

# VERITY



ST MARY'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

DECEMBER 2019



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**Front cover:** Camino de Santiago  
**Back cover:** St Mary's Premiership Football Team 2019

# A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



Each day currently sees several members of our college community departing for home – wherever that is! As each individual leaves the front foyer there is a sense of achievement and accomplishment. I find this to be one of the most satisfying times of the year, especially if you think back to February and then reflect on the various challenges through which these young adults have navigated their way in the ensuing months. This journey has brought - for most - enormous personal growth and development, often arising from some soul-searching and discernment. Gradually the ‘self’ is evolving to incorporate increasingly the ‘other’, maturity and independence are playing a greater role in decision-making, and some consideration is being given to life’s more significant questions. Such is real growth into mature adulthood – and constitutes part of the college’s raison d’etre.

Life in a university residential college is based on a cycle of events. Each

February a cohort of new students arrives with aspirations and ambitions; some nervousness and excitement are also evident – and among parents, too! Quickly these give way to a realization that each individual is welcomed into this community, and valued and supported as, and for who, they are. As the year proceeds, friendships form through shared experiences and living in close proximity. I believe that only if and when an individual feels valued and secure, and has a sense of ‘belonging’ in a community, will they flourish – and reach their potential. So many of the students here at St Mary’s recount with openness their own experience of this – the details may vary but the same story resonates strongly with all. I am sure that this has been the story for countless students who have come to belong and grow in this community since it began 102 years ago. And may it long continue to be so!

Pastoral care for the students is our highest priority. I thank the staff, scholars, residential tutors, and student mentors for all their efforts this year. So much of their work is unseen – and is focused on the peripheries of college life. To recognise and support the student who is facing a particular challenge – or to accompany and encourage them to seek assistance – is an essential aspect of their presence in college. But this must always be done with sensitivity and respect for the individual. We are fortunate indeed to have such extraordinary people in our college community!

The college lost two of its greatest friends and supporters in October. The Hon. Richard Tracey AM RFD QC and Dr Ian McDonald had each contributed enormously to the college over many decades. The loss of these two

outstanding individuals is felt deeply but we are also so grateful for what they brought to the college. A tribute to each of them is provided on the next page. May they rest in peace.

The end of the academic year sees interviews continue with applicants for entry to the college, and with new residential tutors. I am confident that in 2020 the college will again be well equipped to meet whatever challenges arise. In a world that is becoming increasingly transactional, this college community will be appreciated increasingly as somewhere where people, not profit, are the primary focus and where relationships are based on respect and empathy.

I wish all departing students well. I hope that you will always be proud of your college, will stay in touch, and will visit often. I have been delighted to learn in the last few days of several current and former students who have been accepted into graduate programs and careers of their choice. I know that they take with them attitudes and values that they have acquired in this college – quite apart from the knowledge and skills that they have acquired at the university. And it is this deeper enrichment of attitudes and values that will endure long into the future and which will benefit wider society so significantly.

I wish all our students, staff, parents, families, alumni and friends a Christmas blessed richly with what matters most, and may 2020 bring you much happiness!

**Dr Darcy McCormack**

Principal



# TRIBUTES

In early October the college was deeply saddened to lose two of its greatest friends and supporters - The Hon. Richard Tracey and Dr Ian McDonald.

## THE HON. RICHARD TRACEY AM RFD QC.

Richard Tracey was appointed to the College Council in February 1985. Richard's appointment to the Council was the beginning of an extraordinary and enduring commitment to the college; he remained an active member of the Council for 35 years. Such was Richard's standing on the Council that he chaired council meetings whenever the Archbishop was unable to attend, and was the Chair of the council's legal sub-committee. Richard contributed generously to the council and the college with his incisive intellect, clarity of thought, and wisdom. He provided wise counsel to successive Principals of the college and also, on occasion, to the student General

Committee. Despite his considerable responsibilities as a Queen's Counsel, and then a judge of the Federal Court, Richard always had time for St Mary's. His final appointment - as the Chair of the Royal Commission into Aged Care - was significant and, as with so much of Richard's life, the benefits will endure long into the future. It was typical of Richard's sense of commitment to the greater good that he worked courageously in the final weeks of his illness to complete the Interim Report of the Royal Commission. St Mary's has benefited enormously from the life of Richard Tracey and our deepest sympathy goes to Hilary and the family. May Richard now rest in eternal peace.



## DR IAN ANGUS STUART MCDONALD.

Ian McDonald was the college's chemistry tutor for 28 years. There are literally hundreds of St Mary's former students around the world who benefited from Ian's extraordinary teaching abilities. Ian was also a much admired and respected source of advice to staff and students of all academic disciplines. He inspired all to look and see beyond themselves to a wider world where many people do not have the privileges that we enjoy - particularly access to education. Ian loved St Mary's and the St Mary's community loved Ian. Just two days before he died, Ian phoned the college

to ask Darcy to speak at the Sports and Culture dinner that night on the meaning of the framed photo in the dining room of the stand against racism taken by athletes (including Australian Peter Norman) at the 200 metres medals presentation at the 1968 Olympics in Mexico City. Ian's final message to the college was to stand against racism wherever it is encountered. The college community extends its sympathy to Ann and Angus (SMC 2017-18) and thanks them for sharing this extraordinary and generous person with us.



# A WORD FROM THE DEAN & DEPUTY PRINCIPAL



In July this year, I was fortunate to accompany six students from St Mary's on the Camino de Santiago Pilgrimage. The nearly 300 kilometres proved to be a wonderful experience for the students on many different levels both individually and as a group. Although the physical and psychological demands can be challenging, each of the students commented on the spiritual journey and the benefits of learning more about themselves. It was a privilege to accompany this group, and an opportunity like this highlights the intentional commitment St Mary's has to the holistic development of young adults.

As with each semester, St Mary's was a hive of activity again with many events run by the GC and the Intercollegiate Committee. The many Arts and Cultural events, from "Spamalot", the musical, to the Oration competition and Battle of the Bands competition kept many students engaged at different levels. The Band, "Really, Really" has had many 'Gigs' since this competition and has enjoyed a great deal of support from fellow students.

2019 has been a very notable year for sport. It is the first time we competed in the first division Grand Finals for soccer and basketball. A great achievement! Premierships again in the Men's Cricket and Football as well as significant success in the women's hockey. A highlight throughout the year has been the large numbers of our students supporting their peers in each of the sporting competitions. The college "family" spirit is alive!

Over this semester, I have been delighted to receive many offers from Alumni, regarding the mentoring program initiated earlier this year. These sessions, have been informal discussions with groups of our current students, inquiring about a career path in a particular field of work. Questions about networking, internships, work experience, and subject choice are just a few areas covered and students are finding these sessions worthwhile. I would like to take this opportunity to thank those Alumni for giving their time so generously to encourage and support our students and I look forward to working with them again next year.

Mary's students are very fortunate to have the Academic Centre as a wonderful study space throughout the year. On numerous occasions, I have seen many students working hard late into the evenings to achieve their best. This year again, we recognised and celebrated the effort and achievement of our student's academic pursuits and I congratulate all our students on their efforts.

Our residential tutors have continued to provide a great deal of academic and pastoral support to our students over the year. I would like to thank them all for their commitment and diligence in their role. We farewell five of our tutors

at the end of this semester: Robert Snelling, Xavier Fowler, Nick Parkinson, Sarah Donkersley and Pippa Trevella. I am very grateful for their contribution and for the important role they play in the life of the College and wish them well for the future.

I look forward to accompanying our 2020 student leadership group in Apollo Bay again this year, along with Darcy, Patrick, Natalie and Tom. It provides a great opportunity amidst beautiful surroundings to discuss the aims and objectives of the following year and discern their leadership roles for welcoming the new students of 2020.

It was with much sadness to mention that the college lost significant members of its community recently with the death of Justice Richard Tracey and Dr Ian McDonald. Both had made significant ongoing contributions to the college for many years. Richard Tracey stood on the College Council for over 33 years and Ian McDonald has been an outstanding chemistry tutor and confidante to our students for more than 25 years. His knowledge, wisdom, and preparedness to share his insights in a wide range of topics will be greatly missed. It was a pleasure to work with Ian in our tutorial program and Richard on the Council. My prayers and thoughts are with their families at this time.

Finally, I wish you all a safe, joyful and blessed Christmas with family and friends and all the best for 2020!

**Ms Maria O'Donnell**

Dean & Deputy Principal

## ST MARY'S MENTOR PROGRAM

The Mentoring Program 2019 has welcomed back alumni of the college from a diverse range of organisations and professional backgrounds.

The aim of this program is to assist students (mentees) with their career development, their transition from university into the workforce and to engage business professionals. The mentors shared valuable industry

knowledge and experience with our undergraduate students. Each of the participating students was linked with mentors based on their mutual interests and area of speciality.

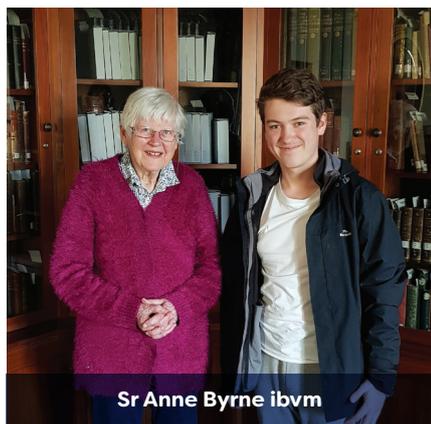
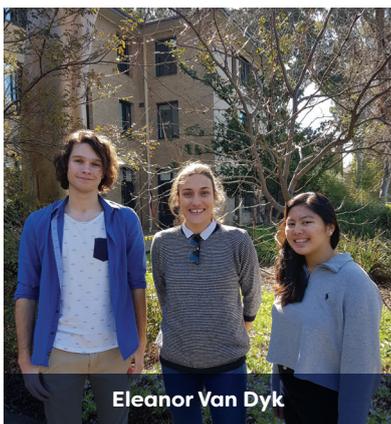
The mentors have been pleased to offer advice to our students and have expressed how delighted they were to be able to give something back to the St Mary's Community.

Finally, I would sincerely like to thank all those alumni who gave of their time so generously this year and I look forward to working with you again next year.

**Ms Maria O'Donnell**

Dean & Deputy Principal

# ST MARY'S MENTOR PROGRAM



# ACADEMIC AWARDS DINNER

The St Mary's Academic Awards Dinner was held on 30 August in the dining room. The Principal Dr Darcy McCormack, Sr Natalie Houlihan ibvm and Dr Ian McDonald presented the awards. We congratulate our top achievers and all students who achieved their personal best results!



Recipients	Annabelle Brennan	James Gorddard	Cooper Little	Annelies Rombouts	Nathan Sonnberger
Kimiya Bari	Jesse Burgess	Nicola James	April Men	Luka Ryan	Maddison Talarico
Michael Bell	Rachael Gay	Lachlan John	Jasper Ng	Danielle Said	An Trinh
Hannah Billington	Hugh Gibson	Connor Lee	Sebastien Noz	Cassandra Savvas	Eamonn Whyte
Chantal Zhao	Abbey Zito				



# BATTLE OF THE BANDS

Battle of The Bands is undoubtedly the biggest intercollegiate event of the year for those living on the crescent. With every college putting together a show-stopping performance to battle it out for first place, the night is always jam-packed with incredible performances, and this year's line-up was no different. The St Mary's crew decided to take a different path this year and go with

a theme for our song selection, and after much debate settled on... 'Shrek'. The movie's fun and catchy soundtrack inspired the band to create their own medley and perform their own eclectic interpretation of the songs. Rehearsals started early in the semester, with the band practising most days and nights up until the big night. Songs performed on the night included All Star and I'm

A Believer by Smashmouth, Accidentally In Love by Counting Crows, Holding Out For A Hero by Bonnie Tyler, Changes by David Bowie, and Livin' La Vida Loca by Ricky Martin - what a funky playlist! Although friendship was the real winner and we did not place in the top three, St Mary's performed their absolute hearts out and their fellow Marians could not be prouder!

## THE BAND: (L to R)

Lochlainn Heley (Saxophone)  
Scott Bosman (Trombone)  
Lachlan Trigg (Guitar)  
Hugh Gibson (Guitar)  
Miranda Livingstone (Vocals)  
Thomas McMullin (Drums)  
Neave O'Dwyer (Vocals)  
Kate Hadkins (Vocals)  
Amar Elmowy (Bass Guitar)  
Meg Cox (Keys/Synth)



# COLLEGE BALL

The annual College Ball was held on Wednesday 18 September 2019. The elegant evening was held at L'Unica on Parkville, where current students, ex-collegians, staff, and friends alike had a wonderful night.



# CAMINO DE SANTIAGO

During the Winter break, six St Mary's students - Ashtyn-Lara Purcell, Dayne Eggers, Jasmine Pierce, Lachlan John, Michael Bell, and Rachael Gay - and Maria, departed to Spain to walk a portion of The Camino de Santiago. The Camino is an ancient Catholic pilgrimage trail, where pilgrims journey towards the burial place of the Apostle, St James, in the Cathedral of Santiago de Compostela. This journey offers an incredible adventure. However, its real attraction is the spiritual retreat it provides from our hectic daily life. This allows pilgrims to reflect on themselves and the world in a powerful way. Although we did not know at the beginning, this would prove to be a transformative journey.

We assembled in Salamanca a few days before and began preparing for the journey that lay ahead. As a part of this, we visited the walled city of Avila - the birthplace of the Carmelite nun, Saint Teresa of Avila. We then began the pilgrimage from the small town of Astorga - 272km east of Santiago.

Throughout our 12-day journey, we followed a steady and consistent routine. Our belongings were carried on our backs, and we survived with only a handful of essential clothing items. We would wake at 4:30am and begin walking in the dark by 5:00am to avoid the afternoon heat. As a result, we were treated to an incredible sunrise each morning, which always started our day off on the right foot. Whilst walking, we would have a few quick (and greatly needed) coffee breaks and a light breakfast of fruit or bread. Generally, we would arrive in our destination town around midday, find an Alberge (pilgrim's hostel), and enjoy a large pilgrim's lunch. The afternoons were spent handwashing our clothes, journaling, and exploring each gorgeous town. Each day we walked between 13km-27km.

Everyday brought new kinds of terrain and unforgettable experiences. Mountains, vineyards, forests, small villages - you name it. We listened to monks perform Gregorian chants in a small stone church and bathed in gorgeous rivers to cool down. However, with this, each day also brought new challenges- both physical and mental.

Heatstroke, blisters, and fatigue were worthy challenges, but we were all able to overcome them through the wonderful support of each other.

The arrival at Santiago was cathartic. It was great to be able to reflect on our journey amongst ourselves and others. We attended the mid-day pilgrim's Mass inside the incredible cathedral and celebrated that we no longer had to awake at 4:30am. From here, we went by bus to the coastal town of Finisterre. In ancient times, the pilgrims believed here was 'the end of the earth'. We spent three gorgeous days here. It served both as a point for relaxation, and a spiritual epilogue to the journey where we could consolidate what we had learned. The lighthouse was a highlight of the trip. It provided not only gorgeous views, but a powerful area for us to reflect on our growth as individuals and a group.

The journey allowed us to get back down to the core human experience, and what really matters. We chose to only have 2 SIM cards between us, meaning that generally most of us were completely off the grid. On top of this, all the belongings we brought could be fitted into a backpack each day. This was liberating. We were untethered from the material goods which often dictate our lives. We were completely disconnected from the busy modern life we all take for normal. And due to this, the Camino gives you lots of time to think. It is often nobody but you and your thoughts walking through a Spanish forest alone. This is something we can very rarely experience in our daily lives, and the experience was invaluable for getting to know ourselves better.

In addition to this, The Camino allowed us to form strong social bonds amongst each other. We often walked together, and openly felt comfortable discussing whatever might be on our mind that day. Another highlight of the trip was meeting pilgrims from across the world. All pilgrims are extremely friendly and open. We had profound conversations with complete strangers we might only meet once. We befriended pilgrims from all works of life. Young and old; from Germany to Tokyo; religious and atheist. The diversity of other pilgrims

enriched our experience and exposed us to perspectives and lifestyles we had never considered.

The spiritual aspect of the journey was unparalleled. The Camino allowed us to connect to a part of ourselves that we might have otherwise forgotten about. It allowed us to contemplate our place in the world and ponder bigger questions in a way that is difficult to do here in Australia. I do not mean this in a strictly Christian sense. Although the pilgrimage is Catholic, it really is for everybody. We all got something profound out of it irrespective of our prior religious affiliations. It really is just the fundamental human experience. Walking through nature, journeying to an endpoint each day, reaching your goal, eat, sleep. It can reveal to us parts of ourselves that we were never aware of, or things about the world we had never considered.

Finally, we cannot thank the College Council enough for their generosity and faith in the power of The Camino. Without them, this trip would not have been possible, and we would not have experienced this once in a lifetime journey. We would also like to thank Maria for offering her time to come along with us. Throughout the trip, we all got to know her better, and saw firsthand her generous, loving, open, and kind heart. She was an invaluable anchor to have on the trip and helped us all at one stage or another. We are lucky at this college to have such an empathetic and caring Dean.

Overall, you leave The Camino with exactly what you need most at that point in your life. A better sense of self, your place in the world, or just a newfound appreciation for the inherent beauty of life. The Camino is about many things. But fundamentally, it is about being human. We cannot recommend it enough to anybody who may find the opportunity to do something similar.

Buen Camino!

**By Michael Bell**

# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

The 'Christmas in July' dinner is well established in the college calendar. It is the one event each year to which the college's staff are invited to bring along their families - this seems most appropriate given the enormous

contribution that the staff make to the efficient and effective running of the college. Each person coming to the dinner is asked to bring a non-perishable item of food - which is then donated to the Sacred Heart Mission in

St Kilda. Darcy provided a reflection on the meaning of Christmas for today's world. The humility of the nativity scene reminds each of us of the extraordinary privileges each of us has received.



# OUT AND ABOUT





# CULTURE REPORT

The intercollegiate culture events kicked off on the very first day of Welcome and Orientation week, introducing our first year students to the dance routine for Step-Up: Intercollegiate Edition to Cobra Starship's 'You make me feel...' and filming of the lip-dub, syncing to Rascal Flatts 'Life is a Highway'. Congratulations to everyone who participated in these activities, especially to the choreography team: Abbey, Dayne, Annie, Kaytlyn, Bec for making the dance happen.

Welcome and Orientation week also included our first Pleasant Friday Afternoon (PFA), where we saw the wonderful talents and acts of our new students. Each PFA turned out to be successful and an amazing opportunity to relax and hang out with friends over some wholesome performances, especially the Easter jam in west garden and our most recent in the final week. The spontaneity and range of performances was wonderful to see as more and more students became comfortable with one another. The college choir, led by Juliana Clark and Rebecca Harris Mason, has also developed further since last year, performing at every college Mass and formal dinner, with popular songs such as a mashup of Queen songs and a variation on the college chant. They have put in a lot of time and effort, and really help add a little magic to these college events.

Outside of St Mary's, we also participated in many activities with ICAC, beginning with bonding with the other colleges at Queen's trivia night, relaxing to a mesmerizing performance by Lachlan Trigg at Trinity's talent night and hosting a hugely successful PAMACAC in the Frewin room. In Semester 2, we were treated by the group of Lachlan Smith,

Amar, Hughie, Thom McMullin and Neave performing at the musical soiree, which resulted in them forming their own band 'Really Really', already scoring several gigs at various pubs. We finished the ICAC calendar on stage for battle of the bands with the college band, performing a Shrek themed set, containing classics such as 'Holding out for a hero' and 'Livin' la vida loca'. For both of these performances, the support from fellow Marians was overwhelming, not only for our own performances, but for the other colleges too, which really makes a mark for our positive presence around the crescent.

The 2019 musical for Mary's this year was Monty Python's 'Spamalot' and was a great success. With the involvement of about a third of the college, it was no easy task, but everything managed to pull together in the end, resulting in a hilarious and memorable show for all. Congratulations go to everyone involved and a special thank you to Lochie Heley, Dayne Eggers and Abbey Zito for the monumental task of producing and directing a musical, as well as An Trinh, Evie Cassidy and Maya Mann and Cheng Li for their work leading the orchestra, creative team, and backstage crew respectively.

At the annual Culture and Sports formal dinner, we recognised the individuals who gave up their time and effort to further propagate and enrich the culture at Mary's. This year, Rebecca Francis was awarded with the contribution to drama, for her continual and valuable help during the musical of both this year and last year, organising all of the costuming and make-up on top of the commitment to the cast, as well as helping with the dance routine. The contribution to visual arts was awarded to Evie Cassidy for her valuable efforts on the

set pieces for the musical, as well as for her help in designing the Memorial Day t-shirts. Thomas McMullin was awarded the contribution to music award; not only for his readiness to always help someone bring a musical wish to life, but also for always being genuine and overall a pleasure to work with. These are only a handful of individuals who dedicated their time to make the college culture what it is, and I am immensely grateful and proud for that.

Finally, I want to personally thank every individual who participated and contributed to culture events during the year, and to all who came to support or assist each occasion; whether you performed in or came to watch a PFA, participated in an ICAC event or were involved in the musical in some way, your commitment is priceless and you have my thanks. Especially to Amar as junior culture representative and the GC for helping at PFAs or when called on.

It's been an absolute pleasure to see so many friendships grow, and to see the overwhelming support Mary's always has for any event gives me so much pride and joy, particularly when compared to much larger colleges' turnouts. Congratulations to An Trinh for being elected as the culture representative for 2020! It's been an extremely rewarding experience being the culture representative for 2019 and I hope that An experiences all the joys I did and more!

Again, thank you to everyone for making this year so enjoyable.

**By Kelan Galbraith**

2019 Culture Representative



# MUSICAL – SPAMALOT

This year the St Mary's College Drama Committee with help from the Student Club presented Spamalot: The Musical. The show ran from 12-14 September and attracted large audiences from inside and outside the college community. With only an 8-week rehearsal period the cast, crew, band, and committee (combining to over 50 students or about one third of the entire college) all worked tirelessly to produce the extremely successful show.

Spamalot, based on the film Monty Python and The Holy Grail, is a ridiculously funny show which follows King Arthur and his faithful sidekick/pack-mule Patsy on their quest to find the holy grail. The duo gather other knights and form the knights of the round table, who must overcome the French, the Knights Who Say Ni, and

many other shenanigans to accomplish their daring quest.

With the committee choosing the show in April and auditions being held at the end of semester one, it was clear the college was excited to bring Spamalot to life. The show gave many students, many of whom had never been involved in theatre before, the chance to jump onstage or join the band and be involved in the show. With helpful training from Union House Theatre we had most students learning new skills such as how to construct a castle or operate fourteen wireless microphones at the same time. The entire experience is one of the most rewarding and widely accessible St Mary's offers. Spamalot is all about reaching goals and having a laugh with your mates along the way and really, that's all what St Mary's

is about: achieving greatness and making great friends.

The biggest thankyou is owed to every single person involved in the musical and to Union House Theatre for their generous grant of \$2,000. Thank you to the cast, crew, and band for all your hard work in rehearsals and during the shows - all on top of university studies. A special thankyou to Abbey Zito for assisting with direction; Lochie Heley for producing the show; An Trinh for conducting the band; Keziah Roessler for choreographing the dances; Hong Cheng Li for stage managing; Rebecca Francis for designing and making costumes; and Evie Cassidy for designing and constructing the set and gathering all the props. Lastly, thank you to everyone who came and saw the show, we hope to see you again in the audience for next year's show.



## CREW

Dayne Eggers – Director  
Abbey Zito – Assistant Director  
Keziah Roessler – Choreographer  
Cheng Li Hong – Stage Manager  
Maya Mann – Head of Backstage  
Tony Wang – Backstage  
Andrew Liu – Backstage  
Aidan Suttlehan – Sound Designer  
Eden Ip – Sound Designer  
Chantal Zhao – Microphone Operator  
Elizabeth Greenwood – Lighting Designer  
Juan Arriaga Penagos – Sound/Lighting Assistant  
Alisha Pal – Follow-Spot Operator  
Rebecca Francis – Costume and Make-Up Designer  
Bree Booth – Head of Front of House

## BAND

An Trinh – Musical Director  
Chai Jie Low – Keys 1  
Dilys Goh – Keys 2  
Melody Yang – Keys 3  
Alisha Collenette – Alto Saxophone  
Rory Vagg – Tenor Saxophone  
Scott Bosman – Trombone  
Kelan Galbraith – Trumpet  
William Archibald – Guitar  
Amar Elmowy – Bass Guitar  
Tony Hsieh – Violin  
Tom McMullin – Drums  
Louise Seet – Flute/Piccolo

## COMMITTEE

Lochie Heley – Producer and Drama Convenor  
Dayne Eggers – Creative Coordinator  
Alice Polkinghorne – Co-Creative Coordinator  
Bree Booth – Operations Manager  
Claire Dempsey – Treasurer  
Rebecca Francis – Marketing



## CAST

Fergus Patterson - King Arthur  
Rebecca Francis - Patsy  
Minnie Harvey - Sir Robin  
Lachlan Trigg - Sir Lancelot, Tim the Enchanter  
Lachy John - Sir Galahad, Dennis, The Knight of Ni  
Andie Tolhurst - Sir Bedevere, Laker Girl  
Neave O'Dwyer - Lady of the Lake  
Ellie Nethersole - Mayor, Brother Maynard, Laker Girl, Ensemble  
Matthew Whiteford - French Taunter, Dennis' Mother, Ensemble  
Isaiah Angove - Guard 2, Ensemble  
Cooper Little - Prince Herbert's Father, Ensemble  
Nick Parkinson - The Black Knight, Ensemble  
Jespah Cropley - Historian, Not Dead Fred, Ensemble  
Kate Hadkins - Laker Girl, Minstrel, Ensemble  
Lochie Heley - Prince Herbert, Ensemble  
Julia Enter - Frenchie, Laker Girl, Ensemble  
Henry Zhang - Concord, Bors, Ensemble  
Sophia Graley - Guard 1, Ensemble  
Lizzy Smith - Ensemble  
Liz Neale - Laker Girl, Ensemble



# ORATORY COMPETITION

## STORIES FROM HOME

### Gentle Creek

You spill past my ankles in silver streaks,  
soapy spuds born over rocks,  
green stones of your underbelly  
hugged by algae.  
The slurp of life, trickle of vitality  
intensely familiar to my sun-warmed ears.

gentle creek

The cattle drink you up in mouthfuls  
plod a path through your middle  
sending muddy clouds spiralling  
and catfish skitting quenching the earth  
on your glittered path over the plains  
disappearing behind the range and  
emerging thick and thrumming in town

gentle creek

Does the lurch and tumble  
of a brazen quadbike disturb you?  
Excited laughter dancing above engine  
growls as three young ones hold on for  
dear life a finger each in the old man's  
belt legs-a-flapping as they plummet,  
descend the bank,  
shoulder to shoulder, thumping heart  
to heart the old cocky sharing  
the familiarities of grass,  
of tree line with his kin

gentle creek

We're sorry we let off those blasts –  
us rowdy bunch,  
willing on the homemade concoction  
of firecrackers, duct tape  
five metres of fuse

the booming crack echoed across the  
range reaching into distant gullies,  
hanging itself around the gums –  
water splashed our jeans  
and we hoorayed but those carp,  
the rabbits of the river  
are tough little buggers

gentle creek

You've watered our roots  
nourished the quietly lyrical willows,  
trees we all laid claim to in our youth  
branding them: 'The Pirate Ship', 'The  
Café' and slowly releasing them  
so that they might play out their roles  
for the next lot of cousins

gentle creek

You lay there and listened  
to grief a lonely writer finding a home  
in your banks a bed in your bed  
full of sorrow and longing and  
drinking in the life from you  
you were always there to fill up the  
things that were empty

or

support the walk of a green young  
farmer up and back,  
still naïve but with grit growing like  
gorse inside of him, mind revolving in  
the wake of a hard decision –  
things that had to be rationed,  
disciplined, dealt with a moment for  
quiet tears in the back paddock

gentle creek

Was it strength  
that you surrendered  
to a maddened housewife?

her hopes dashed with the failed crop  
providing respite;  
a pause from the days that blew past  
in gusts, reminding her  
of the life-force within her  
or when your bed turned barren

bore the brunt of the man's  
desperation his muttered curses at the  
pump carrying across the land;  
prayers for life between your banks  
begging it from you when the sun  
flared and the earth cracked

gentle creek

I've watched you rise – singing,  
shouting out of the earth  
a turgid torrent of white and brown,  
beating at your sides, digging out your  
bed licking at trunks  
their roots clutching at shifting earth  
Stories of home • Jasmine Pierce  
raging and warping your path of filthy  
foam, slapping at mud,  
drumming at stone,  
and driving fish and birds into dance  
and at home –  
'The creek's full!' 'The creek's full!'  
you clung to our lips  
at dinner, by the post office,  
across the neighbour's fence  
a noteworthy spectacle,  
an agreed-upon marvel throughout  
the district

Warnings rang around the household  
'Watch out at the creek.'  
'You be careful.'  
'Don't you dare swim.'  
and all the kids would wonder at  
the thing about this fabled creek  
that made all the aunties and uncles  
so keenly excited

talks of flooded dams over peas and  
mash, these adults  
so different  
when they stood admiring  
when they collected rocks  
to build a bridge

The old man plucked curious children  
from your banks  
as the water wrestled out the fence  
line and carved up the plains

gentle creek

I've seen you settle into an  
awaited slumber  
contented with your great new ravine  
creatures amassing to feed and play  
while the old man untangled wire  
and hauled gallon drums to the scrap pile  
removing wreckage from the torn turf

and two kids came upon a tyre  
large as life way down your path,  
pushing it over itself  
in the morning

and again and again after lunch,  
filled with devoted intention  
picking up log after log in search of the  
perfect oar

all the way up to your great belly  
to one last heave as it tumbled in,  
only to watch

its slow sinking  
and then fill the dusk with stupid,  
stupid laughter frightening the ducks

gentle creek

You water this place,  
round and round you go  
heaving and sighing –  
returning to a trickle in the Spring.

**By Jasmine Pierce**

Winner - 2019 Oratory Competition

# SPORTS REPORT

The sporting year of 2019 was filled with great achievements, new friendships formed and memories. It was great to see that from the beginning of the year we had so many students eager to get involved in every sport and have a great time, regardless of the result. Even after a sizeable loss to a much larger college, our students were smiling and laughing, a true testament to their character. The support shown by the entire college throughout the year was phenomenal; we had crowds in excess of 100 students on multiple occasions, dwarfing those of even the biggest colleges.

It was one of the most successful years in the college's history; we finished 5th in the final overall ICSC rankings, up two spots on last year. Our boys even managed to win the men's division after weighting, thanks to four grand final appearances and two premierships. Even after two failed attempts to win the college's first ever Division 1 title, the boys displayed great sportsmanship in defeat. Congratulations to all of our all-stars announced at the Culture and Sports Awards Dinner and particularly to our best sportsman and sportswoman of the year, Hughie Gibson and Issey Conheady.

For Kaytlyn and I, the year was a lot of hard work and tedious organising, but we had a great time. The attitudes of everyone at trainings and matches was what made our job so worthwhile and we could not be any prouder of the way our players carried themselves on and off the sporting field this year. We wish the 2020 sport reps all the best for the upcoming season, we are sure you will do an amazing job. We hope that everyone enjoyed the past year of sport and that even though we did not always win, we hope you always remember that at Mary's "friendship is the real winner".

By Dom van Slageren

## FOOTBALL PREMIERSHIP

The football season was a great success, trainings saw regular attendances around 30 for the entire season and the team was eager to bring home the cup again and make it a three-peat. The boys got our title defence off to a flying start, beating Ormond by 10 goals in round 1. Stand out performances were Ollie Pescott who was hardly tackled despite racking up possessions, Jack Noonan kicking four of what could only be considered cheap goals by his standards, Alex Bakogiannis turning it on in the forward line and booting six goals and Nathan Brock snagging three.

In the quarter final, on a muddy ground, the boys continued on from where they left off in the previous match, dominating play for the majority of the match. The skills were not overly impressive and the key instructions from coaches were to get the ball forward at all costs, knowing how difficult it would be in the poor conditions. Highlights included Ollie Pescott briefly forgetting he had any teammates and kicking

four goals in the third term and Harry Skewes who, despite only playing for the second half, managed to come off covered head to toe in mud. He applied brutal pressure around the contest and provided some great run off half back.

The semi-final finally arrived after another 14-day break. The boys were keen to get back into the business end of the season. After rumours of St Hilda's dropping players from their 1's, the boys had a very slow and cautious start to the match and neither side could manage a goal in the first term. After a few structural changes, we managed to get on top in the second quarter and pile on the goals. As the game went on, the boys became more confident and before too long, the game was all over. Hilda's reverted to having 14 players charging into centre clearances off the back of the square. Highlights included a four-goal haul from Jack Noonan who completely dominated in the air and on the ground at full forward, Connor Lee and Cooper Little winning the footy at opposing ends of the ground and Alex

Bakogiannis' goal out of mid-air as if he was playing soccer instead of football.

After a convincing season we were looking to make it a three-peat against Ormond. Still hurting from the soccer grand final, there was a lot of emotion in the lead up to the biggest match of the year. A strong Mary's contingent made their way to the university main just in time to see an annihilation as the boys got the first 11 goals unanswered and finished with 16 in a performance that could only be described as clinical. Ollie Pescott was in a league of his own despite constant attention from Ormond mids and Connor Lee made taking pack marks look easy. Our team should be proud of their performance this season, not only for winning yet another premiership, but for the way they carried themselves. Despite leading by 10+ goals for the majority of the season they never got carried away and were gracious in victory, something that cannot always be said for some colleges.



# SPORTS IMAGES



# EXCHANGE NEWS

As I arrived at the double doors at the entrance of St Mary's after a 23 hour flight, I felt everything from fear to excitement to utter exhaustion. I was filled with anticipation as I embarked on this new journey and couldn't wait to settle into the place that I soon called my home away from home.

Within the first few weeks, us Americans learned to immerse ourselves in the Australian vernacular. "Hi, what's up?" was soon replaced by "How're ya going?" Words like "reckon" and "keen" became second nature to us, even though they initially sounded completely foreign. While the words and phrases we picked up on may inevitably face impermanence as we return to the culture we are most familiar with, the way of life taught by our dear Australian friends is something that will stay with us for eternity.

One of the most important things we have learned from our time at Mary's is the value of community. Moving to a new country, let alone new continent, can be daunting and even distressing at times. However, at St Mary's, we were welcomed with open arms by administrative staff and students alike. Going to meals was a perfect opportunity to get to know a

new face, the unspoken rule we foster at Mary's — filling up a table before starting a new one — provided us with a sense of security and comfort that allowed us to branch out and get to know the entire college. Whether it was a trip to Woolly's, or a journey into the city, Mary's friends always invited us and other students to join which undoubtedly created a comforting, inclusive atmosphere.

Apart from the exceptional sense of community, living in Australia and being surrounded by our new Australian family taught us the importance of living in the moment. Coming from a section of America that is regarded as fast-paced, intense, and results-driven, often yields young-adults who carry stress around with them. At our home institution, competitiveness thrives amongst students and you are almost always guaranteed to find someone who is under an unhealthy amount of stress. Being in Australia has taught us to focus on and appreciate the process of learning instead of merely seeking the immediate numerical results. Instead of comparing, we began to understand the value of appreciating each other's unique gifts. By being around our Australian friends who valued

academia yet simultaneously valued their friendships, their youth, and taking care of themselves, we began to understand the benefits of taking things one step at a time, instead of trying to tackle everything at once — a lesson that will surely benefit us as we return home to America.

Without a doubt, being at Mary's has taught us that the relationships we foster in our young adulthood often shape us and are integral in becoming the best versions of ourselves. Melbourne provided us with countless cafes, brunches, coffees, shops, markets, live music, and footy games — without a doubt it was a phenomenal place to be as we grew throughout this experience. However, it was the people and the community we were surrounded with that made this experience truly unforgettable and one that we will all cherish for the rest of our lives. We will miss everyone dearly and will always hold you close to our hearts!

Cheers xxx,

## The American Exchange Students

July–December 2019



# THE ALLAN AND MARIA MYERS ACADEMIC CENTRE NEWS

## Academic Centre Library – A year of donations

The Academic Centre Library was established in 2004 with the amalgamation of the Francis Frewin Library collection from St Mary's College and the Jeremiah Murphy Library collection from Newman College. The substantial donation of books from each individual College library created a wonderful collection of general and specialized materials for all students to use in the Academic Centre Library. The original libraries at both of the Colleges were themselves started, and then enlarged, by donations so it is fitting that this cycle of donations continues. St Mary's College received many books from Mother Francis who created the original library in St Mary's Hall. The original library at Newman College may have had a grander and larger beginning but, like St Mary's, donations were at its core. In 1917 William Lamprey Bowditch left 10,000 volumes to the Newman College Library and the following year another sizeable donation was presented to the College by Reverend Patrick O'Rielly. While both Colleges house their own special collection of Rare Books, most other books donated to the Colleges make their way to the Academic Centre Library and are therefore shared with all students and staff. Of particular note are the generous donations from Emeritus

Professor Margaret Manion ibvm, which includes many fine arts books. Professor Manion continues to donate a substantial amount of books every year to the Academic Centre and these form the essence of the specialized Manuscript Studies Collection on Level 3.

The tradition of donating materials to the library is alive and well and we are exceptionally fortunate to receive dozens on donations each year, primarily from staff and former students of the Colleges. While the Academic Centre Library purchases hundreds of new books each year to support the study of undergraduate and postgraduate students, the purchases are a small drop in the large publishing ocean of books which are produced each year. Donations, which add valuable books across a wide range of subjects to our collections, are a gift for which we are grateful. Fr Bill Uren SJ at Newman College, as well as Dr Jeffrey Turnbull and, as mentioned above, Emeritus Professor Margaret Manion, have donated hundreds of books to the Library over the years.

On occasion, we also receive substantial collections of books from private and other collections. 2019 has been a bumper year. The Academic Centre Library was privileged to receive books from Fr John Eddy SJ, and the general collection of Xavier House, from the

Jesuits in Canberra. Xavier House, which was home to a number of Jesuits including Fr John Eddy and Fr Frank Brennan, was sold earlier in the year. We have currently added 420 books to our collection but anticipate cataloguing another hundred or so contained in boxes yet to be unpacked. The books have greatly strengthened our holdings in the areas of Australian history, U.S. history, Theology and Literature.

In October this year, the Library was also privileged to accept a donation of approximately 300 books, and two beautiful timber bookcases, from John Stanley-Rogers, a cataloguing Librarian who started his career in 1959 with the State Library of Victoria. When he retired in 2014 he became the State Library's longest serving staff member. His generous donation included subject areas such as English Literature, British and French History and Architecture and some Australian History. Two notable Australian items in this collection are reproductions of Charles Joseph La Trobe: landscape and sketches and Charles Joseph La Trobe: Australian notes 1839-1854. These two books will be placed in the Australian Collection in Tutorial Room 6 as they have a combined value of over \$1000.

**Kathleen Kilmartin**

Director

## VALETE SPEECH 2019 REFLECTIONS FROM THE STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT

Three years is a long time. For those of us lucky enough to spend the better part of them at 871 Swanston Street, it amounts to around 820 academic calendar days, nearly 2,500 meals, three musicals, and seven premierships. Within that time also exist some things that can't be quantified, like friendships, hardships, and personal growth. I am lucky enough to share the stage tonight with a group of people who have been by each other's side throughout it all. We felt the elation of winning Fresher Dance Off, the pain of losing

cricket against UC, the joy of exacting revenge and winning footy against UC, and lived through the Mary's legends that were Brunny nights, the washing machine bandit, a kitchenette lockout, and dinner with Kevin Sheedy. We experienced life with some of St Mary's most colourful characters and learned plenty about ourselves and each other along the way.

In the past three years, there have been hundreds of moments that captured what it means to be a Marian, but there's one that will always stand out to

me as a testament to our unwavering character and love for each other: After an emergency which resulted in her best friend being placed on life support, a student's sister asked something of her – to make 1,000 paper cranes. This Japanese legend was something the sister and her friend had bonded over growing up, and this request was a desperate attempt to prompt a miracle, but nonetheless an almost impossible task to undertake alone. In less than three days, one thousand hand-crafted birds were delivered to her bedside.

# VALETE SPEECH 2019

## REFLECTIONS FROM THE STUDENT CLUB PRESIDENT

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Never in my life have I been prouder or more deeply moved by a group of people than in watching so many Marians - on their way back from trainings, before classes, late into the night - sitting together, teaching and learning and contributing, to a cause close to the heart of two people we'd never met. The actions of our students in those hours were extraordinary, not only because the young woman made a miraculous recovery, but because they were our ordinary. Spending an hour folding paper cranes for a friend in need was done without second thought, and it was a powerful reflection of the normality with which we unreservedly care for each other and consistently go above and beyond for those we love. It may not be the norm, but within these walls, it is our normal, and that is something truly exceptional. Remember that and carry it with you.

To be part of this community has been a privilege, and I speak on behalf of our valetents when I say that never have we seen St. Mary's quite so united. The culture that has been created throughout our time here is astounding, and I cannot commend you all enough for consistently striving to improve and ensure the best for our students.

Darcy, not only are you the reason we began our journeys at this college, but (even though you still occasionally forget our names!) you are also the reason we felt we were able to stay. Over the past three years, you've helped every one of us through major life events, been our biggest supporter and greatest confidant. You once told me that you worried how our students would cope in the real world, away from the acceptance and safety that is Mary's, but I want you to know that I think we can handle anything it throws at us, simply by knowing that we've grown into strong-minded and open-hearted young adults, with an unconditionally loving community behind us every step of the way. That sense of freedom and belonging could not have come without your commitment to our individual journeys, and for that we cannot thank you enough.

Maria, you joined the ranks a little later than the rest of us, but it was not hard to instantly see how much you cared for our students. Your willingness to support us and contribute to the life of this college is unmatched, and we thank you for your unwavering desire to

help us grow in mind and spirit. And to Pippa and Sarah, (sorry Xav, but I'm still mad you abandoned us for six months) we've seen many a tutor move through these halls, but we've never known a Mary's without your warmth and kindness. Thank you for your guidance and friendship, we can't wait to see where the future takes you, and we wish you, and the rest of the tutors and exceptional staff who make Mary's home, nothing but health and happiness for the future.

There are also a few mentions to be had on a personal note, to the people who kept me sane-ish throughout this crazy journey. Firstly, to the valetents, all of you have shaped my experience of this college in a distinct way. I have learned from every one of you and I could not have been more fortunate to have shared this journey with such diverse and inspiring souls. We've laughed together, cried together and given and received advice from each other more times than I'd care to count. You have all shaped the person I am today, and I could not be more grateful or proud to have such outstanding humans by my side as we say goodbye to where it all began.

To the Welcome and Orientation Week Team, for the work you did behind the scenes, for modelling such a positive culture within Mary's, and thriving in your respective roles this year. This leadership group is filled with some of the most talented, caring, incredible humans I know, and to have worked alongside you was a privilege.

To my GC - to Kaytlyn and Dharani, for being the amazing women you are and teaching me what it means to be strong and back your judgement, and to Leo, Lachy John and Asher, for bringing so much joy to our team and being selflessly willing to help anyone at any time. Locksmith and Chantal, thank you for taking care of the paperwork while being the combination of mintos and sassy clapping that made even the most stressful situation seem okay. And to Dom and Kelan, I had no idea that my O-Week cadet and Junior Rep would turn out to be so very important to me, but I have watched you grow into such impressive young men, and I am so proud of you and everything you've achieved.

To Henry, I am forever grateful you messed up that email address. Three years of friendship, two years on the

same floor, and a one-of-a-kind, top notch human. You were the best Vice President I could have asked for, you consistently went above and beyond for me and our team, and your humour and positivity made everything bearable. You are simply amazing, and I love you dearly. Please don't ever change, (unless it's from your indoor to outdoor clothes). Ferg, congratulations and best of luck as you embark on this journey, with such a brilliant team behind you, I have no doubt you'll have an equally incredible experience, trust me when I say you've got this.

To every one of you in this room, never underestimate how important you are to the people around you, or how much you mean to this college community. You may be the first smile someone sees on a tough day, or the friend that brightens up a room and makes being away from home that much more bearable. Thank you for being that for me, and for each other, on a daily basis. I have learned from every one of you unique and brilliant humans, and I wish you all nothing but the best for the future.

To those of you fortunate enough to live another year at Mary's, some advice: Take every opportunity that comes your way, say yes to that spontaneous movie night, perform with your collegians and stick around for another game of pool, because you never know what unlikely friendships will form. But don't be afraid to do your own thing - you will never have such a safe place to figure out who it is you want to be, and what you stand for, nor have as many people love you for it. Get more sleep. Take plenty of photos. And most importantly, make your gratitude known. Thank your families for the sacrifices they've made to enable you to be here, tell the staff that you appreciate the work they do, and remind the people around you how much you love them and how fortunate you are to see their smiling faces everyday.

Because the reality is that there's a finite number of times we'll fall into the jace trap, and only so many friendships that will be struck up over a walk home before we walk out those doors for the final time. But know that for every 2-hour dinnertime conversation and cup of tea we'll miss, there is a future excol stealing lunch between lectures, and a cheeky Clyde catch-up already on the calendar.

I will miss this place and you wonderful humans enormously, but I leave this college a different person than the child (literally, shout-out to my underagers) that entered three years ago, and I will forever be indebted to Mary's for allowing me the chance to learn and grow, and discover who I wanted to be in this world. When I told Brenda how hard goodbye would be, she simply said "Well that's a good thing isn't it? It shows this means

something to you, and that makes it all worth it." So very worth it, indeed!

Every heart in this room beats true, not simply for the red and the blue, but for every person who dons those colours alongside you. For the smiles and the heartbreaks and challenges and growth that make this family what it is. For years of memories and a lifetime of friendships. There are not enough words to express our gratitude for

St Mary's or to thank every one of you for the impact you've had on our lives, but please know that we feel honoured to have been a small part of the magic that exists within these walls. They say that home is where the heart is, and if that's true, a little piece of all of us will live at St Mary's forever and a day.

**By Abbey Zito**

## REFLECTIONS FROM VALETANTS

To have been part of this incredible community for the past three years has been an absolute privilege. I will miss this college and you wonderful humans enormously, but leave here an infinitely better human than I entered three years ago, and I will forever be indebted to Mary's for allowing me the chance to learn and grow, and discover who I wanted to be in this world. I have learned from every one of you unique and brilliant humans, I appreciate you all immensely and wish you nothing but the best for the future. I'd like to say a huge thank you to Darcy, Maria, our staff, the GC and the wider leadership team for their support throughout the

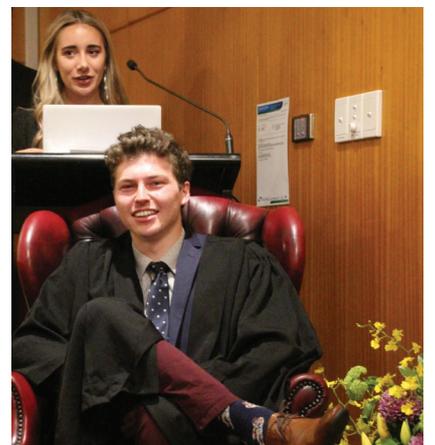
past 12 months, and to the entire Mary's community for your constant love and support. There are not enough words to express my gratitude for St. Mary's nor to thank every one of you for the impact you've had on my life, but please know that I feel honoured to have been a small part of the magic that exists within these walls. Thank you all for an exceptional year, it has been my absolute privilege representing you all. The past three years have been filled with the most incredible memories and seen the creation of friendships that will last a lifetime. I cannot thank you all enough and love you dearly. Pres x



**Abbey Zito**

I moved to Melbourne from my home in Tasmania to study Veterinary medicine and I arrived at St. Mary's college mid-way through 2017. Everyone at college immediately welcomed me and people went out of their way to make me feel apart of the college and helped me with whatever I needed. I soon become accustomed to college life and living away from home and was always getting involved with the activities put on by the college, as well as keeping up with Uni of course. During my time here, St. Mary's has been tremendously supportive academically by organising tutorials and opening up quiet study spaces around the college. St. Mary's has put a lot of emphasis on the

qualities and values such as friendship, involvement and respect that other colleges seem to fall short in. Moving into St. Mary's college has been one of the best decisions I have ever made. It has influenced and shaped the person I am today and will continue becoming for the rest of my life. It has opened me up to cultural considerations that I had not previously been aware of. College has helped me grow as a person, enormously building my confidence and life skills. I have made more friends in my 3 years of college than I did in my 18 years back home and will certainly remain friends with these wonderful fellow collegians for many years to come! Thank you St. Mary's for the best 3 years of my life.



**Jesse Burgess**

# REFLECTIONS FROM VALETANTS

Three years have gone so fast! I remember the day I moved into St Mary's I was extremely nervous and I wasn't sure what to expect. When a representative from the university came to my high school to talk to us about colleges, they told me it was a really convenient place to live. Now I know it's so much more than that! St Mary's really is a home-away-from-home. I will always treasure the memories I made here, like managing front of house and operations for the college musical, putting together

the college magazine, volunteering with the Environment and Social Awareness Committee, and just celebrating everything that's great about college at the myriad social events that I've been a part of during my time. Thank you to Darcy, Maria and Rachel for all their support over the past three years, as well as all the lifelong friends I have made along the way. I wish every Marian, current and future, all the best for the future and urge them to make the absolute most of their time at college.



**Bree Booth**

My time at Mary's has been nothing but blessed. Coming to St. Mary's was one of my best decisions that I made and suffice to say, I will never regret sending in that application and sitting that interview. February 2017 marked a new journey, and one that is so rare and so valuable. Three years at college, I have made so many friends and many precious memories and with a blink of an eye, it has come to an end.

This college itself doesn't make you into someone better, but it's the people and the opportunities that come with it that do. Being at college really changes your perspective of the world and grows you as a person by learning

from the others, while the others learn from you. Throughout my time, I have got to know so many different people and the biggest lesson I learnt is that you do realise that there are people you may click with, but still respect them for who they are.

For the steps of growing into real adulthood and taking on the world head on in the very soon future, I'm sure that I will remember my time at college, not as a sentiment, more as a motivator. I have grown so much with my time at college, it's now time for more.

Thank you, St. Mary's!



**Henry Zhang**

I have had a three great years at St Mary's College. Upon arriving at the college I found it to be a caring and welcoming community that made moving from a country environment to a city location much easier. It has been a wonderful place to stay while engaging in my studies at RMIT and handling the difficult transition to University. I have especially found that the college's support of a good study environment has been particularly helpful in assisting with the difficulty and stress that University can bring.

Staying at this college has allowed me to meet so many amazing people and

the variety of activities we participated in together helped create a sense of being in a community, which helped me to grow personally and socially. The opportunity to be involved in informal gatherings, together with a number of formal occasions, has provided me with a greater understanding of the variety that can be experienced in community life.

I would like to sincerely thank Darcy McCormack, Maria O'Donnell and Rachel Lechmere as well as all the other past and present staff and students for making my time at St Mary's such a special and unforgettable experience.



**Sean Randell**

# REFLECTIONS FROM VALETANTS

St Mary's, the place for you, the place for me, the place for severely good company. As someone who had never really fitted in, I could not imagine how quickly these halls would soon feel like home. A few weeks into my first year living at St Mary's I lead the college in the college song after winning the fresher dance off. As I reflect on this event now I know that it was that moment I, for the first time in my life, felt part of something bigger than myself. Although the thought that I will be leaving in a few weeks does fill me with sadness, it is that rare kind of happy sad that is only born when good times come to an end.

The last three years have been incredibly formative for me, from leaving my family home for the first time, to serious academic study, and struggling with mental illness. However, I can safely say there is nowhere in the world that would have been more supportive and helped me through these challenging life experiences as well as St Mary's has. I have to extend a huge thank you to all the staff of the college. Darcy and Maria have been outstanding throughout my time, the mentors and tutors have all be lovely, and the admin staff all hold a special place in my heart. I am forever grateful for the time I have spent here and will miss it sorely.



**Rupert McPharlin**

Three years in one place sounds like a long time; however, my time at Mary's has gone by so quickly. I remember how scared I was to move to Melbourne from Darwin, into a place where I wouldn't know anyone, but I soon found a home here at St Mary's. This place has given me the opportunity to grow as an individual and make phenomenal friends who have changed my life. The people at this college, from students to staff, create an environment where we are free to be ourselves and it has

helped shape the person I am today. St Mary's is more than just a place to come to study, it's a nurturing and warm environment that cares for more than just your grades. I'm so glad I made the decision to stay a third year as this year has by far been my favourite at college. The friendships I have made over my time at St Mary's will stay with me forever and I know that I will always be welcomed here with open arms.



**Caitlyn Grace-Long**

## VALETANTS

Three of our Valetants, Ashtyn Purcell, Kaytlyn O'Neil and Kimiya Bari and began their college experience, and transition from school to The University of Melbourne, at Whitley College in 2017. After their first year, it was with much sadness that Whitley College closed. It was then that these three students, found a new home at St Mary's. Each of them, over the past two years, has brought their giftedness and personality to our college and added to its spirit. We wish them well in the next phase of their lives and know that they will remain in contact with the college into the future.



**Ashtyn Purcell, Kaytlyn O'Neil and Kimiya Bari**

Introduction



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