

2023

Annual Report to the School Community



Loreto
COLLEGE BALLARAT | EST. 1875

Loreto College

1600 Sturt Street, BALLARAT 3350

Principal: Michelle Brodrick

Web: www.loreto.vic.edu.au

Registration: 35, E Number: E2005

Principal's Attestation

I, Michelle Brodrick, attest that Loreto College is compliant with:

- The minimum standards and other requirements for school registration and school boarding premises (if applicable) as specified in the Education and Training Reform Act 2006 (Vic) and the Education and Training Reform Regulations 2017 (Vic).
- Australian Government accountability requirements related to the 2023 school year under the Australian Education Act 2013 (Cth) and the Australian Education Regulations 2023 (Cth).
- The Child Safe Standards as prescribed in Ministerial Order 1359 – Implementing the Child Safe Standards, Managing the Risk of Child Abuse in Schools and School Boarding Premises.

Attested on 09 May 2024

About this report

Loreto College is registered by the Victorian Registration and Qualifications Authority (VRQA). The Annual Report to the School Community (ARSC), provides parents and the wider community with information about the school's activities and achievements throughout the year including information about various aspects of school performance. The Report is supplementary to other forms of regular communication to the school community regarding initiatives, activities and programs which support the learning and wellbeing of its students. Further information about the contents of this Report may be obtained by contacting the School directly or by visiting the School's website. Information can also be obtained from the [My School website](#).

Governing Authority Report

Loreto College Board Report

When reading about the amount of fabulous travel opportunities undertaken this year at Loreto College Ballarat – I reflected on the fulfilment and enrichment that it provides us and the journey of the Board this year.

I also reflected on our Year 12 students as they coddiwomple towards their newly formed path. By the way, coddiwomple, a great word I stumbled across, means to travel purposefully towards an as yet unknown destination.

This reflection led me to the quote ‘do not follow where the path may lead. Go instead where there is no path and leave a trail’. The fulfilment of travel does not necessarily occur with arriving at a destination, but it is the process of getting there that is important and where the real learning occurs.

The Board in 2023 has had its own journey and we have been focused on ensuring that a new path is created, by challenging ourselves to step outside the business-as-usual approach. We have created an environment where we value diversity, where we respect opinions and the skillset and perspective of each and everyone of us.

The Board is united on its mission and I have the pleasure of Chairing a highly-skilled and ambitious Board.

The culture of the Board ultimately defines the future direction of the College, and as such, we must mirror the ambition, the vitality of spirit, the enthusiasm of the students and staff, and act with strength, courage and optimism in our decision making process. The Board brings a lens of curiosity, of questioning and taking a long-term strategic approach to our decision making process.

Under the Board sit three Committees – Finance and Risk, Facilities, and Engagement – which provide expert advice and direction to the Board.

The role of the Finance Committee ensures the management of the College's finances is sound and well managed and works to develop the budget for Board approval. The Facilities Committee is charged with ensuring the mechanics of the decision making process so that the improvement and maintenance of existing facilities are appropriately prioritised and meet the needs of the College.

The Engagement Committee has fulfilled the function of being the interface between Past Pupils, the community and the Board.

With the increased focus on governance and compliance, we are looking at how the committee structure best serves the needs of our Loreto Community and how we can reconfigure our structure to best meet the needs of the College.

We will continue to travel on our journey. There will be forks in the roads and we will be asked to draw on our perspective, our skill set and the information at hand to make decisions leading the organisation forward.

I wish to thank all the Board members for their invaluable contributions of time and energy they devote to the College, each member adding something unique and purposeful. We thank the Leadership Team for their passion and commitment to Loreto College Ballarat and most of all we thank the Loreto Community.

It is a privilege and an honour to be on this journey.

Melanie Robertson - Loreto College Board Chair

Vision and Mission

Our College Vision & Mission

Loreto College Ballarat provides a spirited Catholic education that values, engages and empowers young women for their global future. Loreto College is a welcoming, friendly community where each person is valued and where spirituality and learning are nurtured. With the Catholic perspective that formed the spirit and virtues of Mary Ward, young women are educated to strive for personal excellence.

Loreto College has its foundation in the gospel of Jesus Christ and is proud to be part of and contribute to the larger Catholic community. Loreto College builds on a strong and proud tradition of the education of its students, one which strives to offer 'a Catholic education which liberates, empowers and motivates students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service'.

The five pillars of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity summarise the vision of a Loreto Education. We are a Catholic school with the expressed aim of living out the values of the Gospel. We are a Loreto College in the spirit of Mary Ward that believes strongly 'that women in time will come to do great things'.

College Overview

Loreto College is a Year 7-12 Catholic secondary school for girls with an enrolment of 952 students. Located in the growing regional city of Ballarat, Victoria, Australia, we have been proudly educating young women for almost 150 years. The Loreto education tradition spans many centuries, inspired first by the founder of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mary Ward and grounded into the Australia context by Gonzaga Barry IBVM.

Loreto College Ballarat is part of an International network of Loreto Schools and was the first Loreto school in Australia, established in 1875 by Mother Gonzaga Barry and her community of sisters. A contemporary school set in historic and beautiful surrounds, Loreto College builds on rich traditions of the past to provide students with a quality, progressive and dynamic education which becomes a foundation for their global future. As we plan for future growth in our region, it remains our goal for a Loreto College graduate to be a young woman who is confident and equipped to engage actively in all aspects of life in the 21st century. We hope that a Loreto student will be responsible, motivated and independent with an abiding sense of her own personal, spiritual and social wellbeing and social justice. At Loreto College, we strive for academic excellence, whilst never losing sight of the individual within, providing a modern education designed to support both achievements and challenges faced by students who are learning in a global society.

Principal's Report

All Loreto schools in Australia share the same set of values: freedom, justice, sincerity, verity, and felicity. These values are at the heart of our educational philosophy and shape our identity as a college.

2023 was the year of Justice. In this year we were called upon to be active participants in the pursuit of a more equitable and compassionate world. Mary Ward describes the importance of having strong values that help guide us in our relationships with God, with other people, and with the whole of creation. In 2023, as well as an array of learning opportunities that a Loreto education provides, students and staff were able to venture beyond the familiar, to distant shores and communities after travel restrictions eased.

It was with great joy that students travelled to NASA, USA, Japan, interstate to the Northern Territory and Loreto Coorparoo Queensland and Loreto Normanhurst New South Wales. Whether exploring space, engaging with local communities, or participating in Mary Ward Connect, these experiences instil a profound appreciation for the rich tapestry of humanity.

Loreto College Ballarat continued to develop young people as leaders with the development of a new Student Leadership program from Year 7-12. Portfolios were developed as a part of the Year 12 Leadership group, the Senate. The Year 12 students, ably led by College Captains, Bridget Bales and Alex Grieves, were outstanding. Leading by example they were determined to invigorate the College and ensure a sense of joy and pride in the College was felt by all.

The Strategic Plan, launched in 2022, was central to decision making with the continued development of initiatives in the five Arch areas of Faith and Identity, Learning and Innovation, Wellbeing and Thriving, Community and Partnerships, Stewardship of Resources.

The Strategic Plan will continue to guide future decisions as we embark on further master planning of the Mary's Mount Campus in 2024. The Loreto College Board have provided strategic guidance and governance in an exciting period of development.

It is wonderful to be a part of Loreto College Ballarat. It is a vibrant, caring community that is committed to following in the footsteps of Mary Ward and developing courageous students.

Michelle Brodrick – Principal

Catholic Identity and Mission

Goals & Intended Outcomes

We are a Catholic school that walks proudly in the footsteps of Mary Ward. We strive to bring a Catholic education that is post critical in faith understanding, constantly recontextualising and evolving to be a dialogue school. Our founder Mary Ward and the women that followed her, believed in an education for all students that was constantly seeking, improving and evolving through the lens of our values Freedom, Justice, Verity, Sincerity and Felicity.

We want our community to have opportunities for...

- Prayer and reflection
- Liturgical celebrations
- Awareness of social justice issues, locally, nationally and internationally
- Building relationships with Mary Ward International Australia and other charitable organisations
- A curriculum that embraces diversity and awareness and creates dialogue
- An evolving leadership program that embraces our Loreto charism

In 2023 we welcomed a Liturgy Coordinator to our community and also a Liturgy Captain in year 12 and also Liturgy Representatives from each year level. Within this structure we also invited other students into these groups, with much success. Our focus in our prayer, reflection and liturgical space was entirely around involving our students in every aspect of this area of the school. We wanted their voice to be heard, we wanted their experiences to be relatable and also to stretch their understanding. As an example our Easter Liturgy was developed with the assistance of our students and with their enthusiasm we are embracing the use of drama in this space to create a thoughtful and prayerful opportunity. We are continuing to develop our students skills in this area with much enjoyment, enthusiasm and creativity.

We again had many opportunities to come together as a larger school community with our Opening School Mass, Mother's and Father's Day Liturgies, Reconciliation and Leadership Assembly and Founders Day Mass. We are constantly evolving in this area, meeting our community where they are, creating spaces of reflection and ultimately creating a recontextualized understanding for our community. Moving forward we look forward to our whole school assemblies being further opportunities for prayer and reflection. "For where two or three gather in my name, there am I with them" (Matt 18:20).

In our community we have much to be thankful for and we have much to give. Our Catholic Social Teaching principles (CST) underpin our mission to our community. Through

awareness campaigns, fundraising drives and in our curriculum, our message of our CST principles is strong and present. In 2023 we welcomed a Social Justice Coordinator and Sustainability Coordinator to our Faith and Identity team and with that we also welcomed a Social Justice and Sustainability Captain in year 12 and also representatives from each year level. In our new structure we are working towards our students taking more initiative, being proactive and looking to our external communities more and more. We are the amplifiers of voices whose voices are not heard, advocates for those that are not as fortunate as we are and to give of ourselves whether it be time or materially. Caritas and Mary Ward International Australia are key organisations that we raise much needed funds for. We continue to work with St Vincent De Paul and Catholic Care giving much with regard to non-perishable food items in our drives throughout the year.

We look forward to building meaningful partnerships in our community.

Achievements

Our staff are our greatest asset at Loreto. In 2023 we had an opportunity to gather with Loreto Toorak for a formation experience that focused on our Loreto charism and also with significant focus on being a Catholic community and embracing our Catholic Social Teaching principles. In developing this experience our focus that all staff are part of our Loreto story and each and everyone of us brings to life the Catholic Social Teaching principles in our communities. We look forward to working more closely with our Loreto schools.

Our Religious Education curriculum continues to evolve and we look forward to embedding our Loreto charism, our CSTs and our liturgical life more firmly into this curriculum. We are cognizant of our changing demographic in regards to staff, students and family and we are looking at ways that we can ensure that we continuing to evolve in this space and that this education does not just stay in the classroom that it is a strong presence in our community. We want our students to be socially aware, knowledgeable of their faith and not only tolerant of other religions but also able to embrace living in a multicultural world.

Value Added

In 2023, we implemented our Student Leadership program. We want our students to be leaders in our community but also in our world. We are reminded constantly of our founder Mary Ward and her understandings and approach and this underpins what we want to achieve in this area. We have seen some success in the change, however, it is a process that is going to be constantly evaluated, worked upon and ultimately improved upon. We want our students to truly be Loreto people. We want them to know and live Mary Ward's Open Circle of Friends that embraces collaboration and collegiality with a focus on our values of Felicity, Freedom, Justice, Sincerity and Verity.

Our retreats and reflection days are also included in our value add. These days are days of opportunity for our students and staff. Gathering together with prayer, reflection, exploration, music and importantly joy. This space is unique to a Catholic community and it is something that we are protective of and we are constantly seeking new opportunities for our students that will form them to be people who have confidence in their faith and wanting to explore and evolve who they are in our world.

Our immersion experiences in the First Nations communities were a highlight for students and staff that attended. We had experiences at Daly River and also the Tiwi Islands with groups Year 9 and 10 students. These were life changing experiences for those people attending and we look forward to developing a Fire Carrier program that will enable our students to continue to explore and develop our Reconciliation program and outcomes.

Learning and Teaching

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Throughout 2023, the Loreto College overarching focus for Learning and Teaching was to foster an aspirational culture of learning and growth through voice, choice and agency. This involved the three strategic priorities:

- To develop a culture of learning that is innovative, sustainable and future-focused, providing meaningful and rigorous learning experience.
- To focus on enriching growth and development through the use of research and data analysis to measure progress and plan for success.
- To prioritise student agency by preparing active participants for a global future where learners are heard and encouraged to engage in choice, agency and leadership in their learning.

Achievements

The Loreto community, encompassing our staff, students and parents have once again worked tirelessly to support learning outcomes during 2023. Through the continued emphasis on deep learning (from the work of Michael Fullan) and the emphasis on strategies to promote independent learning, our teachers collaborated with their Faculty members, and within their Professional Learning Communities, on a regular basis.

Our VCE and VCAL students worked consistently, with all students completing their certificates. Our School Dux, Jessica Sheehan, achieved an outstanding ATAR of 99.4 and many students performed above their predicted study scores, based on their General Achievement Test (GAT).

VCE Results Summary 2022

- Median Study Score of 31 (which has been the median for the past 5 years)
- 11% of students attained an ATAR above 90 (top 10% of the state)
- 25% of students attained an ATAR above 80 (top 20% of the state)
- 56% of students attained an ATAR above 70 (top 30% of the state)

Student Learning Outcomes

In 2023 our NAPLAN results remained above, or at, the national average. The Year 7 results for Reading, Writing and Grammar were above the national average. The Year 7 results for Spelling and Numeracy were at the national average. The Year 9 result for writing was above the national average.

Throughout the year, data from On Demand Testing, ACER testing and class assessment results were used to identify areas for growth. Intervention measures were implemented as required and included ongoing differentiation, adjustment, support streams and tutoring. In addition, extension opportunities were provided in areas including STEM and the Arts.

NAPLAN - Proportion of students meeting the proficient standards			
Domain	Year level	Mean Scale score	Proficient
Grammar & Punctuation	Year 7	560	73%
	Year 9	565	66%
Numeracy	Year 7	554	76%
	Year 9	564	66%
Reading	Year 7	566	79%
	Year 9	579	71%
Spelling	Year 7	548	76%
	Year 9	560	71%
Writing	Year 7	573	88%
	Year 9	598	73%

*A school's NAPLAN test must have a minimum of 11 participants and 80% participation rate. Data not reported for 2023 due to participation not meeting these criteria or no students were assessed. Participants include students who were assessed, including non-attempt, or those exempted from the test.

Senior Secondary Outcomes	
VCE Median Score	31
VCE Completion Rate (includes VCE VM completions)	100.00%
VCAL Completion Rate (VCAL Intermediate)	*

*Not reported due to insufficient data i.e. less than 4 student enrolments for VCE/VCAL.

Post-School Destinations as at 2023	
Tertiary Study	*
TAFE / VET	*
Apprenticeship / Traineeship	*
Deferred	*
Employment	*
Other - The category of Other includes both students Looking for Work and those classed as Other	*

Data is based on On Track Year 12 completer survey 2023 for Post School Destinations of Year 12 or equivalent completers in 2022.

* indicates no data reported for schools with any of the following:

- (i) less than 10 Year 12 completers,
- (ii) less than 10 On Track respondents,
- (iii) less than 50% consent rate,
- (iv) less than 50% response rate or
- (v) less than 20% of the Year 12 cohort participating in the survey.

Student Wellbeing

Goals & Intended Outcomes

- To keep at the forefront in all our activities the wellbeing and education of our young people
- To foster a safe, supportive environment and inclusive environment where students feel a sense of belonging and connectedness
- Continue the whole school approach for wellbeing programs that are linked to positive psychology and wellbeing science both implicit and explicit in nature
- Build student agency and resilience through the domains of a learning, faith and wellbeing framework
- Continue to establish and consolidate a collaborative and supportive partnership with parents/carers to enhance student wellbeing

Achievements

- Loreto student agency was clearly demonstrated throughout the year. The new Year 12 leaders role modelled with great success what it meant to be a Loreto student by creating a welcoming and positive environment that brought joy to all the students.
- Many Year 7 students commented on the year being full of new and unique opportunities.
- Students felt a sense of community on days such as the swimming carnival, athletics carnival, 4EK, camps and the Mother Gonzaga Barry feast day.
- Students felt Loreto provided them with many opportunities to participate in, within the school day and outside the school hours which helped them form connectedness with students in all Year Groups.
- The Year 8 students concentrated on kindness as a project for their felicitous life program. They participated in the Kindness Rock project, where they created a rock garden which had words on the rocks that radiated positivity.
- Year 9 students successfully presented Goals to Grow digital portfolio's to staff and peers.
- Year 9 students enjoyed the diversity and challenge they experienced in their learning through their participation in the Amazing Race, the Melbourne Experience and the Outdoor Education camp.
- The Year Level Coordinators in Year 10 gave students agency to come up with their programs for social justice that would involve all the year group.
- Some Year 9 students were given the opportunity to go to Daly River in the Northern Territory to work with the students at the school and together produced an amazing art work.

- Some Year 10 students had the opportunity to spend a week on Tiwi Island and go to school with the students and learn about the culture on the island. For many of the students it was a life changing experience.
- The Wellbeing team worked hard in reviewing procedures in how to best support students with mental and health issues.
- The Wellbeing team value the partnership in working with parents to achieve the best outcome for their child especially in times where extra support is crucial.
- The AWE survey is completed in March by students and staff. It is a survey for assessing wellbeing in education. The results concluded overall the students felt Loreto is a positive fun environment, which is inclusive, supportive and welcoming by all members of the community.

Value Added

- The SchoolTV app that is on our website that provides the community with information and advice on issues relating to young people has proved to be a valuable resource that has been frequently used by parents, staff and students.
- 18 staff members have participated in the Youth Mental Health First Aid Course and 2 staff members participated in the youth Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Mental Health First Aid Course.
- Loreto engaged the expertise of Dr Suzy Green from the Positivity Institute and other presenters to work with the staff over 3 days to ensure they are equipped with the knowledge, research and tools that can be used in their professional growth and in their classroom to enhance wellbeing in all spheres.
- Loreto has been working closely with the Ballarat Council on the LIVE4LIFE program. This is a program for rural communities to provide young people with the resources that takes away the stigma when talking about teen mental health and suicide.
- Two staff members completed the Teen Mental Health instructor course so they can deliver the LIVE4LIFE program to all Year 8 next year.
- The Loreto staff worked closely with Ballarat community health in delivering information to different Year Groups on relevant topics that will best inform young people when they are having to make decisions.
- The Wellbeing team worked closely with members of learning diversity to provide the best support for students with health and learning difficulties.
- The Wellbeing Team continued to revise procedures when supporting our young people so we are providing them with a sense of achievement and support around their health or mental health concerns making the transition back to school easier.

Student Satisfaction

- This year we experienced a high participation in all school events.
- The corridors was full of a lot of joy.

- Students were grateful for the support they were given when times were difficult.
- From the AWE survey (Assessing Wellbeing in Education) completed in March the students felt Loreto was a fun place, they liked the sense of community, the people, their peers and all the opportunities the school offers.
- School spirit and the environment were also frequently mentioned, as well as the friends they have made.
- The overall happiness level was high.

Student Attendance

- Students at Loreto value their education and said they want to be at the school.
- If a student's attendance is low due to health, mental health issues or school refusal, the Wellbeing team work hard with the parents to best support the young person by putting in place a alternative attendance plan so the student can see success, with the intention to see growth and eventual full time attendance.
- | Year Level | Student Count | School Attendance Percentage |
|-------------------|---------------|------------------------------|
| Year 7 | 157 | 90.17% |
| Year 8 | 157 | 88.68% |
| Year 9 | 178 | 86.93% |
| Year 10 | 66 | 85.44% |
| Year 11 | 172 | 86.49% |
| Year 12 | 138 | 86.76% |
| Total and Average | 968 | 87.41% |

Years 9 - 12 Student Retention Rate	
Years 9 to 12 Student Retention Rate	83.3%

Average Student Attendance Rate by Year Level	
Y07	90.4%
Y08	88.7%
Y09	85.8%
Y10	83.9%
Overall average attendance	87.2%

Leadership

Goals & Intended Outcomes

With Mary Ward as our role model, our community embraces the values of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity. This year our focus was on the value of Justice embracing the theme – Shine a Light on Justice.

To be people of faith in action, staff and student leaders connected with the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Dignity of the Human Person to deepen our understanding of inclusivity and diversity in the context of contemporary education.

The implementation of a staff and student leadership structure that develops authentic agency and meaningful opportunities.

Our vision for the future of Loreto College that incorporates a sustainable Master Plan for our current campus and for our future campus continues.

We continued to embed a culture of compliance by seeking and modelling best practice.

To support the development of future leaders through formation learning opportunities across the Loreto network.

Achievements

- First stage implementation of the Strategic Plan 2022-2025
- Continued participation of Assistant Principals in the Brown Collective Leadership Program
- Implementation of the new POL structure to reflect the goals of the Strategic Plan
- Implementation of a new Student Leadership structure from Year 7-12, focussing on student agency
- Improvement of teacher efficacy through Professional Learning Communities, including peer coaching and goal setting
- Successful implementation of curriculum offerings initiated by learning leaders

Expenditure And Teacher Participation in Professional Learning	
List Professional Learning undertaken in 2023	
<p>The intention for staff Professional Learning was to develop opportunities in line with strategic priorities.</p> <p>This included an all staff professional learning three-day workshop, Foundations of Positive Education, led by Dr Suzy Green, clinical and coaching psychologist and founder of the Positivity Institute. The program was designed to support staff in educational settings with the science and practice of positive psychology and its application in education. This linked closely with strategic priorities, in the area of wellbeing and thriving. A focus on coaching developed through this lens has been pivotal in the establishment of professional goal setting and agency. This was further developed through Professional Learning Communities.</p> <p>Other professional learning included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> · Crucial Conversations · Mentor Training · VCE subject specific and analysis · Learning environments · Live for Life · Literacy · Learning Diversity · Wellbeing · Loreto Schools Australia conferencing 	
Number of teachers who participated in PL in 2023	95
Average expenditure per teacher for PL	\$570.00

Teacher Satisfaction

A number of surveys were completed throughout the year

These assessed wellbeing and education. They included

- AWE (Assessing Wellbeing in Education) survey

- CHECS (Characteristics of a Highly Effective Catholic School) survey
- Insight SRC survey

Overall results indicated an above level of wellbeing. Comments made by staff expressed the collegiality they felt and the support they experienced throughout the year from colleagues. Staff commented on the genuine concern and care that was shown to one another.

Teacher Qualifications	
Doctorate	0.7%
Masters	13.4%
Graduate	22.5%
Graduate Certificate	2.8%
Bachelor Degree	52.1%
Advanced Diploma	7.0%
No Qualifications Listed	1.4%

Staff Composition	
Principal Class (Headcount)	6
Teaching Staff (Headcount)	96
Teaching Staff (FTE)	85.0
Non-Teaching Staff (Headcount)	68
Non-Teaching Staff (FTE)	59.2
Indigenous Teaching Staff (Headcount)	3

Community Engagement

Goals & Intended Outcomes

Our overarching Community Engagement aim is to enhance student learning, wellbeing and future global opportunities by engaging with our Loreto and wider community.

We aim to nurture an inclusive engaged community and promote a Loreto education throughout our growing region. To achieve this, we aim to engage with all generations of alumni and encourage a lifelong connection with the school and our global Loreto community.

We also aim to facilitate and promote a strong sense of school spirit, pride, diversity and belonging within our school community.

We highly value a culture of philanthropy and giving back to the school and the community. We aim to acknowledge, strengthen and promote our philanthropic endeavours within the school and ensure equitable and diverse access to a Loreto education through supporting and promoting scholarship, bursary and education support pathways. We also aim to encourage the support and provision of contemporary facilities and resources for the expansion of our Loreto education offering in our growing region.

Finally, we aim to develop extensive access to expertise and resources beyond the school by harnessing our alumni community for education and learning partnerships and opportunities for our students to improve and expand our educational partnerships with the wider community, corporate and business organisations aligned to our learning vision. In addition, we aspire to maintain and develop effective and collaborative partnerships with a range of social justice organisations aligned to our mission.

Achievements

In 2023, Loreto College once again delighted in the opportunity to connect with our broader community, celebrate our students and alumni, and promote all that Loreto has to offer.

In March, we were thrilled to induct three more Women in Time – Inspiring Alumni at our annual International Women’s Day breakfast, including Sr Trish Franklin ibvm AO (Class of 1968) for Religious and Social Justice Leadership, Michelle Payne OAM (Class of 2003) for Sporting Excellence, Gender Equality and Inclusion, and Olivia Sellers (Class of 2015) in the category of Younger Achiever and Entrepreneur. Our inductees now form part of a special group of alumni who continue to inspire generations of Loreto students.

We welcomed back to Loreto some of our past pupils to reminisce, reconnect and celebrate as a community at our 2023 Reunions. On April 1 over 150 alumni from the classes of 1983, 1993, 2003, 2013 and 2021 came together for an event held in the GBC, whilst 40 past pupils from our Class of 1973 celebrated their 50-year reunion on April 29.

Events for our prospective families were held in October with our Open Morning on October 20 and our Information Evening on October 24. These events provide an opportunity for our prospective families to tour the College and learn more about the programs on offer and what their child can expect from a Loreto education. There was strong attendance across both events with over 150 people attending the Open Morning and approximately 260 attending the Information Evening. Prospective families also had the opportunity to see the College in action during one of our monthly tours held from March through to November in which 280 people visited the College.

Our incoming Year 7 Information Evening was held on November 2 with over 350 people in attendance. Families heard from members of the Leadership team, Learning Diversity and the Year 7 Coordinators who explained to families what to expect as students transition to Loreto College from primary school. Attendees were also entertained by the junior band and heard from current students about what it's like starting secondary school.

Our Class of 2023 celebrated a significant milestone in their journey as a Loreto student at the Year 12 Graduation Mass on October 17 and Celebration Dinner on November 15. These events celebrate the culmination of six years of secondary schooling and hold a special significance for our students as they receive their floral crowns and Loreto rings. Students were joined by their families and staff at both events, who came together to celebrate and farewell our graduating class.

Our fundraising efforts continued in 2023 with our Annual Giving Campaign for our Rise Up Scholarships, Dora O'Sullivan Bursary and Building Fund. We had over 40 donors make contributions which go towards ensuring that Loreto College remains accessible to students who may not otherwise be able to attend the College. As well as the Annual Giving Campaign, Loreto College is fortunate to receive the wonderful support of local organisations and individuals who sponsor subject and academic honour awards for our VCE, VCAL and VET students. In 2023, we had 26 local organisations or individuals sponsor student awards as well our Past Pupils' Association who sponsored our VCE Dux Award and VCAL Award.

Loreto College continued its support of local charity organisations in 2023 with the 4EK Run held in Term 2. The event honours the legacy of former Loreto College Ballarat student Emma-Kate McGrath by promoting awareness of meningococcal disease and raising money for 4EK. The College also continued its 35-year tradition of helping families in need by providing Christmas hampers to the St. Vincent de Paul Society who distribute these to those less fortunate. Both food and gifts are donated as part of the tradition, bringing much joy to

families at Christmas time. In October, the College provided in kind support in the form of advertising space for the Walking Off the War Within. A billboard was placed on the corner of Wendouree Parade and Hamilton St promoting the event, which raises awareness and funds for returned service personnel experiencing PTSD and depression.

For the third year our senior students participated in the Respect Cup football game. Matches are played between Loreto College and Sacred Heart Geelong, and St Patrick's College and St Joseph's College. The event is held to mark International Women's Day and aims to promote respectful relationships between young men and women.

The Marketing and Development team continued to produce a variety of internal and external publications for various areas of the school. The College yearbook, The Abbey, celebrated the 2023 College year with a focus on student achievements, curricular and co-curricular programs, camps and immersion trips, key activities and events, sports carnivals, and of course farewelling our Year 12s. The yearbook remains a special memento for all students allowing them to look back on the year that was.

Our bi-annual College magazine, Verity, continues to be a popular publication for both alumni and current students. Published in May and December, the magazine features stories, recent news, events, reunions, weddings and past pupil updates. 2023 is the first full year the magazine has been offered digitally, reflecting the College's ongoing commitment to embed sustainable practices. Our school newsletter continues to be a valued resource for the Loreto community, in particular our current families. The newsletter is produced twice a term with contributions from members of the Leadership Team, Faculty Leaders and local community organisations.

In 2023, Loreto College again ran its I am Loreto television commercial. The campaign is aimed at prospective families but also seeks to enhance the College's brand recognition within the local community. The campaign ran from 30 July through to 24 October across the Ballarat region on Prime 7 Ballarat and 7 Mate Ballarat with a potential audience reach of 360,000.

To strengthen brand recognition and build a positive brand identity within the community, Loreto College continued its promotion through print advertising with local publications, including The Courier, Ballarat Times and Ballarat Living. Promotion included advertisements for reunions, enrolments and scholarships, an advertorial for Women in Time, and feature ads for Head of the Lake, Women in Business, Education Week, The Matilda's, and a farewell to our Year 12s.

The Past Pupil's Association have continued to grow in strength as more members joined the committee and the executive gained confidence in their new roles. Faith White continues as President, with the recent election in 2023 of a Vice-President in Sally Eastwood. Michaela Prendergast continued as Secretary and happily fills in for Faith if she needs to represent the Past Pupils' Association at College events. Lauren Bromley has been a very capable

Treasurer who has ably assisted Faith in transferring accounts and payments to now be made electronically. She has also bought an electronic square so they can receive payments or donations on behalf of the Association without having to rely on the school systems.

The new Committee wanted to connect with current students and lift the profile of the Past Pupils and therefore commissioned a Loreto badge with the crest icons to gift to each Year 12 student. The gift was the past pupil's way of saying good luck to Year 12 and to remind them that they too will soon be past pupils and that the association would always support them and provide them with a sense of belonging to the Loreto Community. Both Faith, President and Michaela, Secretary attended a Year 12 assembly to speak to the students and give them the badges. The students were thrilled to be the first-year level to receive the badge and to know they had the support from their wider Loreto Alumni. Faith and Michaela were thrilled with the positive reaction of the students.

Part of the Past Pupil's strategic plan is to continue to support the College through their Performing Arts scholarships, but to also to reach out and engage with a larger audience of past pupils. One initiative was to hold an Easter Picnic for younger past pupils and their young families in the school front garden. This was scheduled for 27 March during day light savings but was unfortunately cancelled due to wet weather.

Once again to engage with current families and past pupils, the Committee set up a stall to sell Mother's Day gifts during the Mother's Day Liturgy and afternoon tea held in May. This was successful as more past pupils with their mothers, attended the Liturgy and afternoon tea and caught up with each other.

Annual Reunions were held by the school which again provided an opportunity for the current committee to lift their profile and encourage more alumni to up-date their details on the database and join the Past Pupils Facebook page to help with increasing the communication and connection to the College. Past pupils can support the College and current students in many ways. They have provided contacts for work experience places for current year 10s, as well as work placements for senior student in VCE and the Vocational Major studies.

In May, the College held its annual Year 11 Leadership Day at St Patrick's Cathedral Hall, where current students identify their leadership qualities and hear from inspiring speakers who were once in their shoes. Past pupils Georgia Cann, Class of 2004, Aimee O'Brien, Class of 2013 and Bianca Laidlaw, Class of 2015 were invited to be guest speakers to share their knowledge and experiences in life and leadership.

Past pupil Julianna Addison, Victorian State Member for Wendouree, and Federal Member Catherine King were invited to speak to Year 8s during their studies of Civics and Citizenship.

These events were a great success and we have endeavoured to continue to invite past pupils to speak at these leadership days, in the classroom and at general assemblies. We

are fortunate to have a rich abundance of past pupils who are more than willing to support the College.

The Past Pupils continued to hold the High Tea and Mass of Remembrance in November which was provided by the VCE Food Design students and it's a highlight on the calendar for many of the older past pupils who regularly attend. The committee introduced a Christmas drinks event at the Lake View Hotel, in the evening to allow those working past pupils to attend. This event was very successful with between 40-50 people attending, ranging from those who had recently graduated to those who had graduated 50-60 years ago.

Parent Satisfaction

Loreto College Ballarat has an engaged and supportive parent/carer community who are actively involved in the life of students. There is strong support and active participation for College events, including Parent/Teacher/Student interviews, information evenings, co-curricular and celebration events.

Parents and carers value the ability to be informed by and interact with our social media channels, which have grown significantly. 2023 also saw the return of in-person events, including our Mother's Day and Father's Day Liturgies, providing an opportunity to re-connect with the College community.

There was a favourable response from parents and carers (89.1%) to the way in which the College engages with the parents of students with diverse learning needs, with the Learning Diversity team working well to improve how the College partners with parents.

Financial Performance

The school's financial performance information and a report of the financial activities of the school's boarding premises (if applicable) have been provided to the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC) and will be available for the community to access from their website at www.acnc.gov.au.

For more detailed information regarding our school please visit our website at www.loreto.vic.edu.au