

VERITY

ST MARY'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

December 2008



ST MARY'S COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



To come back to St Mary's after a fifteen year absence has been a privileged experience. Much has changed but so much more has endured. The tremendous feeling of 'being at home' is largely due to the students and staff who welcomed me into their presence with a homely, country women's association-sort of hospitality. The quality of that openness to the stranger is one of the marks of St Mary's over the years, indeed, it has been commented upon throughout the ninety years of St Mary's lifetime.

Above: Dr Hepburn at the College's annual valedictory celebrations



A word from the Principal

The year has been marked by change both here and in the University itself. The changes that have been the beginning of the 'Melbourne Model' continue in 2009 with no medical undergraduates present from now on. Fairly soon we will have undergraduates from only six faculties and that will make a substantive difference to the way in which we offer services. For a start, it looks as though the offerings across the board will be reduced and so our tutorial programme will eventually be smaller; on the other hand, students will be doing breadth subjects so there should be more mixing of students across faculties.

Many Colleges have prepared for increased numbers of post-graduates by building or acquiring different styles of student accommodation, but we have wanted to see what happened to our student cohort before embarking on what could be a costly enterprise. My initial thought is that if two wings with mixed senior undergraduate and graduate accommodation were to be built in West Garden, and then the existing West Wing demolished, we could accommodate a slightly larger student body. There would be proportionally more graduates, but our entire cohort could still be contained in the Dining Room at once.

It seems to me that an important aspect of the traditional St Mary's feel derives from the fact that we share table fellowship in the Dining Room. The rule of filling existing tables before starting a new table begins

during O Week and this practice engenders a sense of belonging. This is quite different from what I experienced in another College where there was a clear differentiation of people based on years. This made for a feeling of security within a year group, but cut across a feeling of being one College.

It is apparent that a sense of community is hard won and worthy of maintenance, for as T.S. Eliot asks, 'What life have you if you have not life together?' The life of a person has many aspects, but I believe that at the age and stage that we in the Colleges share with the students, the important thing that they learn is the art of living together. Additionally, it is vital for our students to begin to realise that together we can be so much more than any one of us is alone; that becoming my true self requires the presence of others.

Perhaps some will also realise that the community they experience is crucial; that this is what it is to be human. There are other ways we celebrate community and for some students this will be definitive because our sense of community is fundamental to the way the God we come to know models this relational way of being. Those who begin to sense this are then able to echo the rest of what T.S. Eliot says:

"There is no life that is not in community,
And no community not lived in praise of
God." (*Part II Choruses from the Rock*)

Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM
College Principal

2008 Valedictorians

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St Mary's students enjoying College Day, May 2008



The cast of *Cosi*, the College Play

Letter from the Editor

It is with great pleasure that we present to you Verity Magazine – the official publication for St Mary's College Alumni, published once a semester. We want to keep you in touch with what is currently going on at St Mary's College. Additionally, we want to know what is currently going on in the lives of our Alumni. So feel free to contact us – my email address is secretary@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au.

Over the next twelve months, we want to update our Alumni database and track down past students who have moved. Feel free to forward this magazine to your fellow Alumni. Remember that a pdf version of Verity will be available on our website, www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au. Our website also has a webform that you can fill in to update your contact details – just follow the link to the Alumni page.

This year is the 90th Anniversary of St Mary's College – that's right, St Mary's Hall was first opened by the Loreto Sisters in 1918. We are launching a modest but important fundraising campaign to celebrate this event. We would encourage our Alumni to consider donating \$9, \$90 or even \$900 to our Scholarships and Bursaries Fund. Two of our 2008 Bursary recipients have contributed articles to this issue of Verity and you can read on page 8 how their bursaries have assisted them.

Happy reading!

by **Shelby Oliver, Secretary & Alumnist**

GC President's report



Mr Michael Tolhurst

Being a student at St. Mary's is an experience like no other and this year was no exception. There have been some great times with new friends made, we acquired a mascot called the Mary's Moose; a \$200 eBay costume with ingeniously integrated footy jumper. There have also been many bitter disappointments – the clock in the JCR has been reinstalled on the other side of the room which is incredibly frustrating when reading the paper, but it's nothing that we couldn't take in our stride.

The Orientation Week programme was an opportunity for us to welcome the 'freshers' into St Mary's where we were able to show them around the city and introduce them to culture of St Mary's College. The week was dubbed 'Construct-O-Week' and was an overwhelming success thanks to the hard work of the GC and O Week team.

The annual College Day again did not disappoint. The debate in the morning between staff and students with the topic 'Should St Mary's be a dry college?' ended in an unpredictable draw, despite the hard work of the student team. The Mass, Dinner and Turn were all great opportunities to celebrate our community.

Before the rest of College returned to start Semester Two, a group of around 45 students took advantage of this year's fantastic snow season and spent a weekend at Mt Hotham for our annual Ski Trip.

The St Mary's College Ball was very popular, with tickets selling out a week before the event. The event ran very well, and the St Mary's students showed the other colleges how to have a good time. This year the College Play was *Così*, the story of an ambitious, well meaning attempt by a mental institution to perform an opera. It was a thoroughly enjoyable play, and there was even some space for some jokes on the new 'Melbourne Model'.

As always a busy sporting calendar was enough to keep the athletic types occupied, with cameos by the Mary's Moose keeping the supporters lively. The girls swam very well in the swimming carnival with a strong team effort. There was some great individual performances in athletics and the boys had victories in both the cricket and football grand finals.

It has been an incredible year, and I am proud to say that I went to St Mary's. The staff have been supportive, the lunches amazing, the GC has worked tirelessly and it was a joy to live with everyone.

Michael Tolhurst
2008 SMCGC President

The Mary's Moose –
official St Mary's College
mascot with Emily Godfrey



Ms Emily Rawlings

After encouragement and wisdom from Tolly and the 2008 GC, the new GC for 2009 has already begun working hard. Boasting a successful Valedictory Turn and a very pleasant 'PFA', we are now looking forward to the most anticipated event of any college year: O-Week. During our pirate themed O-Week (as yet to be officially named), we intend on welcoming a new generation of freshers with fun, surprises and open arms. One of the joys of living at St Mary's is the homely, family-like atmosphere and this is a tradition that we will strive to uphold. We are looking forward to another successful year and hope we can maintain the high standards set by this year's GC.

Emily Rawlings
2009 SMCGC President





20 Year Alumni Reunion

In September, St Mary's welcomed back 50 past collegians to celebrate a 20 year reunion. The first task was to find contact details for past students. Where had they gone?

Due to the power of the internet we were able to put together a comprehensive list, locating people in a range of places including Adelaide, Canberra, Sydney, Florence and Hong Kong. Shelby then took on the huge task of organising the night itself – covering the finer details of invitations, catering, music, speeches and mass.

On the night we met in St Mary's foyer before Mass. It was like winding the clock back. Everybody looked pretty much just the same (but maybe our eyesight has deteriorated!). The night started with a lovely mass in the College Chapel with Fr Michael Elligate. Jo Carroll and Darren Emmerson provided the music as they did 20 years ago. Some things never change!

Current students then took us on tours which included the wonderful new library and music rooms in the Allan and Maria Myers Academic Centre. We were impressed by the new facilities and college atmosphere. Many of us toured the corridors, reminiscing about our old rooms and looking for evidence of our past lives! We were disappointed not to find the cumquat trees. (note from the Editor – the cumquat trees were removed in 2007 due to disease)

Pre dinner drinks were held in the Frewin room (our old library), accompanied by live music by current college students. The room quickly filled with excited hellos and the sight of people embracing after many years. In the background we screened a slideshow with photos from the past.

Next we adjourned to the Dining Room where Sr Liz commented that we looked as if we had made ourselves at home – such was the level of noise in the dining room! Damien Carmichael (a past president) provided an impromptu and skilled speech to introduce Sr Jane Kelly. Sr Jane spoke to us about her travels last year and the plight of orphans she worked with in Albania – an important topic and moving speech. Shelby spoke briefly to welcome us back and promote alumni support. After dinner we returned to Frewin Room where more drinks were consumed and more stories of the past 20 years were told. The night concluded at midnight with a group of about 12 leaving for The Clyde only to find it closing, causing a mini pub crawl ending at 4.30am for some!

What was very evident on the night is the significant impact that St Mary's College has had on people's lives. Some were there with partners they had met at college, others surrounded by networks of friends who are as important today as they were 20 years ago. Many people found St Mary's provided a strong springboard to begin their adult lives, develop friendships, create careers and move forward. We all agreed that no-one had changed much at all and although we had name tags there was no need for them.

Caroline Still produced a fantastic book with autobiographies from most of the past collegians – some of who couldn't be there on the night. It was very popular and most people left the college holding their prized copy. There were many comments on the night from people asking when the next event will be and so hopefully it will not be another 20 years before we return to St Marys! Our heartfelt thanks go to Sr Liz, Shelby, the current students and staff who welcomed us back and helped run such a wonderful event.

Claire Watson and Delia Timms



Top left: Ms Delia Timms and Ms Claire Watson – reunion organisers
Middle left: Sr Jane Kelly IBVM, Principal of St Mary's College in 1988 (on left) with 1988 Alumni

1977 cohort reunion lunch

1977 saw a big change at St Mary's – it was the first year that the College accepted male students. Some of these Alumni caught up at an impromptu lunch in October.

Michael Tyndal and Dennis O'Connor – both from Bendigo – were down in Melbourne for a conference and to run the 2008 Melbourne Marathon. Some of this group had not caught up for 30 years, and lunch at Kooyong was a lovely way to get in touch again.

Angela O'Dwyer said that the group had a lovely, laughter filled lunch. They reflected that as country students how grateful they were to St Mary's, for the support and friendships made. They also said a prayer for Elizabeth Nowotny, Ruth Winship and Claudia Murphy.

Shelby Oliver and Angela O'Dwyer



Back, l-r: Mary O'Connor Science, Michael Tyndal Pharmacy, Steve Vizard Law, Dennis O'Connor Medicine, Leonie Sellwood Science
Front: Joanne Thomas Pharmacy, Elizabeth Tehan Pharmacy, Joanne Molloy Medicine and Angela O'Dwyer Arts.

Reunions

Delia Timms finds success with 'Find a Babysitter'

The night before the 1988 20 Year Reunion one of the past Collegians, Delia Timms, was delighted to have her business win the 2008 Victorian Telstra Business Award for Micro-Business. Delia and her husband, Jeff Bonnes, run an internet-business Find A Babysitter - www.findababysitter.com.au. The site, which helps babysitters and nannies find work easily online, has grown tremendously since it began in 2005. After winning the Victorian award Delia and Jeff went on to Sydney to win the National Telstra Business Award for Microbusiness!

Claire Watson



Delia and husband Jeff with their 2008 Victorian Telstra Business Award

Awards

Staffing changes at St Mary's



Ms Jasmine Comande and
Miss Perri Hillier
St Mary's College Receptionists

2008 saw the restructuring of the College Office, with the hiring of two part-time Receptionists who now ensure the Office is open from 8.30 am to 6.30pm. This arrangement gives our students better service and more time to do important things like buying phone credit. The role of College Secretary has been diversified and yours truly has now taken on duties as College Alumnist whilst relinquishing the Reception aspect of her job.

It has been wonderful to have our small team expanded and diversified by Jasmine Comande and Perri Hillier. Their role as first port of call for all student queries, as well as providing an excellent reception service, is essential to the running of the College. Perri and Jasmine are quickly learning all of the ins and outs of St Mary's.

Perri enjoys writing, theatre, reading and reiki, and Dr Hepburn is keen to get her involved with the College Play next year. In her free time, Jasmine also enjoys reading and spending time with her son. She and the College Secretary have additionally discovered a mutual love of shoes.

2008 also saw the departure of Mr Alex West, Deputy Principal and Dean of Students. This role will be filled by Mr Sean Vagg, who has been a residential tutor during 2008.

He was previously a student at St Mary's, serving on the Student General Committee and as a mentor in his later years. Sean is a solicitor and works with the not-for-profit organisation *Lawyers for Forests*. He is also the Editor of Law Institute of Victoria *Young Lawyers Journal*. Sean also enjoys music and plays jazz saxophone in his spare time.

2009 will undoubtedly bring more staffing changes, with a new team of residential tutors – not to mention new students!

Shelby Oliver



Mr Sean Vagg, who will start
as Deputy Principal at St Mary's
College in 2009.

Deirdre Rofe IBVM Annual Oratory Competition

Deirdre was a distinguished member of the Institute. She studied Honours Arts, majoring in history, at the University of Melbourne and lived in St Mary's Hall and at St Mary's College. From the age of 27 she assumed responsibility for large, complex schools at Normanhurst and Toorak; she had big, well-qualified staffs and boarders as well as day girls, and the schools went from kindergarten to year 12. In this role she was called upon to make many speeches and quickly developed a reputation for eloquence in oratory.

From school leadership she was called to leadership of the Institute itself and distinguished herself in this role too. After six years at the helm she undertook leadership of our schools throughout Australia as the Executive Officer of the Loreto Education Board. As well as this she was Principal of St Mary's College, and after having settled in here was found to have cancer. She retained the Principalship until her death – a severe loss to us all.

I can think of no better way of honouring her memory than to hold an Oratory Competition, and Mrs Maria Myers, herself a distinguished old scholar of St Mary's, has given a perpetual trophy. She has also endowed the award, as has Mr Anthony Kennedy and both will adjudicate tonight. We are pleased to welcome them in this role.

Finally, it is my pleasure to extend a welcome to Ms Juliette Hughes, known to many of you as a columnist in *The Age* newspaper. I'm sure she will have helpful advice for our four competitors, as the third adjudicator on the panel tonight.

Each of the competitors will speak for 5 to 10 minutes on the topic: *'I am not afraid of tomorrow, for I have seen yesterday and I love today'*, words uttered by Bronte Barratt on winning a gold medal in Beijing for her part in the Australian Women's Relay team which swam their way to victory, memorably.

Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM
College Principal



Deirdre Rofe Oratory Competition
First prize winner, Robert O'Shea

*"I'm not scared of tomorrow,
because I have seen yesterday
and I love today"*

Robert O'Shea's prize winning speech

Queensland. How bourgeois! And yet she had a self-proclaimed 'motto' which implied a realm larger than the 400m freestyle: "I'm not scared of tomorrow, because I have seen yesterday and I love today". Now, if I ever adopt a personal credo it shall be in Latin and make repeated references to peppermint tea, so I can scarcely criticise Bronte, but her motto doesn't seem to correlate with the rest of her 'quirky facts'; indeed, it sounds like an excerpt from a self-help book or a complimentary desk calendar. I suspect this is the case, for Bronte's adage is not her own creation; so much for my dreams of an alluring lady of letters. Instead, the saying comes from William Allen White. Who? I hear you ask. Well that's the beauty of these epigrams; for each one that comes from Mark Twain or Oscar Wilde, there is another which comes from an 1890s newspaper editor from Kansas, such as Mr. White. He was an obscure reporter who reached great prominence in America by writing editorials deriding the Democratic Party and espousing 'small-town' values. He was also involved in the short-lived 'Bull-Moose Party', which contested the 1912 Presidential election. However, I doubt Bronte Barrett knows that she is citing an early proponent of parochial Republicanism. If she does, it's surprising that she wasn't selected as John McCain's running mate.

My point is that this saccharine saying has become entirely divorced from its original context. This is not difficult in today's age, where the cumbersome Oxford Book of Quotations has been superseded by a plethora of websites, which provide multitudinous clichés for every occasion. Online, I was able to review some of White's less known declarations such as 'if our colleges do not breed men who riot, then there is something wrong. The more riots at college, the better world for tomorrow.' This is something to keep in mind during Inter-Collegiate Football.

More importantly, one of the websites had a service which would find similar quotes to the one I started with. Aphoristic synonyms for the 'I love today' phrase

...rather than composing a singular expression of your sentiments, you can go on the internet and find a turgid metaphor to complete your greeting card, facebook post or GC nomination form.

included axioms by Dr. Seuss and Victor Hugo. This implausible juxtaposition of authors is indicative of contemporary intertextuality. In one sense this is terribly depressing; rather than composing a singular expression of your sentiments, you can go on the internet and find a turgid metaphor to complete your greeting card, facebook post or GC nomination form. Distinctions of phraseology and allegory which have developed over centuries are abolished by an artificial search engine. However, there are benefits to our literary misappropriations. Undiscerning quotation can add new layers of meaning to our quotidian conversations. It is quite delightful when an unlikely person spouts an improbable fiction, or inadvertently references Gough Whitlam or Gerard Kennedy.

To conclude, quotation allows the words of otherwise forgotten people to reverberate in our lives, perpetuating their ideals and emotions. The medium in which Bronte received William Allen White's wisdom is both unknown and irrelevant, but if an optimistic journalist from Kansas can motivate a young Australian swimmer one hundred years later, it is a credit to our system of ceaseless citation. Therefore, whilst Bronte Barrett may not be my bookish beloved, she remains symbolic of the richness and randomness of our cultural inheritance.

Robert O'Shea

Editor's Note

Robert is a second year Arts student, and has recently been elected as the 2009 Student Representative on the St Mary's College Council, where he will undoubtedly make further excellent contributions.

Orator

Ladies and gentlemen, Bronte Barratt sounded like my type of girl. For a start, I've never been adverse to alliteration, and this name was especially distinguished. It implied an admixture of Charlotte Bronte and Elizabeth Barrett Browning, and hence I anticipated the sort of lass who wrote brilliant bildungsromans and knew her way around a Petrarchan sonnet.

"However, I became concerned when I discovered that my literary dreamboat had won Gold at the Beijing Olympics."

However, I became concerned when I discovered that my literary dreamboat had won Gold at the Beijing Olympics. I consoled myself by assuming that it would be in a high-brow, aristocratic sport, like equestrian or fencing. Imagine my dismay when I discovered that she was a swimmer. Instead of churning out a few volumes of Romantic Poetry before breakfast, Bronte is the type who wakes up and churns out laps in the Beaurepaire Centre before I've even gone to bed. After a nip of research, my impression was further tainted. Her childhood dream was to be a flight attendant. Her favourite sporting team is the Brisbane Broncos. Her greatest fear is the ocean's waves. Which is somewhat of a character flaw in a professional swimmer. The most distressing fact I found was that Bronte Barratt was not some 19th century heroine, but was only 19, and thus a year younger than me. Her gold medal certainly put my status as Colac's 2006 Youth of the Year into the shade.

All in all, Bronte was not an embodiment of the Victorian literary canon, but rather an irritatingly athletic teenager from



2008 Bursaries

2008 Bursaries

Matthew Harper-Schmid

My name is Matthew Harper Schmid, and I am a third year commerce/arts student at The University of Melbourne. Living at St Mary's has been one of my most precious and memorable experiences, an opportunity which I owe a phenomenal amount to not only the College for being so supportive, but also the generous benefactors of the College who have been able to provide me with the finances so I could grasp these chances.

Upon my successful application to College, I was extremely nervous about not only the thought of living in a community where I knew no one, but also about being able to afford the ever increasing costs of living in the city. Unfortunately due to various circumstances, my parents were, and still are, unable to provide me with any financial assistance for living in Melbourne. I was unsure about how I would survive as a financially independent university student. The College has been very understanding and supportive of my situation. Without their support, I would not be in the position I am today.

The bursary I have received from St Mary's College has allowed me to not only feel more secure in my ability to survive financially at University, but has also allowed me to focus on my studies. Living at College has allowed me to not only develop my self-confidence and friendship network, but also place myself in a position of being able to succeed in life. Living at St Mary's has provided me with many opportunities to display this such as my role this year as a student mentor and academic tutor. It has also aided in developing my sense of community involvement, especially by my appointment this year as one of the Director's of the University's annual VCE Summer School run for students from under-represented schools and various disadvantaged backgrounds.

I would not be the person I am today, nor in the same position if St Mary's had not aided me in my transition to living a life of complete independence. College lifestyle has developed and enhanced who I am so much. The friendships, opportunities and support shown by everyone in College, be they staff or students, has been immeasurable in how it has assisted me. I feel truly blessed and fortunate to be able to live in a community like this, a chance which many other people should be given the opportunity of experiencing.

Matthew Harper-Schmid

Emma Brewster

Hi, my name is Emma Brewster. I am a first year Science student at Melbourne University. I come from a small country town, as do many of the students at St Mary's, but in contrast to the majority, I come from South Australia. I was brought up on a small horticultural property near Loxton, in the Riverland region of SA, which is about 190km south west of Mildura.

Like many of the students from the country areas, the drought is having an impact on both me and my family. For my parents it has meant that they have had to find supplementary employment to keep the property viable and for me this has meant that I have had to be largely self-sufficient and fund my studies independently.

After completing my secondary studies in 2006 I applied for University and then deferred for a year. This enabled me to obtain employment for my gap year and to accumulate some savings to help fund my transfer to Melbourne for my tertiary education. The gap year not only helped with my finances, but it also enabled me to confirm my study goals and the future that I hoped to achieve for myself.

Moving to Melbourne has been a big learning curve for me and I have had to do it without my normal support base of family and friends. Choosing St Mary's as my residential college has been a great assistance to me and to a large degree, the college has taken on the role of my support base because of its welcoming community atmosphere. In addition to the enjoyable nature of life at the college, I was also fortunate enough to be awarded financial assistance this year through St Mary's Bursary Fund.

This has lifted a tremendous load off my mind and it has meant that I have been able to devote more of my time to my studies. In my first year at University this extra time for study has been critical in setting me on the path towards my final goal which is to become an optometrist.

I would personally like to take this opportunity to thank you – the Alumni of St Mary's – who generously donated towards the St Mary's Bursary fund, making the dreams of Australia's younger generations come to life. I would like to encourage many others who are in a position to also donate.

Emma Brewster

St Mary's College Alumni donation form

Yes, I would like to make a donation to St Mary's College of \$9 \$90 \$900

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

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

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

Amount being paid: \$ Visa Bankcard Mastercard

Card number: ____/____/____/____ Expiry date: month ____ / year ____

Name on card (please use block letters)

Cardholder's signature

St Mary's College Alumni details

Yes, I would like to update my details

Name

Address

Telephone

Mobile

Email Address

Year began at St Mary's

Year left St Mary's

Positions held at St Mary's

Awards won

Anything else of interest

Remember, you can update your details online at:

<http://www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au/8473550/st-marys-college-melbourne-university-update-y.htm>.

Post or fax your form to:

St Mary's College
 PO Box 140 Parkville
 Victoria Australia 3052
 Phone +61 3 9349 9555
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St Mary's Art Exhibition

Gabriella's two winning entries for the Art Exhibition *Ballerina* and *College on a Puzzled Day*



International Night

International Night this year was held on the 15th August in the College Dining Room. The theme of the Night was to dress in another culture, and many came dressed in interesting and funny costumes; from Vietnamese to German. Prizes were given to the best dressed. We had 3 performances for the night. For the first act, we had our own Chris Yoo singing Justin Timberlake's What Goes Around and Jake Lees on guitar. It was a spectacular performance. For the second act, we got the Melbourne University Taichi and Wushu club to demonstrate their moves and stunts using swords. They did a wonderful job as it was their first ever public performance. For our last performance, we had Jewel, the belly dancer. The act was a success with entertaining crowd participation.

Besides the performances, we had trivia and a dare challenge of eating the Chinese century egg. Not many could stomach the idea after having a look at the egg but 2 brave souls gave it a go. Our kitchen staff did a great job in preparing the food for the night. We had amazing variety of food such as Greek dips with bread and oil, Spanish paella, Japanese pancakes, lamb curry, vegetarian phad thai and many delicious international deserts.

We would also like to thank the hosts for the night, Maureen Turk and Wai Hong Law for entertaining the crowd. Crowd participation was more than we hoped for and overall it was an eventful night.

by Ai Ping Chan & Ken Oh



Top: The College Dining Room on International Night
Above: Members of the Taichi and Wushu Club



St Mary's 2nd Annual Art Exhibition was officially opened on August 13th, 2008. Having had only one year to base the planning of this year's Exhibition on, like the work, the exhibition mirrored self expression and improvisation. There was no theme to abide by, allowing the students to release their inner Picasso and create from the heart. Nor did we have a required medium – anything, and everything was welcomed.

The night went ahead with music setting the mood and wine to celebrate the opening of the exhibition. Our College Chef, John Feltscheer, a keen artist himself, was asked to be the judge of the evening and chose the top three pieces. There was also allotted time for a 'Student's Choice Award', voted on by the College. The Exhibition proved to be a great representation of the unique differences and skills we possess as a College. Will Lukaitis, a photography student at RMIT, contributed a variety of passionate pieces from his portfolio. Claire McArdle's wheel of feet embodied innovation and creativity, being made solely from stickytape. Keeping on with this alternative use of materials, Paddy Ryan's 'Cauliflower Bowl' was made entirely from melted plastic bags - recycling to its utmost. Other work integrated a bit of College humour, with Frank Salvo, Lucy Lees and Sarah Mitchell contributing their sculpture entitled 'Mary the Maid', whilst Katie Pilkington

and Jess Pollard kept up their standard from last year's Casket Wine painting, with a portrait of Mary Spencer – Andy Warhol inspired of course. Alicia Englefield got a little poetic with her work containing images and Haiku poems, recording the mundane yet amusing journey of her day.

This is only a brief representation of the talent and enthusiasm displayed at the Art Exhibition, but it proved to be a great way to integrate the community and bring out that often hidden artistic talent so prevalent within the college.

- First Prize** Will Lukaitis
NAME
- Second Prize** Claire McArdle
Wheel of Feet
- Third Prize** Gabriella Zavatti
Ballerina
- Student's Choice Award**
Gabriella Zavatti
College on a Puzzled Day

Gabriella Zavatti

St Mary's and the environment



At St Mary's College, students' respect for the environment extends beyond turning the lights off when they head to dinner in the evening. Students are encouraged to consider how far-reaching their impact is on the environment and to choose to act in a way that is sustainable for the future generations.

The College attracts students from all over the country, bringing together different opinions and outlooks on the state of the environment and ways to go about solving the environmental issues affecting Australia today.

I am the Convenor of the St Mary's Environmental Collective in 2008, and the Collective has tried to encourage both a practical and intellectual way of addressing these issues. We have organised several community based events such as EarthHour and the active monitoring of water, gas and electricity use. All of these events have encouraged discourse between students.

Throughout the year practical action has also been undertaken to minimise the entire college impact on the environment. Some examples of this include the development of a college worm farm, introducing increasingly efficient water services, installing recycling bins in every room, planting water-resourceful species in our garden and building a new bike

shed to promote environmentally friendly transport. By encouraging good habits and a healthy respect for the environment, St Mary's students have been able to positively influence each other to believe and act towards a sustainable future for all.

The majority of St Mary's College students come from rural Australia, and the importance of saving water is obvious. The College is planning to install water tanks in the long term and is seeking donations from our Alumni to help fund this project. We have already been given a grant from City West Water to install new toilet flushers in the College, and this has made significant water savings. If you would like to make a donation to the College's Water Tank fund, please fill out the flyer on page 9.

Kathleen Bartlett and Shelby Oliver



Students relaxing around the piano in the Junior Common Room

A request – can you help?

St Mary's College once had a very nice baby grand piano which when last seen was in the Junior Common Room. 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. Would you consider donating your instrument to the College? 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. We would acknowledge your gift by holding an annual recital in your name and affixing a brass plate which mentioned you in the provenance of the instrument.

Dr Elizabeth Hepburn
College Principal



First Year student Kathryn Whyte receiving an academic award at the College's Commencement Dinner, March 2008

Academic life

2008 has seen some fabulous academic performances. Many of them arrived with outstanding ENTER scores (8 receiving St Mary's scholarships) and 20% of all our students received various other scholarships from the College and their universities.

The end of Semester 1 yielded a crop of 12 students achieving 1st class Honours in all their subjects. 5 others had a 1st class Honours average – that is 11% of the entire College. This very notable achievement was from students across all institutions attended.

Over the year, 100 plus students in the College have attended some 70 different tutorials. These tutorials are run in the Alan and Maria Myers Academic Centre with some students from other colleges attending. St Mary's is working much more closely with Newman College in offering this wide number of different tutorials and our students have benefitted from the input of some outstanding tutors. Tutorials are run on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday nights at 5.15, 7.30 or 8.30pm. So our students do well to put in full days at the University and then attend an average of 3 tutorials per week. Most tutorials run for 4 or more students, but the language students have the opportunity to sometimes work one-on-one with a tutor.

I write this as Swot Vac begins for ACU students, RMIT exams started several days ago and Unimelb's exams begin in just over a week. The fear and trepidation as they watch the "Countdown to Exams" calendar is always gratifying. It certainly helps the adrenaline to begin coursing through their veins and to focus the mind on what is ultimately the most important part of attending College - getting wonderful results in their academic subjects. (If I keep writing it, the students may one day begin to believe it!)

Jenny Hibben, Dean of Studies

World Youth Day 2008



Isaac Demase (second from left) enjoying World Youth Day with some new found friends.

In July this year Australia hosted the XXIII World Youth Day, with the majority of events taking place in Sydney. This was the first visit of Pope Benedict XVI to Australia and this occasion heralded the arrival of over 100,000 international pilgrims.

World Youth Day was inaugurated in 1985 when Pope John Paul II met with young people on Palm Sunday in the Vatican during the UN's Year for Youth. He made the gathering an annual event with an international assembly of youth every three years. Pope John Paul II wanted to bring young people from all over the world to come and celebrate the present and the future with joy and hope. He also wanted to remind them of what pilgrimage is about, in the hope that they would come closer to God, realise their vocation and understand that they are part of a universal family.

This was my second World Youth Day and it was certainly a different experience from Germany. For a start there was no language barrier, I had general idea of directions and landmarks around Sydney, and only had to travel 800 kilometres - not half way around the world. Nevertheless, it was still a true pilgrimage experience. Taking train journeys into the city with Germans, East Timorese, Italians, Irish and many other nationalities was a special and enlivening experience. So too was sharing a school with 300 hundred Germans, walking to Barangaroo for the opening Mass and Randwick for the Vigil and final Mass.

All of these experiences left an unforgettable impression on me. This World Youth Day was

special in many ways, but perhaps the most special was being on one of the boats which followed the Holy Father down Sydney Harbour. The atmosphere from Barangaroo could be felt out on the water and the noise which just incredible. The other was the Vigil at Randwick in which the vision of all of us gathered made me think that I'm not alone on my faith journey. It's comforting to think that there is a family out there which will share the joys and sorrows and in many cases experience a more burdensome life than I.

I leave you with a quote from Pope Benedict XVI:

"Dear young (and not so young) people, let me now ask you a question. What will you leave to the next generation? Are you building your lives on firm foundations, building something that will endure? Are you living your lives in a way that opens up space for the Spirit in the midst of a world that wants to forget God, or even rejects him in the name of a falsely-conceived freedom? How are you using the gifts you have been given, the 'power' which the Holy Spirit is even now prepared to release within you? What legacy will you leave to young people yet to come? What difference will you make?"

Isaac Demase



Photography showcase

The showcase in this edition of Verity features the work of Will Lukaitis, a first year photography student at RMIT. Will's talent has been recognised by RMIT and the Commonwealth Government, and they recently awarded him a scholarship to assist with the rest of his studies.

Will's particular interests lie documentary photojournalism and, as attested by his work here, fashion.

We'll be watching Will closely to see what he comes up with next!

Shelby Oliver with assistance from Will



Showcase





Christening in the College Chapel

Miriam Ingvarson (St Mary's College 1994) and her husband Daniel Ingvarson celebrated the christening of their daughter Katherine at the St Mary's College chapel in March this year. The service was taken by Father Michael Elligate, the College Chaplain. Miriam said that "it was a very special day for us and the Chapel a wonderful place to celebrate Katherine's new life."

Acknowledging the life of a good man

A personal tribute to Melbourne's Archbishop Emeritus, Sir Frank Little DD

I have a favorite story of Frank Little. It is an evening late in the 1980s. The scene is St. Mary's College at the University of Melbourne; the occasion, a black-tie event to which members of the College Council were invited as the guests of the College. The students were there, as were senior members of the College community, dressed up and looking splendid. Prior to the dinner the Archbishop, as Chair of the Council, celebrated Mass in the Junior Common Room. The music started, the choir sang, and Frank arrived up the aisle, bowed to the altar and turned. Standing almost directly in front of him stood a student: a young man, tall, upright, bearded and striking, sporting a magnificent punk hairdo. Not only that, it happened by chance that the colour of his hair matched perfectly that of the pileolus, the violet-hued skull cap worn by archbishops. Without missing a beat Frank appraised the situation, stating with fitting solemnity: 'I see', indicating his skull cap, 'that I have been up-staged', with which he swept the cap from his head and beamed, inviting the congregation to join in the celebration of the liturgy. It was vintage Frank: the priest, pastor and archbishop who, for all the trappings of office, was unfazed by the wiles of youth, responding to them always with courtesy and grace – and in good humour, should the occasion require.

Melbourne's Archbishop Emeritus, Sir Frank Little DD, died in his sleep on of 7th April at the home he loved in Camberwell. For twenty-two years, 1974-1996, he served as the leader of Melbourne's catholic community, and it was over the last sixteen of those years that I had the good fortune to get to know him in my role as head of St. Mary's College. The College, as with its neighbour, Newman College, is owned by the Archdiocese and Suffragan Bishops of Victoria - and so to the reason for Franks' chairmanship of the College Council. As chairman he was informed and astute, listening to the elders and encouraging always the contribution of the student representatives. I think in all his twenty two years in office he missed only one Council meeting: witness enough to the priority he gave to University students whom he viewed as leaders among peers and of the future.

Since his retirement from public office nearly twelve years ago, Frank was free to do what he did best: relate to people, enjoy their company and serve the community in any way he could. While often called upon all over the archdiocese for confirmations, he also continued the volunteer pastoral work in which he had engaged over years, quietly and without fanfare. An artwork submitted for the Archibald some years ago, featuring Frank kneeling before the wheelchair of a

disabled little boy alongside his mother, was the illustration chosen for the requiem booklet. A few weeks before he died he told me about that portrait, mentioning in passing, that he had visited the disabled children at the centre for over forty years.

The last time I saw Frank was on an evening shortly before Easter. A small group had gathered in our home for a liturgy, after which we shared a very simple meal. What was to become the full Easter moon was shining, partially formed, bright and low in the sky. As Frank got into his car to drive off, my companion said very quietly, 'He is a really holy man'. I noted that and, whilst I had never expressed that thought to myself, knew how apt it was. Within the month he was dead – and the people he had served so well gathered in their thousands to honour him at his requiem.

In the liturgy for burial there is a lovely image: that of the angels coming to meet those who have died and conveying them to their rest. If, indeed, Frank Little died gently in his sleep, I can think of no more fitting end for a dear friend and good man: one acquainted with the ways of the angels and well suited for the company of saints.

Jane Kelly IBVM
Principal 1981-1996



Sr Joan Nowotny



Sr Joan Nowotny IBVM



Jennifer Collins and Sr Joan Nowotny

St Mary's College was terribly saddened by the news of the passing of Sr Joan Nowotny IBVM. Sr Joan passed away at her home in Box Hill on the 29th of June this year. She was educated at Loreto College in Brisbane and after undertaking teacher training was Principal of Loreto Kirribilli and Loreto Normanhurst. She was the Principal of St Mary's College from 1970 to 1974.

Annual Mass for Deceased Alumni

On November 28th 2008, the College held its annual Mass for Deceased Alumni.

The Mass offers an opportunity for members of the St Mary's community to remember those who are no longer with us.

The Mass is traditionally followed by a time for fellowship in the College's Loreto Room.

At this year's Mass, the college community remembered those who have recently passed away – Maureen Christie, Sr Joan Nowotny IBVM, Helen Dore, and Clarissa Linton-Smith.



Annual Mass

VERITY



First year students Sarah Morris, Phillippa Tippett and Kate Harwood enjoying the fun of College Day

First year student Danielle Forbes



St Mary's College football team



Second year student Clementine Leigh



The college dining room, Valedictory Dinner



The college kitchen staff

First year students Anna Sonnet and Nayna Purchase



First year students at Valedictory Dinner

Second year students Oliver Chung, Janice Lam, Thira Wong and Ken Oh



Girls' soccer team



Second year students Mary Spencer and Jess Pollard



St Mary's College women looking lovely at Valedictory Dinner celebrations