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Cover Art

Margot Lynn (Year 9) self portrait

Inside Cover

Spring snow in Ballarat

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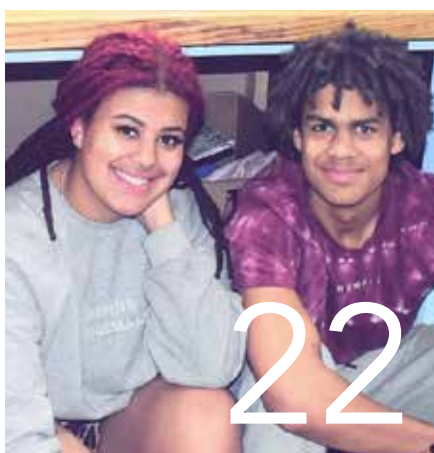
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FEATURES

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Michelle Brodrick shares insight into her life, from growing up in the Victorian town of St. Arnaud, through to today as the 31st Principal of Loreto College Ballarat.

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Past Pupils, Dr Lynne Reader and Dr Mary Hollick share their commitment to a world of compassion.

From the Editor,

"Someone I loved once gave me a box full of darkness.

It took me years to understand that this too, was a gift," Mary Oliver, author.

As the 'year of COVID-19,' approaches its final months, many of us will be eagerly counting down the days and, as we do, hoping that 2021 brings with it a more positive and light-filled year ahead.

Despite the immense challenges upon our Loreto community, including: remote learning (and teaching), financial hardship and the strain it has had upon our mental health and wellbeing, many of us have identified certain aspects that we are committed to preserving from this period and prioritising within our lives as we move forward.

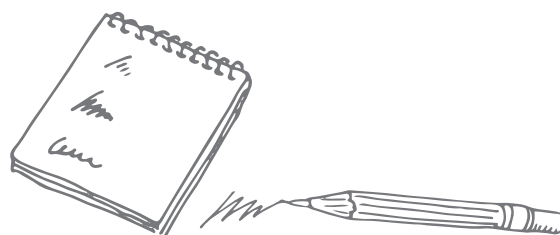
Whether it is slowing down within our lives and just 'being', a new clarity or reassessment of what our priorities truly are COVID-19 has provided us with a cause and a time in which to commit ourselves to these. Perhaps a gift within the darkness?

Edition 2 of Verity explores this idea of commitment, in the frame of Mary Ward's vision.

"We enable them to develop a sense of authenticity and a capacity for commitment that will enrich their lives with meaning," Loreto Ministries.

This commitment to enrich lives with meaning is inherent within this edition's stories and experiences from those within the Loreto community and is a true gift to be shared.

Shona Hendley and the Marketing & Development Team



Messages from Loreto

From the Board

To say that 2020 has been a year unlike any other, would be something of an understatement!

The leaders, the staff, the students and the families of the College have adapted and shown great resolve and resilience to ensure that, notwithstanding the challenges this year has brought, the learning and the joy continues, in that uniquely Loreto way.

The entire school community should be proud of the way the year has been conducted, and on behalf of the Board, I extend my sincere thanks to the entire school community.

As we move towards the end of the year, there is much to look forward to at Loreto College Ballarat, and even as one chapter in the remarkable history of Loreto Ballarat comes to a close, we embark on an exciting new journey.

In July, Ms Judith Potter finished her tenure as Principal, after almost 15 years of faithful and joyful service. Judith has been the living embodiment of the Loreto Values of Freedom, Justice, Sincerity, Verity and Felicity, but some other values that easily associate themselves with Judith are kindness, commitment, selflessness, grace, care and compassion.

Although it has not yet been possible to mark Judith's retirement with a fitting community celebration, we are committed to doing so when we can.

Now we look to the future, with the commencement of Ms Michelle Brodrick as Principal, and the announcement that a contract has been signed for the purchase of an expansion site of over 13 hectares.

Michelle has joined the College not only in the midst of a most difficult year, but also at the start of a new strategic direction.

Despite only having a few weeks of face to face contact with students and staff, Michelle has already acquitted herself to her task incredibly well.

In the Strategic Goals for Loreto Ballarat in 2019, the College has committed to expanding to meet the needs of the rapidly growing Ballarat community – so that more families who desire a Loreto education for their daughter might have access to that education.

The College Board, the Leadership Team, the staff and indeed the entire school community now face the daunting but invigorating task of imagining the Loreto College of the future, and bringing that to reality, as we look to build on the vision of Mary Ward and Mother Gonzaga Barry, and to reinforce Loreto's reputation as a leader in the education of young women.

The College staff are passionate about the continual improvement and evolution of the curriculum, learning, social and wellbeing experience of every current and future student of the College, and the College Board and its Committees are no less passionate in their support of this.

Thank you to every person who makes a contribution to the life of the College community, and we look forward, not only to better times, but to this new chapter yet to be written.

And finally, to the graduating students of 2020: whilst this may not have been the final year you imagined, it will nevertheless be one that you remember. We wish you every success for your futures, and you will always be warmly welcomed back to Loreto Ballarat.

Luke Dunne
Board Chair

From the Principal

A Loreto education is a commitment to 'a Catholic education which liberates, empowers and motivates students to use their individual gifts with confidence, creativity and generosity in loving and responsible service' (Loreto Schools of Australia Mission Statement).

Commitment has taken on a new meaning this year with the demands and the challenges of 2020. As the new Principal of Loreto College, I could never have foreseen the challenging environment we all faced, nor the commitment required by our entire community to support our students through learning this year. However, on reflection, as we near the end of Term 4, there have been many positive outcomes and new initiatives. Our selfless community have shown great support for all, and I personally thank everyone for their warm and supportive welcome.

Throughout this year we have remained committed to providing a Catholic education that has a student-centred approach to learning and developed ways to stay connected with our community. Initially all our events were either postponed or held on-line, including reunions and celebrations.

When learning remotely, students have had to take on new responsibilities working from home, managing their time and studies when social interactions and connections to peers are limited. All staff have had to adapt to new and innovative ways of teaching and working.

As we moved back to classes on site, we frequently heard from students, 'It is what it is'.

They accepted and made the most of alternative versions of events such as

Gonzaga Barry Day and the filming of liturgies and rituals such as the Year 12s receiving their crown of flowers. Through social media, our newsletter and publications such as Verity, we have still felt connected. We are a strong and resilient Christian community that remains committed to creating an environment where Gospel values are lived and taught.

Overall, despite the challenges of Covid-19, my first semester at Loreto College has been filled with immense pride and pleasure meeting students and staff and sharing future plans. I am delighted to be the 31st Principal of Loreto College and look forward with great anticipation to our commitment to expand this wonderful school.

Michelle Brodrick
Principal



From the College Co-Captains

2020 is a year that we know everyone will remember forever. The challenges this year has brought have been life changing and monumental. We are so grateful to have had the opportunity to be your College Co-Captains this year, even if it was behind a computer screen.

“

Loreto's holistic approach to education has shaped us into young women who are ready for our future.”

We are disappointed that our Loreto journey has ended under these circumstances but we are so thankful for the time that we have had in this community. While we may have been physically far apart this year, the Loreto spirit has kept us close at heart. This consistency of spirit proves the strength and spread of the Loreto community which we know we are forever a part of.

Loreto's holistic approach to education has shaped us into young women who are ready for our future. A Loreto education means so much more than just what happens in the classroom. The endless opportunities we have had across all aspects of school life - academia, community, sport and the arts - have properly prepared us for the real world. As we approach our final days at Loreto, we can reflect on this with gratitude.



Whilst we look to an altered graduation in anticipation, to receive that Loreto Ring and the beautiful flower crown, we know that these sentimental items are symbolic of something so much greater; a sisterhood and a family.

We will forever cherish the memories, the laughter, the tears, but most importantly the friendships made here at Loreto.

We wish the College Captains, and the 2021 Senate all the best in their leadership roles for the upcoming school year. We extend our best wishes to the Class of 2021, and hope that in the coming year you can

spend more time together than you did in 2020 as the world begins to revert to some form of normalcy.

We are so grateful for the years we had at Loreto College, and cannot begin to imagine our lives without this place. We are very lucky to say that our school has become a second home, and know that wherever the next chapter of our lives takes us, our years spent here will always hold a special place in our hearts.

Sophie Grylewicz & Kate Robinson
College Co-Captains

Around Loreto

Graduation Liturgy

Once again, COVID-19 has shown how incredibly adaptable and creative we can be. In place of the usual Year 12 Graduation Mass, staff and students worked hard to put together and film a uniquely Loreto Graduation Liturgy. In mid-October, each Year 12 student had the opportunity to come into the Loreto Chapel with their parents or significant caregivers to receive their Loreto candle and traditional flower crown. The gardens were lit up with beautiful blue and yellow lights and many special memories were made to celebrate the Class of 2020 in a COVID-safe way. Families and students will each receive a copy of the final Graduation Liturgy video and photos taken over the weekend.



Guard of Honour



Like many events, most of our farewell events for our outgoing Principal, Ms Judith Potter, had to be cancelled or changed. A COVID-safe and very special way to celebrate and farewell Ms Potter was to have a 'Guard of Honour.'

Staff and students formed two lines down the main driveway, congratulating Judith with flowers and a round of applause as she walked by. This was a meaningful and memorable way to celebrate over 14 incredible years of leadership here at Loreto College.



Intra-School Sports

Before lockdown, we were able to adapt and create new COVID-safe activities at school! Our fantastic PE team created an intra-school sports competition which ran for a number of weeks during Term 3. This mini-competition involved students playing in their Houses within their own year levels. They rotated through a variety of activities including netball, volleyball and football. It was great seeing the students support each other, try new sports and ignite the lively atmosphere of the Loreto spirit each lunchtime.

Fathers Day Mass



Our Fathers Day Mass has always been such a special Loreto event, although this year was a little different, we were still able to 'get together' to celebrate all the amazing fathers and father figures in our community.

On Fathers Day at 11am we shared a beautifully created video of our Fathers Day Mass for the whole community to watch together. Coordinated by our Acting Director of Faith and Mission, Mrs Felicity Knobel and led by Father Justin Driscoll and our new Principal, Mrs Michelle Brodrick, the mass was a beautiful celebration of all Loreto dads.

Left: An illustration drawn by Loreto student Eliza McCrum (Year 11)

GB Day - Let the games begin!

GB Day 2020, the first whole-school event since returning from remote learning! Although it was a little different this year as we couldn't gather in quite the same way, everyone got into the spirit of the day and dressed up with the theme 'Let the Games Begin!'.

We didn't have the usual stalls but still enjoyed the liturgy, a picnic, the fashion parade and Senate led activities. Everything was of course COVID-safe and it was incredibly uplifting to be able to experience a sort of 'togetherness' again!



What's New

Virtual Tours

2020 has presented new challenges for all of us, and as a school we've had to restrict access to prospective students and members of the community.

Virtual access to the school has never been more important. Our new 360 Virtual Tours feature an amazing 360 panoramic experience, starting with an aerial view of the school. The tour comprises over 25+ locations, allowing a virtual experience of our location, facilities and stunning grounds. Experience the full tour for yourself on the College website.



Virtual Art Exhibition

Our annual Art Exhibition and Media Screening is one of the biggest events on the Loreto College calendar. However, the public component of the event this year has had to move online.

This exciting new innovative and dynamic virtual exhibition will allow students, staff, family and the public to experience virtually walking amongst the displays, with the ability to click on all of the student's VCE artworks. This allows viewers to see a close up of the piece, along with the information about each artwork - as if they were really there. The virtual exhibition is a unique way to experience our student's amazing art beyond just a single evening.

The exhibition is still available to visit via the College website.



Zoom Class of 1965 Reunion

The Class of 1965 took to Zoom to get together and catch up as a group. The event was moderated by Mary Holmes who did mute a few of the women from time to time.

With Loreto Girls from Morwell, St Andrews Beach, Tasmania, Ballarat (2), Nagambie, Smythesdale, Torquay, Brisbane and four from Melbourne, it was a great turn out and wonderful event for all involved.

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Thank
you

We would like to thank everyone who reached out to support our Student Hardship Fund. This fundraiser was set up in response to the financial impact of COVID-19.

We remain committed to supporting our students and families at this difficult time.

If you would ever like to financially support our girls or find out more about our fundraising programs (including scholarships, bursaries and building funds), please contact development@loreto.vic.edu.au.



Welcome Michelle

Words by Michelle Brodrick & Shona Hendley

“

I have been given the opportunity to lead a positive and spirited community that continues to embrace all whom enter the gates.”

Michelle Brodrick began her position as the 31st Principal of Loreto College Ballarat from Term 3 this year. Despite the challenges that lay immediately ahead of her, including beginning her role in the midst of a global pandemic, Michelle's outlook was one of excitement and positivity.

“Becoming the Principal of Loreto College Ballarat this year has allowed me to enter a world full of vibrancy and energy. I have been given the opportunity to lead a positive and spirited community that continues to embrace all whom enter the gates.”

But for Michelle, her relationship with the College didn't start in 2020, when she became Principal: it began decades earlier.

“I first came to know Loreto as a student teacher under the guidance of Val McRoberts. She was teaching Year 9 English and I was given the task of introducing the Ruth Park novel, *Harp in the South*, a unique rendering of Australian family life and a powerful portrayal of female characters. Over that seven weeks I remember the feeling that belonging to this College was something to be proud of. Thirty years on, I am honoured to be walking through the gates as the Principal of the Loreto community.”

Michelle, a self-described 'well-travelled country girl', grew up in the Victorian town of St Arnaud, where her parents Wilma and Graeme Archibald still reside.

“Growing up in St Arnaud with three younger brothers, John, Brett and Luke, I spent a lot of time outside, playing sport and going to the local pool. My Dad had harness racers and we would often be taken to the 'trots'. I remember spending many days sitting in the back seat of the car reading. I also loved having pets of any sort - dogs, cats, ponies and even a kangaroo at one point. Spending time with my grandparents on a farm every school holiday was also a highlight.”

The regional area where Michelle spent her formative years is not only a source of fond memories but has helped shape her into the person and Principal she is today.

“I value the freedom that growing up in the country gave me.... to walk, ride and run around town going to the local pool, playing outdoors and enjoying the tranquillity of the bush.

Growing up in a small town taught me about the contribution we can all make helping others and the importance of community. I would see Mum as a St Vincent De Paul volunteer, cleaning the local Church, serving in the canteen at the football and netball and delivering Meals on Wheels. Dad was involved with the local Lions Club, Football Club and Harness Racing Committee and would often be at a working bee or supporting initiatives to help improve facilities in the town.

The people in the town were extremely supportive in all areas of community and



Michelle Brodrick at the United Nations

it is only as a parent, teacher and now Principal that you see the true benefits this has for young people. I am extremely grateful to all of the people who give their time voluntarily," she says.

As well as valuing her local community, Michelle also has a great passion for travelling and has done so extensively, visiting six continents (so far). Two countries that hold particularly special memories for her are Uganda and Kenya, where she has led groups of teachers and students on trips to develop partnerships with these communities. Her previous school, St Joseph's College, has a strong relationship and sister school in Mannya, southern Uganda and her husband and daughter have also visited there.

"I have had the opportunity to experience the richness of so many people and cultures from all over the world."

This international experience has also infiltrated her professional work in education, where Michelle has held roles at Seirei Junior and Senior Girls High School in Seto, Japan. As well, Michelle has presented at various conferences, including the World Indigenous Peoples Conference in Education (WIPCE) in Hawaii and undertaken an internship last year with UNANIMA International (a non-government organisation advocating on behalf of women and children, particularly those living in poverty) in the United Nations, New York.

Now back in regional Victoria, at the school where she undertook her teaching rounds thirty years ago, Michelle has settled into her role as Principal. Despite it not being quite the start she had envisioned, the felicitous 'Loreto Spirit' that is such a fundamental part of the Loreto community has still shone through.

"I didn't imagine as a Principal I would only have three weeks where students and staff were attending on site. Although somewhat prepared for a return to Stage 3 restrictions I was praying that we would be safe and not have to return to remote learning. When I heard the news on Sunday 2 August my heart sank for lost opportunities, particularly for our Year 7 and 12 students.

I have seen the effects that living in a COVID-19 world has had on our community. For some it has had an overwhelming impact on mental health and many families have suffered financially. These are unprecedented times.

Needless to say, the community rallied; staff, students and parents/families have been extremely supportive and the transition to remote learning was smooth. Our community has been selfless and shown great support for each other.



Michelle in Nairobi



Michelle and husband, Richard in Peru



The Archibald Family.

“

I aim to build on the 'Loreto experience' that is so highly valued and enhance our students' engagement and connectedness to learning.”

Despite the challenges, the 2020 cohort have developed independent learning skills because of the demands of remote schooling. Staff, students and families have had to be adaptive and resilient,” Michelle says.

Although much time has been spent working remotely for staff and students alike, Michelle has still been overwhelmed with the warm welcome to the College.

“In the brief time I have been Principal, I have enjoyed the sense of welcome that students and staff have given to me. When walking in the quad or around the grounds, many students would come up to me and ask me questions with a genuine interest. They would tell me about their families or hobbies. The many stories and chats allowed me to understand the connection the students have with the College.”

Looking ahead, in this time of growth and expansion, Michelle, along with the rest of the College, has a clear set of goals she is working to achieve.

“I aim to build on the 'Loreto experience' that is so highly valued and enhance our students' engagement and connectedness to learning.

The development of a new campus is exciting. It will allow a Loreto education to be offered to more students within the Ballarat community. We will be entering into a period of consultation to capture the essential elements of a Loreto education and provide new opportunities for a contemporary curriculum. This is an exciting development in the future.”

And when she is not busy working toward these goals, Michelle enjoys spending time with her husband Richard, Deputy Principal at Catholic Regional College in Caroline Springs (and thoroughly enjoying the shorter commute from Ballarat), and two children Olivia, a physiotherapist, and Jack who is studying a Bachelor of Music Composition. But perhaps her favourite way to unwind is to walk along the beach with her five-year old Spoodle, Bessie, or by cheering on her beloved AFL team, the Geelong Cats.



Above: Michelle on Barney the pony



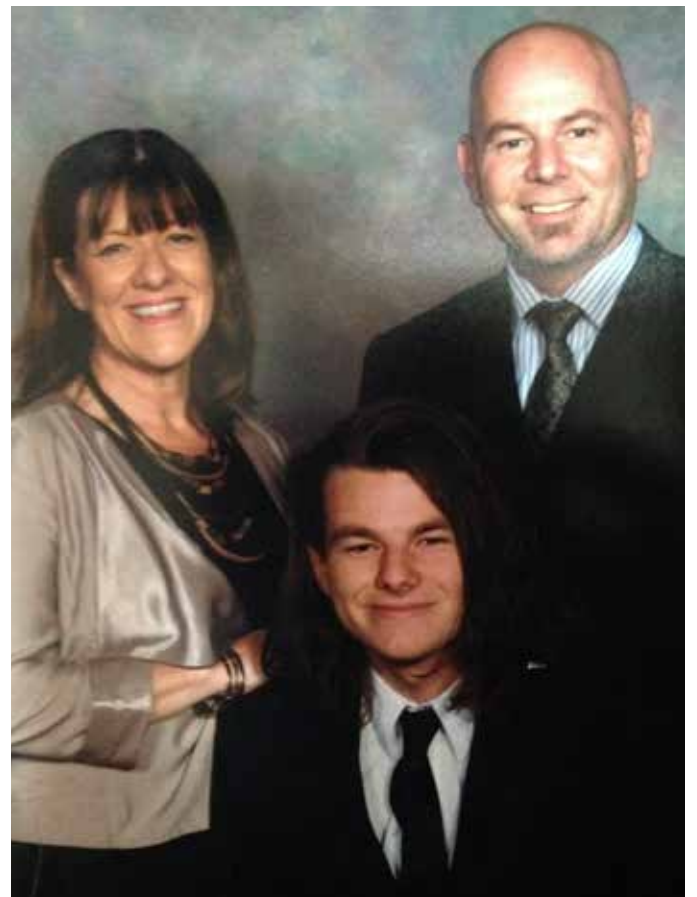
Bessie the Spoodle



Michelle in high school



Michelle, with Richard and their daughter, Olivia at her Graduation



Michelle, with Richard and their son, Jack at his Graduation

Committed to the Future of Education at Loreto College

Words by Paula Wheaton (Chair of the Curriculum and Wellbeing Steering Committee)

Contemporary
Curriculum
Connections

Our experiences this year have been a stark reminder of just how much our world has changed in recent times. These changes have been wide-spread and we have seen the steady march of technology transform our workplaces, schools and social lives, impacting on how we learn, communicate and interact. As a school we are identifying what is required to flourish in this fluid and dynamic landscape as well as using this information for planning for a brand new campus that we can build and shape in a way that supports progressive and innovative education.

This is the context in which the Steering Committee at Loreto College have been committed to working to determine how we can ensure that our graduates are equipped with the skills, knowledge and attributes that they need to navigate our constantly evolving world.

The Committee, formed in 2018, is charged with the job of investigating how we review our curriculum, wellbeing structures and programs to achieve this goal.

After a process of introspection, consideration of research and programs in other schools and consultation with

teachers, the Leadership Team, students and parents, a number of common themes emerged.

1. Digital Technology needs to take a more prominent place in our curriculum. Students need a higher level of digital literacy but also need to have access to specialised Digital Technology subjects.

As a pilot program, Year 7 and 9 students have constructed a digital portfolio, supported by their Digital Technologies teachers. Students set up a personal website to use as a way of recording their achievements and goals throughout their time at the school.

This has worked hand in hand with the formalised goal-setting program in Year 9, 'Goals for Growth', that has been implemented alongside our unique Felicitous Life wellbeing program. Students set a range of personal goals for themselves and have kept a record of progress on their website. Students will reflect on their progress with respect to each of the qualities of a Loreto graduate and how they might grow in each area and develop new skills or knowledge.

2. In industry and business, a proactive approach and the ability to work collaboratively and creatively with others to solve problems are highly valued. The group have researched and defined the 'Qualities' or attributes that our Loreto graduates need, such as a healthy and balanced lifestyle, caring for and respecting others, community connection, taking responsibility for learning, working collaboratively and independently to solve problems and striving for excellence. The group is now working on a comprehensive and structured approach to integrating these Qualities into the curriculum.

3. Further areas under development to help foster each of the Loreto Graduate Qualities are innovative teaching methodology, student leadership structures, electives introduced earlier for students and the timetable structure.

4. At the same time, the group is reviewing the fundamentals of our curriculum and wellbeing programs and framework and looking forward with great anticipation to the establishment of a new Loreto Ballarat campus and imagining how a school could be and building that very school from the ground up.

Brainstorming



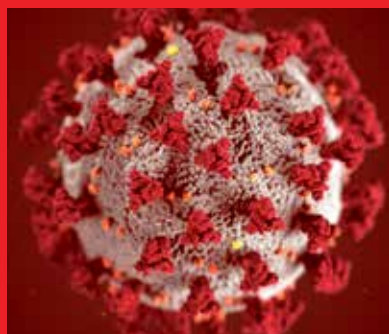
Above: Staff at a Steering Committee forum

Loreto life throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, so far.....

January
2020

01

COVID-19
reaches Australia



March
2020

02

COVID-19
restrictions including
social distancing began
in Victoria



End Term 1
March 22

03

Victorian Premier,
Daniel Andrews brings
forward school holidays
to March 24.



Mid
Term 2

05

Return to school
with social distancing
and other COVID-19 safe
policies and regulations
in place.



Term 3
Aug 2

06

Melbourne Stage 4
restrictions begin, including
the mandatory wearing of
face masks for all Victorians
aged 12 and over.



Term 3
Aug 5

07

Victoria Stage 3
restrictions return,
including return to remote
learning. Loreto events
are held virtually including
House Week.



Start Term 2

04

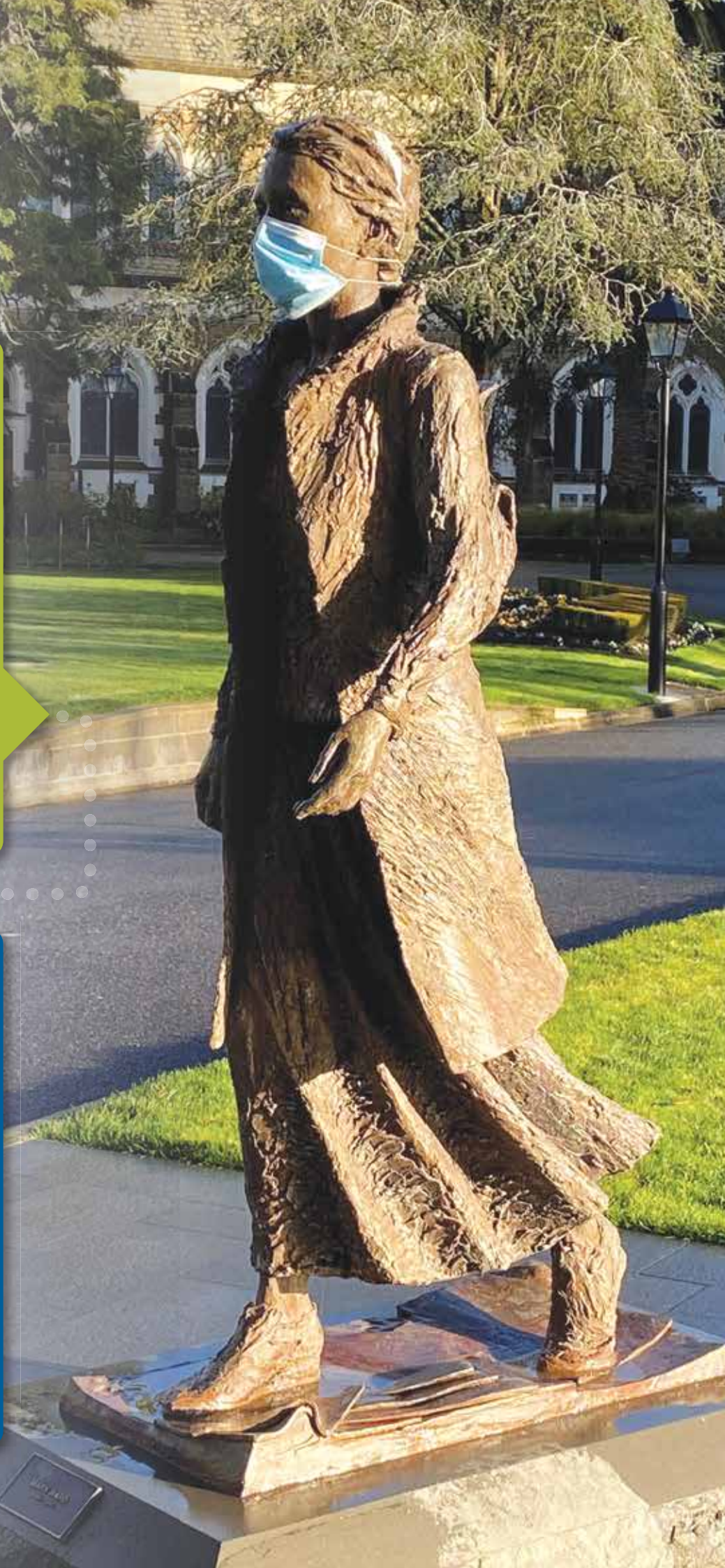
Remote Learning, Victoria 1.0 begins. Loreto College holds virtual events including the annual Loreto Walkathon, which was of course COVID-19 themed.



Term 4 Week 2-12 Oct

08

Students can return to on-site learning in regional Victoria.





Indya's Creative Commitment to Black Lives Matter

Words by Indya Hayes & Shona Hendley

“

I felt useless and helpless in a world that was built to bring me down and it was truly awful. So, through this upset and disgust I started embroidering jumpers to make a statement, and here we are.”

It began with the report of a fake \$20 note and ended with the African American man, George Floyd's tragic and unnecessary death.

In May 2020, the 46-year-old died after being arrested by a police officer who forcibly knelt on Floyd's neck, pinning him to the ground during the arrest. Despite Floyd explicitly and repeatedly pleading to the officer to stop, telling him that he could not breathe, the officer continued to hold him down for a total of seven minutes and 46 seconds. Floyd had become unresponsive by the six-minute mark. He was already dead.

Due to the horrific nature of this event being captured on video and shared via social media, George Floyd's face and name are now known world-wide. With that, he became a catalyst for the reignition of a movement that the world regrettably needed and still needs to have to stand up against racial inequality: the Black Lives Matter movement (BLM).

Half a world away, in Ballarat, black woman, Indya Hayes (Class of 2017) was also deeply impacted by what had transpired that day, so much so that it became the driving

force for her to create awareness and make a statement on BLM, in the form of developing her own business.

“I am a Wotjobaluk (Aboriginal), Cherokee, as well as a mix of Polish, Celtic, African-American woman. My mum is Wotjobaluk, Polish and Celtic and my dad is African-American and Cherokee. Anyone that knows me knows that I've always been passionate about this topic, but I've never really known how to act on it because it's so controversial and I was afraid of backlash.”

The infamous death of George Floyd was the specific event that led to Indya starting her business.

“I was watching the news and watching the riots and I've never been so upset and distraught in my life. I felt useless and helpless in a world that was built to bring me down and it was truly awful. So, through this upset and disgust I started embroidering jumpers to make a statement, and here we are.”

Indya says her business, The Minority Co. is making statement embroidered products, including jumpers, tote bags and long sleeve tops to create awareness and a voice for the minority.

Being a part of this minority for Indya has been complex. It is a community that she strongly identifies with and is proud to be a part of but one that can sometimes be challenging due to intrinsic racism, whether it is overt or not.

"While I have absolutely always identified with my heritage, it's been very hard. I've never been ashamed of who I am, but because my nan was part of the stolen generation and my dad doesn't know a whole lot about the African and Cherokee side of his heritage, it has meant that I haven't really been able to connect with those parts of my history as much as I would like," Indya shared.

"We are still very involved in the Indigenous community but things like language and traditions of my tribe haven't been passed down because of the generational discord and because of what happened to the Aboriginal people when the Europeans and Captain Cook 'discovered' Australia.

And although I have never really had to experience overt racism too much to my face, it has still been tough."

Indya shared that people have said things to her in everyday life that they don't know are racist, but they are. For example; "You're black so you should be athletic," or "I want a tan as dark as you," or "Where are you from?"

People don't believe her when she says that she is from Ballarat or Australia. "People have also kept an eye on me in stores. I have felt judged for receiving school funding like I didn't deserve it and things like that," she says.

While there have been challenges, Indya says her priority now is to educate people and spark conversation through her products.

"Educating people is 100% my priority; that's the most important thing to me. It has always been my aim, to educate and create awareness about things that aren't often taught or spoken about unless it's a 'trend.' Like the death of George Floyd for instance. Now that it has died down you don't see as much in the media anymore but police brutality and black people dying is still happening, so I just want the conversations to continue."

With an impressive five and a half thousand Instagram followers (and growing), authentic celebrity endorsements like Bachelor alumni and proud Noongar/Yamatji woman, Brooke Blurton, she is clearly well and truly on the way to doing that.

But perhaps Indya's most incredible moment so far has been having one of her designs worn on the cover of GQ magazine this year by Senator Briggs, an Aboriginal rapper.

"He raps about real and raw issues surrounding Indigenous people and has worked with lots of other well-known artists. I contacted him through Instagram a few months ago about making a jumper for him and sent one off. Then a few months later he sent me the photo from the GQ photo shoot with him wearing it. When he sent me the cover I kinda just laughed! Because he's sitting there with \$900 trackies and \$28,000 watch and my \$70 jumper. I just could not believe that something like that would ever happen to me, but I'm unbelievably thankful for him and his support. I've never been so mind blown and shocked in my whole life! Honestly I still can't believe it."



The Minority Co. designs embroidered onto jumpers

As well as supporting businesses like Indya's, she says that a really simple way you can make a stand against racism is by speaking up if you witness it, and through education.

"Pull people up when they're being racist, whether it's your friend, family member, partner, a stranger, do it. It's the least we can do to help the minority have equal rights and a voice in this world. Educate yourself before speaking on a topic you may not know much about. I think that's the least we can all do. Supporting black owned businesses and giving us a platform is huge as well just because it's something that needs to be encouraged in a society where we are seen negatively."

Along with creating awareness and education for BLM through her bold stand and business, The Minority Co. Indya has also committed a portion of her profits to organisations and groups that support this movement. Indya has pledged to donate 10% of all profits towards Indigenous education through the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation (AIEF) and the Indigenous Literacy Foundation (ILF).



Adam 'Senator' Briggs wearing The Minority Co. design in GQ magazine



The Minority Co. Key Chain



Aboriginal Strength Sticker



Bottom: Indya Hayes wearing one of her designs

You can find more information on Minority Co via their website and follow them on social media:

Instagram: @theminorityco_
Facebook: theminoritycoclothing
Website: theminorityco.com

Crossing Paths

Words by Marea Breisch, Charlotte Brierley & Jayde Harrington

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Marea and I have a special bond. Bound by our Loreto ties, and quite often we would go off topic and continue to talk about our days at Loreto."

Often the Loreto spirit is exemplified throughout the day to day actions of our students and staff, but this spirit continues beyond the gates of Loreto and flows into the lives of our alumni.

Two past pupils, Charlotte Brierley (Class of 2011) and Marea Breisch nee McMahon (Class of 1971), share a remarkable relationship and commitment to each other, one which showcases the strength of the Loreto spirit in bringing us together.

Charlotte and Marea met around two years ago after Marea became a client of Charlotte's at Vision Australia. Today, they have a strong friendship bound by a unique bond formed through a shared love of Loreto, similar values and mutual respect.

Charlotte shared, *"Marea and I have a special bond. Bound by our Loreto ties, and quite often we would go off topic and continue to talk about our days at Loreto. Marea has fond memories of Loreto and together we share those beautiful moments we both experienced at Loreto."*

Charlotte holds her time at Loreto as some of her fondest memories growing up. To this day, she remembers the feeling of receiving her acceptance letter. Beginning as a Year 7 at Dawson Street, Charlotte also farewelled this campus along with the school community within the same year. In her senior years, Charlotte helped establish the Loreto Pilgrimage which visited England, France and other Loreto schools in Ireland with the help of Bridget Brady (Class

of 2011). Finally, in her senior year Charlotte had the honour of representing her class as a 2011 Senate member.

"I developed a strong sense of self, desire to push myself beyond what I thought was possible and continue to seek out and help those that have less than they deserve."

Meanwhile, Marea reflects on her time at Mary's Mount as a border affectionately. Marea and her sister Julie arrived at Loreto in 1968 from a farm in Ouyen. Kerry, Marea's other sister joined them in 1970 where they all eventually shared a room together. This was an incredibly special time for them. Art, Australian History, English, English Literature and French were Marea's favourite subjects along with playing netball.

Marea shared, *"I was a very friendly and chatty person and was always being told by my sister to go and get some studying done!"*

Whilst having made life-long friends at Mary's Mount, one of her most cherished moments was being chosen as one of 14 Prefects for the Class of 1971.

Since leaving Loreto, both Charlotte and Marea have travelled different paths in life. Charlotte went on to experience a gap year where she reconnected with the Loreto girls she met in Ireland. On her return, Charlotte completed a Certificate IV in Disability whilst completing an internship that led to her employment as a Co-ordinator at a local disability organisation. Following



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I remember the day that Marea noticed my Loreto ring, and acknowledged that she had also attended Loreto."

this, Charlotte volunteered in Nepal before completing a Bachelor of Social Work at Federation University. Today, Charlotte is a Case Manager in Geelong within the disability and mental health sector, managing a team with a case load of 90 participants.

Upon graduating in 1971, Marea received a scholarship to train as an art teacher. Marea attended the School of Mines in Ballarat between 1972-1973 followed by the Melbourne College University between 1974-1975 where she graduated with a Higher Diploma of Teaching/Secondary Art and Craft. In 1976 she married Rolf Breisch and travelled overseas before the birth of her first child Miranda, in 1979 followed by Richard in 1980. In 1985 Marea went back to school, obtaining her Bachelor of Education from the Melbourne College of Advanced Education, continuing to teach a range of subjects including painting, art, ceramics and history.

However, in 1995 Marea suffered a horrific accident which brought an end to her teaching and changed her life forever.

After falling from the top of a staircase onto the concrete below, Marea had severe bleeding on the brain and was flown to the Royal Melbourne Hospital. Thinking her mother wouldn't survive, Marea's daughter Miranda flew back from Japan to be by her side. Marea had suffered a severe brain injury as well as the loss of vision in her right eye.

Marea's recovery was long. She had to relearn everything she once knew including learning to speak, eat and remember words all over again. Marea used her art skills to help express her thoughts and feelings to those around her. Following ten years of speech therapy, Marea has received assistance in her home, ongoing therapy and living aids.

It was ultimately through this unfortunate event that Marea and Charlotte crossed paths. Charlotte became Marea's Care Co-ordinator at Marea's beautiful beach home on the Surf Coast whilst working with Vision Australia.

Charlotte recounted how Marea discovered she had attended Loreto. *"I remember the day that Marea noticed my Loreto ring and acknowledged that she had also attended Loreto. She then went to her wardrobe and showed me her old Loreto uniform she cherishes. If it weren't for the ring, I don't think Marea and I would have ever known the connection we had."*

Maria shared, *"Our connection was instant, mainly due to Charlotte's manner and personality. We have a professional relationship, but also a light-hearted, friendly one that has room for laughter and a bit of banter... learning she was from Loreto gave us common ground and cemented my appreciation for her."*

With this strong bond, they both continue to champion each other to this day. To Marea, Charlotte encourages her to not only

live her best life but to also be confident in herself.

"She (Charlotte) has taught me to stay positive and not doubt my abilities. This support gives me the opportunity to live a fuller and richer life," shared Marea.

In contrast, Marea continually shows Charlotte how as humans, we can prevail over hardship, always inspiring those around her by adapting and thriving. Now Marea lives as independently as possible and has returned to her love of art. Finding her passion for art and photography once again, she has hosted art exhibitions and won several awards.

Charlotte recently organised a personal tour of the Loreto grounds for Marea, knowing how special Marea's memories of her time at Loreto are. This was an incredibly special day for Marea, being able to reminisce about her time at Loreto while immersing herself on site at the College.

"This was a really special day as it gave me a chance to re-visit my old stamping ground and reminisce about the past. It was also a great opportunity to see all the changes that have taken place since I left and how the place has grown and evolved."

Despite Charlotte recently changing jobs, their friendship remains stronger than ever, which is something Marea particularly admires. Charlotte and her mother also gifted Marea a Loreto ring, the same kind Marea recognised when they first met. Marea continues to wear this ring with pride, shining a light on not only their mutual ties to Loreto but a symbol of their uplifting friendship. Seeing two Loreto Women form such an unexpected yet inspiring and committed bond signifies how our time at Loreto can continue to influence our lives well beyond graduation in ways we do not always expect.



The Band Aid Effect

Words by Miriam Litwin

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I feel everything has moved too quickly, like I am a rubber band, being flung from one mentally draining problem to the next."

This year has been uncomfortable. I have been blind sided more times than I can calculate. I feel everything has moved too quickly, like I am a rubber band, being flung from one mentally draining problem to the next. If you told me back in March I would still be trapped in my childhood home writing this article in mid-September, I might have given up. But if this year has taught me anything, it's that we can endure more than we think possible.

Starting university in February, I was not without my internal battles. I was largely dissatisfied with the relationships I had with my family; my mother was unwell, and I was coming to terms with healing after years of serious body image issues. I felt bored and feared I was not reaching my full potential. Moving to St Mary's College at the University of Melbourne I saw as the only solution. For four thrilling weeks I experienced college life: there was not a waking second, I was alone. The opportunities to socialise, be involved in sports and widen my horizons were abundant, and I will be eternally grateful for that whirlwind month. I vividly remember sitting on the fourth floor of the Law building on my first day of classes. The sun was hitting my face as I looked over University Square, procrastinating from beginning my very first assignment. In that moment, the joy was exuding from me. This was my new life, my new home.

The reality was, behind the parties, alcohol and intense socialisation, this lifestyle was unsustainable. I was sleeping some

nights for only three hours, having gone out clubbing the previous evening and forcing myself to wake up at 6am to hit the gym before a day of university. For me, College had become a band aid, as my dissatisfaction with myself grew louder and louder in the mere seconds I was alone. Instead of facing my problems, I was covering them up. It was not healthy, and I have no doubt if the year continued as planned, I would not have lasted in this way. Global pandemic or not, change was needed.

That change came far quicker than I expected when at the end of March, I was given 24 hours to decide if I wanted to enter lock down at College or at home. I had been talking to a guy I met in January, who lived five minutes from my family home quite intensely, and I thought we were close to entering a relationship. So as ridiculous as it sounds looking back, I moved home, partly to be close to my family and Loreto friends, but also to give the relationship the best chance possible. Packing my life into suitcases for the second time in only a month was devastating. The future I had planned was crumbling around me.

The adjustment to home life and being an only child once again was challenging to say the least. Everyone else I knew seemed relatively fine in lock down, occupied by siblings, university or part time essential work. However, I experienced an intense loneliness that was utterly new. I clung onto my friends and the guy, relying on their messages to give me purpose. Once again,

“

It was not until a misty August day, as a rainbow circled above me that I saw with clarity, I had no band aids left. All I had was me, and at last I could move forward with no distractions.”

I was using people as a band aid, hoping everyone else could distract me from my fear of being alone.

Periodically, that band aid was ripped away. First, it was when one of my closest friends stopped talking to me, for a reason I unfortunately still do not know. The most significant pain of all came, however, when the guy abandoned me as we entered Stage 3 lock down for the second time. Living only minutes from my house, he had been my strength in the previous lock down. We had been on socially distanced walks regularly and unpacked our days to each other. Hardly a day went by in 6 months when we did not talk. His departure caught me off guard, and writing this now, the sense of grief I feel for what could have been is intense and painful.

For Year 12 student Madeleine Watkins, there is also a strong sense of loss for what 2020 might have been. Studying in her final year at Loreto, she looked forward to social events which are critical for balancing the workload of VCE. Significantly, Madi found talking to friends online did not provide the same joy and comfort as face to face interaction. At some points, she feared endless repetition, as her life amounted to studying, watching Netflix and sleeping, a

vast contrast to the jam-packed Year 12 I was privileged to experience in 2019.

However, Madi did acknowledge her personal development was accelerated due to these challenges. She reflected that with the lack of distractions, she finally had time for herself. She too found the band aids of social activities and parties falling away. Madi says this time of contemplation has provided her with critical insight into her interests and what she may want to pursue at university. The pandemic has revealed many problems in our society which she now has a strong desire to change in the future.

Reflecting, I too, now see the growth the abandonment I have experienced this year has provided me. In 2020 I lost College, my idealised university experience, a close friend and a guy I had visualised sharing my future with. These were my band aids. It was not until a misty August day, as a rainbow circled above me that I saw with clarity, I had no band aids left. All I had was me, and at last I could move forward with no distractions. For the first time in my life, my wounds were there, gaping open, larger than they'd ever been before. It was time to heal them. There is something painfully beautiful in that challenge.

The rainbow that inspired the piece





Miriam after months of lock down



The first (and only) formal dinner at St Mary's College (Miriam on the far left)



Madi (second from the left) and her friends taking socially distanced photos

Commitment to Compassion

Words by Lynne Reeder, Mary Hollick & Judy-Ann Quilliam



We know that our motivations set up our thoughts, actions and feelings in different ways; so, a motivation of compassion will get you thinking, feeling and acting in a very different way to a motivation of revenge."

How do two semi-retired Loreto alumni 'fall upwards' in recognition of the fortunate circumstances that have brought them to where they are today? They commit to a global movement of compassion and lead a local and national charge to change all our lives for the better.... now that's the Loreto spirit!

Dr Lynne Reeder (Class of 1971) and Dr Mary Hollick (Class of 1971) share fond memories of their Loreto education and the formative influence it has had on their lives. Throughout their careers they have shared similar values, work ethic and successful academic careers and an immense desire to help others.

Lynne and Mary feel privileged to have come from a generation endowed with a good education and continue to give back. It was these shared values that first brought them together and led to them to initiate Compassionate Ballarat as part of the Australian Global Charter for Compassion.

The Charter for Compassion first started in 2008 based on the Golden Rule of "Do unto others as you would have done unto you." An inspirational woman by the name of Karen Armstrong won the global best TED Talk in 2006 with her vision 'for a more compassionate world'. As a result, the Charter for Compassion became a global movement designed to restore not only compassionate thinking, but more importantly, compassionate action, to the centre of our lives.

In 2014, Karen Armstrong was speaking at a Science of Compassion Conference held at

Stanford University in the USA, attended by Lynne Reeder. Lynne was so inspired by the conference that on her return to Australia she worked with a small group of people to establish and promote greater awareness of the Charter for Compassion in Australia.

In 2015, Mary and Lynne were both working as Adjunct Research Fellows at Federation University, where they first connected through their mutual interest in linking academic research to industry output.

Lynne shared, "we know that our motivations set up our thoughts, actions and feelings in different ways; so, a motivation of compassion will get you thinking, feeling and acting in a very different way to a motivation of revenge. We're capable of doing both, but research is showing that an act of compassion is far better for your wellbeing and for those around you."

Mary saw parallels with her lecturing and research in business ethics. "As the body of knowledge has expanded, our knowledge and understanding has become more atomistic, things have really separated out. I thought the framework of compassion provided a way to create better leaders for our business community; business can be such a powerful force for good. But without linking the impact of business and focussing on the elements of how business can be a force for good, we were not going to have those businesses leaders we needed for the future."

Three years later, Lynne and Mary worked together in the timely establishment





Dr Lynne Reeder (Class of 1971)

of Compassionate Ballarat, a volunteer organisation overseen by a Steering group auspiced by Ballarat Health Services (BHS).

In the beginning they held a number of forums to determine the 'hurting' points in our city, supported by Federation University Australia, BHS and Loreto College. Compassion does not have a linear measure, it is beyond wellbeing and relates to suffering, and therefore, identifying the hurting points was critical to the introduction and any measure of success.

Some of the suffering uncovered in our City included high levels of inequality, homelessness for older women, poor literacy levels, high suicide rate, ill mental health and the cascading impacts of institutional child abuse. The forums aimed to gently bring these hurting points out in the open and explore courageous and compassionate responses.

For example, Mary shared, "rather than seeing a homeless person, sleeping in a door-way, as an embarrassment, that before we judge we might ask, what has happened to you? And what has this done to you? Imagine a shift like that across the city and how transformational that could be if more of us had our hearts and eyes wide open.

We could be a safer city, more open to diversity with enhanced wellbeing."

Compassionate Ballarat was also linked into the creation of the Ballarat - Be Kind campaign. Lynne shared that, "in situations where society can go one way or the other (like our current pandemic), criminal behaviour and danger thrives in chaos, so appealing to the innate kindness of people is creating a much safer city, it is in the vested interest of city leaders to move this way. "

The gift of Compassionate Ballarat is that it provides the framework within which compassion can be applied in health, education, policy and business settings to name a few. The group accesses global resources and can take part in global initiatives and share the work from Ballarat to inspire other cities around the world.

In her role as the National Lead with the Australian Compassion Council, Lynne's higher intention is to 'deep dream Australia a continent for compassion'. The role of the Charter is to facilitate and bring the links together to support cities and CEOs to bring the motivation of compassion into the work they are doing in meaningful way, to really start to shift how people connect with each other.

As for their lasting Loreto connection, Mary said she struggled for almost 10 years after leaving Loreto because she couldn't grasp that the world wasn't run by competent and capable women. "An impressive percentage of my class went into the law, right through to the Bar, and others did extraordinary things like opening the first women's refuge in Melbourne. That was expected of us because we had a privileged education, we were given the tools and we were told we had to make good on that."

Lynne and Mary agree the nuns were great role models, managing large institutions, hospitals, schools and universities and you



Dr Mary Hollick (Class of 1971)

really did get a sense that women we are able to do anything. Mary fondly recited Mary McKillip's quote, "Don't see a need without doing something about it," and recalled Sr Denise Demarchelier, Principal at the time, saying to her, when she was expressing dissatisfaction with an issue, "Go and write to them!" Be it a CEO, Prime Minister or a Minister, it was understood they were just people trying to do a job who would value your feedback.

Lynne and Mary's message to the Loreto community is, "If you want to find your true self, particularly in times such as those we are experiencing now, when we can all feel lost, go and help someone else – that is the simplest advice that came to us from our education. "

There is no doubt these two women share a formidable Loreto bond. They are living proof of Mary Ward's vision, that "a woman can do all things."

For more information:

<https://www.compassionateballarat.com.au>
or <https://charterforcompassion.com.au>



50th Reunion for the Class of 1970

Words by Carolyn Re

2020 hasn't turned out quite as we expected.

The class of 1970 received a reminder in mid-2019 from Leonie Clarebrough, the dedicated guardian of our class reunions over the years, that May 2020 was to be the big one — our 50th reunion. Many of us made plans to ensure we could find our way back to Ballarat to renew old friendships during a special weekend of celebration.

But the COVID-19 pandemic had other ideas, and so, in March, the reunion was postponed until — who knows when? Down but not out, the Loreto spirit prevailed and we came up with an alternative idea — to compile an electronic reunion book about our lives over the past 50 years. Questionnaires were sent out to as many of the class as we could find, asking about the paths our lives had taken since leaving school, remembered stories from those days, and requesting photographic memorabilia — class photos, sports days, Loreto Days, socials with the St Pat's boys and any other fun times.

As Jane Hamilton (Byrne) noted in her reflection *"As time passes, family and the past, seem to loom larger in your life so having the opportunity to celebrate fifty years since leaving Loreto (and as it turns out, in the time of COVID-19) has encouraged me to reflect and write about those days"*.

A few weeks later, the final 'book' was compiled. It opened with photos of the school and gardens — which were downloaded from the Loreto website — followed by class photos from 1957 though to 1970 courtesy of Jane Hamilton (Byrne) and Amanda Kowalski (Shea) who sent in a wonderful selection. It was fascinating to see the transition from tiny tots through to gawky teenagers and finally to the maturity of HSC women.

Then followed stories and current photographs from those who responded. The reunion book took on extra poignancy here, when tales of camaraderie sat beside memories of homesickness. One of our class mates, Jude Dillon eloquently recounted being dropped off at Mary's Mount to board for the first time:

"Standing inside the front door there's just the dark silhouette, the two of them walking out and away from the front door. It was a large sturdy heavy wooden door that easily glided open and glided shut, with a click. It was a 'characterful' door, stained glass in the top half of it and/or either side of it. As the two of them walk away there's the dull realisation that you are staying ..."

It's not surprising that strong friendships were forged under these circumstances, especially between boarders who depended on each other so much. Perhaps we day scholars, returning home to our

parents every afternoon, didn't ever grasp the depth of homesickness some of the boarders felt.

For Sharron Jury (Iles), her most vivid memories of school were the first years. *"I'd read books about boarding school and knew all about midnight feasts, sliding down banisters and general mayhem. So, feasts in the attic, riding suitcases down the stairs to the Pink dormitory and shortsheets were great fun"*.

There were chuckle-worthy tales out of school of the nun who was trapped when her swinging chair swung back too far; of a wardrobe malfunction that befell one of us during a concert, while she was dressed in a toga as a Roman senator; of seances in Rue Celeste with burning candles; of sports outings and singing in the beautiful chapel.

"We all know those times. Everyone knows those times. You fall apart. Sore stomach. Crunched over. Someone's roaring with laughter," Jude Dillon.

Sister Presentation was mentioned fondly more than once, both for her warm smiles and the possibility that she might be harbouring a spare cake or biscuit on a tray in the front parlour.

Jude Dillon captured Sister Presentation eloquently in her reflection *"What comes back to me is Sister Presentation, yes an*

“

One unexpected advantage of having to postpone our face-to-face reunion is that now we've shared some of our stories, the meeting, when it finally happens, will be all the sweeter. Knowing more about each other means we can pick up as though there hasn't been a fifty-year gap.”

amazing name. She had a very natural, unaffected kindness and dignity”.

Several reminiscences mentioned Loreto Bread, so it seemed appropriate to include the recipe for that delicacy in our reunion book. The Holiday Hymn was another favourite mentioned more than once, so a copy of the sheet music and a Facebook link to one of our sister-school students singing it on the last day of their term was also included. Who could forget singing the Holiday Hymn each term breakup as Mother Reparata or Sister Vianney played the organ louder and louder in the final stanza?

A selection of photographs of us all at play rounded out the book, from sports days through to school socials with the St Pat's boys. So many memories to be reawakened.

“The Nuns would give us hot cocoa on a freezing Ballarat day!” Pam Glenane (Canny)

“The day girls would bake cakes ... my chocolate cake had luscious chocolate icing .. my popularity with the boarders soon faded however when it was discovered that I mistakenly used bicarb soda instead of icing sugar,” Jane Hamilton (Byrne)

“I remember the stone wall that surrounded the school, the gravel driveway, the cold but beautiful chapel, the sound of singing, the footsteps along the polished floor boards that straddled the old library, the honour boards, the glass cabinets filled with stuffed animals, relics from the past and old photos,” Jane Hamilton (Byrne)

Our lives have been rich and full, with enduring partnerships, children and grandchildren, satisfying careers, travel and experiences our parents could only

have dreamt about. There were trials and heartache for some, and we sadly farewelled and paid tribute to our friend, Kate Duggan (Rutherford) who passed away much too soon in 2002.

One unexpected advantage of having to postpone our face-to-face reunion is that now we've shared some of our stories, the meeting, when it finally happens, will be all the sweeter. Knowing more about each other means we can pick up as though there hasn't been a fifty-year gap. I'm so looking forward to hearing about the ins and outs of managing a Swiss Chalet, of gaining tips on the Japanese art of flower arranging, of learning about archaeological digs and so much more from the stories included.

Our formative years have had a powerful influence on us. So many have forged careers in the caring professions, as teachers, in the health sector, or in businesses that assist others. I'd like to think the Loreto nuns who taught us all those years ago would be quietly pleased with the results of their hard work.

Carolyn Re is a Past Pupil (Class of 1970)

Footnote 1:

Anyone from the Class of '70 who would still like to be included in the book can contact me on: care@bigpond.net.au. The beauty of an electronic book is the ease of updating.

Footnote 2:

A member of St Pat's School 50th reunion organising committee saw our electronic reunion book and as a result, St. Pat's are now compiling their own book along the same lines, sharing some of our photographs from the school socials.

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Rituals Awakening
Appreciation for Earth
our Common Home

Sparks of the Universe

Jennifer Callanan

Sparking Commitment for the Universe

Words by Jennifer Callanan

I grew up in Colac, Western Victoria, with the Great Ocean Road Beaches as my holiday playground. In the summer I spent time exploring marine life in rock pools, swimming freely, oblivious to UV rays and generally connected to the natural world. We didn't have words for our experiences; however, in hindsight we were one with nature. We were engaged with our common home.

I went to Loreto, Mary's Mount as a boarder in 1967 entering Intermediate, as it was called then, and leaving at the conclusion of HSC in 1969. I recall in this first experience of being away from home, making friends with girls from all over Victoria, having my horizons broadened and to some degree being independent yet held by the parameters of boarding school life. Much fun and connection in between.

In 1971 I began primary teacher training at Christ College, Chadstone. This was the beginning of an amazing career in Catholic Education spanning over 40 years, both in Melbourne and Adelaide, as classroom teacher, leader, consultant and group facilitator. In the mid 1980's I taught at St Peter and Paul's Primary school in South Melbourne, with Myrene Erdman IBVM and Hilary Blackie IBVM. It was here I came to appreciate further the impacts of family, society, and cultural norms on the learning, behaviour and inner capacity of young people as they develop. This insight strengthened my commitment to get to know the changing world of students, their culture, their lives, their interests, their concerns and lived experiences as key ingredients informing my teaching.

In 2015 when Pope Francis wrote the encyclical, 'Laudato Si', 'On Care for our Common Home,' he called us all to awaken to our relationship with mother earth in these critical times, urging people of good will to engage with our common home and recognising our unity with and moral and spiritual responsibility towards our shared environment. I could see echoes here of one of my favourite sayings of Sir David Attenborough, "No one will protect what they don't care about; and no one will care about what they have never experienced."

The term, by Pope Francis, 'engaging with our common home' together with the intent of Laudato Si' acknowledging an ever-present, pervasive God got me thinking. What are the implications of Laudato Si', for prayer and ritual for young people in schools?

Following the publication of Laudato Si', my friend and colleague Margie Abbott RSM, began presenting workshops to teachers around Australia entitled, 'Ecological Conversion, as described in Laudato Si' and the implications for Celebrating Prayer and Ritual in Schools.' We were both conscious that something different was emerging. A new awakening, a new awareness of an 'ever present pervasive God,' and a call to awaken to our oneness with mother earth. It was from this experience and our collegial conversations, that my book, 'Sparks of the Universe. Rituals Awakening Appreciation for Earth our Common Home,' orientated to young people and adolescence, and Margie's book, 'Cosmic Sparks. Igniting a Re-Enchantment with the Sacred,' orientated to adults and spiritual seekers, were born. Companion ritual resource books inspired

by Laudato Si'. I continue to offer reflection days and workshops.

The rituals in Sparks of the Universe, invite stillness, reflection, participation and engagement with the environment, echoed in Laudato Si' and uses language and ideas that are accessible for young people. Each of the rituals can be adapted to suit the particular setting and can be used as models for further ritual creation.

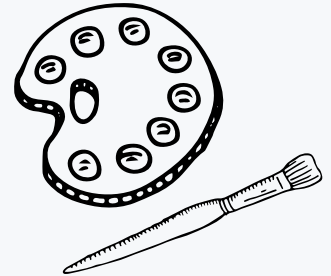
I was delighted recently when Michael, a secondary science teacher, shared his surprise of the inclusion of the science behind our seasonal changes in one of the rituals, Noticing Spring. He subsequently used the ritual with his science class at the conclusion of a unit of work when students presented their projects on the earth's tilt causing the seasons. He told me the students could immediately relate when participating. Connections were made.

My dream would be to have a copy of 'Sparks of the Universe' in every classroom, primary and secondary, as a resource for teachers and students, a beginning point, a template for prayer and ritual inviting all to engage with earth our common home and to connect with many areas of the curriculum. Both books are available from coventrypress.com and internationally from local online booksellers.

Interview with Jennifer Callanan, author of 'Sparks of the Universe. Rituals Awakening Appreciation for Earth our Common Home'

View on Youtube: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cGAfZr6hzBs>

Our Loreto Experts



A Little bit about...

Esta Bourke-Finn (Art Teacher & Loreto Girl)

Q: How long have you been working at Loreto?

A: This is my second year working at Loreto. I was also a student here and graduated in 2010.

Q: What is your role and what does it involve?

A: I am an Art Teacher and a Mentor Teacher. In the Arts Faculty we are always looking for ways for students to be creative and to show off their artistic skills, as a Mentor Teacher I am always trying to look out for the wellbeing of my group.

Q: Tell me something about your job role that others might not know.

A: Art teachers rarely stop, we are always cleaning, setting up materials, thinking of new ideas and displaying student work and we love every moment of it. We have a lot of fun in the art rooms.

Q: What has been your favourite memory or highlight of working at Loreto so far?

A: Every day has been great so far, we have an amazing network of colleagues, students, and families. Seeing my student's ideas and artworks come to life at the end of each year is always amazing, sharing lunches and beautifully baked goods with the other art staff is up there too.

Q: What has been the funniest?

A: When Mrs Davison and I pretended to be each other and swapped classrooms, I think we were the only ones laughing...

Q: Describe yourself in five words.

A: Clumsy, kind, considerate, creative, patient

Q: Tell me something interesting about yourself that people may not know? (a place you have visited, something you have done, about your family, or somewhere you have lived)

A: I was a student at Loreto from 2005-2010. My Mum is also an art teacher at Loreto and has always inspired me with her fabulous ideas and her teaching style. My sister is a primary school teacher and

my dad was also a teacher. They have all taught me so much.

When I finished up as a student at Loreto, I travelled to Rome to be an Au Pair and then made my way around Europe. I then returned to Australia to begin my Bachelor of Fine Arts and then completed my Masters in Secondary Education.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: Outside of work I love to work in the garden, go for walks with friends, cook, watch live music (pre-Covid-19) and be creative. I usually like to work with clay but have been painting and drawing a lot lately.





A little bit about...

Vicki Moroney (Canteen)

Q: How long have you been working at Loreto?

A: I started as a volunteer at the Dawson Street Canteen in 2003 and have been involved firstly as a volunteer and then as an employee at Loreto since then.

Q: What is your role and what does it involve?

A: I work in the canteen three days per week and have a strong interest in the cooking side of the canteen menu. I also have a desire to keep improving the menu, so we provide a wide variety of healthy food for staff and students.

Q: Tell me something about your job role that others might not know.

A: The pastoral side of my role is very important to me. I endeavour to be mindful of staff, canteen volunteers and students who may need that little bit of extra care at certain times.

Q: Describe yourself in five words.

A: Active, organised, compassionate, caring and tidy.

Q: Tell me something interesting about yourself that people may not know? (a place you have visited, something you have done, about your family, or somewhere you have lived)

A: I was a law clerk for 11 years prior to having children and I have also worked part-time at a rose farm.

Q: What do you enjoy doing outside of work?

A: Outside of work I enjoy going to the gym, walking, cooking, gardening, sewing, knitting and having meals and coffee with family and friends. I also enjoy our beach holidays and of course those special times spent with my six grandchildren (preferably not all at once).

Q: What has been your favourite memory or highlight of working at Loreto so far?

A: I have many happy memories of Loreto but the highlight, every year, is the Year 12 Graduation Mass at St Patrick's Cathedral.

Q: What has been the funniest?

A: The funniest memory I have is the day I set not one, but two wooden spoons on fire, both within a few minutes. The fact that one of the safety officers was in the canteen at the time having an in-depth conversation with one of our volunteers and did not see it, never ceases to amaze me. The canteen manager could do nothing but stand and laugh at me as I ran to the sink to put it in water to put the flames out. This is still a source of laughter when we occasionally think back on funny things that do happen from time to time. She says it was like the Olympic Torch run. I should add that we did put a procedure in place so that I do not burn any more wooden spoons and there was no-one in danger at any time.



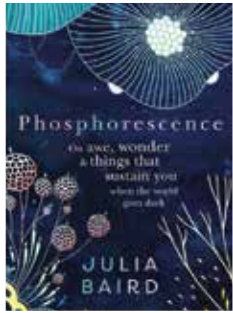
Book Talk

with Marcia Phillips

Phosphorescence:

Julia Baird

In *Phosphorescence* she writes of 'awe, wonder and things that sustain you when



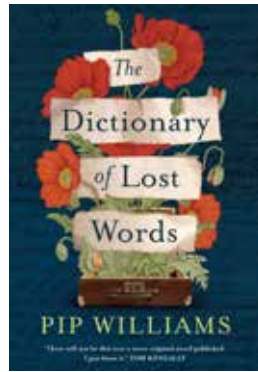
the world goes dark'. In a world that has grown darker during the pandemic, Julia's book is a beacon of light in the darkness.

For Julia, the dark is a more personal story. As a young mother struck down with a deadly cancer she faced a gruelling recovery. The odds were not in her favour but she endured and survived. However, this is not simply a personal story about recovering from a serious disease. It is a scholarly and highly readable account of what she has learnt about living a positive and fulfilling life, seeking the joy and awe. Julia explores topics such as the role of women in our society and others, the struggle of the marginalised, fighting the good fight, ageism, resilience, how one person can make a difference in the world and much more.

The Dictionary of Lost Words:

Pip Williams

Adelaide author Pip Williams offers us an insight into late Victorian Oxford society



and the compilation of the Oxford Dictionary, a task that took over seventy years. This is very much a novel about women,

not only their vital role in compiling the Dictionary but also their roles in society at the time. Against a backdrop of the Suffragette Movement and later the First World War, language is at the heart of this novel which seeks to highlight the role women played in not just the dictionary but life in general and how their contributions were often overlooked and down played.

Esme's story and that of the other women; are woven beautifully into the narrative and bring the diversity of the patriarchal society into view.

The Loudness of Unsaid Things:

Hilde Hinton

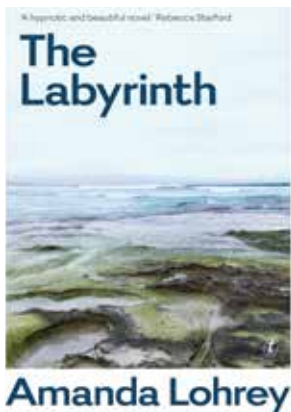
Hilde Hinton's debut novel offers a view of the world that is both familiar and



unfamiliar. Her exploration of trauma, loss, loneliness and mental illness is an emotional and often gut wrenching experience for the reader,

interspersed with humour and exuberance. We meet the central character Susie as a seven-year old living in Hepburn Springs in the eighties and overwhelmed with the fear of kidnapping by notorious criminals. But life becomes more complicated with a move to Melbourne and her mother's mental illness requiring stays at the 'mind hospital' with the eventual disintegration of the marriage. We follow Susie as she negotiates the world of the outsider, never quite belonging but finding friendship and purpose until all goes terribly wrong in Sydney where she has relocated.

The Labyrinth: Amanda Lohrey



In the finely crafted novel, *The Labyrinth*, we meet recently retired Erica Marsden.

As Erica's story unfolds we learn of her motherless and unusual childhood. Erica is the daughter of a psychiatrist in charge of a large asylum where the small family reside. It is in the asylum grounds that Erica first encounters a labyrinth. Many years later as she settles into a solitary life in a secluded beach hamlet, she sets about creating a labyrinth of her own design in the sand dunes next to her house.

Erica's obsession with the labyrinth, her struggle to formulate the design and the complexities of its construction, are intricately tied to her feelings of abandonment by her mother all those

years ago. In finally completing her labyrinth, Erica is able to find a semblance of peace and solace and gradually relaxes into the small community of neighbours.

Although she never quite relinquishes her defenses, she finds companionship in their company.



Facts from the Archives

with Robin Scott, Loreto Province Archivist



Mother Gonzaga's birth name was 'Mary', but her family called her 'Mamie'.

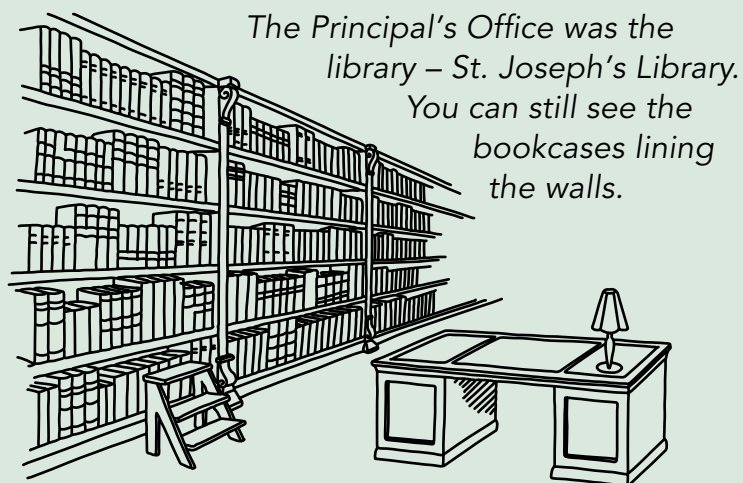
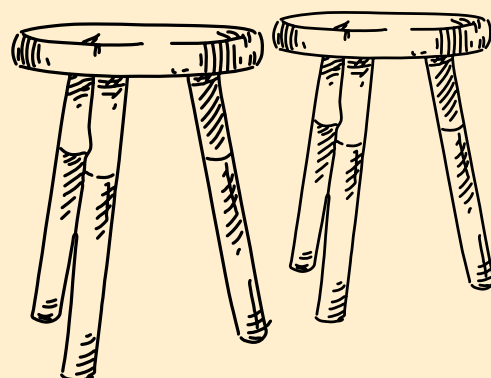
Boarders were taught to eat everything with cutlery – even oranges.



A bat got into the dormitory once, causing great panic.

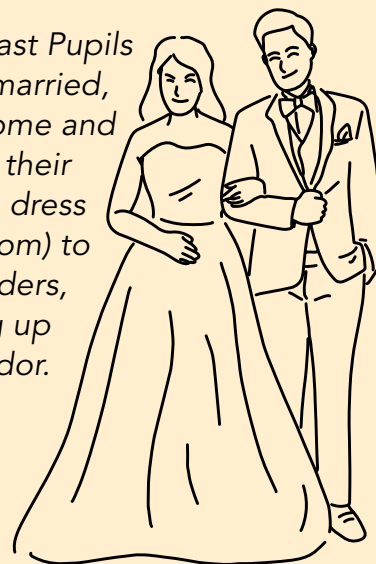


The Loreto Sisters were very poor when they came to Ballarat and had a carpenter make some wooden stools to sit on which they had to move from room to room.



The Principal's Office was the library – St. Joseph's Library. You can still see the bookcases lining the walls.

Loreto Past Pupils getting married, would come and show off their wedding dress (and groom) to the boarders, parading up the corridor.



insert

8-10 October 2021 in your diary!

inspire | 2021 LORETO
FEDERATION

Don't miss the 2021 Loreto Federation 'Inspire' to be held at Loreto College Marryatville, South Australia.

We invite past Loreto alumni, family and friends from all around Australia to come together to be inspired by a diverse range of influential speakers who will share their unique perspectives on the theme 'Inspire.'

For more information contact:
Simone Anderson
loretofederation2021@gmail.com

 LORETO COLLEGE
Marryatville, South Australia

 LOSA
Loreto South Australia

God's Grandeur

Words by Anne Muirhead



Andy, Dennis and Adam - Loreto College Ballarat grounds people

"The world is charged with the grandeur of God." - Gerard Manly Hopkins

It was of little surprise to me that in the early stages of COVID-19 lockdown, Bunnings, garden supply and flower shops did a roaring trade. In the midst of suffering, uncertainty and grief, the human desire to seek consolation in the natural world and things of beauty is profound. As we welcomed Spring, in our inner and outer worlds, and embraced the church's Season of Creation (1 September - 4 October), we were invited anew to marvel at the beauty and promise of our school gardens and grounds.

Places form us. We are intimately connected to certain places; they shape and nourish us. That Gonzaga Barry should name her annual

magazine 'Eucalyptus Blossoms', when other Irish religious sisters were clinging to symbols of acorns and flourishing oak trees, attests to her connection with her new land with its distinct shades, textures, forms and light. The early gardens at Loreto Mary's Mount were varied, including a rockery, greenhouse, arbours, grottos, vegetable gardens, flower beds shaped in a heart and the letter M and 'a soft green croquet lawn, bordered by beds of bright flowers'. Some plots were tended by different student groups, or sodalities, and Gonzaga Barry used various flowers and plants as metaphors for the goal of education, the virtuous life and Christian values. Students describe enjoying studying in the shade of trees; 'out in the quiet garden and lawn, when there seemed something of God and heaven in the balmy air' (EB Dec 1887).

While the gardens in our schools are places of profound beauty, they also shape our perception of what is important in life and of value to our community. Our grounds people exhibit a profound sense of hospitality as they shape and hone welcoming spaces of light, colour and elegance. Our school gardens are homes to symbols of our First Nations people, Judeo-Christian and Loreto traditions. This is particularly the case at Loreto Ballarat where a Rosary Walk, Indigenous Garden, Garden of Remembrance, the statue of Mary Ward and an early convent bell take pride of place amidst glorious flower beds, with one such bed even spelling out the name of our school in bright and bold tones. Loreto gardens offer respite to the stressed, connecting pathways between classes, meetings and appointments,



shade for prayer and reflection and space to remember those who have gone before us. Our school grounds remind us that our Loreto community and network comprise all living things: worm farms, homes for birds, insects and other small creatures, veggie patches and herb gardens and sculptural art forms. Our gardens are a witness to God's loving creativity, God's grandeur, and the diversity and interdependence of all creation. Pope Francis reminds us in Laudato Si that all is gift and we are humble stewards of this abundance:

Once we start to think about the kind of world we are leaving to future generations, we look at things differently; we realize that the world is a gift which we have freely received and must share with others... the world we have received also belongs to those who will follow us.

- Laudato Si

May our gardens inspire gratitude, encourage sustainability and direct our hearts to our loving Creator. Let us give thanks for the tremendous skill,

commitment and creativity of our grounds people as they tend and transform simple spaces into places for play and imagination, learning and encounter, repose and renewal. As we conclude our Year of Verity let us remember that:

Beauty is truth, truth beauty, that is all ye need to know on earth and all ye need to know.

- John Keats

Anne Muirhead
Director of Mission, Loreto Ministries



The Loreto College front gardens

Loreto Chapel Weddings



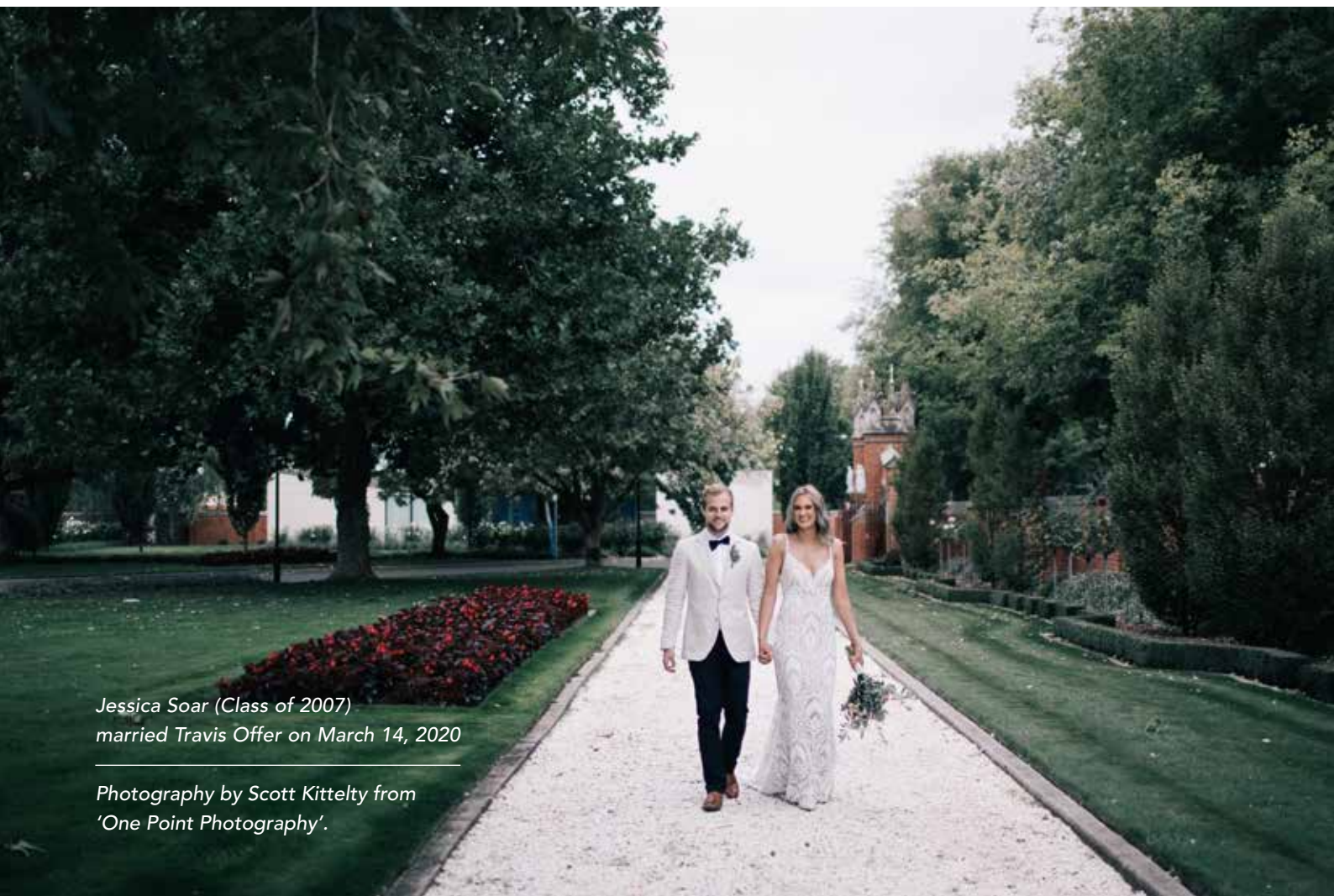
*Cassandra (Cassie) Mason (Class of 2011)
married Oliver Tze-Kit Yeung on February 22, 2020*

Photography by Scott Kittelty from 'One Point Photography'.



*Lysandra Slocombe (Class of 1995)
married Andrew McGavin on June 13, 2020*

Photography by Allison McKellar, 'Tales of Tingewick'



*Jessica Soar (Class of 2007)
married Travis Offer on March 14, 2020*

*Photography by Scott Kittelty from
'One Point Photography'.*

Alumni Updates

Belinda Chiswell (nee Warke) Class of 2000

Belinda Chiswell (nee Warke) is working as a Year 3 and 4 Team Leader at Lumen Christi Primary School, a job she adores!

Belinda was drawn to the field of primary education due to a strong desire to service others, completing a Bachelor of Education (Primary), which she began the year after graduating from Loreto.

"In the initial stages of my career this service was aimed towards the students and their families. Over time this has grown to include other ways that I can be of service to the school community and particularly now in my leadership role, working with teachers."

A passionate educator and leader, Belinda identifies her time at Loreto as significantly shaping her career pathway.

"My time at Loreto certainly shaped my career, particularly my drive and passion for the role women have in leadership."



Marriages

In the Loreto Chapel:

Cassandra (Cassie) Mason (Class of 2011) married Oliver Tze-Kit Yeung on February 22, 2020

Jessica Soar (Class of 2007) married Travis Offer on March 14, 2020

Lysandra Slocombe (Class of 1995) married Andrew McGavin on June 13, 2020

Deaths

Sr Caroline Deutscher passed away 10 October 10, 2020

Sr Bernadette Greene passed away September 28, 2020

Louise McCorkell (nee Halloran) Class of 1975 passed away on July 31, 2020

Janet Bradford (nee Hayden) Class of 1954 passed away July 20, 2020

Phillipa Hayes (Class of 1956) passed away May, 2020

Teresa Scholten (nee Cavanagh) Class of 1963 passed away May 30, 2020

Brendan O'Loughlin (Loreto Old Boy) passed away February 7, 2020

2020 & 2021 Reunions

All 2020, as well as 2021, Loreto College Ballarat Reunions are being planned for September/October in 2021. The dates for these events will be confirmed at a later date and in accordance to the COVID-19 restrictions and regulations at that time.

More information will be provided in Verity, Edition 1 2021.

2021 Canberra Chapter Reunion

Save the Date

Date: Saturday 13 March 2021

Mass: 11:00am

Church: St Benedict's Church, (Cnr Stuart & Jerrabomberra Avenues), Narrabundah ACT

Lunch: 12.15pm – venue details to be confirmed

RSVP: 28 February 2021 – Rahab Wilson (Normanhurst 1997)

Email: rahabj@hotmail.com

Past Pupils' Association

"This Is The Place Of My Rest....Behold I Am With You All Days."

Generations of Loreto Ballarat schoolgirls have raised their eyes to these words above the altar in the Chapel. This is the ultimate message of hope, certainty and promise. It is relevant today as we explore the meaning of commitment within the Loreto context. It resonates with so many words with which we are so familiar - verity, loyalty, Mary Ward's circle of friends and with that great letter writer Mother Gonzaga who encouraged her "dear children" to stay close always to their families, their school friends and their old school.

All these words echo the importance of staying committed, of being steadfast women in an ever changing and challenging world.

2020 has been a year of great change for our world, families, cities, towns, regional areas and our schools. Teachers and education support staff have faced challenges as they adapted to remote learning as have the students who have not been able to interact face-to-face in the classroom, on the sporting field and to participate in the many activities which play such an important part in the life of the 21st Century school girl. Our thoughts are with the girls in their final year at Loreto and we wish them health and happiness as they take those exciting steps into their lives as past pupils.

As past pupils' we have not been able to gather for reunions and other important occasions and milestones in the school calendar. We acknowledge two special women at this time. Former Principal

Judith Potter has been a welcome guest at our functions with her updates of school activities. We thank her for her deep commitment to the values and traditions of Loreto. We wish her well in her retirement. We welcome Michelle Brodrick and offer our support as she leads Loreto Ballarat into the future. With planning for the new campus on a greenfield site, we can look forward to exciting years ahead for generations of girls who are following in our footsteps as proud past pupils' of Loreto Ballarat.

Until we can meet again,
Stay well and stay safe,

Miss Meg Barry
President

We rely on the individual, a family member or representative, funeral director or legal counsel to formally advise the College the details of any births, deaths or marriages to be published in Verity. Only confirmed members of the Loreto Community will be published. We invite deaths notices to be included and commemorated at our annual Past Pupils Mass of Remembrance in November. Contributions gratefully received to verity@loreto.vic.edu.au

Fond Farewells

Jennifer Leigh

Words by Thea Mooney



The words passionate, endless enthusiasm, inspiring and dedicated, all come to mind when I think of my colleague and friend Jennifer Leigh.

The Loreto College community and Technology Faculty have indeed been fortunate to work with Jennifer and experience her talent and passion for education and the wellbeing of her students since joining us almost twenty years ago.

Jennifer was initially part of the Dawson Street staff but when she took on the role of teaching VCE Product Design and Technology or (Design and Technology as it was known at this time), we as a Technology staff were able to see first-

hand her dedication and commitment to her students evolve to a higher level.

Her ability to make the most of the talents of her students, to inspire them to achieve great results and prepare them for careers in the Fashion industry was evident from the early days of teaching VCE at Loreto College.

Jennifer worked tirelessly to introduce a fashion extravaganza to showcase the work of her students in a fashion parade at the end of each year and ensured that each was better than the previous one. The first parade was a simple affair held in the canteen area, moving to the Old Hall when the demand for tickets grew and then to a grand event in the new Loreto theatre in the Mary's Mount Centre. Each of these events has overwhelmed audiences as they were able to observe the inspirational work produced by her students guided by the talents of Mrs Leigh, whether in redesigning the Loreto uniform or an outfit for the races.

Some of these students have gone on to further studies in well recognised tertiary course to complete studies in Fashion and are working successfully in this industry in Australia and overseas.

Her demand for excellence and desire to provide her students with the best experience was evident in her decision to become an VCE exam marker, which has impacted immensely on the teaching and learning of her students, as she was able use this experience to achieve amazing results of consistently high numbers in the 40's, scores of 50 and Premier's Awards.

Her excellence in teaching has also been evident in the numbers of students who were short listed or had their folio and production work selected for the prestigious VCE Top Design's Awards at the Melbourne Museum, where exceptional VCE student work is displayed.

It goes without saying that Jennifer's unconditional belief in what she does has inspired students and staff at Loreto and beyond. Jennifer is well respected in the fashion industry where she has made important industry links which have prepared her student for life beyond school, enriching their experiences.

I wish Jennifer all the best as she moves into retirement and will miss her positivity, collegiality, and enthusiasm.



Leonie Gudgeon

Words by Linda McDonald & Jeff Primmer

Leonie Gudgeon joined our Loreto College community in 2010 as staff member and as a parent of Lain Adams in Year 7.

Leonie was employed in a new role, as Executive Assistant to the Deputy Principals and the Business Manager. She had a very strong work ethic and immediately became

a valuable member of the College staff and provided valuable support to the Leadership Team. Leonie displayed great organisational skills and also coordinated many events and ceremonies for the College. She was quick to learn new programs and platforms and was soon appointed as Office Coordinator for the College in 2011.

In 2018, Leonie transferred into the newly created position of College Registrar. She recognised a need for an improved and streamlined enrolment process and effectively implemented new systems in this area. Leonie also has a strong understanding of the Loreto values and mission and proudly conducts tours for prospective students and

families. Often Leonie is the first Loreto face a new student and parent sees and they are always pleasantly welcomed and supported through the enrolment process.

Leonie has high expectations of her own performance in her role and provides terrific moral support for others in their jobs. She does not enjoy the spotlight on herself but would rather ensure that the College was seen in the best possible light. She is incredibly loyal to the College and her colleagues. She has a great sense of humour and displays a strong spirit of Felicity in the way she conducts herself at work.

We sadly farewell Leonie and wish her all the very best for her new adventure in Boort.

Courtney Bell

Words by Mathew Flight

Courtney Bell joined Loreto College at the beginning of 2011 and in her ten years here she has proven to be an amazing teacher and a wonderful colleague. Her kind nature and genuine care has enabled her to build an enviable rapport with students and she has been a much-loved Head of Barry House and Year 10 Coordinator. Her calming tone and excellent communication skills allowed her students to thrive and feel confident to tackle the challenges set before them.

Courtney first came to Loreto as a Science Teacher and developed her skills to be an excellent teacher of Biology, Junior Sciences, and VCE 3/4 Biology. She has been generous with her time marking the Biology practice exams and enabling students to gain some independent assessment of their work before their final exams. In this time, Courtney has also undertaken further study to become a Food Technology Teacher and a valuable member of the Technology Faculty.

Throughout her time at Loreto, it is very clear that Courtney's greatest strength is her organisational skills. She is always planning weeks and months in advance for camps and retreats and classes to ensure that everything is just right. It is a huge job coordinating approximately 150 students and staff for camps. A feat not to be underestimated.

Courtney is a thoughtful, kind and positive person who has contributed enormously to the Loreto culture. She will be greatly missed by staff and students alike, however we wish Courtney and her family all the best for whatever comes next in her life's adventures.

Doug Wilson

Words by Paula Wheaton

If you cast your minds back to 2004, you will remember a number of significant events. Jetstar was officially launched, Malcolm Turnbull entered federal politics, the 'Children Overboard affair' emerged and our very own Mary Donaldson did us proud, cracking into Danish royalty by marrying Crown Prince Frederick. More importantly though, Doug Wilson began his distinguished stint at Loreto. Yes, it's been 17 years since Doug first arrived at Loreto College and he has now decided it is time to put away the whiteboard markers and shut down that school computer for the very last time.

It is hard to imagine Loreto without Doug, as the moment he began his career here he became an integral part of our community and immersed himself in so many parts of the life of the school. Many students have benefited from his dedication to providing an excellent education to all. Many will also remember his tendency to bring cakes

to class that he had baked for special occasions, something that is indicative of the extra care that he has always shown his students.

Doug will also be remembered for his passion for soccer and the many Loreto soccer teams that he coached, a high percentage of which went on to win pennants in the BAS competition. His skill and expertise in this sport has led to very high participation rates with students willing to come out in the wind and rain to play. His positivity and enthusiasm as a coach has motivated the players to do their very best for the team and their school.

It has not been all teaching and soccer as Doug has made contributions in many other areas. Some may not be aware of Doug's involvement with the performing arts program, designing posters and programs for the school musicals and helping backstage for various performances. This is



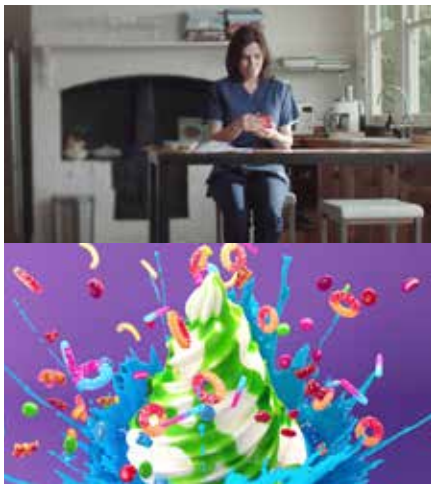
just one example of his involvement, always pitching in somehow, without asking for recognition or expecting thanks.

Doug has a diverse range of interests and we know that he will not be bored when he retires from teaching. He is a keen photographer, nature lover, pizza oven tender, camper, reader and grandfather. So, while we will miss Doug's wit and wisdom, we know that he will be making the most of the extra time he will have to devote to his family, friends and the things that he loves doing. We thank him for his collegiality and friendship over the last 17 years and wish him a very long and happy retirement.



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