



**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

EST. 1869

ISSUE 1 SUMMER 2023

VERITAS





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Veritas is an annual publication for the St Mary's College community. Submissions are welcome for each edition. Please send your contributions to Advancement@stmarys.sa.edu.au

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communicate et al

Front Cover
Students: (L-R) Angelina (Year 12, Class of 2023), McKenna (Reception), and Annie (Year 7).
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Photographs
Festival City Photography, Occhio Photography, St Mary's College staff members.



Veritas captures the power and potential of a St Mary's College education for the students who come here.

From the Principal Ms Clare Nocka

Welcome to the first edition of Veritas. In developing this publication, we want to broaden the connection with our old scholar community and past families and staff, celebrating achievements and sharing news.

We want to stay in touch with the impact that a St Mary's College education has on the lives of students who come here and all who have been connected with this community for decades.

Veritas, the motto for the Dominican Order, captures the heart of the Dominican Tradition to speak the truth of the Gospel in the world. For Dominicans, this happens through the pursuit of study, contemplation, and preaching.

Our world needs truth seekers and truth speakers.

Veritas captures the power and potential of a St Mary's College education for the students who come here.

Truth, used well, makes its mark in the world.

Each fortnight, my College newsletter is addressed as 'Dear St Mary's College.' I was questioned about this once, the person asking why it was not addressed, 'Dear St Mary's College Community.' Their point being that the College is a place, and it did not make sense to address the newsletter as a place.

I changed my practice briefly, eventually returning to my original wording. It is also how I address our students at assemblies and the whole community when I speak at our End of Year Eucharist Celebration.

For me, St Mary's College is more than a place on the corner of Franklin Street and West Terrace. It is a community that exists over a long history, beginning with our seven sisters in 1869. Over its 154-year history as the longest-serving girl's school in South Australia, many thousands of young people have been educated and formed as members of the St Mary's College community. Along with them, many families and staff have loved this community and place. This magazine is for you.

In 2018, as we prepared for our 150th celebrations, we began a more deliberate approach to connecting with our old scholar community.

We now host annual reunions, regularly feature news of old scholars via our newsletter and social media platforms, and have a growing database of past students. Our career counselling, Arts, Sport and STEM programs, and formal assemblies regularly feature past students sharing their stories with our current cohort. Learning where a St Mary's College education can take you is inspiring!

We hope you enjoy our first publication. Please share it with others in our old scholar community.

Warm regards,

Clare Nocka
Principal

Our 2024 College Captains

As the year comes to an end, we thank the outstanding contribution of the 2023 Student Leadership Group and farewell the Class of 2023. Our senior students are ready to assume the role of leaders of our College, and we are pleased to announce our Student Leaders for 2024.

- College Captain SRC: Makeely J
- College Captain Justice: Katija Z
- Deputy Captains SRC: Sophia M and Georgena H
- Deputy Captains Justice: Katie S and Sophia T
- Dance Coordinator: Sofia M
- Music Coordinator: Ioanna A
- Art Coordinator: Montana C
- Drama Coordinator: Summa A
- Sports Coordinators: Bianca P and Madison G
- STEM Coordinators: Chantal D and Sirisha S

Makeely and Katija addressed their peers for the first time at our 2023 Student Leader Assembly.

We were fortunate to welcome old scholar and Adelaide Festival Centre Education Officer Renee Gibson (Class of 2002) as our guest speaker for this event. Renee shared many pearls of wisdom with our students, one of her key messages being, "Don't spend your life doing what you think you should be doing; spend it doing what makes you intrigued, what brings you joy, or what makes you feel like you are making a difference!"

It is inspiring to our students to see strong female leaders and role models in our old scholars.

We thank our 2023 Student Leadership Group and look forward to watching our 2024 Student Leaders flourish in their roles.

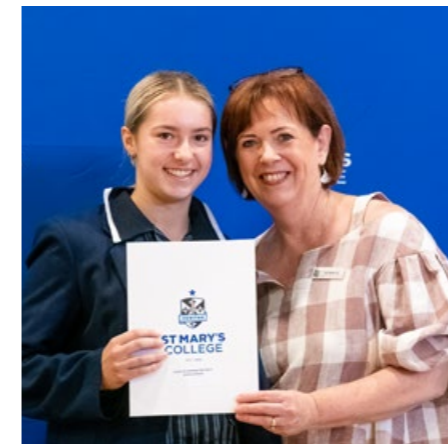
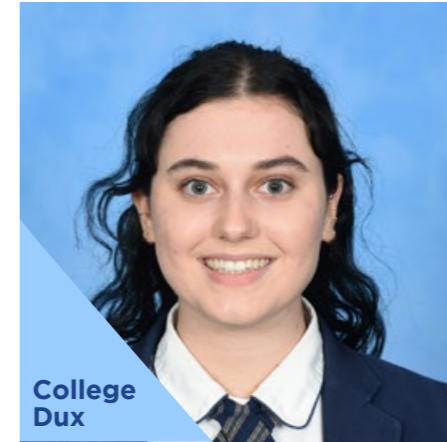


Our College Captains would like to share with our community their goals for 2024:

Makeely
My vision for SRC in 2024 is to involve the community by participating in school events. I want St Mary's students to have an enjoyable year while improving their wellbeing and trust in one another. I want to be a voice for others and continue to make St Mary's College a safe and happy community to be a part of.

Katija
I aim to inspire all students to commit to service in 2024 and openly learn about local and global issues. I want to create an environment where all students feel confident and supported in addressing relevant injustices, regardless of their significance. I want to assist others in recognising the importance of diversity and encourage students to transform visions into reality through collaboration.

We celebrate the successful completion of SACE for all our students and wish them well in their diversity of pathways.



SACE Results

St Mary's College is proud to share the SACE Stage 2 achievements of the Class of 2022.

We particularly acknowledge the accomplishments of College Dux, Scarlett Cox, who achieved an ATAR of 99.7 and four merits in Biology, Chemistry, Integrated Learning Religion, and Research Project B.

At our 2022 Merit Ceremony, we celebrated the dedication of our students and their successes, namely 100% SACE completion, 41% A grades, and 47% B grades. The St Mary's community recognise the determination of all our Year 12 students and the dedication of the staff who have supported them. We congratulate all students on their own personal accomplishments.

A Year in Review

Community Engagement

In 2023, we were grateful to be able to provide community events not only for our students and staff but also for our wider community.

Our annual **Reception to Year 12 Sports Day** was a colourful and energetic atmosphere made enjoyable by the outstanding involvement of all students and staff. St Catherine's was our overall winner, also receiving the Buchanan Spirit Trophy and the Meich Team Trophy.

At our **Animation Launch Night**, we celebrated the work of our Year 7 students who were a part of 'The Golden Thread' Animation project. With the help of artists-in-residence JoAnne Bouzianis-Sellick and James Parker, students researched and wrote the script, and created the sets, props, and film assets.

Our inaugural **Senior School Wellbeing Day** was an initiative developed by our Student Wellbeing Advisory Group (SWAG). Senior students participated in various sessions and workshops that support mental and physical wellbeing. We also welcomed back old scholar Lauren Spear (Class of 2009) as our keynote speaker, and Nikalene Riddle (Class of 2003), who led healthy cooking classes.

Our Junior School students warmly welcomed their **Grandparents and Special Friends** to St Mary's for a mass celebration and afternoon tea.

It was a joyous afternoon filled with love, connections, and profound appreciation for all grandparents and friends in our St Mary's College community.

In support of Matildas old scholar, Alex Chidiac (Class of 2016), our students took part in **'Tillies Day'**, donning green and gold to support our national team. We were even visited by Channel 7 News and featured on the news segment twice during the FIFA Women's World Cup!

As they continue to live out their mission, Creating a Culture of Care, our SWAG students organised various activities for **R U OK? Day** such as a Pop-Up Station at lunch where students dropped in to engage in mindful activities, and our first Staff v Student Dodgeball tournament. Our St Mary's staff held no prisoners, defeating students in all four matches.

Students and staff across all year levels embraced the magic of literature by dressing up as beloved characters for **Book Week**. We were delighted to have our wider community join us for our whole school breakfast and support our Junior School students in their annual Book Week Dance performance.

To conclude our community activities for 2023, we held our annual **Junior School Christmas Concert** for our families. It was a wonderful night of music, song, and dance, with comical interludes and lots of cheer.

Justice Initiatives

Learning about and living into the value of justice is part of our purpose at St Mary's College. We believe that education is about forming young people to go out and make the world a better place through both their personal and professional lives. Our College community continues to do an extraordinary job of committing to causes and organisations that work with humans from various perspectives and dimensions. These include, but are not limited to:

Easter Raffle – through donations and purchasing of tickets, our community provided much-needed financial support for students in Battambang, Cambodia.

Cambodia Immersion – St Mary's was grateful to take students and staff once again on a Cambodia Immersion. This was a chance for four staff and 23 of our Year 11 students to immerse themselves in situations that framed their perspectives of justice, charity, and compassion. Through teaching English to young Cambodian students, they forged invaluable connections and were filled with a sense of pride and appreciation.

NAIDOC Week – throughout the week, students and staff took time to raise awareness and learn about culture, history, stories, and reflection through strengthening relationships between Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander peoples and non-Indigenous peoples.

Vinnies on Parade – To celebrate Environmental Day, we held a week of student-led activities and initiatives, including the return of the much-loved 'Vinnies on Parade'.

APY Lands Immersion – eight Year 11 students and six staff travelled 1400km to the far North of South Australia to Kenmore Park Anangu School within the APY Lands. Students immersed themselves in Anangu culture, developed strong relationships with the community, connected to country, learnt Pitjantjatjara, dug for Maku (Witchetty grubs), and participated in a reciprocity project.

Justice Day - Students and staff enjoyed delicious food stalls, carnival games, craft stalls, year-level rock bands, and more, with all money raised going to our designated charities such as Zonta and St Vincent de Paul. Year 12 student, Stephanie B and Mr Brendan Dunks also bravely shaved their heads to raise money and awareness for those with blood cancer.

Muffin and Soup Making – during Terms 2 and 3, students came together to assist Mr Peter Batty, Service Learning, Outreach, and Immersion Coordinator, in making approximately 15 litres of soup and 130 muffins a week for the Moore Street Soup Van run.

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Co-Curricular Sport Highlights

Junior School

Over 100 students from Years 3 to 6 had the opportunity to participate in various sporting carnivals, including Cross Country, Athletics and Swimming Carnivals. Students were chosen to represent St Mary's in Athletics and Cross Country following their outstanding results at Sports Day, and a record number of students trialled for the Swimming Squad. 66 students participated in extracurricular activities, including Mini Hoops Basketball, Net Set Go, Kick Start Soccer and Thunder Cup Netball.

Outstanding Achievements

Seven students represented North Adelaide District in State Carnivals: Olive A (Athletics and Netball), Rubie M (Swimming), Amal M (Soccer), Phoebe J (Netball), Zara D (Netball), Isabella L (Netball), and Ruby D (Football and Netball).

29 Year 5/6 students trialled for our Mini Mary's Netball Academy program. Students were split into two squads: a knockout team who competed at the Statewide Schools Competition and a development team.

Middle and Senior School

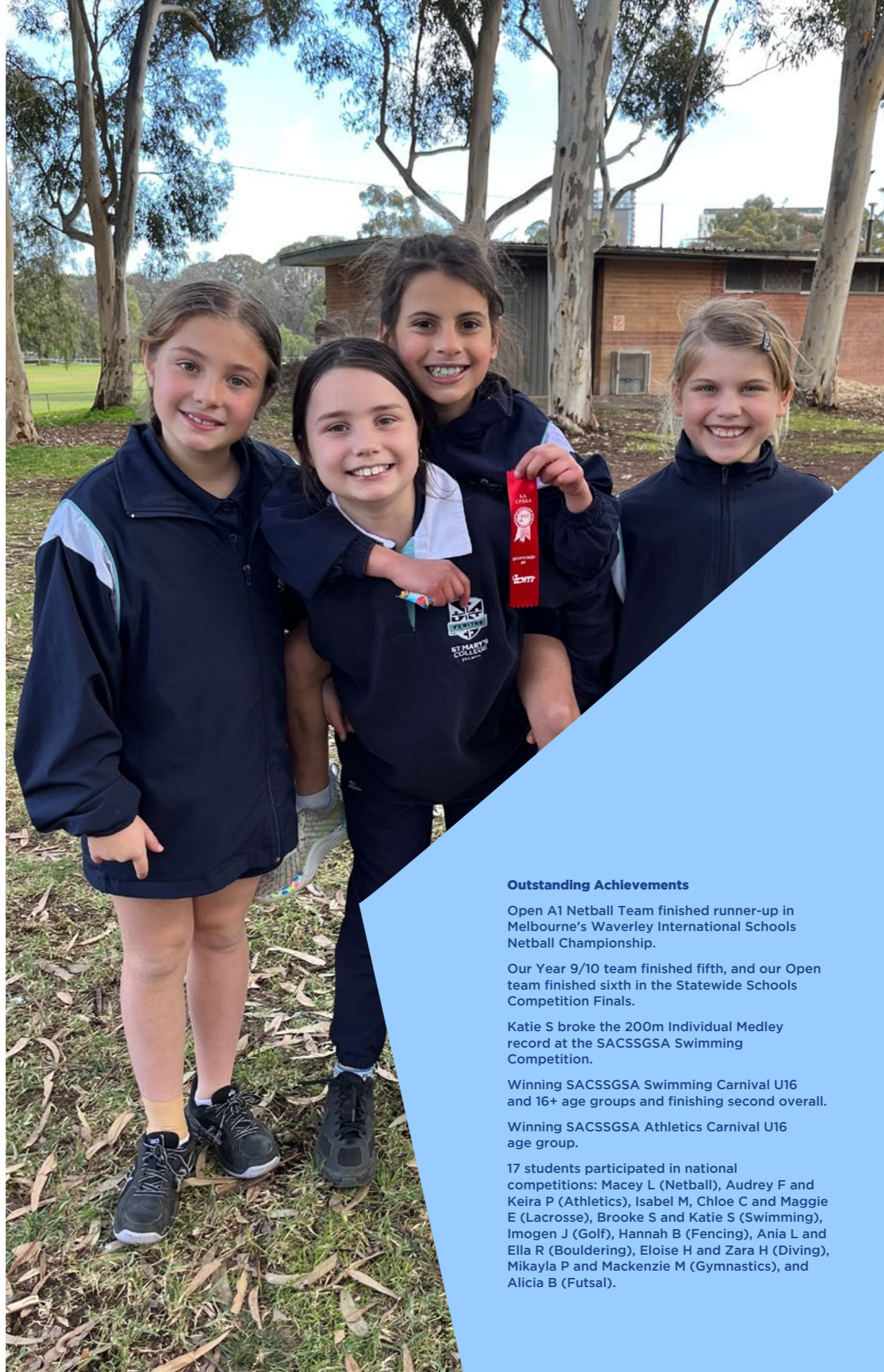
A busy Term 1 saw students competing in SACSSGSA and School Sport SA Athletics and Swimming Carnivals, and Term 2 was the start of the Statewide Schools Competition. St Mary's College competed in Netball, Volleyball, Futsal, Australian Rules Football and Basketball. This year, 120 students represented the College in School Sport SA Weekly Sports competitions in Volleyball, Basketball, Badminton, Netball and Tennis.

House Cup

In Term 3, students in Years 7 to 12 competed in our inaugural House Cup Tournament, participating in a week-long lunchtime Netball and Volleyball competition. Students of varying sporting abilities took to the court to represent their houses.

Netball Academy

Our St Mary's College Netball Academy Program grows each year, with 93 students participating in 2023. Our dedicated netballers trained two mornings a week from 7:00 - 8:30am in Terms 1, 2 and 3. We are grateful to have our old scholar coaches offer their time for training and game day to ensure our students receive high-level coaching.



Outstanding Achievements

Open A1 Netball Team finished runner-up in Melbourne's Waverley International Schools Netball Championship.

Our Year 9/10 team finished fifth, and our Open team finished sixth in the Statewide Schools Competition Finals.

Katie S broke the 200m Individual Medley record at the SACSSGSA Swimming Competition.

Winning SACSSGSA Swimming Carnival U16 and 16+ age groups and finishing second overall.

Winning SACSSGSA Athletics Carnival U16 age group.

17 students participated in national competitions: Macey L (Netball), Audrey F and Keira P (Athletics), Isabel M, Chloe C and Maggie E (Lacrosse), Brooke S and Katie S (Swimming), Imogen J (Golf), Hannah B (Fencing), Ania L and Ella R (Bouldering), Eloise H and Zara H (Diving), Mikayla P and Mackenzie M (Gymnastics), and Alicia B (Futsal).



Visual and Performing Arts Highlights

Wizard Tone Studios Recording Sessions

In Term 3, music ensembles from Reception to Year 12 immersed themselves in the world of professional music recording at Wizard Tone Studios.

Our students had the unique opportunity to bring their musical repertoire to life in a professional recording setting. Our bands and choirs performed multiple pieces and enjoyed the experience and processes of recording in a studio.

For some fortunate students, the adventure extended beyond the performance itself. Invited to the control room, students had the privilege of witnessing a skilled sound engineer edit their tracks. This behind-the-scenes experience provided students with valuable insights into the intricacies of music production and an understanding of the recording process.

Sounds of City Schools

Sounds of City School was a magnificent event, showcasing the talent that exists within the musical communities of St Mary's College, St Aloysius College, and Christian Brothers College.

All three Colleges combined to create a wonderful arts/community event on our Veritas Lawns, with performances by Stage Bands, Rock Bands, and Small Jazz Ensembles, along with vocalists in chorale formations of various kinds, and our old scholar band. We also saw performances by our talented tap-dancing duo, as well as our dance students who performed as 'clowns', entertaining the crowd throughout the night.

After three solid hours of music, the night ended with a combined effort from all the colleges with a performance of the Jackson 5 hit 'Blame It on the Boogie'.

Our Year 12 Business class also had their first taste of operating a small business on the night, launching 'PoffertChefs,' a pop-up store selling poffertjes (small Dutch pancakes). We also recognise our St Mary's College Friends of Music, who supported this event. We are so grateful to have such a supportive and enthusiastic community in our city schools.

Senior Art & Design Exhibition

The Senior Art and Design Exhibition is a highlight of the school year as it celebrates the hard work and creativity of our current Stage 1 and 2 art and design students.

The versatility of the exhibition was evident in the range of mediums and techniques employed by the students, from traditional methods of painting in oil, gouache, and acrylic, to sculptures, architectural displays, fashion design and graphic design.

The exhibition was a great success and provided opportunities for families and the wider community to celebrate the outstanding work of our senior students.



'Oliver!'

In 2023, St Mary's College proudly presented 'Oliver!' the musical. The production brought together students from Year 7 to 12 to celebrate the joy and community forged through the Performing Arts.

'Oliver!' was not just a musical but a transformative experience that nurtured personal growth, fostered valuable life skills, and created lasting memories. As our students embarked on this theatrical journey, they discovered numerous avenues for learning, collaboration, and self-discovery that left an indelible impact on everyone.

Throughout their rehearsal period, students enjoyed exchanging the daily life in the classroom for a professional theatrical experience. Collaborating intensively in a creative endeavour forged strong bonds among our students, and the positive experiences that students underwent through the production will undoubtedly influence and enrich their lives. The shared dedication, laughter and mutual support during the many long rehearsals and exhilarating performances led to the creation of lasting friendships that extended beyond the theatre.

Our talented students captured the hearts of audiences across four hugely successful performances. It was an exceptional production and a great team effort from the staff and students involved. St Mary's College is most fortunate to have such a high-quality performing arts department who are committed to providing the very best program for our students.

"Our community has always been known for quality productions that are sure to entertain. More than that, this production was a fabulous way to engage diverse community members." Clare Nocka, Principal.

Congratulations to everyone involved in the success that was 'Oliver!' and thank you to all community members who supported and celebrated our talented students and staff.



STEM Highlights

Throughout the year, students have engaged in various activities and experiences, and we have highlighted some for you below:

UniSA STEM Showdown

Our Year 5 and 6 students participated in weekly, hands-on STEM challenges such as message decoding, working with microbots, and creating a tangram zoo.

Adelaide Fringe START(UP) ACADEMY

Selected Year 8, 9, and 10 students attended practical workshops on how to apply design thinking to unpack some of the most complex problems facing society and our planet.

STEM Sista

A student mentoring program focusing on STEM skills and competencies that taught students the importance of networking, saying yes to opportunities, and learning how to achieve their goals.

Women in STEM Breakfast

Students were provided with the opportunity to network with STEM industry women such as Teresa Janowski (Founder & CEO of STEM Fast Track), Sarah Brown (Code Like a Girl), Alice Miller (Environmental Engineering and Mathematics Student Ambassador), and old scholars in various STEM fields.

Project X (Laser Cutting)

Our co-curricular laser cutting group, Project X, was loaned an industry-standard Laser Cutter from Trotec and challenged to find its positive uses in our community.

Digital Twin - RAA Battery Pitch

Students Olive (Year 5), Georgena (Year 11), and Chanelle (Year 12) met with RAA representatives to pitch for a battery to store excess energy generated by our solar panels. Working alongside Digital Twinning, students created a model that included all plumbing and wiring of our buildings to track the solar panel's effectiveness.

UniSA STEM Girls Academy

Students attended a three-day workshop where they met like-minded girls, developed their understanding of specific STEM topics, enhanced critical thinking, and improved their communication skills.

STEM Fast Track Masterclass

The STEM Fast Track Master Classes are an extension of STEM Sista, STEM Mista and Cyber Sista, with a deep dive into specific topics. Students attended panel sessions and workshops, and networked with industry partners.

STEM Lumination

Year 7 students were challenged to create the 'ultimate school' using coding software to create their vision and incorporate the engineering design process, sustainability, and critical and creative thinking strategies.

UniSA STEM Girls Design Challenge

Students participated in hands-on workshops integrating design and digital technologies to focus on creating technology rather than the consumption of it. They also networked with industry professionals and academics for an authentic STEM experience.

Alliance of Girls School Careers in STEM

With a key focus on why we need more women in STEM, students heard from female STEM representatives and collaborated with like-minded students from other schools.

We look forward to providing more enriching STEM experiences for our students in 2024. Old scholars are encouraged to express their interest in attending our next Women in STEM breakfast event.



At St Mary's College, we provide our students with opportunities to encourage them to study and pursue careers in science, technology, engineering, and maths.



Staff Interviews



Christina Kilishiri

When did you start working at St Mary's College, and what roles have you held?

Term 2 in 1998. I have previously held roles as a Year 11 and 12 Care Group Teacher and HASS Coordinator. I am currently the Director of Senior School.

What do you love most about working at St Mary's College?

I have been at the College for a long time, and over the years, the staff have become like a second family. The warm relationships with students and the enduring connections that persist after graduation are exceptional.

What interests do you enjoy?

I enjoy beach walks with my puppy Luna, brunch with friends, short local getaways, embarking on international adventures, and listening to podcasts - my favourite is 'On Purpose' with Jay Shetty.

Who is someone you admire?

My grandmother, whom I'm named after, is someone I deeply admire. Her unwavering faith and belief gave her strength to overcome challenges and live authentically.

What was your first job?

At 14, I worked at my parents' chicken shop as the 'griller girl,' responsible for flipping burgers. Occasionally, I would sneak coins from the cash register to games like 'Space Invaders' and 'Pac-Man.'

If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

Dancing Queen by ABBA. It reminds me of fun nights out with friends growing up.

What advice would you give your high school self?

Build strong relationships with people who support and inspire you; these relationships can last a lifetime. Don't be afraid to ask questions and make mistakes, and always be your authentic self.

What has been a key highlight for you in your time at St Mary's College?

I had the privilege of participating in two immersion trips to Vietnam, where we visited and volunteered at the Phu My Orphanage. These experiences were challenging, humbling, and a lot of fun.



Peter Batty

When did you start working at St Mary's College, and what roles have you held?

In 1995, as a Senior School Teacher. I have also held the roles of Middle School Curriculum Coordinator, Immersion Trip Leader, and Justice Coordinator. I am currently the Coordinator of Outreach, Service, and Immersion.

What do you love most about working at St Mary's College?

I love the focus on Justice and our Dominican pillars of Learning, Service, Reflection and Community. It's an excellent place for young people to develop their humanity and a fun place to teach and work!

What interests do you enjoy?

I enjoy travelling, cooking, walking, mowing the lawn, and going to the beach. I used to love running, but I can't do that anymore now that I have an artificial knee!

Who is someone you admire?

I admire all people who are materially poor but psychologically rich and possess great joy and happiness in their life journey. They inspire me to be a better human.

What was your first job?

Serving and pumping petrol at the Airport Service Station. I would put petrol in their car, wash the windscreen, check the oil level, and put air in the tyres. It is a great shame that we have self-serve service stations! Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan still have people who provide "petrol service".

If you could watch one movie for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

Gone with the Wind - one of the best movies of all time.

What advice would you give your high school self?

My advice would be to always do your best, have fun, be a good person, and enjoy the ride!

What has been a key highlight for you in your time at St Mary's College?

It has been a great privilege to educate the young women of St Mary's College for over 30 years.



Sue Cvijanovic

When did you start working at St Mary's College, and what roles have you held?

In 1999, as an ESO. My roles included Front Office Admin, data management, event organisation, student timetabler, and more. I am currently the Community Engagement, Marketing and Events Coordinator.

What do you love most about working at St Mary's College?

I have always loved helping create memorable events that students will enjoy, embrace, and remember of their time at St Mary's.

What interests do you enjoy?

I love reading and listening to podcasts. I enjoy a busy social life, catching up with my family and friends. I also spend most weekends at the beach with my grandson Lucas.

Who is someone you admire?

My Mum. She is the most generous-hearted and giving person I know and always has time and energy for her family and our friends.

What was your first job?

Peeling potatoes in a local chicken shop at 15. It was the first time I had my own money, earning \$20 per week. My first pay went on a top from Witchery that I had my eye on!

If you could only read one book for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

The Secret Garden. It was the first book given to me as a child, and it started my love of reading.

What advice would you give your high school self?

Love your friends - they will be your friends for life and be there when needed!

What has been a key highlight for you in your time at St Mary's College?

I have made deep friendships with some fantastic people, and we have been through pain and loss and joy and laughter. I have so many memorable moments with them and lifelong connections.



Celeste Jordan

When did you start working at St Mary's College, and what roles have you held?

In 2018. I have taught Science, Biology and HPE across Years 7 to 12. I've also been the Year 10 Coordinator for the past four years.

What do you love most about working at St Mary's College?

I have always loved the sense of community. It's a dynamic, inclusive, and joy-filled place in which our staff and students can show up fully as themselves. I really do think I work with the most dedicated and supportive teachers!

What interests do you enjoy?

I recently got an Australian Shepherd puppy called Bandit (now a gigantic dog), who I spend a lot of time with. I enjoy going to Pilates classes, walking, and catching up with friends over brunch or dinner!

Who is someone you admire?

I've been lucky to be guided by many strong, intelligent, caring people over my life, so this is a tough question!

What was your first job?

At Charlesworth Nuts when I was 15. The hardest part was trying not to eat all the nuts and chocolates while working!

If you could only listen to one song for the rest of your life, which would it be and why?

Beautiful Day - U2. It reminds me to find joy and grace in the small things.

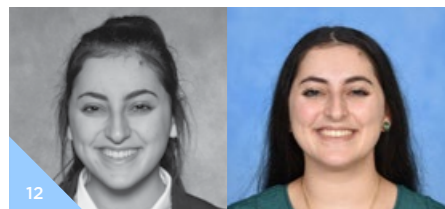
What advice would you give your high school self?

Who you are as a person will always trump what achievements or work you will do in your life. The world needs good, honest, genuine, humble humans who care for others.

What has been a key highlight for you in your time at St Mary's College?

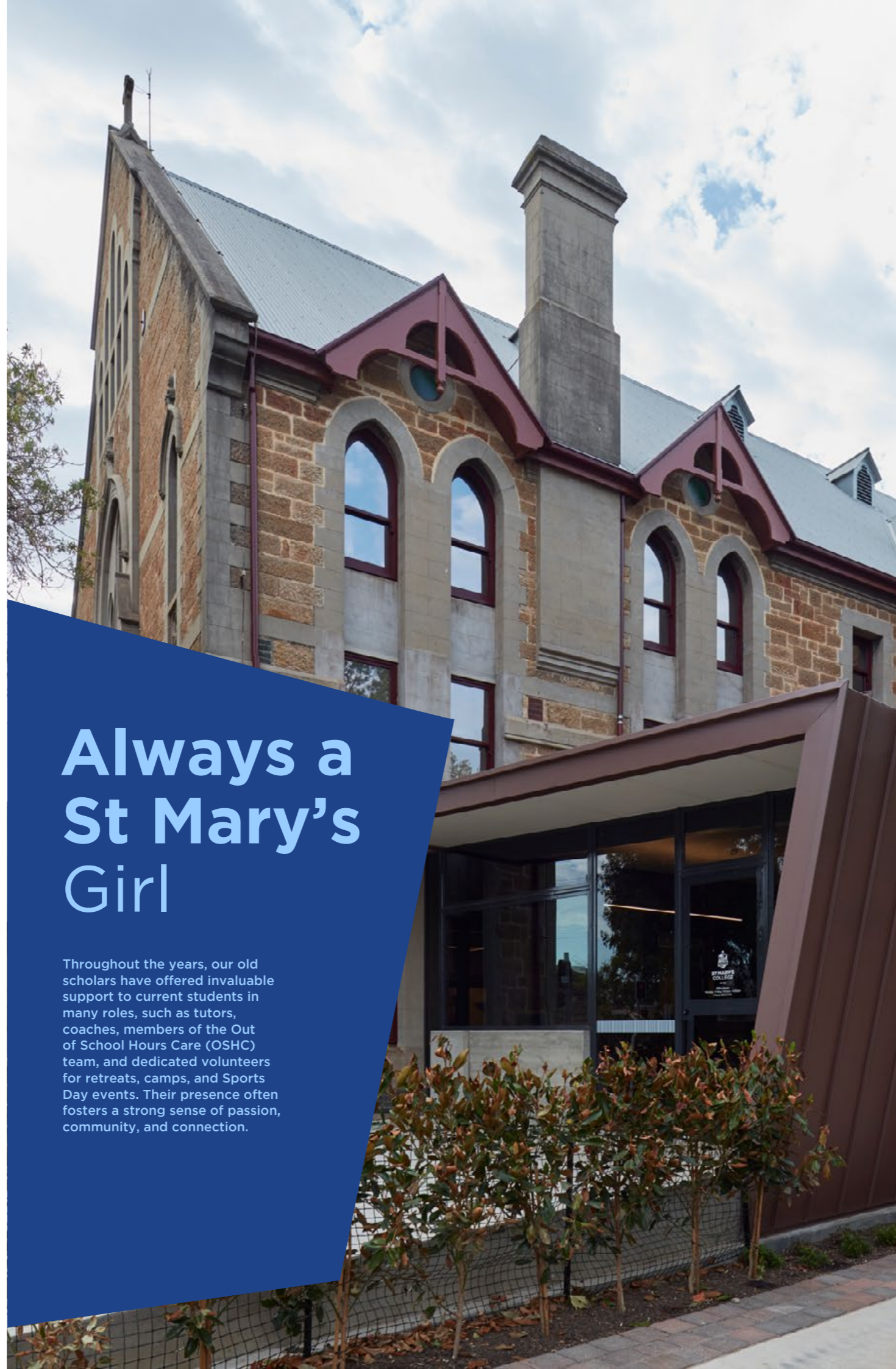
Last year, I took a group of students to Iga Warta in the Flinders Ranges for a week, which was a special experience.

At St Mary's College, we value our old scholars who return to the College as staff, contributing their expertise in either teaching roles or within professional capacities.

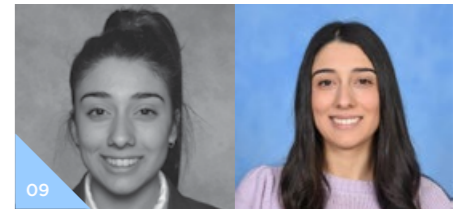


Always a St Mary's Girl

Throughout the years, our old scholars have offered invaluable support to current students in many roles, such as tutors, coaches, members of the Out of School Hours Care (OSHC) team, and dedicated volunteers for retreats, camps, and Sports Day events. Their presence often fosters a strong sense of passion, community, and connection.



An integral feature of our inaugural Old Scholar magazine is the celebration of these former St Mary's students, tracing their paths from graduation to their roles within our College community in 2023.



- 01** Sandra Ciccarello (nee Casarin)
Class of 1980 - Director of Junior School
- 02** Viv Camerini
Class of 1985 - Year 4 Teacher
- 03** Terry Cooper (nee Forner)
Class of 1985 - Year 3 Teacher
- 04** Melinda O'Hara (nee D'Agostini)
Class of 1991 - Middle and Senior Curriculum ESO
- 05** Dina Tseregounes (nee Passera Kourkoulis)
Class of 2007 - Year 1 Teacher
- 06** Danielle Robinson (nee Rodier)
Class of 2007 - Registrar
- 07** Alexandra Mantis
Class of 2011 - Music Technology and Administration ESO
- 08** Georgie Amadio (nee Toth)
Class of 2012 - Leader of Inclusive Education
- 09** Nicole Cremona
Class of 2013 - Junior School Leader of Wellbeing
- 10** Isabella Barila
Class of 2014 - Communications and Publications Officer
- 11** Olivia Quick
Class of 2014 - Year 5/6 Teacher
- 12** Alexandra Gavrilidis
Class of 2016 - HASS Learning Area Leader



Old Scholar Spotlight

A snapshot of what our old scholars have been up to around the country and the world!

Talent, Tenacity, and Tribeca

Congratulations to filmmaker Indiana Bell (Class of 2013), whose debut feature film, 'You'll Never Find Me', had its 2023 world premiere at the annual Tribeca Festival in New York. Indiana not only co-directed the horror thriller film but was also the screenwriter and producer. The film has already seen great success, winning the 'Best Feature' award at the 2023 SXSW Sydney Screen Festival.

Over the past five years, Indi's screenwriting and short and feature films have won many awards at local, national, and international film festivals. Her accolades have included 'Best Direction' and 'The Young Filmmaker Award' at the South Australian Screen Awards. In 2019 and 2020, she was awarded the 'Best Narrative Short' at the Austin Film Festival in the United States for 'Call Connect', as well as being named one of the '25 Screenwriters to Watch'. Indiana's talents don't just stop at filmmaking; in 2018, she released her first book, 'Quirky Quinten', an early childhood book designed for children who have family or friends with ASD. We can't wait to see what Indi does next!

A Debut Novel Launch with Julia Gillard

Congratulations to Roanna McClelland (Class of 2000) on launching her debut novel, 'The Comforting Weight of Water'. The book was launched earlier this year by former Prime Minister Julia Gillard and is a story that examines a near future left dramatically altered by societal and climatic forces.

Roanna is an emerging writer of fiction and non-fiction with a background spanning environmental policy, law, politics, media, and research, notably working as the Adviser for the Hon Julia Gillard AC. She is currently completing a PhD in Environment and Water Law, exploring conceptualisations of climate, the environment, identity, and human nature in modern society. She was also the recipient of the 'Arts South Australia Wakefield Press Unpublished Manuscript Award'.

Roanna has made a guest appearance on Julia Gillard's podcast, 'A Podcast of One's Own', to discuss the themes of her book and how she pursues them as an active feminist and deep thinker on gender inequality. Head into your local bookstore to grab a copy.

Shooting Hoops from Nebraska to Darwin

Ruby Porter (Class of 2019) is a Darwin Salties star! After signing with the Women's NBL1 team for their inaugural season in 2022, Ruby has made a name for herself, receiving the 2023 'Most Consistent Award', having played ten games with double-figure points, including five games where she scored 20+. Ruby is also an integral part of her team's leadership group.

Prior to her local success, Ruby was a recipient of a basketball scholarship with the Nebraska Huskers from 2020, where she played 50 games and was named on the Nebraska Scholar-Athlete Honor Roll three times. Ruby has also represented Australia in the 3 v 3 World Youth Olympics, winning a Bronze medal, at the 3 x 3 Asia World Cup, and at just sixteen years old, she played for the Adelaide Lightning basketball team.

We look forward to following Ruby's professional basketball journey in future years.

Leading with Compassion and Purpose

Congratulations to Julia Mangan (Class of 2000), who has recently been appointed the CEO of CatholicCare, Tasmania.

Julia returned to St Mary's College when she was appointed Director of the College Board in May 2019 until retiring in 2022. Julia credits St Mary's as having a significant influence in her life, explaining, "There were social justice engagement and opportunities; things like Fred's Van, and making soup for people who are homeless in the city. As a teenager, it led me towards that social justice drive in my personal life, and later professionally".

Julia completed a law and arts degree, majoring in politics, and worked with the South Australian government at the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions, SafeWork SA, and Housing SA, working in the housing and homelessness sectors. Julia has had a strong career of more than 15 years in senior leadership positions, including executive roles where she was responsible for social housing, homelessness, regulatory compliance, property and contract management, and legal advisory.

We congratulate Julia on her appointment.



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Waltzing Matildas

Congratulations to Alex Chidiac (Class of 2016) on representing Australia in the 2023 Women's World Cup. At just sixteen years old, Alex joined the senior Matildas squad and in 2015 made her international debut. Prior to this year's World Cup, Alex was selected to play in the Cup of Nations where she scored a goal in the Grand Final match, leading to the Matildas undefeated victory.

On top of her international successes, Alex also won the prestigious A-League Women 'Julie Dolan Medal' for her 2022/2023 season with Melbourne Victory, despite only playing 13 of the 20 games. The Julie Dolan Medal is handed out annually to the best player in the top-tier Women's Football competition in Australia. Alex shared, "I love football in Australia, and this award is something I truly value and means a lot to me. It's come a lot sooner than I could have ever imagined, but I am very proud of this".

Alex is signed to American club Racing Louisville and on loan to Liga MX Femenil club, Tigres UANL until December 2023. We look forward to watching Alex in the next World Cup; GO TILLIES!

Where Are They Now

Exploring the dynamic professional journeys of our old scholars



Nichole Horvath

Class of 2004

The Sweet Journey of a Pastry Chef

Nichole Horvath's culinary journey is a remarkable testament to determination and passion. As the Pastry Chef for Curtis Stone Events, catering to events such as the Melbourne Cup Carnival, Nichole is a key player in the Australian culinary scene, making her impact in a traditionally male-dominated field.

Nichole's role as a Pastry Chef for Curtis Stone Events reflects her unwavering dedication to her craft. In 2020, she had the opportunity to work at one of Curtis Stone's Michelin-starred restaurants in Los Angeles, thanks to her role with the Australian arm of the company.

Before her prestigious role with Curtis Stone, Nichole gained essential experience as the Head Pastry Chef at Burch and Purchase Sweet Studio. Working alongside its founder, Darren Purchase, (known for his MasterChef appearances and current judging role on The Great Australian Bake Off), was a formative part of her journey.

Nichole's culinary adventure began with a unique twist. After graduation she managed a supermarket bakery, inspiring her to explore baking and cake decorating outside of her job. After being made redundant from a corporate position, Nichole's journey took a turn when she decided to become an apprentice at the age of 26. After completing her apprenticeship and earning her Certificate III in Commercial Cookery, she focused primarily on pastry.

Her dedication and skills didn't go unnoticed. Nichole won the Thierry Marx Career Development Award, which led to a two-week stint in a 2-Michelin Star restaurant in Paris. In 2016, she was named a national finalist in the Australian Young Chef of the Year awards.

Nichole's journey began with early experiences in home economics (now known as food technology), where our St Mary's teachers encouraged her individuality. This spirit of embracing her uniqueness and following her passions has stayed with her and guides her today.

In a historically male-dominated field, Nichole advocates for more women to pursue careers in the culinary field. She acknowledges the challenges but notes the significant improvement in recent years. For aspiring chefs, Nichole offers valuable advice: "Be prepared to work hard, stay passionate, and don't hesitate to speak up and ask for help when needed".

Nichole's success continues with regular guest appearances on the Channel 10 Series Farm to Fork, where she shares delicious dessert recipes, showcasing her culinary skills. Keep an eye out for this rising star in the culinary world and on television in the future.



"Be prepared to work hard, stay passionate, and don't hesitate to speak up and ask for help when needed."



Vanessa Camerlengo

Class of 2009

Reshaping Family Law

As a student, Vanessa Camerlengo always had a desire to make a difference in a unique and meaningful way. She felt a calling to help others and reshape lives beyond traditional boundaries. Vanessa's educational journey at St Mary's was pivotal in shaping her values of family, community, and truth. These values led her to the field of family law.

As a Senior Solicitor at Resolve Divorce, Vanessa is known for being the youngest accredited specialist in Family Law in South Australia. Her passion lies in finding innovative solutions for individuals during one of the most challenging periods of their lives. Her work is not just about navigating the legal complexities of divorce; it's about offering creative solutions to foster a positive impact on families, erasing the negative stigma surrounding divorce.

Recently, Resolve Divorce made headlines for its all-female team. This wasn't a calculated decision but a consequence of like-minded individuals coming together. Vanessa draws inspiration from the driven and dynamic team she works with, comprised of women who share common values and a shared passion for positively influencing their clients' lives.

Vanessa aspires to inspire a broader shift in the legal industry, particularly in family law. She envisions a more human and holistic approach to divorce, where lawyers understand the profound connection between people and the law. Beyond a mere focus on the legal outcomes, Vanessa recognises the emotional and life-changing journey that divorce can be.

Her thirteen-year educational journey at St Mary's College provided her with the privilege of learning and growing alongside strong, independent, and creative young women, an experience she cherishes to this day. Her memories from school are an amalgamation of positivity and fun, noting why she now loves working with an all-female team.

With a wealth of experience and a continuing passion for learning, Vanessa extends her wisdom to aspiring law students. She emphasises the transformative potential of a law degree, opening doors to various career paths. Whether one chooses to become a lawyer, venture into politics, or teach law, a legal education equips individuals with problem-solving skills, the ability to take on challenges, and the joy of learning in an ever-evolving field.

"In my experience, it's hard work but incredibly rewarding," Vanessa's words resonate as an invitation to the young women of St Mary's to embrace the journey of reshaping lives through the realm of law.

'St Mary's was pivotal in shaping her values of family, community, and truth. These values led her to the field of family law.'



Mykenzie Low

Class of 2021

From Graduation to The Great Outback

We live in a world with endless opportunities and possibilities, and Mykenzie Low is an example of someone taking a unique path and breaking the mould to create her own journey. Having graduated in 2021, Mykenzie's embarked on an academic and professional adventure, which has seen her transition from student to proud ringer on a cattle station, all whilst pursuing her passion for education.

In 2022, she began studying a Bachelor of Secondary Education with a major in visual arts and a sub-major in history and politics. While her academic interests were firmly rooted in the classroom, Mykenzie had always wanted to travel and live in rural Australia. Her love for four-wheel driving, camping, and travelling allowed Mykenzie to find her passion in the agricultural industry as a field of work.

In early February 2023, Mykenzie applied for a station hand role through the 'Females in Agriculture' Facebook page and boldly decided to take a gap year, moving to the remote Pilbara region in Western Australia. Today, she calls Warrawagine Station her home, working as a full-time ringer on a cattle station. Her role is diverse, encompassing tasks like mustering, yard work, looking after poddy's, drafting, and walking out cattle, as well as educating weaners (young mickeys and heifers).

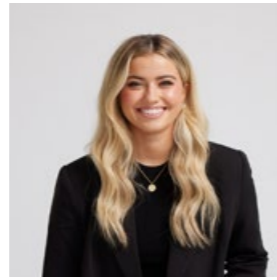
The agricultural industry is renowned for its rigour and long hours, but Mykenzie approaches each day with enthusiasm and genuine love for her job. In the traditionally male-dominated world of rural agriculture, she has discovered a predominantly female stock crew that boasts strength, independence, and resilience. Mykenzie explains, "We are always well represented and respected. We are encouraged and supported in every way and given the same opportunities to learn".

Mykenzie's journey demonstrates that life doesn't always follow a linear path. While her degree might not seem directly related to her work at the cattle station, her story is a reminder that one's passions can converge in unexpected and harmonious ways. Originally only taking this path as a gap year, Mykenzie has now chosen to stay in the agricultural field and complete her university degree.

For those considering a career shift, Mykenzie offers wise advice: "Take your time, listen to yourself and your passions, and take every opportunity to learn and grow. You might be surprised by how much you enjoy and wish to pursue it."

"Take your time, listen to yourself and your passions, and take every opportunity to learn and grow."





Sarah-Jane Stevens

Class of 2013

Inspiring Change in Developmental Education

Fuelled by a deep-rooted passion to make a difference, Sarah-Jane Stevens, co-owner of Assist Developmental Therapy, seeks to inspire change in the developmental education field. With her partner, Lloyd, she operates this thriving enterprise, making a significant impact on the lives of individuals with disabilities.

Assist Developmental Therapy services cover a wide spectrum, working with individuals of all ages and accessible to people across Adelaide. Their broad and diverse clientele allows them to make a meaningful impact on a large scale.

In the industry, Sarah-Jane advocates for a more adaptable and responsive system. She emphasises the need for services and support to be flexible enough to meet the diverse and evolving needs of individuals with disabilities. She has witnessed individuals receiving inadequate funding or being denied support and calls for a change to ensure that everyone who requires support receives the funding and services they deserve.

Sarah-Jane credits St Mary's College for playing a pivotal role in shaping her personal growth and career path. The College encouraged growth, learning, and independence, which are now invaluable in her career as a developmental educator. St Mary's College was more than just a school to Sarah-Jane; it laid the foundation for her passion for education and her commitment to empowering others.

Beyond her professional life, Sarah-Jane finds joy and knowledge in books and believes that her love for reading greatly enhances her abilities as a developmental educator. Her belief in community support led Sarah-Jane to found 'The Good Club', a Facebook community for individuals dealing with anxiety and mental health challenges. It provides a safe space for people to connect, share their experiences, and seek support. Her long-term commitment as a support worker for a young man with Down Syndrome for nearly ten years is a testament to her dedication to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

For students aspiring to enter this field of work, Sarah-Jane shares this advice, "Follow your passion wholeheartedly. In the disability sector, passion is an absolute necessity. You will be working with vulnerable individuals who place their trust in you to guide them, support them, and advocate for their needs. This trust is sacred, and it requires genuine dedication. When you are passionate about what you do, it's not just a job; it's a calling. Your enthusiasm and commitment will not only enrich your own life but will also have a profound impact on the lives of the individuals you serve".

"When you are passionate about what you do, it's not just a job; it's a calling."



Stephanie Ielasi

Class of 2021

A Lifelong Journey of Justice

After graduating just two years ago, Stephanie Ielasi has embarked on an impressive professional journey, attributing her ambition to St Mary's College, which instilled in her a sense of community and a desire to give back.

In early 2022, Stephanie entered the bustling world of CoreLogic, the globe's largest property data and analytics company. Here, she thrives, contributing to groundbreaking projects that shape the property industry's future. Stephanie often recounts how privileged she feels to be part of an inspiring team environment that encourages innovation and collaboration.

Stephanie's work doesn't stop at her desk. St Mary's instilled in her the value of community engagement, and one of her most cherished experiences is participating in the "Meals from the Heart" program at Ronald McDonald House, a project led by CoreLogic Australia. She cherishes the warmth of giving, providing critical assistance and support to families during their most challenging times.

With her colleagues at CoreLogic Australia, they joined forces with Habitat for Humanity Australia on International Women's Day, working together to renovate a home for an elderly woman in crisis. The project rekindled her belief in the importance of safe and decent housing for all. "I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to give back to our community and contribute to making a positive impact".

Drawn to impactful volunteering initiatives, Stephanie has also devoted time to Solar Buddy, a cause close to her heart, aligned with her values, and a reminder of St Mary's teachings about giving back. Solar Buddy's mission is to break the cycle of energy poverty for children. Stephanie witnessed firsthand the transformative impact of renewable energy on children's lives, reinforcing her belief in the power of positive change.

Stephanie's pursuit of personal growth and professional development was the catalyst in deciding to further her education, and she is currently studying law and business, specialising in property and real estate. In addition to her current endeavours, she is a passionate advocate for gender diversity in the property and construction industry. Her long-term ambition is to establish a firm that empowers and encourages women to actively participate and excel in these fields, amplifying their voices and contributing to a more inclusive and dynamic industry.

Stephanie's journey is a testament to her Dominican values and unwavering commitment to making the world a better place.

"I am thrilled to have had the opportunity to give back to our community and contribute to making a positive impact."



Wedding Bells



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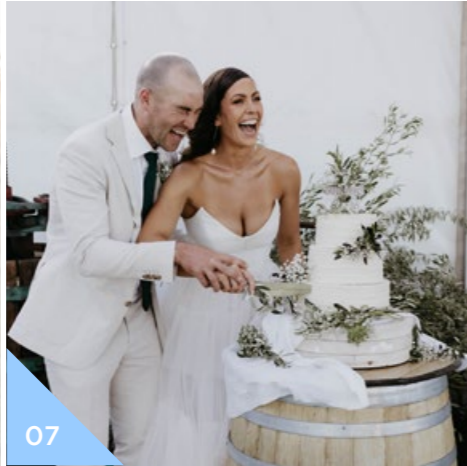
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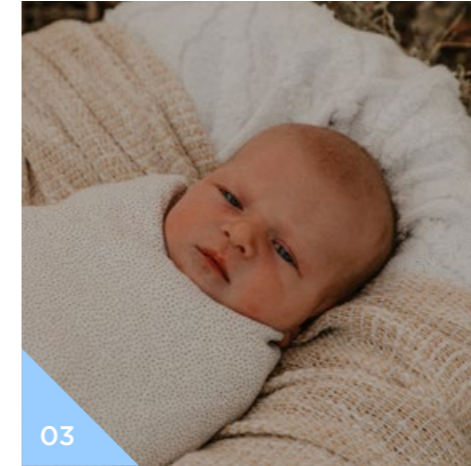


07

- 01 Olivia Barbaro (2013) became engaged to her partner Arturo on 10 December 2022.
- 02 Lucabella Clifford (2018) became engaged to her partner Tom on 11 February 2023.
- 03 Alana Wienert (2014) became engaged to her partner Seren on 19 April 2023.
- 04 Alexandra Gavrilidis (2016) married her partner Peter on 10 December 2022. In her bridal party was old scholar Isabella Barila (2014).
- 05 Sarah Condina (2013) married her partner Kristian on 5 March 2023. In her bridal party were old scholars Olivia Barbaro (2013), Laura Martino (2011), and Romina Gagliardi (2011).
- 06 Courtney Sutherland (nee Moore, 2014) married her partner Daniel on 6 May 2023. In her bridal party was old scholar Maddison Moore (2018).
- 07 Regan Grace (nee Smallacombe, 2009) married her partner Colby on 28 October 2023. In her bridal party were old scholars Courtney Smallacombe (2008) and Sophie Gardner (2009).

Little Ones

Do you have a special moment you would like to share with our St Mary's College community? Please send your submission to Advancement@stmarys.sa.edu.au



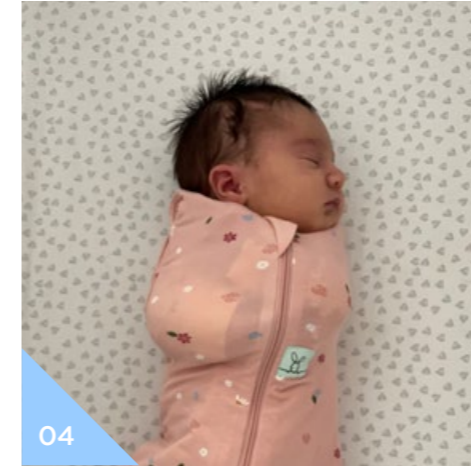
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- 01 Georgia Madaras (nee Parasiers 2011) and partner Christopher welcomed a boy, Arthur Rex Matthew Madaras, on 5 July 2023.
- 02 Jayde Williams (nee Redford, 2011) and partner Ryan welcomed a girl, Airlie Lisa Williams, on 17 July 2023. A little sister to Izaac.
- 03 Kate MacLucas (2014) and her partner Adam welcomed a boy, Hugo Martin Ravenscroft, on 4 July 2023.
- 04 Katie Nikolic (nee Marker 2005) and partner Andrej welcomed a girl, Olivia Janie Nikolic, on 5 November 2023. A little sister to Elena.

Old Scholar Events

In early April, over 100 pre-1990s old scholars and staff reconnected at our High Tea Reunion. Witnessing grandmothers and granddaughters, mothers and daughters, sisters, cousins, life-long friends, and our Dominican Sisters who have remained connected since leaving St Mary's College was heart-warming.

Our inaugural Women in STEM Breakfast was a chance for students, old scholars, staff, and industry women to come together for a morning of networking and guest speakers. Students had the opportunity to talk to mentors about their work and their passions, and old scholars had a chance to share their stories both during their time at St Mary's and now in their respective STEM fields.

As a part of our 2023 SALA events, old scholars were invited to the College for a night of art, fun, and community at our annual Paint & Sip event! Award-winning South Australian artist Ruby Chew guided attendees in creating masterpieces inspired by Pablo Picasso.

Our final old scholar event for 2023 was our Class of 1993, 2003, 2013, and 2022 reunion evening. Celebrating their respective thirty-year, twenty-year, ten-year, and one-year reunions, old scholars were taken on a campus tour to look at our new buildings and walked through familiar parts of the school, reminiscing and sharing many stories about their time at St Mary's College.

In celebration of our 155th anniversary, we look forward to hosting the following reunion events in 2024:

Classes of 1994, 2004, 2014

Class of 2023

Old Scholars - pre-1990s

Please update your details via our website or email Advancement@stmarys.sa.edu.au, to ensure you don't miss out on this information, and follow our social media pages for updates.



Our old scholar events in 2023 have provided opportunities to reconnect with old friends and teachers, share stories, inspire our current students, and make new contacts.



In Memoriam

Leanne Armand

In 2022, we bid farewell to respected Old Scholar (Class of 1985) and ANZIC Director Professor Leanne Armand (nee Dansie).

A leader in marine science, Leanne's pioneering spirit and academic excellence earned her the first Australian European Union Incoming Marie Curie Fellowship. She leaves behind a legacy of inspiration and achievement.

Leanne is survived by her husband, Stéphane, sons Maxime and Gaston, and parents, Keith, and Lynette Dansie, who has been an integral part of the St Mary's College community since 1956, serving as an Old Scholar, dedicated parent, and College librarian.

In the past, St Mary's College students have been fortunate to have Leanne present at Career Expos and share her career journey. The Research School of Earth Sciences ANU, College of Science shared, "A keen interest in biology was fostered by teachers at St Mary's College in Adelaide and led to Leanne taking a major in biology at Flinders University."

May her impact on the world be a testament to a remarkable life.



Marg Emmel

It is with great sadness that we share the passing of respected past staff member, Marg Emmel.

Marg began her teaching career at the SA Education Department in 1974. She commenced employment at St Mary's College on 1 February 1984 as a Music and Drama Teacher, where she remained until retirement in 2014.

Over this time, Marg held various roles at St Mary's, such as our Music & Drama Coordinator, Year 10 Coordinator, and Choir Director, and taught a variety of subjects such as history, English, and geography.

Marg had a love for life and a passion for justice and enjoyed experiences that opened and challenged her mind. Marg had a particular zest and enthusiasm for history, and from 2024, we will commemorate her vocation through the annual Marg Emmel History Award.

May her kindness and wisdom continue to guide us all.



From The Archives

It was an exciting time for the staff and students from Years 6 to 12 involved in a production they referred to as a 'sparklefest'!

While the productions since have been astounding successes, understandably, there was much apprehension about the first one. Adding a live orchestra with great songs, students who could sing, dance and have acting skills, and perform to a live audience each night was a huge undertaking!

The Wiz cast commented (excerpt from the 2000 St Mary's College Yearbook):

"It was the most emotional, enjoyable time I have ever had, and I want to do it again."

"I have lots of fond memories of The Wiz. I made lots of friends through the auditions, rehearsals, and performances that I know will last a long time".

Current St Mary's College Science Teacher, Mr Brendan Dunks, remembers his involvement in the production well, as he played the pivotal roles of Producer and the voice of 'The Wiz'!

Brendan shared, "It was a huge endeavour! Staff enthusiastically contributed to music, set design and construction, backstage and front of house. The cast was magnificent. Sarah Van Brussel (Class of 2002), who played 'The Wiz', had to lip sync to my singing. I would try to catch her out each performance by adding an extra flourish here or there. She knew my tricks too well and didn't miss a beat!"

Over the years, students involved in our College musicals have donned more than 2,080 costumes, showcasing their talent and dedication to our vibrant performing arts environment. Productions included High School Musical, Little Shop of Horrors, Annie, The Little Mermaid, and Oliver! to name a few.

We know many of our old scholars were immersed in our productions over the years, and we hope you have fond memories of your involvement. We look forward to seeing you in attendance at our next College musical in 2025.

In celebration of the return of our College Musicals in 2023, and this being our first old scholar publication, we have gone into our archives to reminisce on our first College Musical.

In 2000, St Mary's College produced its first full-scale musical production of 'The Wiz' inspired by the original novel, 'The Wonderful Wizard of OZ'.



2024 Events

Enrolment Events:

Principal's Tour Dates

Term 1 Thursday 7 March

Term 2 Wednesday 15 May

Term 3 Tuesday 20 August

Term 4 Tuesday 15 October

Middle School Tour Dates

Term 1 Tuesday 2 April

Term 2 Monday 17 June

Term 3 Thursday 12 September

Term 4 Friday 8 November

Come and Try Dates

Term 2 Friday 17 May

Term 3 Friday 23 August

Term 4 Friday 18 October

Community Events:

Sounds of City Schools
(combined music event with SAC & CBC)
Thursday 14 March

155th Anniversary Open Day
Saturday 23 March

Annual Women in STEM Breakfast
Friday 23 August

Community Cooking Classes (TBC)

If you have something interesting to share, including work updates, personal achievements, elite-level sporting achievements, or have recently celebrated an engagement, wedding, or baby, please send through your photos and some brief information to be included in the next edition.

Submit your story to
Advancement@stmarys.sa.edu.au

We encourage old scholars to update their details via our website or the email above to ensure you don't miss out on future events or publications.

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**ST MARY'S
COLLEGE**

EST. 1869