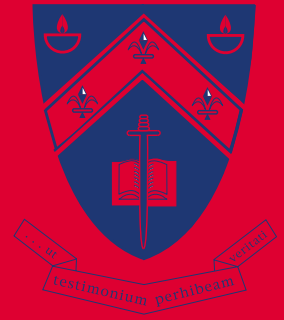


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St. Mary's College Newsletter

St. Mary's Oratory Competition



Winner of the Oratory Competition,
Laura Hartmann, with Sr. Maureen

Extract from Training Wheels by Laura Hartmann, winner of the 2005 St. Mary's Oratory Competition

I'd like to share with you one of my earliest success stories- one that I think you'll relate to- the day I got the training wheels off my bike. It was a hot summer's afternoon in my Grandparents driveway in Mildura. I'd had my bike for a few weeks, and like most four-year-olds at my point in life I felt I was ready to ride with the big guys. My Granddad removed with his spanner the shackles of my juvenile cycling career and launched me, with an almighty push, into the driveway. And for a few glorious, magnificent moments I was doing it- I was riding. I soared down the drive way, the wind whipping through my helmet and there was this feeling in the pit of my stomach that bubbled up into my chest and spread warmth to my arms

and legs. I was doing it, I was *riding*, I was vertical- I was about to crash into my Grandmother's best rose bush.

The memory remained, needless to say, a thorn in my side for many years to come, and it wasn't until I sat down to write this speech that I began to see the point of the story. The point of my story is not that I failed in the attempt to ride my bike, but rather for a few fleeting seconds I had succeeded- and that warm feeling I had in my stomach was its hall mark. It got me thinking about the ways in which we look at success in society today. We think of success in terms of dedicating your life to a cause and discovering the cure for some new and terrible disease, we think of success as pushing higher, faster, stronger and winning Gold at the Olympics. We think of success as a great shiny red Lexus, or Mercedes or BMW. Success is a big deal. In fact, success is just plain big. And while I consider this big success to be a wonderful thing which we should strive for, I can't help but feel we have missed something along the way. That something is small success; the little warm stomach moments we can have everyday and that, if, we could only learn to recognise it, we might find ourselves a lot happier on a journey to bigger things.

There is the small success of making a person smile. A smile is fundamental to success as it initiates the relationship that creates the friendship that builds the alliance that founds the empire. This creates the support the body needs to chase after one's passions, without support the journey to success is a long and empty road. The International Olympic Committee summed the importance of a smile pretty well when they said:

*There's a friendly hello in your smile
And for the first time we can relate to each other, and appreciate each other
That's all it takes
That's where it starts
Because I know that you will smile, and I will smile, and all the rest is easy.*

Diary Dates 2006

Next years' Mary Ward Symposium will be held at the College on Tuesday 8th August.

Further information can be obtained from
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Some Words from the Principal

As most of us are preparing for a plentiful and festive Christmas season followed by a well deserved holiday I would like to share one of the highlights from this year at St. Mary's College.

A most extraordinary educationalist, Sr. Cyril Mooney IBVM, enthralled and inspired students as she spoke of the work of Loreto with young people in India.

Sr. Cyril is Principal of Loreto Sealdah in Calcutta, a single sex girls, K – 12, English medium school with 1400 pupils in which:

- Only 1 in 20 applicants can be accepted each year
- 700 students from the slums pay no fees
- The school uniform footwear is bare feet *[the poor are not shamed and the rich required not to over-dress]*

- Street children (Rainbow children as they are known) make their home on the roof, are fed, clothed, tutored and then educated in Bengali medium schools
- All students are educated as teachers from Grade 5. Then they teach the Rainbow children who come in from the streets at all times of the day for lessons
- All students also give one day per month teaching in village schools
- Students have intervened to bring children forced into child labour into a setting where they can learn to play and obtain an education
- Students prepare meals each day and take them to widows who live on the streets around Calcutta station. They spend time 'talking to the widows as

they would their grandmothers'. This is obviously a two-way-process

- 183 volunteers from 23 countries lent a hand in 2004

Sr. Cyril and Loreto are part of many wider projects with children and adults throughout the region.

Our students' eyes were opened to new ways of seeing; an inside-out view of things: a barefoot student in uniform, the latest fad seen as an attempt to 'buy' popularity, birthdays sometimes celebrated by using the money for a treat for the Rainbows. The reversals are unending and life-giving.

Sr. Cyril assured the students of a welcome if they wished to spend time with Loreto in the future. From their response I expect some will.

Maureen Burke IBVM



College residents 2005 in an informal pose



News from Around The College

St. Mary's College has begun a new partnership with **RMIT School of International and Community Studies**. Recently the Director TAFE Programs, Christine Robertson wrote "It is difficult to find organizations who are willing to take the time and effort to support students, especially those in need of extra assistance. St. Mary's have proven they are not only willing to do this but they embrace the idea and are very capable in doing so. Our thanks and appreciation extends of course to John Feltscheer, Zora Klecina and Ravi Scott. They have shown a great understanding and patience with our students and have only added to the worthwhile experience. It would not have been possible without them."

Our community was delighted to hear news of **Sr. Ruth Winship**, former Deputy Principal of the College from 1974-1979. On 30 September Ruth was honoured at Government House with a Victorian Senior Achiever of the Year Award. Her citation read "Her career as a distinguished educator and community leader doesn't adequately reflect the personal and informal impact she has made upon the lives of many. Now living at the Cabrini nursing home in Ashwood, Sr. Ruth continues the same seen and unseen work for others, caring for those in need, running book groups and the hostel shop, taking computer lessons, organizing liturgies and arranging flowers for the chapel."

Congratulations to our former Principal, **Margaret Manion**, on the publication of her lavishly illustrated and beautifully presented writings on *The Felton Illuminated Manuscripts in the National Gallery of Victoria* published by Macmillan Art Publishing and the National Gallery of Victoria. Friends of St. Mary's and Newman Colleges were

enthralled by a marvellous lecture given by Margaret on 5 October in which she outlined some of the formidable and painstaking research she had undertaken to unlock and liberate the meaning of these treasures for historians and art lovers around the world. Her lecture was part of a series run in our Academic Centre and alumni are encouraged not only to view the calendar for future lectures, but also discover our own special collections by accessing the collection through the web page.
<http://academiccentre.stmarys.newman.unimelb.edu.au>

Members of Council and the community of St. Mary's College welcome the appointment of **Fr. William J Uren** as the new Rector of Newman College in 2006 to succeed Fr. Peter L'Estrange who has been Rector since 1991. The college will miss the happy and warm presence of **Sr. Diaan Stuart** in 2006. Diaan has been chosen by the Australian Province of the Loreto Congregation as one of three sisters to work in East Timor. Initially they will be working in a primary teachers college in Bacau run by the Australian Marist Brothers and our interest and support goes with them in this new venture. Our former Dean, **Sr. Elizabeth Hepburn**, is also embarking on a new venture. Elizabeth has been appointed as the



President of the Students' Club, Sia Pefanis, with Marcia Griffin

new Principal of Sancta Sophia College, a residential college for undergraduate women within the University of Sydney.

The end of the academic year was celebrated with great warmth at the **Valedictory Mass** and special dinner on 14 October. The Deputy Principal and Dean, Alex West, spoke to the students "I invite you to travel imaginatively on your new journeys. To carry the values and traditions of St. Mary's with you as you travel, to be bearers of the Good News, to be seekers of truth and doers of justice in everything that you do". The following evening the staff, valetants and their families gathered together for a final college dinner. This year's invited guest speaker was Marcia Griffin, a resident student from 1964-1966. Marcia won the first Telstra Victorian Business Woman of the Year Award and has published a book about her life and business.



RMIT students with St. Mary's catering staff

1960's Reunion

On Saturday 22 October a group of enthusiastic past students from the 1960's met to reminisce about life at the old St. Mary's Hall and the early foundation days on our present site. For some it was the first time that they had returned to college and for others it was the meeting up with long lost friends. Forty years on there was

a sharing of life stories, anecdotes, successes, disappointments and something of the memories of College days. Conversations centred on memories of tutors and reflections about what St. Mary's had meant to individuals. The generous hospitality of

Sr. Maureen made the evening a truly happy and warm occasion. Amongst those present was Elizabeth O'Keefe Manager of the International Relations Office The University of Melbourne, Rhonda Day Assistant Ombudsman for the Government of Victoria, Adrienne Patterson (Ryan) Privacy Officer RMIT, Ann Shelton (Riordan) Monash University Solicitor's Office, Dr. Mary Cooke, Psychologist, and teachers



Happy faces at the 1960's Reunion

Elizabeth Burns (Flynn) Mandeville Hall, Dianne Taveira (Houston) Xavier College and Eileen Watson (McCormack) Siena College.

Amongst those unable to join us were Lucy Ellem (Grace) who was on safari in the Simpson Desert, Julia Clancy (Adams) from 'Carrickmore' Thoona, Mary-Anne Maylor (Myers) Dunkeld, Helen

O'Brien solicitor Phillips Fox, Virginia King nurse educator Southern Cross University, Dr Margaret Scott School of Education University of Adelaide, Frances De Biasi (Jens) Senior Policy Officer Department of Primary Industries Sydney and Therese Meehan a social worker with the Foundation of Survivors of Torture.



Students of St. Mary's Hall 1963



'Spirituality and the Arts': Open Circle, Mary Ward Symposium

'Spirituality and the Arts' was the theme of this year's symposium held in the Frewin Room at St. Mary's College. The presenters, Meliesa Judge (sculptor) and Genevieve Lacey (musician and resident member of the College in the '90s), spoke of their art and the impact it has on their spiritual awareness.

Meliesa opened the discussion by detailing an experience of a personal encounter. Having been commissioned by the Loreto schools to sculpt a figure of Mary Ward, she realized she needed an understanding of Mary Ward's circumstances and the vision that empowered her. With this knowledge, her task as sculptor was to translate her perceptions into reality, bringing to life an idea of the person which will stand in a public space and remain for a long time. Meliesa spoke of the primary metaphor in her emerging work: that of depicting a deeply committed and active woman for whom faith was held close. If, as Meliesa believes, the creative part of her own life is the contemplative part, it is contemplation worked out in action. She spoke of the experience of working everyday, whenever possible, 'to be there' in the work when inspiration visits, rather like being at home for a visitor. She spoke of the rare, precious and inspired moments when the artist

loses consciousness of time, rather like a deep dreaming, and working with a consciousness not of the self, but with some sort of spiritual energy driving her.

Genevieve commenced by allowing her art to 'speak' for her with a rendition of 'The English Nightingale' by Jacob Van Eyck. She then talked of the interplay between art, creativity and spirit and her experience of giving artistic expression through music – an experience which is not easily translated into words. Citing the poets, she spoke of the need for musicians to find ways of articulating their art; of music-making as an act of faith with its layering of uncertainty and ambiguity. She told of her daily commitment to her music and those moments while playing when her life force quickens, when there is nothing but the sound, no consciousness of thought, when one is 'absent' but simultaneously, more present and alive with a heightened sense of everything.

Claire Renkin, with a background in both music and art history, combined an understanding of both art forms in her role as chair of the symposium. Genevieve described her own preparation for the evening as 'presenting a challenge to tease out ideas in a public space'. Not an

easy thing to do - much less so, on one of Melbourne's coldest winter nights. We are grateful to both Genevieve and Meliesa for so enriching their listeners. For the audience it was two inspirational hours, leaving all present with something to reflect and ponder on.

The Open Circle: Mary Ward Symposium (formerly 'The Mary Ward Theology Conference') was established in 1993. It was an initiative of Loreto to mark the 75th Anniversary of St. Mary's College.

Jane Kelly IBVM



Genevieve Lacey and Claire Renkin at the Mary Ward Symposium

News of Alumni and Friends of St. Mary's College

Congratulations to **Maurilia Meehan** (1969-1970) award-winning author of five novels and many short stories. Maurilia lives in a country town in south-eastern Australia where she feeds red rosellas in the mornings and chases away white cockatoos at dusk. Her novels include *Performances*, *Fury*, *Sea People*, *Adultery* and *Bad Seed* and her works have been translated into French and German. At the moment Maurilia is putting together a volume of over thirty published short stories (and some new ones) and is completing a new novel which plays with the Christie format, *Miss Marple's Secret*.

Anna Toland (1999-2000) and **Dan Thompson** (1999-2000) were married on 27 November 2004 and are happily living just north of Adelaide. Dan recently wrote "Anna's finishing up a Masters of Agricultural Science at Adelaide University and I am working as a Constable of Police at Elizabeth (sort of Dandenong and Broadmeadows put together)! Anna and I met at St. Mary's where we both lived on South 1 for two years. Our Best Man and Maid of Honour at the wedding were **Mark Whitworth** (1999-2000) and **Anita O'Shea** (1999-1999). **Sam Darling** (1999-2000) was our MC and **Mark Stephen** (1999-2000) did a reading. We met all four of them in 1999 during 'O Week'. My little brother **Andy Thompson** (2001-2002) was a Groomsman. Come to think of it all of the important jobs at the wedding were filled by our St. Mary's friends. We were looking at old college photos the other night and were reminiscing about some of the good old days so we thought we'd better let you know what St. Mary's did for us."

American exchange student **Jonathan Tice** (1998) is a regional Sales Director for Survey Direct in Boston and **Amy Baker** (2003) has returned from Boston College to live in Carlton to undertake further postgraduate studies at The University of Melbourne. **Damien Walsh** a former student and Arts/English Tutor (1990), with his wife and baby daughter are living in Japan. Recently Dr Saw Saw from Myanmar visited St. Mary's to see where her mother **Dr Su Su** had lived during her university days with **Dr Jean Barsaloux** (Rothero) and **Jennifer Chamberlin** in 1975. Both mother and daughter are working to improve the health services in Myanmar and Saw Saw is currently undertaking postgraduate research into tuberculosis in developing countries.

Sue Horsnell (Gurry 1983-1985) made a nostalgic visit to college in September. Sue wrote that some of her closest friends came from her college days. "After gaining my Bachelor of Commerce from Melbourne I went on to get my Graduate Diploma Secondary Teaching at Christ College (now the Australian Catholic University) and taught at Monivae College in Hamilton for five years before moving to South Australia for a career move with my husband. We live in a small village just outside Murray Bridge which is one hour from Adelaide. I have now worked for 7 years in the Intellectual Disability Services Council in South Australia which is part of the public service. As the Team Coordinator I supervise the work of a range of professionals (social workers, psychologists and developmental educators) who provide case management services to people with disability in the Murray Mallee region of South Australia."

Congratulations to **Professor Frank Larkins** (Member of the St. Mary's College Council) BSc BEd MSc DSc, Deputy Vice-Chancellor (Research) for the last 15 years on his appointment as Deputy Vice-Chancellor (International) from 2006. The college was delighted to hear of the recent success of Associate Professor **Dr Alicia Jenkins** (1977-1979). Alicia was the recipient of the prestigious Voiceless Eureka Prize for Research at the Australian Museum in Sydney. The prize acknowledges scientists working in the field of replacing the use of animals or animal products in research. Based at The University of Melbourne and St. Vincent's Hospital Alicia leads a team of doctors and scientists studying blood vessel growth. Initially the team worked with rats, but human tissue was found to be better for studying human disease. She decided to use small readily available sections of human artery that would otherwise have been discarded.

News from **Edward Morgan** (1996-1997) "I am currently studying at Jesus College Cambridge where I am completing my doctorate in Theology and Religious Studies at the Faculty of Divinity. I am in my final year now having come to the UK in 2001 to complete an MPhil in Theology at Robinson College Cambridge before moving to Jesus College in 2003. My doctorate is studying the theological anthropology of Augustine of Hippo from the perspective of his account of language. As to becoming an academic – who knows, the future lies open and the path to be trodden is firstly the words to be typed to complete the doctorate. Cambridge is a beautiful place, although at this time of year it is flocked with tourists. Happy days, as it were, although sometimes more happily distracted by the Ashes, which are on the telly!"



Congratulations to **Mary Elizabeth Calwell** (1953-1957) on being awarded her Doctorate of Theology from the Melbourne College of Divinity. Mary Elizabeth's thesis investigates the work of her father, Arthur Calwell, an Australian politician and Leader of the Australian Labor Party. The Melbourne College of Divinity with Heidelberg and Toronto is one of the three major ecumenical theological colleges in the world and is affiliated with The University of Melbourne.



Mary Elizabeth Calwell receiving her Doctorate of Theology

Bereavements

The Annual Mass to honour the lives of deceased Alumni was celebrated at the college by Fr. Maurice Heading SJ on Friday 25 November. Members present paid special tributes to **Pat Kennedy** (1941-1946) and **Maira Patricia Westmore** (Howard, 1938-1940) who died during the year.

The college was saddened to hear the news that scholar **Dr. Emma Devapriam** had died earlier in the year. Emma, with a doctorate in Fine Arts from Madras India, joined the college as a residential tutor in 1975 and continued teaching at St. Mary's until 1989. Her academic work ranged over a broad research spectrum in the world of Fine Arts - from studies into the influences on realism in Mughal paintings - to investigations into European paintings before 1800 and extended to an examination of Old Master Paintings of the USSR. Emma was a wonderful contributor to college life and an enthusiastic supporter of the Senior Common Room.



Resident Tutor Dr. Emma Devapriam



College residents 2005 in a formal pose