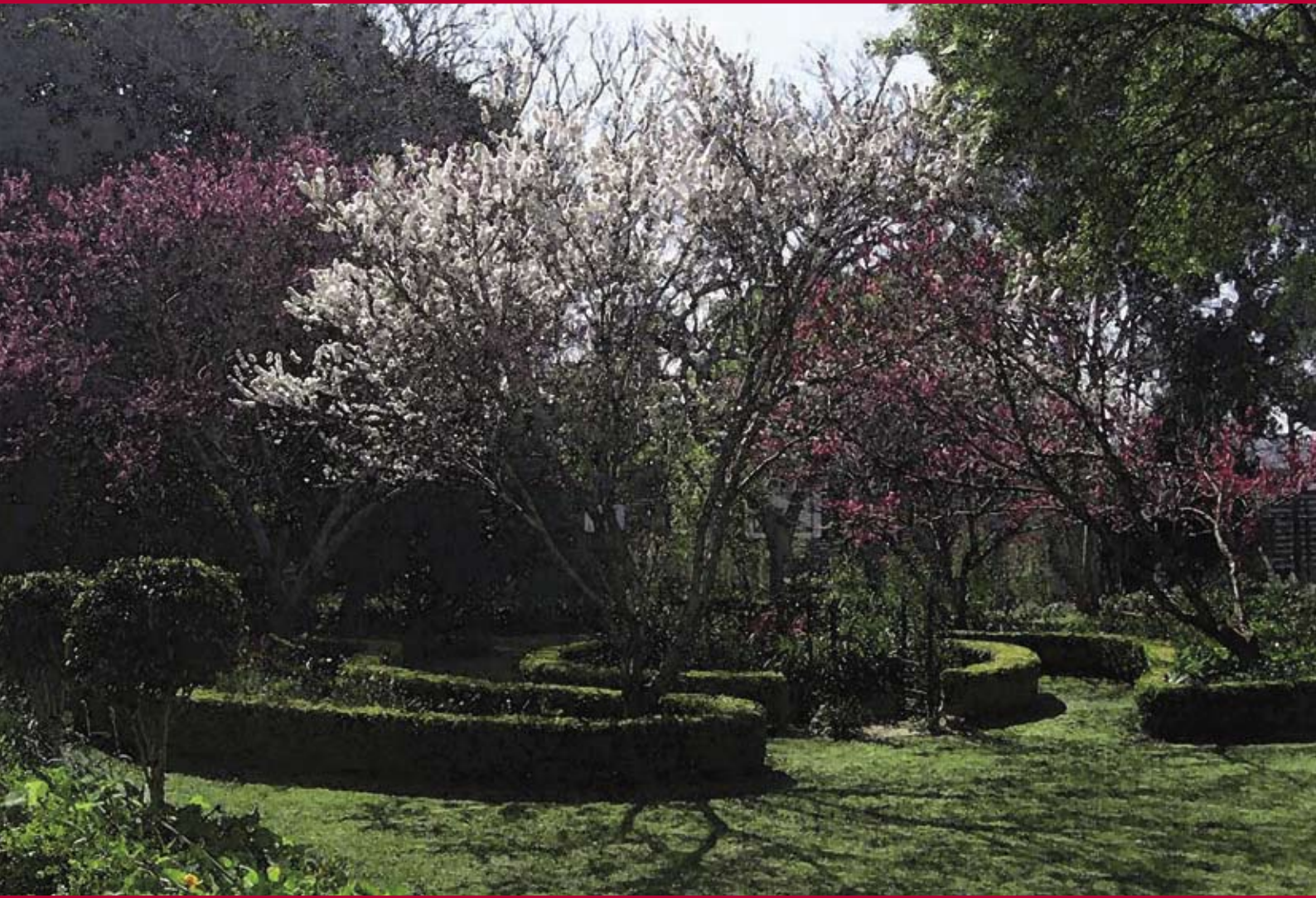




SANCTA

Sancta Sophia College Alumnae Newsletter 14



FAREWELL DR ELIZABETH HEPBURN IBVM
Principal December 2005 – December 2007

WELCOME NEW PRINCIPAL DR MARIE LEECH

THIRD WISDOM FORUM 2008



WORLD YOUTH DAY 15 – 20 JULY 2008

Visit website for further information
www.santasophiacollege.edu.au

VALE 2007 – Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM

John O'Donohue says that:

The heart of all creativity is the awakening and flowering of individuality. The mystery and magic of being an individual is to live life in response to a deep call within, the call to become who we were dreamed to be. In primal terms, it is the call to discover and realize the divine blueprint in the soul. This is where true freedom awaits us.

This is the paradox which haunts us, that what we were designed for is freedom to create and be the person we have the potential to be. This involves risk and being open to change and thus requires us to make ourselves vulnerable.

The second part of the paradox is that when we have found what we can be, we are asked to go one step further and going beyond what we can be to that which we might become. For this quest is always in relation to the call which has to have its origin in another.

What is this call? It is the call of that which appears to us to be good, for none of us quest after that which we perceive to be evil. We may be mistaken about what we perceive to be good but try as we might we are all bent on the pursuit of the good. Some people think of this as pursuing your dream. A short passage which I found many years ago may help to convey the nature of this quest.

You are not poor if you love something, someone, humanity maybe, and have faith that you will somewhere, sometime be satisfied, though you do not know how.

You may even feel that your sorrow is but a school to teach you the virtues of sympathy and gentleness, that will avail you hereafter, though you do not know where.

I am not always on the highway that leads to this hilltop, but I have seen the lighted road stretching on and on; sometimes I have even fancied that I saw the windows of a castle all aglow.

And I have hastened my steps to be in time for the feast, and taken counsel of my courage lest I falter and fall on the way.

May I keep this vision of the castle ever before my eyes, and a belief in my heart that the journey is worthwhile, and the castle and the glow in the windows not all illusion.

So, journey on with hope and courage, so that your vision of where you are called to become your best self is not stifled by anyone or anything. Remembering what Kierkegaard said about hope:

Hope is a passion for what is possible.



Sr Elizabeth with Chairman of Council Miss Josephine Heesh

Farewell from Chairman of Council Miss Josephine Heesh

When Dr Hepburn applied for the position of Principal at Sancta Sophia College she expressed a hope that she might be able to have some small influence for the good on the lives of the Sancta Students.

After 2 short years she has definitely fulfilled that hope.

Apart from external achievements (strong enrolments, viable senior common room, high academic results, strong sport participation, capital works projects, guest lectures, strong heads of colleges dialogue), she has been a true friend to the students, collectively and individually. As her words above indicate, she has lived the last 2 years

journey true to herself as the best way to encourage that in each Sancta student.

The Council are grateful for the level of responsibility Dr Hepburn accepted from day one in her management of the College, and for her practical but firm decision making. Her modest demands have still achieved substantial results.

The Council regrets Dr Hepburn's early departure to her Loreto Order's College, St Mary's, Melbourne University, but wishes her God's speed in her work there, and knows Sancta has found a true friend for the future.

SECOND 'WISDOM FORUM' REPORT – Dr E Hepburn IBVM

On Friday 25 May Sancta hosted the second wisdom forum which was addressed by Professor Margaret Somerville AO and Professor Frank Brennan SJ AO. Both lawyers with recent publications in ethics – Margaret on the role of the imagination in ethical analysis and Frank on the place of conscience in public debate. The conversation began with a brief summary by each author of the central premise of their books and then moved to a more discursive exploration of their views.

In speaking of the central ideas in the book Margaret said she was seeking a 'shared ethics' and this would require use of the imagination and access to what she termed 'the secular sacred'. This she said would be a reflection of our authentic selves and not individualism but a true recognition of the special place of life itself whether animal or vegetable. By exploring the webs of the interconnectedness of things she thought that we could not help but be filled with wonder, and this she thought would inspire a secular version of what the major religions have held as sacred. The advantage as Margaret sees it is that we would then have a common lexicon on which to draw which is not dependent on any particular religion.

Then she said that we would need to draw on the traditional virtues as motivating forces to speak of character. These are indispensable in educating the young for a future which will be dominated by science and technology. Virtues such as compassion, tolerance, trust, courage, hope, generosity and a capacity to see complexity; to look for more than the most economical explanation of a phenomenon. She thinks that educating in the virtues

will ensure that humanity is protected and that what we as people hold dear will have a life beyond us.

Frank has spent the greater part of his adult life in the public domain on the side of those oppressed by injustice. He writes: 'Having spent twenty years in the public forum calling attention to what I regard as democratically responsible religious views on vexed moral, political and legal questions, I want to unpack some of the complexities of law, religion and politics in contemporary Australia.I make no claim that my religious views or public policy preferences on particular controversial issues are more correct or preferable to the views of any other citizen. I do claim the appropriate resolution of public conflicts would be more achievable and certain if we accorded greater respect to the conscience of each person.' Thus the stage was set for a memorable conversation between these two scholars and public commentators.

With Frank insistent that public debate will be best served by respecting the conscientious views of all to be heard and Margaret pleading for the use of imagination and not just rational processes in forming that conscientious view, their views intertwined in a very intriguing and provocative way. Both were then whisked away for a busy weekend of interviews and addresses at the Sydney Writers' Festival and Sancta was grateful to have had these two generous and courageous people in our midst for the afternoon.

References:

- Brennan, F. (2007) *Acting On Conscience*, UQP, pp.3-4.
Somerville, M. (2006) *The Ethical Imagination*, MUP.



Professor Margaret Somerville AO and Professor Frank Brennan SJ AO

SENIOR STUDENT REPORT – Amy Colmer

2007, the year of the pig (Chinese), the dolphin (Dutch), Equal Opportunities (Europe) and another year of Shimmying, Rosebowl, 'spading' and Thursday mornings (Sancta).

I think often whilst we are in college, we forget that the world around us keeps on going, that the Chinese New Year will bring in a new Zodiac, that the city gets locked down for APEC, that disasters happen and that wars still start and continue, ripping families apart and destroying nations. Sometimes the only way we learn of these happenings is when, on the rare occasion we make it to class, we hear other people talk about these major events!

I have just painted a stereotypical and unfair depiction of college students, so I thought, what exactly is it that we college folk do? If you ask outsiders I'm sure they would say drink, sleep and make a nuisance of themselves or as the Honi Soit put it "They pass out in the pews of the lecture theatre and they run half naked across campus chained to one another." While I cannot speak for all colleges, I would like to defend Sancta of these accusations and paint a truer picture of life at Sancta Sophia College. Where to start though...

...yes o-week is a week of fun and frivolity, where first year students get to meet people at other colleges, forge relationships and create memories they will never forget, even if it is under a blanket of alcohol. The rest of the year however, is packed with sporting, cultural and social events that leave valetants with a wide range of experiences, friends and memories.

Sport at college is one thing that produces much passion amongst students. This year we have done particularly well in the sporting arena, with our swimming girls putting in an amazing effort to come second just behind women's college, our rowers trained tirelessly and put in a stellar effort, netballer's not only looked good in their new uniforms but managed a third place and the hockey team played with determination despite some first time players on the field. Second semester saw tennis stars battle the heat in games that required stamina and endurance, soccer players whose talent would leave David Beckham to be a benchwarmer, softballers who played through heat and rain, gloving, striking and catching like true athletes, basketballers who ran the court and boxed out in a fashion worthy of the red and white they wore and athletes who jumped, threw and ran with poise and elegance. All of this would not have been possible if it were not for the support of the College, the cheers, albeit silly ones ('eyes to the sky, gloves on the prize') help lift the players enthusiasm and energy levels.

College, however is not just about sport. there are many cultural events to entertain, provoke thought and create awareness. How can you say that a college that debates Kevin Rudd's suitability as Prime minister and the use of subsidies to farmers is un-cultured? That performing in front of Intercol on the piano, trumpet, in a choir or in character is a "drunken escapade" (thanks Honi Soit again)? I have not even touched on 'Sancta's got talent', a new initiative show casing Sancta's own talent, Oration where the topic this year was freedom and where we were placed third, or the dinner talking about India!

And yes I must make mention of the social side of college... it is a hard aspect to miss out as it is very prominent and the most fun. Informals, formals, exchange dinners, Intercol BBQ's, fresher/sophomore dinners, sophomore/senior dinners and end of sports celebrations, all bring people together and sometimes leaves them with sore heads the next day.

College also presents opportunities to take on roles in some aspect of the college. As a secretary to organise a sport, cultural event, dinner or look after a certain room in college all give students invaluable skills and interesting prospects. At this junction I would like to take the opportunity to thank all the people that have made my job easier and more enjoyable, to Renee and Steph my trusty secretary and treasurer, house committee and Dr Hepburn all of whom have helped me in more ways than I can express.



Soccer team



Softball team with coach Sara Vanzella

SENIOR STUDENT REPORT – Amy Colmer (cont.)



*Executive of House Committee 2007
Stephanie Webster (Hon. Treasurer) & Renee Gilmore (Hon. Secretary)
with Amy Colmer (Senior Student)*

For me however, I think one of the most important aspects of college is the friends I have made. Coming from the very small town of Narromine I knew very few people in Sydney, so I was nervous, to say the least, of this step into college life. Three years later I think back and laugh, everyone was so welcoming and friendly that there was nothing to worry about. The people I met in the first week are the people I am still friends with and will be for life. It's the shared experiences, the shared clothes, the laughing, crying and venting that creates unbreakable bonds.

For all these reasons, I believe that Sancta is a place of culture, a place of friendship and a place where we “walk in wisdom”, not purely a place where young people get drunk and do foolish things and I am proud to have been Senior Student for 2007. The year of the pig, dolphin, equal opportunities and Sancta showing the world what it is truly made of.



*The new Executive of House Committee 2008
Kate Jones (Hon. Treasurer), Sally Richards (Senior Student)
& Emma Crawshaw (Hon. Secretary) at Christmas Dinner*



House committee of 2008 attending Sancta Formal.

CONGRATULATIONS TO

Amanda Coon competed in the ‘SKIA Open National Championships’ on Sunday 7th October in Marion, Adelaide. Amanda came 1st in Senior Open Female Kata, 18years and above, making her the Australian National Champion in Kata. She also came 2nd in the Senior Open Female kumite, 64kg and under, aged 18 years and above.

Kate Johnson and **Angela Hurley**, elite swimmers for the University of Sydney, competed at the Australian Uni Games in September. Kate won Gold medals in the

individual 200m Butterfly and 100m Freestyle events. Kate and Angela won Gold Medals in the 4 x 50m Medley, 4x 50m Freestyle 4x 100m Medley and 4x100m Freestyle.

Misa Han has been chosen to represent Australia in the ‘Harvard World Model United Nations 2008’ to be held in Puebla, Mexico in March 2008.

CULTURAL REPORT – Tamryn Liddell

Sancta Sophia College Cultural Stars have been at it once again this year, with a very busy schedule that included “Sancta’s Got Talent” performances, choir rehearsals and great participation in the Intercol Performing Arts Challenge (Palladian Cup). We started the year with a bang having an all singing and all dancing show of “Sancta’s got Talent” over a formal dinner in the first Semester of the year. This gave our hard working Con’ students a chance to shine and at also managed to prove that there are more than a few hidden talents in the Science Faculty as well.

Second Semester proved a busy one too for the Sancta girls who are culturally inclined, as we worked hard towards competing in the Palladian cup. All our participants did wonderfully, our choir and vocal ensemble (led by Tamara Mason) impressed the adjudicators achieving highly commended and second place respectively. The instrumentalists and dramatists also made a great showing and received high praise but also from all the wonderful Sancta Spectators who came out to support. Scattered among these few main events there have been impressive after dinner performances, long hours of choir rehearsals and unscheduled dancing in the corridors to prove that Cultural life at Sancta really is alive and thriving.

We congratulate Vanessa Chou who is the recipient of the 2007 Sheila Hurley Award for her contribution to cultural activities of the College.



Tamara Mason leading the voice ensemble



Katy Sheridan performing on the piano after Formal Dinner



Vanessa Chou, Anna Payton & Ainsley Doak

A POSTGRADUATE AT SANCTA – Okan Cil

The word college has so many different meanings to many different people. Some believe that a college is only a building made of stone. However, my definition of a college goes further than just a building. Sancta Sophia College is one of the most unique colleges that I have ever experienced in terms of the community spirit that it represents. From the moment I arrived at Sancta, the staff and students were the most kind and generous people that I have ever met during my time here in Australia. Fraternity, leadership and academics are the three main pillars which make Sancta one of the most unique colleges at the University of Sydney. Being a postgraduate student, my experience at Sancta for the past 6 months has been a great adventure both academically and personally.

After completing my first degree in Canada, I decided that I wanted to study abroad and travel the world. My destiny was to study law at the University of Sydney and eventually Sancta Sophia became a new home for me. The journey to Sancta was filled with ambiguity and excitement as I was looking forward to another academic year at Sydney Law School again. As only one of the few male postgraduates at Sancta, college life has been easy for me in terms of being a part of the Senior Common

Room and the Sancta community where I met a lot of interesting people.

The Senior Common Room (SRC) has been instrumental in welcoming me to Sancta and I appreciate their openness and friendship to which I look forward to continue in the future. The diversity of cultures and academic disciplines that make up the Senior Common Room has been a great experience for me at Sancta. Not only being a member of the SCR is a great place to meet different people, but getting certain privileges like eating at the high table during formal dinners are some of the advantages in being a postgraduate at Sancta.

As I look forward to my future with great hope, I realize that college life has been a great benefit in experiencing university life in Australia. The friends you make at college will be friends that will hopefully continue to last forever. From formal dinners to BBQ's, Sancta Sophia has been very good to me during my academic year in giving me great memories. I would like to thank the friendly people and staff at Sancta for making a great academic year for me. I look forward to coming back to Sancta Sophia College soon.



Post Graduates: Joanne Lau (Hong Kong), Ryan Cooke (Queensland), Okan Cil (Canada), Selena Young (Singapore), Maya El Shareef (Lebanon) & Caroline George (England)

ORATION – Sarah Stanford

Freedom. Not very inspiring as a word is it? Four consonants, three vowels, two syllables, one plosive...all in all, there are much better words in the English language. Like ‘oxymoron’, or ‘psuedoephadrine’. Yet, as a concept, Freedom becomes something else. It is the basis for buildings, roman novels, the starting point for personal journeys and national identities – it inspires individuals, governments, politicians, families and armies for all the right and all the wrong reasons.

Freedom is defined by the Australian Concise Oxford Dictionary as many things, through being “the condition of being free or unrestricted” to “personal or civil liberty, absence of slave or convict status” and even an “unrestricted use of (facilities etc.)” The words’ root is in old English. English, a language of action, a language of nouns – and this is just one of them. So what is it about this simple noun that compels us to act?

I have grown up with a younger brother with autism, and this has given me an appreciation for those freedoms we take for granted every day, what I am going to call ‘little freedoms’. I see these freedoms restricted for my brother on a daily basis and so Ladies and Gentlemen I thought I’d talk about what freedom means to me.

As I’ve already hinted, this speech is going to give away a few secrets about my life that I’m guessing most people in this room haven’t heard before. Sorry, it’s not exactly scandalous, but hopefully stays on topic. When I was thinking about what I was going to say tonight I put in the obligatory call to the parents. The phone rang and rang, and just as I was beginning to despair, it stopped. There was heavy breathing down the line, then: “Ah, hello?” This was a sign that my parents were not at home, yet my little brother was. After finally establishing that I was, in fact, his sister, and that I did, in fact, want to speak to him, he told me about his day. “Um, doing some stuff, like drawing some pictures and watching some cartoons...playing my games...fed the dogs. Mum and Dad aren’t home. Okay. Bye.”

My little baby brother is eighteen and he is, as boring as this may seem, the basis for my speech today; him and ‘little freedoms’.

Those definitions of freedom I read earlier all centered on the term ‘unrestricted’. The condition of being unrestricted. Unrestricted use. Unfortunately, although we all face some restriction in life, it is a fact that some will face more than others, and this point is very important when thinking about ‘little freedoms’.

Another saying to do with freedom that has always stood out to me is that great human right, ‘freedom of speech’. It’s another unrestricted thing. Maybe my fascination with

freedom of speech should have been an early indication of my becoming a student of journalism, maybe it says more about my upbringing than anything else.

For me, freedom of speech is a difficult phrase to manage. We all have trouble communicating exactly what we want to say: it’s that moment Helene Cixous had when she saw an entire novel in an instant, but knew full well that it would take her days and weeks and years to finally get out all the right words. We can’t all be novelists, but despite our restriction we still manage to get along with what words we have. What I want to know is: how can there be freedom of speech if you can’t speak?

My brother couldn’t speak full sentences until he was ten. He had difficulty communicating the most basic emotions and sensations, even down to telling us when he didn’t feel well. He has poor motor skills, and for most of our lives called me ‘RaRa’ rather than Sarah. It is unusual for a sister, me being only two years older than my brother, to remember that feeling when he first got my name right, or still breathing that sigh of relief every time he says his own name right, Matthew with a ‘th’, not Matt-ew.

They say that when someone has a sibling who is in some way disabled, the more able person will try harder and harder to do what their sibling cannot. I do not think that I’m here speaking now because he couldn’t. I believe that I’m here speaking now because he taught me to try harder and challenge myself as I saw him struggle through the little things every day. Speech may never be wholly unrestricted, but I at least know that I am free of those burdens, and others, that my brother has had to bear. It – the ability to speak – is a simple freedom, a little freedom, but it does mean a lot to me.

He knows he’s different. He says it all the time. “Don’t they want people with dumb brains in their classes or something?” he said to me one day when his school wouldn’t let him do art, not with the normal kids, anyway.

He goes to the same high school I went to, but his experiences are so different. He has all his classes in the same block, C Block. The special ed. block. It has its own garden and a high green pool fence around it so the special kids can’t escape from the teachers’ care. They used to rely on the regular high latch but now keep the gate tied shut with a jockey strap.

For my brother, this high level of care can be difficult to manage. He recognizes his faults and tries to fix them, or to counteract them with other skills. It frustrates him that the other students in his class cannot see their disability when he can. In this he has a freedom that

ORATION – Sarah Stanford *(cont.)*

those other kids will never have nor understand. There is no high pool fence keeping him where he is, but you can imagine after being schooled with an aide since the age of three, when it comes to the end of the year he will find it hard to leave and seek that freedom that the end of school brings.

And so I've come back to freedom, and it makes me think of all those things that this word makes a difference to in my life. The freedom I have to do things that he cannot. Go to university. Live at college. Have a world of job opportunities. To be able to understand money and coinage and pay for my daily coffee. Even the ability to walk to classes without the amount of anxiety that he would take with him.

My brother has taught me that freedom is the ability to see the restrictions in front of us and move past them. Life is not unrestricted, but if you can recognize and conquer boundaries then you become free of the high fences and jockey straps that lock us in.

I am free of many things because I believe myself to be. My brother is free for the same reasons.

This speech may not have been very inspiring, kind of like the word it's based on, but all I really want to focus on are the little freedoms, the ones we take for granted, like the ability to speak. Thank you.

Congratulations to Sarah on receiving the 2007 Jean Daly Award for Oration.



Sarah (Social Sec) with Tamara Mason (Photo Sec)



Sarah & her brother Mathew Stanford



A BEQUEST TO SANCTA

*The gift of education is one that lasts a lifetime.
Plan for your bequest and know that it will make a
difference now and in the future*

Your bequest could help to secure the future of the college, assist in ongoing capital works, provide scholarships and keep down fees.

Gifts to the Foundation or the Building Fund are Tax Deductible

We sincerely thank all donors for their generosity and support on behalf of our current and future students

Sancta Sophia College
8 Missenden Road Camperdown NSW 2050
Tel: 02 9577 2100

FARMERS' ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP

– Alexandra Murray

Being a student studying psychology at The University of Sydney, I would not expect that I would be eligible for any awards given by the NSW Farmers' Association. With low expectations, I applied for the Association's Tertiary Scholarship and, to my surprise, I was successful. In the mid-year holidays this year I travelled back to Sydney, from Northern NSW to attend the NSW Farmers' Association's Annual Conference. There, I was presented with the \$5,000 scholarship by the Federal Minister for Agriculture, Peter McGauran. In addition to giving a speech to over 500 delegates, I participated in the Young Farmers' Forum and attended the Annual Conference Dinner.

In order to be eligible to apply for the scholarship, students must be a member of the association or be the child of a member and in their second year or higher of study. Applicants are asked to demonstrate a commitment to agriculture and rural communities and all round abilities, leadership qualities and communication skills and want to pursue a career to benefit rural communities. Ideally, I would like to work in rural areas with farmers and rural communities to increase awareness and promote the benefits of good mental health. Firstly, the stigma of mental illness needs to be reduced as well as allied health professionals given extra information about the warning signs of those who need extra support. Ideally I would also like to campaign for more mental health resources in rural communities.

I would highly recommend other students to attend the Young Farmers' Forum and to apply for the scholarship even if their chosen field is not directly related to agriculture, it's a valuable experience.

Congratulations to Alex who received the 2007 Nita Macrae award for contributions to the College. Alex is the recipient of a University of Sydney Honours scholarship and has been on the Dean's Honour Roll for the past 3 years. She has participated in all aspects of life at Sancta, including appearing in 'Missenden Players' productions, and acting as Liturgical Secretary in 2006. This year Alex and her friend Tanzila Shahreen organised Sancta's involvement in the Cancer Council's fund raising event 'Australia's Biggest Morning Tea'. Alex also runs tutorials for fresher Psychology students and works in the kitchen.



Alexandra Murray and her mother Mrs Georgina Murray at the NSW Farmers' Association Annual Conference Dinner



Philippa Crowter, Alex Murray, Sam Siripol, Isbeeta Sumra, Niki Saunders, Melanie Hicks and Tanzilla Shareen.

RAPHAEL JOHN QUOYLE – the second son of former student Liz Hannan and her husband Darby Quoyle – was baptised in the College chapel on Sunday September 23.

Fr Bob Walsh – well known through his many years at St Aloysius College and his chaplaincy at the Mater Hospital – was the celebrant, as he was when Liz and Darby were married in the chapel in 2002 and when their first son, Gabriel, was baptised in 2005. The godparents were Darby’s sister Mary-Ellen Green and Liz’s brother Anthony Hannan.

Sancta Sophia alumnae were prominent among the guests.

- Liz’s mum Natalie Hannan (nee Lennon; Fresher 1950).
- Liz’s sister Kate Grujic (nee Hannan; Fresher 1986), her husband Paul and children Ruby, 5, and Oliver, 3.
- Liz’s sister-in-law Carolyn Hannan (nee Woodlands; Fresher 1987), her husband Anthony and children Emma, 7, and Rachel, 4.
- Liz’s aunt Joan Hannan.
- former principal Sr Mary Shanahan.
- Sarah Walters (Fresher 1984) and daughter Ella, 3.
- Natalie Adams (Fresher 1984), husband Greg West and son Jack, 2.
- Denise Bradley (nee Faraguna; Fresher 1984), her husband Tony and children Grace, 11, Douglas, 10, and Sophie, 8.
- Colleen Condon (nee Walsh, Fresher 1984) and three of her five children - Erin, 14, Lauren, 12, and Caitlin, 11.



Liz & Natalie Adams (Fresher 1984)

Following the ceremony, refreshments were served in the quadrangle, where the small army of children played ball games and delighted in the glorious sunshine. “It was a wonderful day,” Liz said. “Darby and I love returning to Sancta, which has played such a special part in my life and the life of my family.

“Our great friend Sr Mary Shanahan gave Raphael a very special gift, a baptismal candle, just as she did Gabriel.”



Mrs Judy Quoyle, Darby & Raphael Quoyle, Liz Hannan & Mrs Natalie Hannan



Sr Mary Shanahan & Carolyn Hannan (nee Woodlands, Fresher 1987)



Raphael & friends

FRESHERS OF 1957 – 50 Year Reunion

Dr Susan Kelly (Member of Council)

It seemed like a good idea at the time: the Freshers of 1957 decided to celebrate 50 years since they started at Uni. All you need to organise this is a computer literate person with time on her hands (that is between house renovations and a family wedding-thank you Margaret Hetherton) who will chase up emails and make endless phone calls to round people up. And how successful she was!

People came from far and near- Melbourne, country NSW, south of France, London, other parts of UK and Sydney. Apologies were received from Switzerland (Olena Geissburger Moyseyenko) and travellers in Europe Gabrielle Ryan (Vandaleur) and Marianne Towzell (Gooden). Mary Hall (Gabriel) and Venetia Somerset (Nathan) were unable to come from Victoria.

Part of the group spent Saturday afternoon at the Bell Shakespeare Othello and enjoyed it very much. We assembled at College to find our rooms and unpack. Not a lot had changed-the hot water system is still admirable! There was a montage of photos including our year photo, where we all looked absurdly young and some great graduating shots. Pictures of formals and parties were popular too. There seemed to be any number of photos of floats on Commem. Day - all showing mayhem and fun. I seem to remember that we won a prize one year.

Guest of honour was fellow student Mary Shanahan RSCJ. We had drinks in the Council Room (Blue Room to us) and 21 sat down to dinner in the lower Common Room. The kitchen had done a splendid job with the meal, the wines flowed and Terrie looked after us very well.. What an interesting group we turned out to be! The theme that seems to run through our subsequent careers was the acquisition of grandchildren and Masters Degrees. Not everyone and not all at once of course!

As Mary Shanahan was guest of honour, she couldn't get out of making a speech. She chose to talk about changes in the role and work of the Society in the last 50 years. We remember the nuns living in an enclosed convent while running the College, in retrospect probably not an easy task. Now they are out of the habit and out of the enclosure and contributing to education, social work and dare I say it, politics. They maintain their commitment to quality education for all and engagement with local issues, which can vary in different countries. As always, she made us think about what benefits we had received at College and how we could pass these on to a new generation.

Dinner over, we retired to one of our rooms with the remains of the feast and some serious, not to say heated, arguments were heard. When we found ourselves

drinking wine out of tooth mugs at 2am we felt that nothing much had changed in College! A late brunch Sunday morning allowed for more gossip before we left for home. We resolved not to wait another 50 years before the next reunion.

Attending:

Marilyn Bashir was a teacher in a programme for street kids, did an MA and is a famous cook for her extended family; Daiva Bieri lectured in Physio and later did pioneering work on pain assessment in children. Sadly, her Myasthenia has deteriorated, but was able to attend in her wheel chair.

San Bryan retired as a librarian, travelled widely and has done a MA in English literature; Dianna Carmody (Booth) is a social worker at the Children's Hospital and is a busy grandmother; Marion Lee (Chung) made a name for herself as a dietician devising food programmes for diabetics using Chinese and Lebanese food. She is a busy grandmother and a GREAT cook. Maureen Coffee ran a bookshop (O lucky woman) taught and now travels a lot. Sandra Curnow (Bladin) married a journalist who was tragically killed while working. She took up studies at Melbourne University and did a Masters in History and English. She teaches the International Baccalaureate at Ivanhoe Grammar, but still has time for grandchildren and travel.

Carolyn Dwyer worked as research assistant to Professor Marjorie Jacobs, did a Grad. Dip in Librarianship and worked at the Law School until retiring. Olena Geissbuehler (Moyseyenko) had the predictable exotic career, no surprise to us who remember her sophistication as a Fresher! She obtained her Anaesthetic Fellowship in UK did a PhD in Switzerland and married there. While working as an anaesthetist, she was elected to the Bern Assembly.

Deanna Goddard (Dougherty) was a Librarian at ANU and a busy mother of five daughters and an even busier grandmother. She still finds time to travel and play five hundred- it was part of her degree! Elizabeth Haddad (Smith) has had several lives which include children and grandchildren, but she is also a well known artist with several solo and group exhibitions to her credit. She recently donated one of her paintings to raise money for the Foundation. Thanks, Elizabeth!

Robyn Howard (Fennell) married a lawyer and they both travel a lot. She still has the family property at Brewarrina, which suggests a firm determination in the drought stricken times. Margaret Hetherton (Payten) has done just about everything in Social Work and the Social

FRESHERS OF 1957 – 50 Year Reunion *(cont.)*

Sciences from writing books to serving on tribunals and running an Aged Care Facility. She is currently working with refugee advocates, as well as being a busy grandmother. Janice Howarth worked in the UK and US as a librarian and returned to work after the early death of her husband. She is very involved with environmental issues on the North Coast and is learning Italian.

Lyn Innes worked in USA mainly on African Literature. She has recently retired as Professor of Postcolonial Literatures at the University of Kent. Toni Jones (Barrett) has been involved in Indonesian studies since she was one of the first students in the course at Sydney. She has a PhD in early Javanese inscriptions from London University. She lives in Hampstead, where she practises as an educational psychologist.

Susan Kelly retired from Anaesthetics to do Medical Humanities at Sydney Uni. She teaches remedial reading at the local parish school, but has enough time for reading and travel. Jennifer Mulherrin has been an established book editor for many years, dividing her time between London and the South of France. Carolyn Penn (Barclay) did nursing, raised children and now helps with grandchildren. She is a guide at the Art Gallery. Rosaleen Smythe used her considerable dramatic skills while teaching and running teacher training in Samoa. In the UK she was ASM on the Mousetrap (surely a job for life - it has never closed). She taught in Taiwan and is currently in Canberra working on her PhD. Pam Suttor is a busy solicitor and is currently a Councillor on the Law Society. She mentors many trainee lawyers, something she finds very satisfying. She is still interested in the rural sector.



This photo at the brunch misses Jennifer Mulherrin and Marion Choong who were there for the dinner, Jennifer having come especially from London. Mary Nathan's Blake prize mosaic is behind us, she and twin Venetia were also in our year.



Year 1957

FROM THE BUSINESS MANAGER'S DESK

Barrie Ripley, Business Manager



Capital Works Report

Since my last report in Issue 13 – Mid 2007, the College has completed a number of Capital Works projects especially during the July vacation when students returned home for a well-earned rest.

During the Electrical rewiring project which took place during Semester, the students were given regular updates on the work undertaken. Students reported their appreciation at being kept in the loop.

The original section of the College has all been rewired providing a much safer supply of electricity and an increase of power outlets in each room.

Organising the capital works and providing service to our students and conference guests always requires a delicate balance in completing such projects.

Urgent re-pointing of one section of the Sandstone was completed due to water seepage. The building work extended outside the Council Room from the ground level to the roof at a cost of \$22,150. This is the third section the College has undertaken in 3 years. There is an ongoing plan to progressively continue re-pointing the sandstone due to the age of the building.

The College Finance & Building Committees continue to work on the following projects:

- A Multi Playing Surface Tennis Court
- Refurbishment of the East Wing Bathrooms
- Inclinator for access to the dining room

- Reverse Cycle Air Conditioning for the McDonald Wing conference room.

Photo Gallery: I have included in this report a number of photographs that provide a record of the work recently completed.

These pictures are a reminder of how the College visually changes during the vacation breaks. While the workmen are carrying out much needed works outside, the staff inside the College are attending to conference guest requirements, sometimes acting as porters, providing information or facilities e.g. Internet connection or another blanket etc. Conference guests who reside in College during students' vacation periods provide much needed income to subsidise students' annual fees.

Since the first Building Fund Newsletter was posted in 1995, over \$550,000 has been donated to Capital Works. The College continues to express its gratitude to all those donors for their kind generosity towards the College Building Fund Appeal.

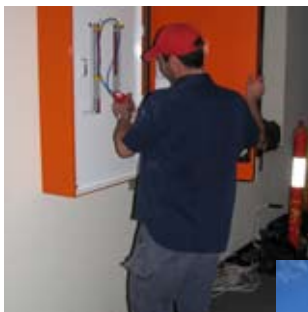
There is a constant need to seek donations to continue the refurbishment of the College. The Capital Works Plan exceeds \$1.6 million, which needs to be funded.

Should you wish to assist the College by again supporting the future of Sancta Sophia, please make a donation by posting a cheque payable to:

Sancta Sophia College Foundation Building Fund

or if you wish to donate by credit card call the College on **02 9577 2100**. A tax deductible receipt will be posted to you by return mail.

Photo Gallery



Shane Cluff - Bass Electrical installing one of six distribution boards



Sandstone Restoration – July 2007



Fixing pot holes



Life at the College returns to normal

SSCESA – Sancta Sophia College Ex- Students Association

On Friday 24 August, Sancta's ex-students came together for cocktails and canapés at the Clarendon Hotel in Surry Hills. Despite the rain, it was a wonderful turn out from a variety of year groups.

If you would like to join other ex-students for future events, log onto the Sancta Sophia College website and go to the Alumnae section. Forms are also available from the College to update your details.



FOUNDATION LUNCH – 11 September 2007 Guest speaker Prof Mary Crock BA (Hons) LLB (Hons) PhD (Melb)



Ingrid Farago & Guest Speaker Prof Mary Crock



Wynsome Duffy & Elizabeth McDonald



Dr Ebi Cocodia, Prof Mary Crock & Renee Gilmore



Dr Gwen Fitzpatrick & Dr Monica Bullen





Sancta Sophia College 2007