.

Although very contrasting careers, both could arguably be described (as Melanie describes her own writing process), to “be a bit like putting a jigsaw together”. This jigsaw seems to connect different aspects of both Melanie’s imagination and real life interactions to create books that take the reader into the mind of another, exploring their complexities; offering the reader an insightful and captivating experience. Melanie’s first novel, ‘Berlin Syndrome’ (2011) is a psychological thriller exploring the idea of truth and the nature of human relationships. The novel saw Melanie named as Sydney Morning Herald Best Young Novelist and also awarded the Kathleen Mitchell Award for Young Writers. The success of the novel was unanticipated by Melanie, “Berlin Syndrome is a very dark novel, and its themes of obsessive love and the power imbalance inherent in many relationships doesn’t exactly make for easy reading – so I was quite

surprised that it struck a chord with readers and critics.” The success of ‘Berlin Syndrome’ continues, it has recently been turned into a movie starring Teresa Palmer.

Although signing over the rights of the film, Melanie was still involved in the process, reading and providing feedback on each draft of the screenplay. Melanie described the experience of witnessing her novel being turned into a film as “exhilarating.” They’d built an entire apartment [the main setting of the novel] on a soundstage in Melbourne and there were dozens of people involved with bringing to life a world I had created in my mind,” she recalled.

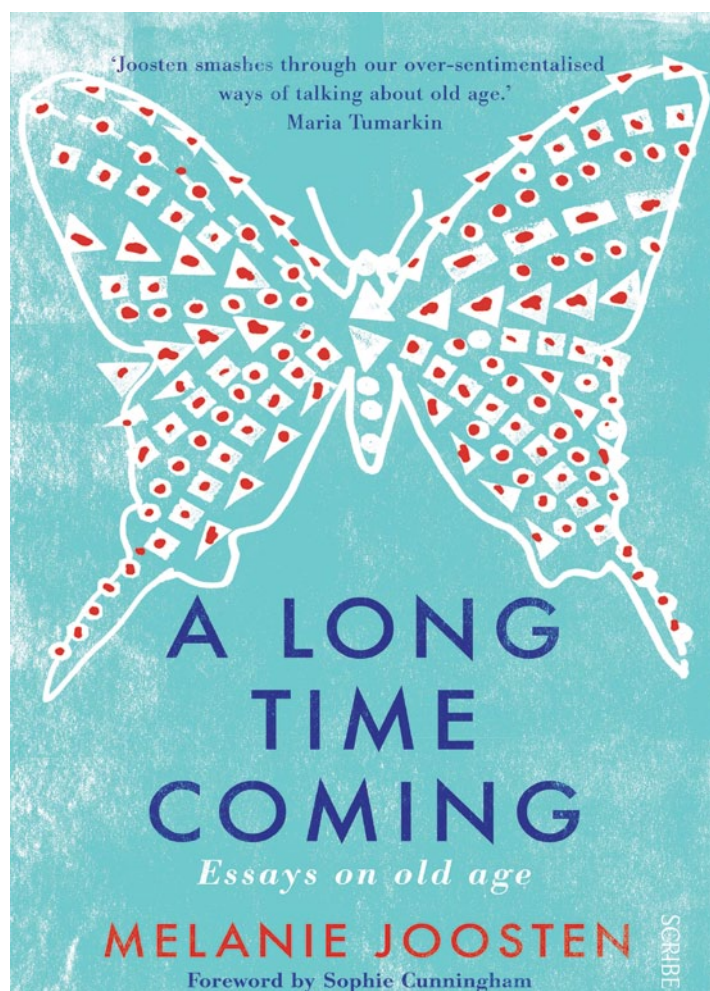
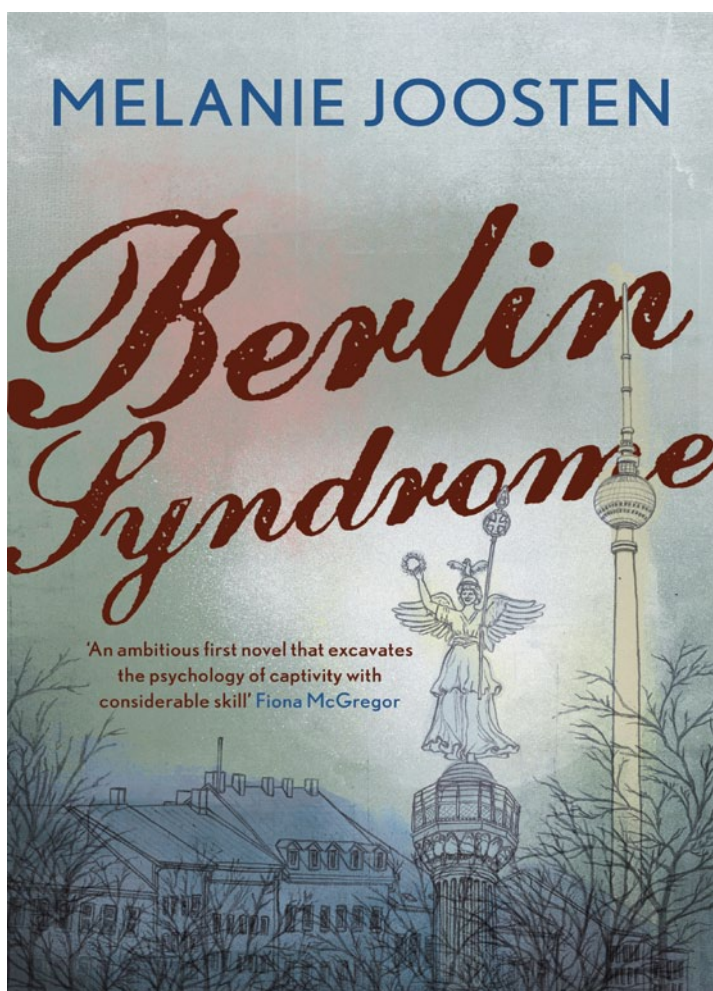
Melanie’s talent was supported by her passion for reading, often writing short stories and poetry whilst at school. With no interest in writing non-fiction or in journalism Melanie chose to study creative writing at university, which led her to a career as an editor and then as an author. Her interest in essay writing and non-fiction came later, coinciding with her study in social work. This interest is at the core of her recently released second novel, ‘A Long Time Coming,’ a series of essays which delve into old age; exploring the reality of what it is really like to grow old.

This idea of exploring the “human creature” allows Melanie to investigate issues that face the elderly and calls for empathy from the reader. Melanie conducted extensive interviews as a part of her research which uncovered many ‘harsh’ realities that face the elderly but also realisations that made her thankful. “It made me realise that women of my generation have so much to be thankful for – that we have the opportunity to explore many other roles when we’re younger.”

Although there is this shared exploration of the puzzle that is human nature in both of Melanie’s career paths as a writer and social worker, Melanie says the driving force behind her decision to go back to university and become a social worker was, “to assist and empower people who didn’t have the advantages I did.” Melanie epitomises the fundamental Loreto value of social justice; “My formative years [at Loreto College] impressed on me that I had many options available, but also that I should

do something for the good of society.” As well as helping others, Melanie’s experiences as a social worker and social researcher allow her to interact with others, providing a refreshing change from her writing, which she describes as, “a very insular occupation.”

Melanie’s work as a social worker has taught her a lot about people. “I think it’s given me a better understanding of why people behave in certain ways, and how they come to make decisions that might seem odd to others. Social work teaches you that everything in society is connected, for better or worse, and that some people start off with incredible disadvantage”. These poignant insights and observations of human nature will no doubt continue to shine through her writing. Melanie’s next novel will be published next year.



Past Pupils' Association

By Miss Meg Barry - President

Greetings to all our past pupils. As Winter fades into Spring you may be thinking of Spring cleaning or, perhaps, of “downsizing” or decluttering. Please remember that the College archives will gladly accept any of those old school photos, annuals or mementos from your schooldays.

We are always grateful for news of our past pupils – of their achievements or significant birthdays, and of their illnesses and, sadly, of their deaths so that we can offer our prayerful support to their families. Please contact the staff of the Development Office - Judy Ann, Liz or Shona - by emailing development@loreto.vic.edu.au or phoning (03) 5329 6137 with updates and any changes to your contact details.

Have you seen the new Loreto College website (www.loreto.vic.edu.au)? Much may have changed in the way young women are prepared to accept the challenges and opportunities of living and learning in the 21st Century, but you can be assured that the values of a Loreto education remain constant.

On the website you will see the girls wearing a different uniform, learning in different classrooms, participating in different sports and expressing themselves in music, art and dance, but there is always the backdrop of the gardens, the chapel and the original buildings held so dear in the memory of generations of Loreto Ballarat girls.

You are warmly invited to Loreto College for our Annual Mass of Remembrance (for all deceased members of the Loreto family).

Wednesday 2 November 2016, 5pm in the Loreto College Chapel.

Light refreshments and the Annual General Meeting of the Past Pupils' Association will follow in the Loreto Café.

RSVP: Visit the 'Events' section on our website www.loreto.vic.edu.au, or contact the Development Office on (03) 5329 6137.

This is now our one annual gathering for past pupils of all ages. Please note this follows the Annual High Tea for our Golden Girls (details below).



AFTERNOON

Tea & Reunion

FOR OUR LORETO BALLARAT 'GOLDEN GIRLS'

Save the Date

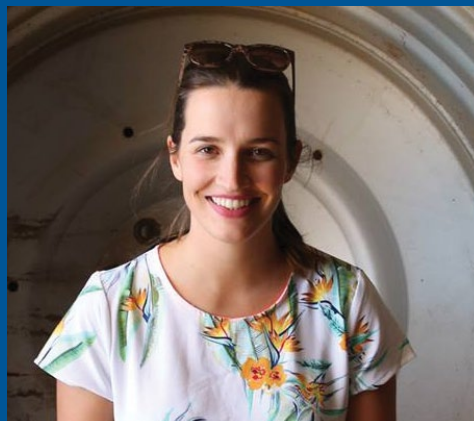
High Tea & Reunion for our Loreto Ballarat 'Golden Girls' Classes of Pre-1960

**Wednesday 2 November
at 3:00pm**

Invitations to come

For information please contact the Development Office on (03) 5329 6137

Alumni Updates



Where are they now?

Katharine Francis (Class of 2006) is both a qualified Nurse and Teacher, having completed a Bachelor of Nursing/Arts and a Diploma of Education through ACU Melbourne, and more recently a RIPERN (Rural and Isolated Practice Endorsed Registered Nurse) qualification. Katharine now lives in Wycheproof with her fiancée Ben (who she will marry in September) and their two kelpies Jock and Lucy. She is currently putting her combination of skills to great use as a Secondary School Nurse at St Arnaud Secondary College and Donald High School. Katharine says she has only positive memories of her time at Loreto, and loves wearing her Loreto ring to remind her of the Loreto values. She remains close with many Loreto friends, and having realised that not everyone stays in touch with their school friends, feels very lucky and happy that she has, and believes that Loreto helped to foster these long term friendships.

Births

Justine Henderson (nee Barnes, Class of 1997) and her husband Cameron welcomed Oliver James into their family on March 1, 2016.

Sara McKenzie (nee Talbot, Class of 2002), David and big sister Estelle welcomed Freya Iris on April 8, 2016.

Louise Rippon (nee Sawitsch, Class of 2002) and her husband Jake welcomed Charlotte Elizabeth on September 18, 2015.

Ebony Knight (nee Pascoe, Class of 2007) and her husband Jonathon welcomed baby number three, Dakoda Maree, into their family on May 2, 2015. A sister for Tyson and Taiya.

Marriages

Faith Austin (Class of 1995) married Paul White at the Loreto Chapel on April 2, 2016.

Alexandra Prebble (Class of 2009) married Nathan Jeffrey at the Loreto Chapel on December 5, 2015.

Deaths

Raylee Yorston (Class of 1992) passed away August 12, 2015.

Leonie Weaver (nee O'Doherty, Class of 1975) passed away October 21, 2015. Wife to Malcolm, Mother to Tim, Stephanie and Zoe.

Lorna Veronica Nihill (Nee Maguire) passed away on April 19, 2016. Wife of the late Frederick, much loved Mum of Sharon, Colin (dec), Paula, Lorraine, Kaylene, Dianne, Michelle and David.

If you would like to share your news with the Loreto family, please fill in the form that came with your copy of Verity and send it to:

email development@loreto.vic.edu.au

Or

The Development Office, Loreto College Ballarat, 1600 Sturt Street BALLARAT VIC 3350

Web of Wonders

Stunning imagery and progressive technological features, created with fluid design and structure, work together to create the new Loreto College website.

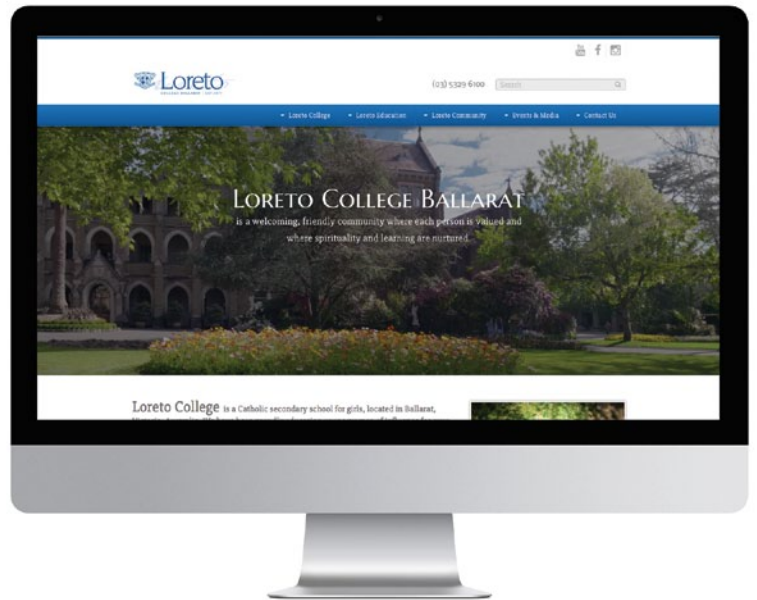
Publically launched on Wednesday 15 June the website has received an extremely positive response from its visitors through offering a more efficient, user friendly experience for Loreto College community members and also the wider public.

The home page sets up the site, featuring a time-lapse video that presents the picturesque landscape of the College in a creative and dynamic way by establishing a definite 'wow' factor. This visually engaging effect is something that continues on throughout the websites content pages. The menu and feature portal pages make navigating the site simple and engaging, encouraging the site visitor to be interactive with the site.

The site includes many new standout features including 360-degree virtual tours, Storify- a platform showcasing our social media presence, digital downloads of a large selection of our publications, including Verity and a more dynamic and engaging Past Pupils section.

The Past Pupil-Loreto Girls section is much more detailed than its previous counterpart. It includes 'Loreto Weddings' which is a gallery of past Loreto College students who were married in the Loreto Chapel, thereby allowing them to share their special day with their fellow Loreto Community.

Our Loreto Community area also features a new addition to the website; Loreto Voices. Loreto Voices celebrates past pupils and other Loreto College community members (current staff and students) and their achievements in a variety of both video and written form. This allows for the vast array of



accomplishments achieved by our community to be detailed, creating an archive in a sense, which can always be added to and grown. We encourage our Loreto community to submit their stories for inclusion in this section.

A stand out of the website is the amazing promotional video that is a must see for any Loreto College community member! With breathtaking shots of the College's facilities and students, it guides the viewer through the College, providing an informative introduction, while impressing with technical prowess.

Created to meet the demands of the website's main users and visitors alike, it has been the collective creative and professional efforts of many to bring the new website to life. The College Marketing and Development Team including Judy-Ann Quilliam, Shona Hendley and Liz Francis and the College IT Team including Matthew Grace and Darren Hofler acknowledge the efforts of our external partners - website host Ascet Digital, media production company, Big & Small Productions and photographers, Liz Crothers and Chris Maggee.

Chapel Weddings

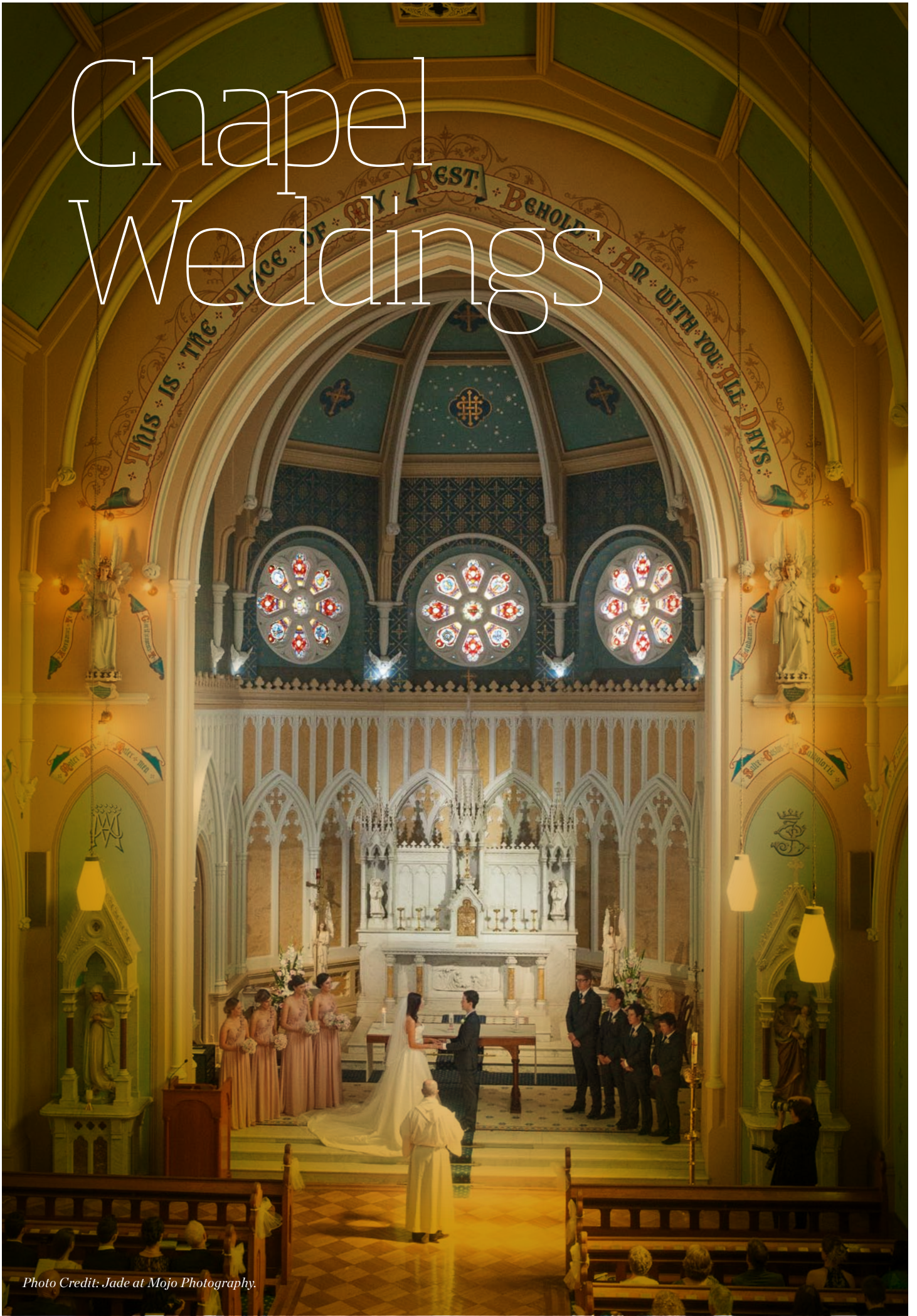


Photo Credit: Jade at Mojo Photography.



'Loreto Weddings' feature on our new Loreto website:

As part of our recently launched website, which aims to be much more inclusive and representative of our entire Loreto Community, a specific section featuring a collection of past pupils and their stunning wedding photography forms part of the new 'Loreto Community' section. To view please visit loreto.vic.edu.au/loreto-community/past-pupils/loreto-weddings.

First time visitors to the Loreto Chapel are often left in a kind of awe-struck silence, as they are met by both it's architectural beauty - the decorative paint work and stencilling, intricate stained glass windows and of course, the 'celestial' view that greets them up above; culminating into a peaceful, reflective atmosphere.

It is for these reasons, amongst others, that the Loreto Chapel holds a special place in the hearts of generations of Loreto Girls, many of whom are delighted to return to their school later in life for the very special privilege of being married there.

This was certainly the case for Alexandra Prebble (Class of 2009), who recalls her immediate impressions of the Chapel as a young Year 7 Loreto student 'visiting' the Sturt Street campus for the first time;

"I remember very clearly in Year 7, Mr Morris taking us up to Sturt Street and showing us the Chapel (we had Year 7 & 8 at Dawson Street then). I was so amazed by how beautiful it was, and from that day onwards I was convinced I would have my perfect fairy tale wedding there," Alexandra said.

Years later, now a teacher herself, Alexandra treasures her time spent at Loreto, and the impact it continues to have on her life.

"I am a very proud Loreto Girl, and my memories of Loreto and experiences continue to shape the person I am today. The teachers at Loreto gave me a love and passion for teaching, and I now get to share that every day in my own class," she said.

The dream of that young Year 7 student never left her either, and in December 2015, Alexandra happily found herself heading through those Loreto front gates once more, this time on her wedding day.

"It was really lovely being able to start the next chapter of my life in a place that brings back so many special memories. It was also exciting to share with close family and friends the beautiful school and Chapel, as many had never stepped inside the gates."

Enduring friendships are another very special part of the Loreto legacy, and Alexandra shared her special day with a number of her close 'Loreto friends' by her side. They didn't miss the chance to mark the occasion together with what has become something of a tradition since their five year reunion - recreating their Year 12 group photo taken in the front garden. The pose required a slight adjustment however, as laying down on the grass was deemed slightly impractical for this occasion!

Your influence

Our founder, Mother Gonzaga Barry, was a visionary educator whose every plan and action was underpinned by her strong faith in God. The Loreto Community is fortunate to now stand on the shoulders of all those who have gone before us, charged with responsibility of providing a holistic 21st century education and ensuring that the Loreto education continues for those yet to come.

The physical and spiritual foundations of Loreto College are credited to the vision and generosity of all those who have donated or bequeathed funds and property to the school. Every gift, regardless of size, is important and sends a powerful message of belief in our School and our

educational vision. These gifts allow the School to respond swiftly to immediate needs and also to think expansively and ambitiously when planning for future programs.

We wish to thank and gratefully acknowledge the Loreto Community and the following individuals for their generous contributions to the Annual Appeal this year. We also wish to thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous.

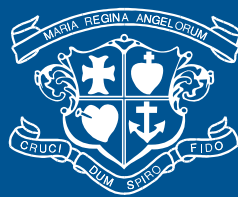
Further information on philanthropy and ongoing donations to the Annual Giving Appeal 2016 can be made online at any time via the Loreto website: <http://loreto.vic.edu.au/loreto-community/philanthropy/annual-giving-appeal/>

Mrs	Susanne	<i>Anderson</i>
Mrs	Christine	<i>Barr</i>
Miss	Meg	<i>Barry</i>
	Ellen & Taylah	<i>Blake</i>
Miss	Juanita	<i>Bongiorno</i>
Mrs	Patricia	<i>Brabet</i>
Ms	Marea	<i>Breisch</i>
Ms	Maria	<i>Campbell</i>
Ms	Janet	<i>Canny</i>
Miss	Mary	<i>Coutts</i>
Mrs	Margot	<i>De Deugd</i>
Ms	Elizabeth	<i>Delahunty</i>
Mrs	Monica	<i>Eastwood</i>
Mrs	Kellee	<i>Frazer</i>
Mrs	Irena	<i>Green</i>
Mrs	Elizabeth	<i>Gyory</i>
Ms	Anne	<i>Halloran</i>
Mrs	Michelle	<i>Heritage</i>

Dr	Anne	<i>Hunt</i>
Mrs	Gabrielle	<i>Jarvis</i>
Mrs	Trudi	<i>Kannourakis</i>
Ms	Cecelia	<i>Kierce</i>
Ms	Margaret Mary	<i>Lynch OAM</i>
Mrs	Leanne	<i>Manitveld</i>
Dr	Robyn	<i>Mason</i>
Mr	Stephen	<i>McArdle</i>
Ms	Therese	<i>McCabe</i>
Mr	Phillip	<i>McCunnie</i>
Miss	Noela	<i>Morgan</i>
Mrs	Maria	<i>Myers AC</i>
Mrs	Joan	<i>O'Keefe</i>
Mrs	Elizabeth	<i>Ostor</i>
Mrs	Rosemary	<i>Parfrey</i>
Mrs	Maureen	<i>Russell</i>
Mrs	Catherine	<i>Ryan</i>
Ms	Fiona	<i>Ryan</i>

Dr	Anne	<i>Sarros</i>
Mrs	Patricia	<i>Scally</i>
Mr	Michael	<i>Sherritt</i>
Ms	Jan	<i>Stephen</i>
Ms	Aileen	<i>Sweeney</i>
Mrs	Cassandra	<i>Tuffen</i>
Mrs	Sarah	<i>Willsher</i>

We also thank our donors who wish to remain anonymous.



Loreto
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