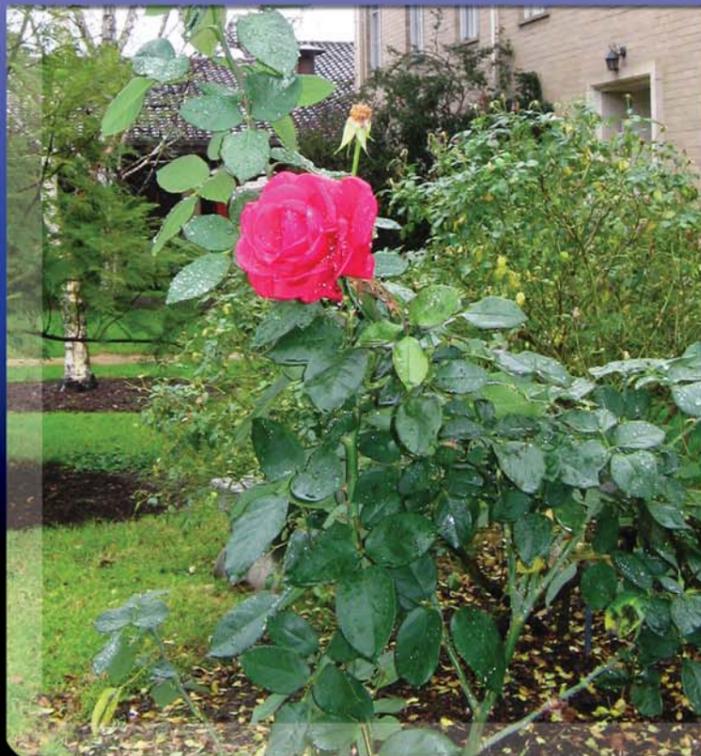


# VERITY

ST MARY'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

SEMESTER ONE



## A Word from the Principal

The year got away to a good start and O-Week was marked by fun and a real spirit of collaboration at all levels. We have several new members of staff and new tutors as well as a really fine group of mentors. We enjoyed great success in the cricket and the women's rowing. Now we are preparing for swimming and hockey and soccer. We have also distinguished ourselves in the inter-college public speaking and the Fresher Dance-Off so in all sorts of ways the year seems to be going well. One of our fourth year students, Robert O'Shea, was mentioned in the Dean's list from the faculty of Arts. Robert is pursuing Honours in History and is our Senior Mentor.

We have a proposal to replace the West Wing which as many past students would recall was threatening to subside as far back as twenty years ago. I will have more news of that in the next edition of Verity.

In the midst of all this I had a short stay in hospital and am now back at work recuperating. I owe an enormous debt of gratitude to those whose combined

efforts kept St Mary's on track so that when I came back it seemed to some that things were just the same as ever.

Plans for the play have progressed and we are anticipating an engaging and original production of 'The Taming of the Shrew' in second semester. College Day is coming up and we anticipate that it will bring the usual sense of fun and camaraderie to the fore as we reflect on who we are together. It is a day that gives us an opportunity to say honestly what we value in life and invariably that is the way in which we have been brought together to share some of the most significant events of our lives and to appreciate the role we have in influencing the development of character in a number of amazing and talented people. Our speaker this year is Genevieve Lacey who in the midst of a busy performing schedule found time to address these perennial concerns.

Amongst the new staff I am pleased to welcome back those you have known for a long time – John Feltscheer, Zora Klecina, Sean Vagg, Dane Kirby, Troy Busbee, Greg Iacono, Noel Ryan, Nena



Vinski, and Geraldine Woodhatch. You will find traces of them here and on Facebook I'm told.

I hope you find the stories and contributions of some of these entertaining and prompts to memories of St Mary's that there is continuity in those who aspire to be 'Seekers of truth and doers of justice'.

(Dr) Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM  
Principal

## Mary Ward International Australia - Baucau, East Timor

This summer, I spent one wonderful month volunteering in Baucau, East Timor with Mary Ward International Australia. I spent my time mainly in Health care facilities around Baucau, the first week at a Leprosy clinic ran by Indonesian sisters and the following at a rural clinic ran by German born doctor, Christiana. I learnt many things during my time at these clinics, both about myself and about Medicine. I think that this experience has altered my perceptions of developing world medicine, and will definitely influence the way in which I practice medicine in the future. The language barrier was a challenge, with many of the health workers operating in Tetun or Indonesian, and most of the patients speaking one of many different district languages. I found most people were trying to learn English and I very much enjoyed helping them out when I could. I believe they, in turn, were amused by my attempts at learning Tetun! With many of the people I met speaking at least four languages, I found it difficult enough just working out which language they were speaking, let alone what they were actually saying!

I found that my best language teachers were the children at the Champagnat Creche. I spent many of my mornings volunteering here and it was definitely one of the highlights of my trip. I was absolutely amazed at the quality of teaching achieved there, and the love and care shown to each child that spent their days there. I loved helping the kids with their puzzles and listening to their songs, playing in the sandpit and drawing, and was acutely aware of how lucky these kids are. Unfortunately, this facility is one of the few of its kind and the majority of the children of East Timor are unable to enjoy such luxuries as these. A realisation of how lucky I am and how important it is not to take any opportunity I am given for granted, was a recurring thought throughout my entire stay in East Timor.

I very much enjoyed my time in East Timor. I made some amazing friends and will definitely return. My most sincere thanks must go to Sisters Natalie Houlihan, Dianne Stuart and Anne Kelly who welcomed me into their lives and made my stay as comfortable as it could possibly be, and to all the wonderful Timorese that I lived with in Baucau.



I encourage anyone who may be interested in volunteering this summer to contact MWIA – it is an experience you will never forget!

Danielle Forbes  
Student – St Mary's College

## From the Editor

We are pleased to bring you the 2010 mid-year edition of Verity, St Mary's College publication for our Alumni, current students and friends of the College. The year so far has been quite eventful, starting with Moving In Day for Freshers, Commencement Mass and Dinner and the Principal's Dinner. This semester we hosted Faculty Dinners for our students from ACU and RMIT, followed by dinners for our Science Faculty and Medicine, Dentistry and Health Science students.

The Deirdre Rofe Oratory Competition was conducted and won by Tess

Herbert again this year. The Junior Common Room Jam Session was again very popular with our musical students and those who just like to listen. But I think the highlight of Semester One was College Day. You will find stories and photos about most of these events in the following pages.

We are very keen to update our database with new contact details so if you know of any Alumni who did not receive this magazine, please urge them to advise us of their whereabouts so we are able to keep in touch. They can do this by completing the form on

the inside rear cover of Verity or by completing the link available on our website under Alumni.

Finally, thank you to all those who have contributed to this edition, I know your time is precious and I appreciate your efforts.

We hope you enjoy this edition of Verity!

Kate Heinze –  
College Secretary & Alumnist

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Front cover:  
St. Mary's Courtyard



PART 3

Since we last reported on Honey, she has been to the beach for a holiday, not her first beach encounter but just as exciting as the first time. Apparently, seagulls and waves are a great combination, who would have thought? Later in the holidays, Honey spent time at the sheep farm in Creighton's Creek, where she is apparently getting better at rounding up whole herds, instead of just one sheep, as before. When she arrived home from the farm, Honey smelled like a sheep so we decided to give her a bath. Embarrassing photos of her in the bath are included here for your enjoyment.



During the summer months, the temperature soared to 40 degrees Celsius on quite a few days. Well Honey does not like the heat so there was much panting and sad eye action until she was allowed into the cool of the College foyer. She promptly claimed a comfy chair as her own and proceeded to doze off.

As winter closes in, it becomes apparent that Honey does not mind the cold. To keep warm, Honey runs after birds and dances around trees holding daring possums that have not quite made it home after a nights fossicking. It's just physical exertion and noise though; she never catches anything and is too well fed to care.

Another farm trip opportunity came up for Honey this week as we wind down semester one. This time she has gone to an olive farm where she will share the chores with four other dogs. We will miss her while she is gone but it is only a few weeks.

The students at the College continue to find a great friend in Honey, as do Staff. She is a joy to have around.



# Commencement & Principal's Dinner

## WELCOME (Commencement) 2010 Dr Liz Hepburn – Principal

Welcome, after the hectic weeks of results coming out and fitting you all in it's finally time to become the St Mary's community for 2010. Each year it is a different community but each year we aim to create an atmosphere of homeliness and an environment where all students may thrive and capitalize on their potential. We have an obligation to those who have gone before us, to continue the tradition of scholarship and companionship which has characterized St Mary's since its foundation. Coming together for eucharist is the traditional Christian way to celebrate our commonality.

Sometimes in the hectic schedule of College it is easy to forget the hard work and sacrifice which brought us here. The reality is that the effort must

be sustained. Of course, there are wonderful opportunities to develop interests and talents in various directions but not to the detriment of academic success. In my own first year at university, last century, one lecturer asked us to look carefully at those sitting next to us and to note that only one of the three would be there the next year. This holds true for every year, not just first year. The statistics bear witness to this.

The College provides support in the form of dedicated staff who work to make life run smoothly for you, Tutors and Mentors who are charged with responsibility of watching out for you and your fellow students who have undertaken to offer mutual support. The truth is that with this sort of assistance College students can excel at university. You will meet many inspiring and fascinating people at College and you have the

privilege of sharing your life with them, even if for a short time.

In this period of life you will experience a range of emotional reactions you have only observed in others until now. You will experience infatuation, love and loss; success and failure; exhilaration and disappointment and much of this will appear almost overwhelming. At these stages you will need the grounding that true friends can and will provide. Treasure these times, they are indispensable to real growth.

Community depends on every person being prepared to give and take; to have real insight to recognize when they need help and to be sufficiently sensitive to realize when a helping hand is needed by another. In a very real sense it requires the maturity to accept the responsibility of being the custodians of each others privacy.

Although living in community gives you the privilege of knowing more details of individual lives than would otherwise be available you; it also presumes you have the sense to recognize that this is information which needs the security of never being shared. So much distress can be caused by a careless comment or an inappropriate joke and the damage may be permanent. The care we extend to each other is a sacred trust; the bonds of community take gentle nurture and serious commitment.

So welcome to your place in the community of St Mary's 2010, it will be what you make it and I'm sure we have the potential to create a safe and inclusive environment for all. Let us together pledge to be seekers of truth and doers of justice.



## Principal's Dinner Speech Dr Liz Hepburn – Principal

Good evening, Mr Vagg and members of SCR, Mr Kennedy and members of JCR and any members of staff present and listening.

It is good to be here, and I have to tell you, that I consider myself a fortunate woman, to wake and rise every day to do a job, which my order has asked me to do and which I enjoy. There have been other things I have been asked to do, for which I was less suited and enjoyed in snatches.

Tonight I want to talk to you about the sort of beings we humans are; the things which distinguish us as humans and I am going to make the case that we are the sort of beings who set out to make stories of our lives. To do this I will draw on the work of Charles Taylor, a Canadian

philosopher who is the author of a book called 'Sources of the Self'.<sup>1</sup>

He said:  
*Our being selves is essentially linked to our sense of the good, and we achieve selfhood among other selves.*

He is claiming that we have an innate desire to be good and we learn what this is by living with others who are also aligned with the good. So the first experience we have is that of home, and the others are parents, siblings; and as the circle widens the extended family and neighbours. All of these selves have an impact on our own sense of ourselves and we consciously or unconsciously begin to model our behaviour on some of these.

He went on to say:  
*How we are placed in relation to this good is of crucial and inescapable concern for us, that we cannot but*





*strive to give our lives meaning or substance, and that this means that we understand ourselves inescapably in narrative...*

What I take him to mean is that we none of us make decisions in a random, one-off fashion. We tend to be guided in our decisions by what we have come to see as good for us. The presence of other selves in our lives teaches us that these decisions must have a community dimension. To make decisions which are good only

***It is a great goal in life to become the wonderful person your dog thinks you are!***

for me, now, come to a pretty sticky end, we realize that it is in our long term interest to make decisions for ourselves which are consistent with the good of others.

As we develop and make more and more decisions about our future as persons, we see some connection between these decisions. We strive to make our lives cohesive and to take decisions which have some sense of direction. In fact, we worry when people seem to take decisions as if they were entirely independent of decisions taken earlier. So Charles

Taylor says that over time we build these serial decisions in a way which make sense or meaning of our lives, he says that this serves a story-telling purpose, that we are making a narrative of our lives.

Further, it is Taylor's contention that we remain oriented to what we believe to be good. We may be wrong about the nature of that good, but asked why one did that action we think it is reasonable to expect that someone can give an account of it.

What Taylor is saying is that the action of the self is nevertheless oriented to that good. In other words, our choices are goal directed and in time we are sufficiently self-aware that we can articulate that good. And someone observing us would also be able to articulate the good that we had oriented our lives towards. There is a consistency between our behaviour and our stated values, this is the beginning of integrity.

It is very easy for a leader to be misunderstood because people believe that they are able to predict

what decisions the leader will take, and are very surprised when on some occasion she does not seem to take the same decision in the similar circumstances. Frequently, they will accuse the individual of having lost her way, of favoritism. The fact is probably that she has some information which is limited to her by confidentiality, which indicates to her that she is no longer dealing with a situation like the first instance. It is seldom true that the circumstances of a case are identical in another case.

The issues I have raised for your consideration seem to me to lie at the heart of a College community. There are a lot of creative, energetic, intelligent people who are on the verge of adulthood. These questions of what sort of person am I going to be? How will I influence those around me? How do I wish to be remembered? Are of immense importance for us and define how matters are decided. The thing that Taylor so rightly draws attention to is that none of this takes place in isolation. The fundamental reality is that we need each other to negotiate this territory. There is no substitute for

trying out our ideas with trusted friends, for practicing behaviour which seems to incarnate those attributes we aspire to embody.

When adults are asked to explain why they did things, more than half appeal to group norms, over a third to a feeling of empathy and only 11% in terms of principle. This seems to indicate that it is feeling rather than rational thought that prompts our actions. This goes to support the notion that these things are best sorted out in the company of friends and makes the relationships formed in College really important.

Finally, Taylor says if we are consistent in the direction we set ourselves we must understand ourselves as in some sense defined by that quest.

He says:  
*One could put it this way: because we cannot but orient ourselves to the good, and thus determine our place relative to it and hence determine the direction of our lives, we must inescapably understand our lives in narrative form, as a 'quest'.*

It seems that all grand narratives are of this type from Jason and the

Argonauts through to Indiana Jones and the raiders of the lost ark. What Taylor is suggesting is that all of us live out a story the main features of which are a matter of choice. It is no excuse to say that things just happened and I did not make a choice.

Given that the actions of intelligent people are goal directed, what are we to make of goals and their setting? The three goals which Mary Ward put before her sisters were those of freedom, justice and sincerity or integrity. The freedom to refer all matters to God in prayer, justice understood as right relationship between people and things and integrity the sort of wholeness of being that I have talked about tonight.

The threefold charism which guides the action of Mary Ward's sisters is a benchmark against which the sister can judge her actions AND against which others can measure her endeavours. Tonight I pledge again to do my best to live this lofty way of doing things and to try to be open about assessing my life in these terms. It is my hope that these values will be apparent in my behaviour. I will try to stand ready to be challenged in terms of these values.

I promise to keep you and your interests in my prayers. I ask you to bear in mind that I too, am still learning.

My sister, a very witty and perceptive woman gave me a great birthday card which carries the picture of a rather exuberant mutt of uncertain parentage which said:

*It is a great goal in life to become the wonderful person your dog thinks you are!*

I guess in a way, that is what I have advocated tonight. Accepting that we are goal oriented beings and that the goal is good and striving with others to become this person is the large purpose of our College life together. As a little girl my mother offered to do up my shoes for me, and I said to her, 'thank you mummy, I can do it by my own.' It took me a long time to learn that together we can be so much more than I can ever be on my own. This then is your invitation and challenge to be the best person you can be with other selves who are embarked on the same quest.

<sup>1</sup> Taylor, C. (1989) Sources of the Self, Harvard University Press, pp. 51-52.



## Calling all St Mary's College alumni

Wouldn't it be wonderful to catch up with those you were at college with?

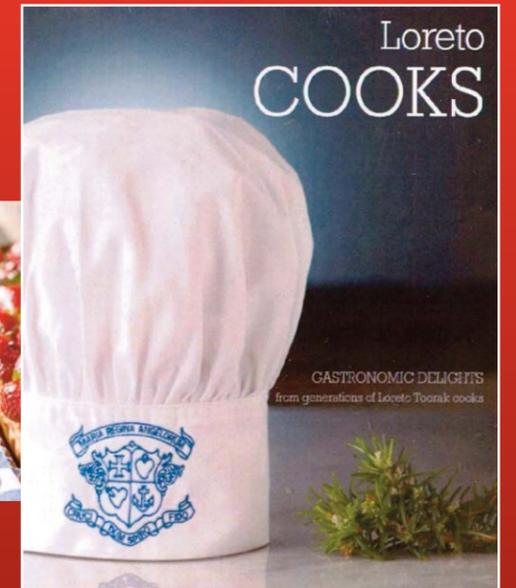
St Mary's College invites you to book an alumni reunion

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## Oh, how we would love a piano

St Mary's College once had a very nice baby grand piano which when last seen was in the JCR. The JCR now houses a billiard table and a ping pong table and would no longer be a suitable location for a grand piano. However, with the improvements to the Frewin Room and its transformation from a library into a conference facility this would seem to be the place for a grand piano. I think that if it were there we could use the Frewin Room for music recitals and concerts.

So, I have a request to put to past students who may be down-sizing and have a piano in need of a new home. I can promise you it will be well cared for, tuned every six months and only played by high calibre musicians. It would have the added effect of allowing a musical tradition to thrive.

If there is anyone who can supply a piano of the sort described I'd love to hear from you and we would acknowledge your gift by holding an annual recital in your name and affix a brass plate which mentioned you in the provenance of the instrument.





**Denise Mary Kirby PhD**  
9/9/53 – 3/1/10

Passed away peacefully surrounded by family on January 3, 2010 at the Royal Women's Hospital Melbourne after a long illness.

Loved daughter of the late Dr Peter Kirby and Joan Kirby, sister of Lucinda, John, Joseph (dec.), Bernard and Anne, Andrew, and Patricia.

Denise was also Aunt to Sarah, Francis, Denise, Dominic and Vicky and great aunt to Forest.

Scientist, anthropologist, ace babysitter and fellow traveller through life. Your star near Beta Centauri will always remind us of you.

Life is not measured by the number of breaths we take, but by the moments that take our breath away.

Now At Peace



**Maureen Christie.**  
15/10/1922 – 10/11/2008

Maureen was born in Brisbane on the 15<sup>th</sup> October 1922. Her father Colin Shaw Christie was an engineer and the family moved around in the early days quite a bit. They lived in Malaya for four years before moving to Western Australia when Maureen was small.

The school she attended in Perth was Loreto Convent, Osborne in Claremont which was run by the Institute of the Blessed Virgin Mary known as the Loreto Nuns. Here her talent and

interest in acting and the arts in general was fostered and she gained the Diploma of Speech from Trinity College. She was Head of the School in 1939, her final year, and then went on to study first year science at the University of Perth.

At that time she hoped to become a doctor, but there was no Medical School in Perth so in order to continue her studies, she had to go to Melbourne to attend the University there. In Victoria she was a resident at St Mary's Hall, a University College run for women also by the Loreto nuns. In time she switched from medicine to physiotherapy at Melbourne and completed this course in 1944 which was of course the middle of WW 11. She then went on to complete her B.A. degree and was Senior Student at the Hall in her final year.

During this time she was very much part of the drama scene at Melbourne University. Her great love was theatre



and she did a course in Dramatic Art at the Melbourne Conservatorium under Eileen O'Keefe. She played many leading parts in plays including Sophocles's Electra produced by Eileen O'Keefe. The performance received rave reviews. She started the Newman Dramatic Society and produced herself many plays at the Union Theatre.

On completion of her studies she returned to Ballarat where she established her physiotherapy practice. However her love of theatre continued and she took an active interest in the Ballarat National Theatre playing in or producing many productions. She taught Art of Speech at Loreto Abbey Mary's Mount and also at a Ballarat

Boys College there. At these schools she produced several musicals. All her life she subscribed to the Arts and really enjoyed taking her family and friends to the Ballet or Opera.

In 1950 the family travelled to the U.K. and Europe on a nine months tour. It was the start of many trips for Maureen as she loved travelling and took an intelligent interest in the people and places that she visited. She attended many physiotherapy conferences overseas, which she took very seriously and brought back to her practice the latest methods and ideas for her patients. Her patients loved her and usually waited for treatment until she returned.

Maureen had many interests including Field Naturalists Society outings, bird watching, Scottish Country dancing along with dress making, weaving, knitting, tatting, painting, leather work, not to mention taking an active interest in the doings of her extended family. Amongst other things she started a Poetry Reading & Writers group in Ballarat.

She was also an enthusiastic member of firstly the Victorian Women Graduates which developed into the Australian Federation of University Women and took an active role in its development. She also joined Zonta and again was a strong supporter of their activities. She had great faith in the ability of women to achieve much and to gain equality with men on their own merits. She was a true daughter of Mary Ward, foundress of the IBVM.

She continued her Physiotherapy Practice in Ballarat right up until she was admitted to St John of God in late August 2008. We had to ring patients to cancel their appointments the week she was operated on for cancer. While she started chemotherapy treatment, she never really recovered and died two and a half months later.

Among many of her interests was a love of good food and wine. It is therefore no surprise that the only thing she could manage to keep down in the last few days were our excellent South Coast oysters. Maureen lived life to the full and is much missed by her family and friends. She died here in Tura Beach with us on 10 November, 2008 and is buried in Ballarat with our parents. R.I.P.



# Redmond Barry

## Redmond Barry's Books at St Mary's College

St Mary's College is fortunate to possess a small selection of books from the personal library of Sir Redmond Barry. Some of these books have their original binding while others have been rebound. Redmond Barry's name is inscribed in ink inside the front cover of some of the books. Many contain the motto: "Boutez on event" (thrust forward). A few books are annotated by Barry, with notes pertaining to the authors or have notes inserted on loose paper inside the books.

Redmond Barry was an avid reader with a passion for books. According to Anne Galbally, Barry's biographer, "books and reading were the twin cornerstones of treasure and solace throughout Redmond Barry's life."<sup>1</sup> After qualifying as a barrister in Ireland, Barry sailed for Sydney where he stayed a short time before arriving in Victoria in 1839, four years after the establishment of Port Phillip as a settlement. Some of the books bearing dates prior to 1839, were presumably part of his collection of books formed when he was a student at Trinity College and Lincoln's Inn in London.

Barry was a Supreme Court judge for thirty years and also served as acting Chief Justice.

John Phillips viewed him as an ideal judge for his times: "The fledgling colony did not need a Sir Owen Dixon or a Lord Denning. What it needed – and got in Barry – were judges who would work hard so that the cases in the Supreme Court were completed with dispatch; who were prepared to take on the arduous travel inevitably involved in circuits and who were also prepared to publicly affirm the importance of the rule of law in troubled times – particularly after the gold discoveries."<sup>2</sup> Barry also took an interest in the aborigines, labouring hard upon their cases for little remuneration and this concern for indigenous people lasted all his life.



Sir Redmond Barry was instrumental in the founding of three major institutions: **The State library of Victoria, the Supreme Court Library and the University of Melbourne.** He also had a part to play in the founding of the Philosophic Institute, the Philharmonic Society, the Melbourne Club and Horticulture Society to name but a few of the causes he so generously supported. The Redmond Barry Reading Room in the State Library is named after Redmond Barry, the first Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Melbourne Public Library. His statue is in the forecourt of the State Library, a fitting tribute to the man and his achievements. The

University of Melbourne has a Redmond Barry building and there are streets named after him. He was the first Chancellor of the University of Melbourne. According to his biographer "No one replaced him... no one could..."<sup>3</sup>

Although a lawyer by training, Redmond Barry acted as a librarian in his spare time, selecting books and library bindings, devising book catalogues, sharing his books and promoting librarianship as a profession both here and overseas. Above all, he wished books to be accessible to the public. Brian Hubber writes : "His commitment was

## From the archives Redmond Barry



extended to rolling up his sleeves on the eve of the Library's official opening so that he could help unpack and shelve the books."<sup>4</sup> For further information on this particular collection of Redmond Barry's books at St Mary's College, refer to the online article by Fiona Salisbury.<sup>5</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Ann Galbally, *Redmond Barry: An Anglo-Irish Gentleman*, Carlton, Vic.: Melbourne University Press, 92.

<sup>2</sup> John H. Phillips, 'A Black-Letter Lawyer' *The La Trobe Journal* Redmond Barry Number no. 73, 23.

<sup>3</sup> Galbally, 194.

<sup>4</sup> Brian Hubber, 'Leading by Example: Barry in the Library' *The La Trobe Journal* Redmond Barry Number no. 73, 68.

<sup>5</sup> Fiona Salisbury, 'A Group of Books from Redmond Barry's Library', *The La Trobe Journal*, No 82 Spring 2008. Article now online at: <http://nishi.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejourna/issue/latrobe-82/t1-g-t8.html>

<http://nishi.slv.vic.gov.au/latrobejourna/issue/latrobe-82/t1-g-t8.html>

### Appendix : Redmond Barry's Books at St Mary's College

Anstey, Christopher. *The New Bath Guide: or, Memoirs of the B-N-R-D Family in a Series of Poetical Epistles*. New edition. London :Vernor & Hood [et al.], 1801.

Béranger, Pierre-Jean de. *Oeuvres*

*Completés de Béranger avec les 10 chansons nouvelles*. Paris: Perrotin, 1853.

Bermingham, Alphonsus de. *English Word*. [Paris]: Garnier Bros., 1877.

Catullus, Gaius Valerius. *Catulli, Tibulli, et Propertii Opera*. Birminghamiae: Typis Johannis Baskerville, 1772.

Cervantes Saavedra, Miguel de. *The History and Adventures of the Renowned Don Quixote*. London: Walker, 1818. 2 vols.

Cowley, Abraham. [Cowley's Works] [vols 7 and 8] *The Poems of Abraham Cowley* [s.n.] [1830].

Cowley, Abraham. [Cowley's Works] [v.9] *Several Discourses, by Way of Essays, in Verse and Prose*. [s.n.], 1830.

Cowper, William. *Poems*. Dublin: Jones, 1787.

Everard, Robert, Cap. *Epistle to the Several Congregations of the Non-Conformists ; The Way to True Happiness: Leading to the Gate of Knowledge*. The second edition, containing in it several matereal additions and enlargements. [London? : s.n.], 1664.

Horace. *Smart's Horace*. 1834?

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Jacquemont, Victor. *Correspondance de V. Jacquemont avec Sa Famille et Plusieurs des ses Amis Pendant son Voyage dans l'Inde (1828-1832)*. Paris: Garnier 1846. 2 vols.

Junius, pseud. *Junius [Letters of Junius]* London Rivington, etc. 1820

La Fontaine, Jean de. *Fables de la Fontaine*. Paris: Boiste, 1821. 2 vols in 1 part.

Le Sage, Alain Rene. *Le Diable Boiteux / par Monsieur Le Sage; avec Les Entretiens Serieux & Comiques des Cheminees de Madrid; et Les Bequilles Dudit Diable par Monsieur...* Londres: Jean Nourse, 1751. Vol 1.

Lucian, of Samosata. *Nonnulli e Luciani Dialogis Selecti, et in Duae Partes Divisi Alteram Prius Editam, Alteram nunc additam: Omnes Scholiis Illustrati ab Edwardo Leedes* ...

Londini : impensis J. & B. Sprint, & G. Conyers; R. Wilkins, & W. & J. Innys, 1736.

Reproduction of original from the British library.

Ossian. *The Poems of Ossian*. London: Miller, Murray & Harding, 1805. 3 vols. Pope, Alexander. *The works of Alexander Pope*, Esq. Dublin: Potts & Williams, 1764.

Rabelais, Francois. *Oeuvres de Francois Rabelais*. Paris: Desoer, 1820. 3 vols.

Saint-Pierre, Bernardin de 1737-1814. *Paul and Virginia*. London: Sharpe, 1828.

Scarron, Paul. *Roman Comique de Scarron* [v.1] London: [s.n.], 1785.

Seneca, Lucius Annaeus. *Seneca's Morals by Way of Abstract. To which is added, A Discourse under the Title of an After-Thought by Sir Robert L'Estrange, Knt*. London: Thompson, 1764. 2 copies.

*Spectator* [No. 1, Thursday, March 1, 1710—No. 635, Monday, December 20, 1714]

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Allan and Maria Myers

## Academic Centre

The college communities of St Mary's and Newman are fortunate to share in a facility called the Allan and Maria Myers Academic Centre.

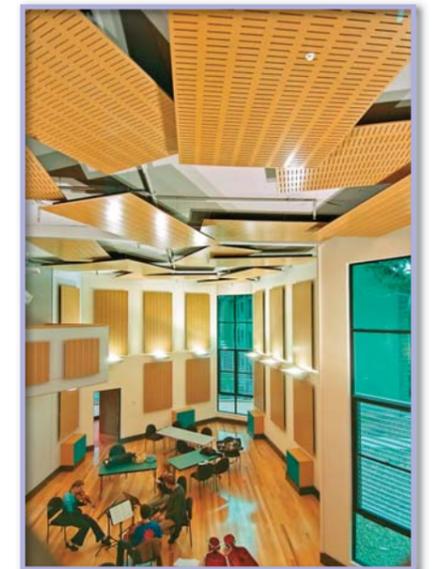
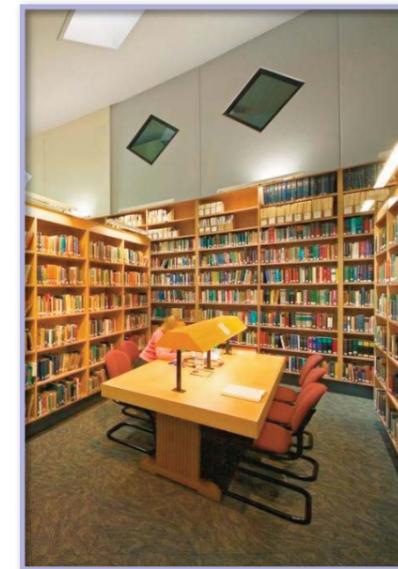
The Centre has ten tutorial rooms; four music practice rooms; computer lab and printing facilities; wireless internet access and an extensive library with several specialist collections (Irish studies, Australiana and Manuscript studies in particular); a Choral Room; and a student lounge.

The Centre is sited mid-way between the two colleges and was completed in 2004. This rather remarkable building was designed by the award-winning architectural team of Peter Corrigan and Maggie Edmond, and realised through the generosity of many donors, chief among them the Myers for whom the Centre is named. Maria Myers (nee Jens) is of course a former St Mary's student and Allan Myers a former student at Newman.

The Academic Centre is open 24 hours a day to students of St Mary's and Newman Colleges. It offers a base for a range of pursuits: academic, musical, pastoral, personal, cultural and social.

Centre staff work to support students and the wider college community. Our IT Manager Lincoln Smith maintains and develops IT infrastructure for the Centre and for the two colleges, and crucially makes sure we all stay connected to the internet. Librarians Geraldine Woodhatch and Rhonda Gordon-Brown ensure the library collection - about 60,000 items in total - is continually updated and renewed to meet student needs and interests. They also bring collection highlights to students through displays, and by responding to research queries with relevant books and journals.

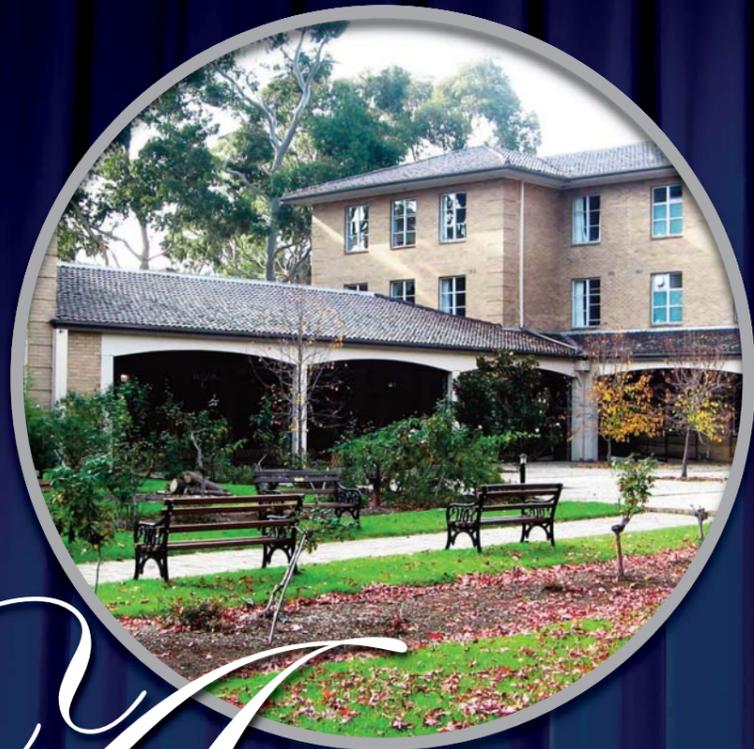
The library's special collection areas continue to develop, often through donations. Professor Emeritus Margaret Manion has generously built the Manuscript studies collection, and we have recently added books from the Raheen library of Daniel Mannix to the Irish studies collection. These are on long-term loan to the Centre from the



Melbourne Diocesan Historical Commission. A research fellowship in Irish Studies has recently been established by the Academic Centre to promote the Irish studies collection and encourage scholarship in Irish Diaspora Studies and Irish History; and to enhance the Centre's role as a community of scholars.

The library catalogue is available for searching and browsing at: <http://amlib.newman.unimelb.edu.au/>

St Mary's College Alumni are warmly invited to contact staff in the Centre to arrange a time to visit.



# A bequest to St Mary's College

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

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

Gifts to the Scholarship and Bursary Funds, the Water Tank Fund or the Building Fund are Tax Deductible.

Thank you for your generosity and support on behalf of our current and future students.

Contact: Troy Busbee,  
Business Manager  
Phone: 03 9349 9507

Email: [tbusbee@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:tbusbee@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au)

## St Mary's College Alumni donation form

Yes, I would like to make a donation to St Mary's College for the amount of:

\$20     \$50     \$100     \$250     Other \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to make a donation to St Mary's College Scholarship and Bursary Fund for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to make a donation to St Mary's College Water Tank Fund for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Yes, I would like to make a donation to St Mary's College Building Fund for the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to pay by credit card (Visa/Mastercard only) and have completed the details below

Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_     Visa     Mastercard

Card number \_\_\_\_\_    Expiry Date \_\_\_\_\_ Month \_\_\_\_\_

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## St Mary's College Alumni details

Please update my details:

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone H: \_\_\_\_\_ Business: \_\_\_\_\_ Mobile \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Year began at St Mary's \_\_\_\_\_ Year left St Mary's \_\_\_\_\_

Positions held at St Mary's during residency \_\_\_\_\_

Awards won \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else of interest \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

You can update your details online at [www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au](http://www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au)

Post of fax this form to:

St Mary's College  
871 Swanston Street  
Parkville VIC 3052  
Fax: 03 9349 1335



**Renovation of St Anne's senior common room**

Over the Christmas break, St Anne's staff room was converted in to a Common Room for 3<sup>rd</sup> Year students at St Mary's College. Sr Liz Hepburn had the idea for the conversion to take place when it became clear that the 3<sup>rd</sup> year students had no retreat of their own. Sr Liz supplied me with drawings of how the room should look at completion.

The staff room furniture was removed and cushion seating was built in around the walls. A new LCD television was purchased, along with a DVD player, underbench fridge, microwave, hot water urn, wall lamps, coffee table and new shelving.

Nena Vinski (St Mary's Accounts and knower of all supply stuff) was instrumental in purchasing the high-density foam and the fabric for the cushion seating. Nena then found an upholsterer to make the seating that would go into the frame that had been built for it.

Nena also purchased the LCD TV, the wall lamps and various other items for the common room. The time and effort



spent on this project by Nena is much appreciated by me and by the College.

The 3<sup>rd</sup> year students who now use the room take very good care of it, which tells us how much they appreciate us having renovated it for them.

**Conversion of south basement store room**

While St Anne's Common Room was being renovated, another project was taking place – the conversion of South Basement store room into a Parents Retreat.

Old shelving and carpets were removed along with the original floor tiles. The room was then re-painted and re-carpeted and re-decorated with the help of Nena Vinski, who purchased a Holland blind, a beautiful cream leather couch that also pulls out to be a comfortable bed, new light covers and a lovely blanket box to finish the look.

I was pleased to be involved with both projects and found them to be indicative of the teamwork of staff at St Mary's College.

Greg Iacono – Maintenance Manager



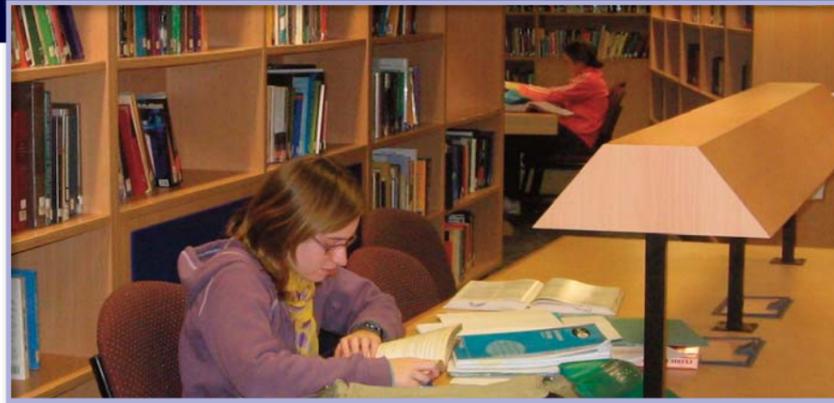
The photos at right are of students enjoying a 'Pleasant Wednesday Afternoon – Easter Egg Hunt' in March this year. Students dressed in fancy dress and whiled away an afternoon listening to live music and hunting for Easter Eggs.

**The JCR Jam**

The annual (soon to be biannual) JCR Jam took place on Wednesday the 12th of May in the Frewin Room (note the misleading 'JCR' title) at St. Marys College. Talent emerged from all around the college, entertained us and startled us all. The night began with Lachie Garrick and Brodie Matheson putting their own spin on the Fountains of Wayne classic "Stacey's Mum" and involving the crowd in a variety of ways. Bonnie Reeves and Tess Herbert followed suit amazing us with a Missy Higgins number. Kara Leslie came all the way from the USA to re-insinuate the 2010 fresher song, providing us with a more acoustic version of Bulletproof. Whilst Toose seduced us all again with an instrumental piece on guitar, the woodwind section (consisting of Annaliese Ross and myself) used the time for some recital practice and belted out a few tunes. Siobhan Williams and Karina Sinclair upheld the string section with a duet for violin. The man of the hour, Mr Andy Cathcart, played just about everything and anything he could (for those of you playing at home, Andy accompanied Joel Smith, Beth Canny and Tom Lukaitis before joining forces with Tim Tan and Siobhan to belt out an Augie March classic). It was however in the form of Brendon Torpy and Peter Nightingale in which most of the laughs of the night came. After some long preparation time, the boys entertained us with a few 'dad jokes' in which they are more than happy to recite numerous times. Before coming to the band section, Joe Doak mashed away at some blues guitar improvising whenever he deemed necessary, and Tom Draffen made us feel at home in Puggs with an Irish number, Galway Girl. Andy Cathcart teamed his band up (as mentioned above) and the jazz/improve/comedy trio of Sean Vagg, Gerard Kennedy and Tim Tan



took to the stage 'funking' over the top of a Herbie Hancock number. The night was enjoyed by all and was very uplifting. I thank all those who got involved and look forward to doing it all again next semester.



2010 has begun with *gusto*, with another talented fresher cohort of 82 having settled in and now adding extra savour to College life. 7 freshers received College Scholarships at Commencement Dinner this year, all of whom achieved an Enter score in excess of 98; these students were: Annabelle Anandappa, Lauren Barker, Pia Howarth, Campbell May, Madeline Smith, Charlotte Turner, and Lauren Winter. Indeed, Annabelle achieved the superlative score of 99.9, and the question at dinner has to be asked: 'where did she go wrong?' The two recipients of the Invergowrie Foundation Scholarships were Stephanie McLean and Stephanie Forbes.

Dr. Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM, College Principal, also presented Scholarships to those returning students who achieved an H1 average the previous year; these students were: Bidina Choo, Nicholas Johnston, Jessica MacDonald O'Dwyer, Kim Oh, Karina Sinclair, Joel Smith, Tim Tan, and Robert O'Shea. Special mention must be made of Can Wu, who achieved straight H1s and was fittingly accorded a scholarship. The Cabrini Scholarships were awarded to William

Huang and Liam Phillips; the Maria Jens Award to Brendan Torpy; and the Culican-Ward Scholarship to Kathryn Whyte.

Finally, congratulations to Robert O'Shea, Can Wu, and Nick Wilson for making the Dean's List in 2009, an honour recognizing dedication and scholarship which is consistently of the highest order.

In the second week of University the College Tutorial Programme was up and running; St. Mary's and Newman Colleges both opting to commence their respective programs one week earlier than the other Colleges on the Crescent. This semester St. Mary's has an extensive programme in place, consisting of 38 one-hour tutorials across 35 different subjects. On top of this tutorials or consultations have been arranged on a sporadic basis, governed by the students' particular needs and exceptional circumstances.

Of our 25 Academic Tutors 3 are in residence (including myself), and their students have demonstrated appreciation for the extra time afforded to their studies in the semi-formal environment of the College

tutorials. College tutorials are conducted on Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday evenings in the large intellectual spaces of the Academic Centre. We have had several wonderful additions to our tutor team this year, many of whom are also teaching at the University, and we have also retained the best of our previous tutors.

Now, in the month of May, Returners often begin to season their study of common subjects by helping each other, either in their rooms or out in the courtyard under the maple tree and winter sunshine, *together*; the freshers, happily, are catching this spirit and following suit. I myself have had several vibrant academic conversations with students, particularly about essays; just last week a student and I were investigating what or who or where exactly is 'the *renaissance* man!' Ah! College in May, like the *Renaissance*, a period of great socialization and development, and of which study is the salt.

Dane M Kirby, Dean.



Early in March this year, my band and I were invited to play at the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival event "World's Longest Lunch". As a professional saxophonist, I have been lucky enough in the past few years to play regularly around Australia, but this show was particularly special. To me this event reaffirmed the importance of community, the role of music in helping to create and foster community spirit, and ultimately the power of community to support and to nurture, and to shape lives.

The World's Longest Lunch is an event run by the Melbourne Food and Wine Festival, and the name of the event refers not to the length of time that the lunch takes (mercifully for the musicians), but to its unique format; one single, continuous table seating several hundred guests. The World's Longest Lunch is an increasingly popular event, and is run in several locations around Melbourne, with a recent Lunch held in the CBD requiring a 400-metre long table to seat 900 guests in front of the National Gallery!

This particular World's Longest Lunch took place in Marysville, a town heavily affected by the tragedy of the Black Saturday bushfires. I had previously gained some understanding of the sheer devastation caused by the bushfires during my work rebuilding farm fences in Kinglake and Kilmore with St. Mary's students on a "Blaze Aid" work crew in 2009. On the drive up to Marysville for the World's Longest Lunch, as lush old-growth forest gave way to blackened stumps with bright green patches of new leaves, and finally to eerie moonscapes like those I had seen at the Blaze Aid work sites, it was clear that more than a year later the impact of the fires was still very much present in the region.

I arrived early at the Lunch, which gave me a chance to talk to some local residents. The loss and tragedy of the recent past was still close to the surface, but an inspirational spirit of rebuilding and looking to the future also permeated conversation. Media reports on the fires commonly examine physical and emotional damage caused, but what quickly became apparent to me in talking to local residents was the ongoing economic

damage to livelihoods and communities. Marysville has traditionally drawn much of its income from tourism, and some estimated reductions in tourist numbers since the fires run as high as an 80%.

Marysville has hosted a World's Longest Lunch every year since 2003, with the exception of 2009 when the Lunch was cancelled due to the fires. The 2010 Lunch was therefore an important step towards the economic recovery of the region; promoting Marysville's food, wine and tourist attractions to regional and national audiences.

The importance of this event was underscored by the attendance of Premier Brumby and Ms. Christine Nixon, and most surprisingly by the arrival by helicopter of celebrity chef Jamie Oliver! Mr. Oliver had seen the devastation of the fires on television previously, and upon finding out about the Marysville World's Longest Lunch, wanted to be present to show his support and help give the event an even wider coverage in the media.

After enjoying some local foods and wines, Mr. Oliver gave a heartfelt speech about the importance of community, of buying local, and of supporting the regeneration of economies affected by the bushfires.

It was tremendously fulfilling to be a part of such an event, and as I watched Marysville residents enjoying food, music and company side by side with the premier and one of the world's most recognisable culinary celebrities on a stunning late summer day, it really brought home to me the power of community spirit to transform and transcend adversity. Simple acts of generosity and kindness, everyday acts like talking and listening respectfully, hearing somebody's story and enjoying their company over a meal can be enormously and unexpectedly powerful. Cumulatively, these types of actions and events build the strength of community ties needed to overcome, even to move on from a tragedy of the magnitude of Black Saturday.

Ultimately, the St. Mary's collegiate experience is built on these seemingly simple building blocks. Coming to



meals and sharing stories is a central part of College culture, and the simple acts of talking, listening and enjoying the company of one's peers day after day rapidly create such strong community ties that in a few short months, most students refer to College as "home" and feel safe and comfortable enough to reach for and achieve amazingly ambitious academic, professional, and personal goals.

Music has been an integral part of that shared experience, from the "fresher dance" learned at the start of O-Week, to the students who weekly perform for their peers at High Table, to the twice annual JCR Jam, when the entire College community gathers together to share music.

Whilst speech will always be a primary form of communication, I see music as another, complementary form of communication which can express a range of different meanings and emotions that words alone cannot always convey. The Marysville World's Longest Lunch was a wonderfully joyful occasion for the Marysville community, and as the band got into full swing and the dancers gathered, our music sought to reflect that joyful atmosphere. Joy at seeing a community getting back on its feet after so much heartache, at witnessing the support of the people of Victoria, their most senior elected representative, and a famous chef from across the globe, but most of all, joy at witnessing an affirmation of the power of community values to transcend adversity, and to make life in a strong and vibrant community such a supportive, rich and indeed formative experience.

Sean Vagg, Deputy Principal



**C. Prescott Davis Scholarship to Columbia, NY**

I have been offered a C. Prescott Davis scholarship to Columbia University, an Ivy League College in New York City. I will be commencing my studies at Columbia in September 2010, where I intend to study Biomedical Engineering for the next four years in the School of Engineering and Applied Science. As part of the C.P. Davis Scholar's Program, I will have the chance to interact more closely with faculty, alumni and notable guest speakers as well as access to research opportunities beginning in my first year. I look forward to the new challenges ahead, knowing that the experiences and friendships I have gained at St Mary's will help me throughout the transition.

Annabelle Anandappa

**St Mary's college - Girls rowing report**

Waking up at 5am to greet the brightly shining moon and the crisp Autumn air is certainly not for the faint hearted! And as Sophie Allen, Steph Radford, Annie Parker, Andrea Harriot, Beth Canny, Hannah Barber, Liz Wragge, Steph Forbes and Emily Hobbs (and Clancy Hearps) demonstrated, it is a worthy



commitment when you produce a fantastic result at College Rowing Day in front of cheering fellow college members and many Melbournians lining the Yarra River. It was certainly a commitment Jess Mewing and I were privileged to be a part of and coach these wonderful girls!

After celebrating a relaxing mid semester Easter break and indulging on our annual supply of chocolate bunnies and hot cross buns, there was certainly lots of energy to aid in the development of a powerful team.

Three straight weeks of early morning training sessions on the Yarra not only allowed for the girls to perfect their techniques, observe the talent of our opposing crews and develop an effective race day plan, but we also got to develop strong arm muscles by lifting the boat on and off the top shelf of the racks and witness spectacular sunrises over the horizon where hot air balloons casted shadows over the city. And may I add... these amazing 9 girls performed with great enthusiasm and dedication at EVERY training session.

A pre-rowing day bonding session and carbo-loading dinner down Lygon Street was a great way for all the girls to calm their nerves and discuss the strategies



required to perform well in each of the 800 metre races. It prepared us all for the amazing day we were to encounter.

The beautiful weather that greeted us on Saturday 1<sup>st</sup> May gave us all the excitement and wisdom to row some amazing races. After a solid start in our first race with a second placing, we progressed into the semi finals against Whitley. The strong stokes produced after the Swan Street Bridge from the vibrant cheering of College students, provided a victorious win that put us through to the 2<sup>nd</sup> XIII's final. The enthusiasm, excitement and confidence from the crew in getting into the final proved beneficial in giving the girls the extra strength against a strong line-up. Coming second in the final was a wonderful way to finish off an intense couple of weeks. Both Jess and I are so very proud of our crew and their outstanding commitment, dedication and performance on race day. They certainly provided great buzz and joy amongst all the Mary's community lining the banks of the river.

Congratulations girls!

Kate Harwood



More College Day photos on back page



When Nic asked me to write something on what college and college day are to me, it didn't take me long to figure out what I was going to say. Because what St. Mary's is, is presented to us all the time. While a day like college day reinforces the fact that *it's awesome*, it's not what defines college to me.

I am often one to indulge in nostalgia. I thoroughly enjoyed my school days, and love to reminisce of them with people who were there, or anyone who has the time to listen to how things were "Back in the 'lac". And while I am sure that I will look back on my days at St. Mary's as some of the best of my life, I know that I don't have to wait until I move on to know how good they are. While I didn't realise at the time, just how periods in my life and all the friends I made during those times were, I am fully aware of the bliss that is St. Mary's and St. Mary's people as I live it. I have found that this is the first time in my life when I have caught myself stopping to think, "Wow, things are so good *right now*."

And the moments that spark this thought are not encountered in my room, at Puggs, or even as the parmas are dished up. It is the little things that get me thinking about how lucky I am to be here. Lying on the grass on a beautiful day as I attempt to keep Honey from licking my face, a game of 500 that goes far too late, opening my door to find friends abundant. These are the things that I wouldn't notice if I didn't experience, but which make college life what it is.

I'm going to recount a short story. I'm no wordsmith (just a regular smith), but bear with me.

Over the most recent summer, I returned to Colac. It took me about 4 days to start pining for St. Mary's. My mother would argue that I didn't get this homesick when I was living in Melbourne, to which the general reply was, "No, I don't." Luckily, it didn't take long for road trips and 21sts to start up.

Routes were planned, and cars filled as we convoyed from across the state to meet up for whatever occasion we could find an excuse for. And it was during one of these long drives that I suddenly asked my passenger "How awesome has this year been?!"

Well she didn't miss a beat. I don't think I'd finished my sentence before she came in with a huge "I KNOW!" We didn't need to finish that conversation, and in fact I think it was cut short because we saw a sign that said "Hedge Maze" and proceeded to take a long and unsuccessful detour, but I know we both had the same feeling. Most of you would have experienced it. When you're doing something not even all that special,

but you're enjoying it and you know that it would never have happened if it weren't for St. Mary's. And you're just so unbelievably glad that you live where you do.

Which brings me to the next part of what makes St. Mary's what it is. The people. Is there a word for nostalgia, but in the future? Because that's the closest I can get to describing imagining a reunion in 20 or so years. Hester and Vaggy take a break from their illustrious touring careers, as Thuney lands in his chopper. Beth is probably having an ice-cream. It's weird to think, but I'm already excited about those reunions. I know that I won't be able to keep in touch with all of you over the years, but I do know that I won't forget any of you, and that the reunion will be **redonk**. The friends I've made here became as close to me in about a month as those I'd known since primary school.

I think a lot of you could relate to that. Being a science student I don't really know how to finish a piece of writing, but I guess I just want to get across the idea that while we will remember St. Mary's by telling stories of events like College Day, it's the way we feel lucky everyday that will make us smile as we reminisce.

Joel Smith



Good evening everyone, I hope that you've all had and will continue to have a brilliant College Day.

I was asked to speak to you tonight about my reflections on my time at St Mary's thus far, but as this is a topic I spend every day thinking about, I'd like to talk to you specifically about the idea of home.

On the day we freshers arrived at Mary's, Sister Liz asked our parents in her address to please not be offended when your children start to refer to college as home. I must admit that I was somewhat surprised when I began do so, instinctively, a few weeks ago. As I casually told my mum that I needed to take more jumpers "home" with me, I immediately felt a small surge

of guilt and rephrased the sentence. The fact that a place I had lived for a mere twelve weeks had come to be, in my mind, on par with the "home" that my family had shared with me for eighteen years was, in a word, incredible. However, as I later gathered all my experiences and memories created at 871 Swanston Street I realised fully that Mary's, to me, is in every way a home.

One of the best things about this realisation, I think, is that while life in a college may initially seem to be the complete reverse of that in a house with your family, the two are actually quite comparable. For example, before college, I would get up and slowly awaken over a bowl of cereal, talking to my parents about their plans for the day. My habits at Mary's differ only in that I change out of pyjamas before eating, and that instead of hearing about the events of the coming day for two people, I can chat about uni or work or the answers to The Age Superquiz with any number of my fellow students. In the same way, the room that I now call my own provides everything I need (and more), just like at my house, but with the benefits of far more visitation from friends and the availability of a helping hand, caring cup of coffee and chat, or shared study session behind entire buildings of nearby doors. It is occasions like these and many more which bring me the most happiness at college and which go to show that it definitely is the small, everyday things we do for each other, that enable us to form the strong friendships that we have and will continue to have. I know it comes up often, but of all the wonderful things about living at St Mary's, I sincerely believe that this, the undeniable sense of community and unity, is what turns our college from simply a very spacious house, into a home.

In short, my experience of St Mary's has allowed me see my college home as a version of my family home; housing a welcoming, vibrant, enriching and outstanding family of one hundred and sixty and for that, I thank you all.

Pia

To miss a traditional Christmas celebration with my family, to miss the fireworks display that light the sky at beginning of a new year and to be away when celebrating my 21st birthday never crossed my mind when preparing for a journey I had always set my heart on. How very privileged I am to have been a part of a special spiritual journey with the Loreto Sisters in Northern India. A pilgrimage through such a wonderful, vibrant country and one in which I was able to provide assistance, support and guidance within the health care sector.



I began my journey in Kolkata, arriving late at night and overwhelmed greatly by the chaos and poverty that occupied every street. It introduced me to the daytime hustle and bustle I was to experience everyday as I trekked from my retreat with the Gomes family to the Loreto Day School, Sealdah. With classes already concluded for the school year, I was asked by Sr Cyril to assist in the Christmas hamper preparation in which all 1500 students received a gift at the end-of-year Christmas Concert. What an

fortunate enough to travel to rural villages where further projects were being implemented, such the brickfield schools in Achipur Pujali, the Child in Need Institute (CINI) Hospital at South 24 Parganas and the health care clinics run by Calcutta Rescue. It was through these exertions that I gained a greater understanding of the amazing work Sr Cyril and her staff is doing in order to assist the lives of so many Indians within

care to each and every one of the 300 inpatients suffering from conditions such as tuberculosis, leprosy, psychological conditionals and HIV. I will never forget the pain, agony and suffering I witnessed when visiting a young and innocent 7 year old boy who was dying from HIV-AIDS. If only I could have provided him with a curative treatment. I felt that maybe just that small smile, presence and comfort I was able to provide may

**“...it gave me a yearning to learn more and try to assist them in every way possible... I had never realised just how powerful a smile can be!”** Kate Harwood

enormous task we faced..... individually sorting through donations of clothing, stationery and school supplies to provide a special parcel for each and every child. I knew that with every parcel I wrapped, not only will the child have a special outfit to wear on Christmas Day but there will be an element of joy and happiness released.... a feeling I believe every child should have the right to experience.

the Kolkata and West Bengal region. To be able to observe and assist was a great privilege.

I was deeply moved when I visited the Missionaries of Charity sisters throughout my time in Kolkata. On visiting the tomb of Mother Teresa, I felt a great blessing from her and knew that throughout my entire journey, she was going to be with me, supporting me and giving me the wisdom and courage to help me on my journey.

In my spare time, I would go and sit with the Rainbow Children, who were borders of the Loreto Sealdah School. Each of the 150 children had come from heartbreaking living conditions and family situations. As I listened to each of their stories, I gained a deeper understanding and acknowledgment of the daily challenges that so many people in India face. Day by day, it gave me a yearning to learn more and try to assist them in every way possible. Many a times, it was simply sitting with them, acknowledging their presence, laughing with them and teaching them how to read or draw. I had never realised just how powerful a smile can be!

On Christmas Eve, I made my way to Siliguri, where I met with Sr Sabrina and the Loreto Sisters at the Mary Ward Development Centre (MWDC) in Champasari. Sr Sabrina had organised for me to travel to Lolai to assist the resident paramedic with healthcare development, but due to continual strikes within the region, this was impossible. This did provide me with the opportunity, however, to visit Jesu Ashram, a hospital run by the Jesuit Brothers in Bagdoga for the 'poorest of the poor'. It was an emotional and touching experience that I will never forget. If only I had more time to have been able to stay and provide nursing

have lifted the spirits of this young boy and of so many others, on a day that people around the world would be celebrating the birth of Jesus with family and friends.

My stay in Panighatta was very fulfilling and enabled me to assist the MWDC by doing a comprehensive evaluation on the current challenges facing the healthcare status and delivery within the Panighatta Village Tea Estate. Communication proved difficult at times, but I was able to effectively discuss and talk with local village members and dispensary workers to develop ways in which healthcare issues can be tackled and improved. I was able to provide a basic foundation for a community friendly dispensary which had shown small positive steps forward before I had left. Within a week of my stay in Panighatta, I had developed such wonderful friendships and provided with ample invitations to New Year celebrations.... even participating every night in door by door Christmas Carol singing with the local school children. Such a joy it was to dance and sing to the beat of loud bongo drums and tambourines.

A short break in Darjeeling was a wonderful way to recollect and assess the work I had achieved thus far on my journey. The beautiful scenery of the Himalayan Mountains that surrounds the Loreto Convent was truly breath-taking. From here I continued on to Dharan, South-eastern Nepal. Within my one week stay, I was able to attend daily visitations to the stone-breakers villages with the local paramedic and comfort the hostel girls during their exam period. With such limited resources among these villages, I used as much knowledge and skill to provide information and assistance in patient health concerns and illnesses. Education about lifestyle diseases and conditions was vital and through my current nursing knowledge, I was able to assist the paramedic in developing methods and programs that may help to improve child nutrition and hence try to alleviate malnutrition.

What a wonderful, self-discovering, eye-opening and joyous journey it was. In just under eight weeks, I learnt so much about such a vibrant country, its culture, customs, traditions, values, religions ..... and also learnt so much more about myself. It was an adventure of a lifetime and one in which God continually walked beside me. It is certainly only the beginning of my travels to learn more about the amazing people and places in the world and yearning to go beyond the comforts of life here in Australia and help those who are in need. It was a journey with many great memories, many great stories, many great friendships, and one which will always play a special part in my life, in my heart and in my soul.



Volunteering with MWIA provides an opportunity to gain a rich insight into the work of Loreto Sisters in Australia and abroad. Both long and short term placements are fully self-funded and involve working with a specific project in a Loreto program in Australia or overseas. To find out more about MWIA, our projects, and how you can support us through volunteering or donations, please visit [www.loreto.org.au](http://www.loreto.org.au) or email [mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au](mailto:mwiaustralia@loreto.org.au)



# College Day

