

VERITY

ST MARY'S COLLEGE MAGAZINE

January 2010



Celebrating 400 years
since the founding of
the Institute

1609 – 2009



ST MARY'S COLLEGE
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



From the Principal

One of my portfolios on the IBVM Provincial Council is the Loreto Vietnam Australia Programme. This programme began some 15 years ago and supports educational enterprises in Vietnam. The Programme co-ordinator is Trish Franklin, a Ballarat girl.

In November I went to the opening of a vocational training school for disabled students and stayed on for the major fund raising venture called Loretofest. Both were marvelous celebrations of possibilities and pledges for the future.

The Loreto Vietnam Australia Programme has provided professional help and financed new ways of doing things in two schools for handicapped children - the Binh Minh schools I and II for those with physical and intellectual disability and the school for the blind and visually handicapped in Ho Chi Minh City. The programme also supports children in rural schools through provision of scholarships, school uniforms and bicycles.

As you can see from the photographs my time in Vietnam was full and enjoyable. For further information and details about volunteering or donations you can contact me or check out the website on www.loretovietnam.org

Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM



Vietnam visit



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Cover: sculpture by Melissa Judge

Letter from the Editor

It is with pleasure that we bring you another edition of Verity magazine, the official publication for St Mary's College Alumni and current residents. A pdf version of Verity is also available on our website www.stmarys.unimelb.edu.au. Apart from much study and calming of nerves before exams, Semester Two has been packed with student events, such as Open Day at the University and College Day. There was a College Ball, the Sports Dinner and Valedictory celebrations, among other events. Photos and more information about these events may be found in the following pages.

We are very keen to update our database with new contact details so if you know of any fellow 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



The Adventures of Honey

– Part 2



Honey is currently on holiday on a sheep farm where she is learning how to round things up. I believe that she is quite good with one sheep but has a way to go with a whole herd. Honey is also learning about caring and sharing as there are other dogs on the farm who demand respect from the town dog in their midst. I'm sure they all get along famously though because Honey is such a social girl, she is hard to dislike, even for hardened farm dogs.

Of course all her fave toys are waiting on her return, the indestructible yellow ball, her squeaky red woobie and old faithful, the ball with the cord that Honey plays tug-of-war with. I must admit that I can't wait to play with her again.

The photo here shows Honey doing one of her favourite things - chasing leaves in the wind. Those pesky leaves won't stay still and Honey feels that they should be caught and taught a lesson! One of her other favourite things is making sure that the birds in the courtyard know who is boss. If Honey tells a bird to get back in a tree and stop walking around in the roses, that bird better get back in the tree, if it knows what's good for it.

Honey continues to bring the College joy and happiness and we hope to have her with us for many years to come.



College photo 2009



2010 General Committee

Two months ago, the 2010 General Committee was elected. I was blessed with the company of nine capable, zealous and college-minded individuals who together create a dynamic team determined to set a positive example for the rest of the student body and to make St Mary's College the proactive and pleasant community that it strives to be.

Each member brings with them unique talents and perspectives to the group and without anyone of them, there would be a noticeable gap left. Let's break it down...

VICE PRESIDENT Emily, or Dela, works to make my job easy. She does the research, knows the constitution front to back and gets our liquor licences. She's always taken seriously even if she's joking yet you can rely on her to make sure that there are no jobs incomplete.

SECRETARY Babs types vigorously and rigorously the minutes of each meeting and ensures that all the minutes are thoroughly proofread for submission. HB is always up for a chat and a laugh and never hesitates to call 'just to clarify' guaranteeing that the Loreto room is booked, the Risk Management forms are completed and everybody has a smile on their dial.

TREASURER Elyse knows her stuff and it is nice to have someone trustworthy handling the money. It's good to know that no funds are being embezzled and that we're not paying for insurance that we don't need. The 'Green Machine' keeps us out of the red and rolling in the proverbial Benjamin's (we don't make profit I just wanted to make a sweet segue with...) speaking of Benjamin's...

CULTURAL REPRESENTATIVE Probably the most important role on the GC, it is Benjamin Hester's job to deal with, as the title suggests, the 'cultural' side of the college. Namely planning and organising any music and arts related activities and events as well as liaising with other colleges for intercollegiate competitions. After walking in the vast shadow of 2009's Cultural Rep, he has stepped to the side to make a shadow of his own and man, it is a handsome one.

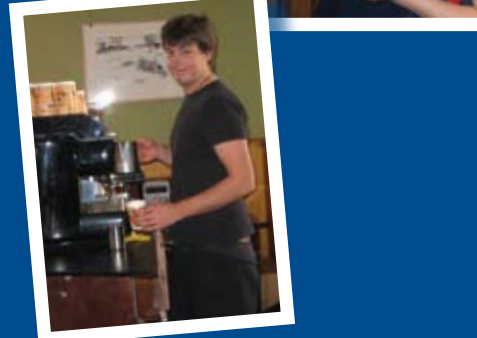
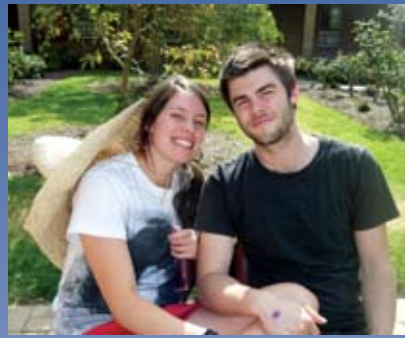
SOCIAL REPRESENTATIVE As for our new Social Rep, Thomas Lukaitis, as the images show, he is just that – social. He can talk to anyone and ensures that places and events are planned and booked for the right time and with his 'selling-ice-to-the-Eskimos' ability to persuade, he makes sure that we get the best deals around town.

SPORTS REPRESENTATIVES Do you like sport? Of course you do, who doesn't? Well, Steven 'Strongest man in College' Reid and Annie 'Walk in the Park' Parker are kicking goals. Both elite athletes, they get representatives from St Mary's to participate in Intercollegiate sport and are always the ones up early in the morning to help conduct training or to spectate at other sports. Reid's really good at arm-wrestling too.

GENERAL REPRESENTATIVES Now, these two believe that the General Committee is named after them. They are wrong. However, it is their responsibility to put together the GC's occasional publication, assist in extra-curricular events within the College like 'Survivor Week', 'Guardian Angel Week' and movie night as well as promoting the general spirit and community feel of College. Thus far, they have succeeded and with O-Week in less than three months, it is their time to shine in preparation.

THE TEAM AS A WHOLE As the above shows, the new GC is a colourful cocktail of different people who share a common goal: to do what is best for the College as a whole and to make St Mary's a home away from home. O-Week preparation is already underway and we are currently preparing for this gargantuan week with enthusiasm and fervour. The group are extremely excited about the changes at Mary's two of whom (Dela and Joel) were on 2009's GC so they know what the go is. I am thrilled with the elected committee and have enormous faith that together we will make St Mary's a happy, challenging and stimulating environment for each of its inhabitants.

Gerard Kennedy
SMC Student Club President 2010



Open Day

Second Semester 2009 saw the College's annual Open Day, with the intangible 'College spirit' that continues to define St Mary's in full swing.



The day started for some at 6am, with a trip to the front of the College to write the letters 'St Mary's College Open Day' in brightly coloured chalk on the front steps of the College and to festoon the gates with streamers and balloons. The College mascot, the fabled Mary's Moose even got up early for a dance on the steps! The subsequent morning rain washed away most of the chalk, but failed to wash away the contagious enthusiasm exhibited by staff and students alike, in 'showing off' St Mary's to the world at large. The camaraderie started at dawn, with a small crowd of students and staff gathering in the foyer to chat, socialise, and meet and greet passers-by. As the rain abated, the guests began filing in, and St Mary's' welcoming spirit leapt into action. People had barely stepped in the door of the foyer before being offered an enthusiastic tour, personally guided by a St Mary's student.

Having now had a 5-year association with St Mary's, even I was amazed at not only the pride that the St Mary's community was taking in the College, but the willingness of so many to give up an entire day of their weekend to help promote the College to the outside world.

I spoke with many of the students who volunteered on Open Day, and my consistent impression was that the actual process of explaining our unique sense of community spirit to those unfamiliar with the College or with Loreto ideals seemed to provide cause for reflection among many of them. The overwhelming response was that they were, quite simply, very proud of where they lived, of the sense of community and belonging that had been created and fostered throughout the year, and of the various human acts, small and large-scale, public and private, that had made this happen. Articulating and explaining this seemed to make students consciously aware of its existence, and I think had much to do with the success of the day.

This two-way process of explaining the unique attributes of St Mary's while simultaneously discovering and learning more about the College was reflected in a variety of different ways, with one student tour guide being surprised and delighted to discover that West Wing actually has a drying room for clothes that he never knew existed!

Each semester, the Principal, Deputy Principal and Dean meet with every student for a face-to-face interview. In the course of these interviews, Open Day is consistently identified as one of the highlights of the entire year, even against such stiff competition as the College Ball and the Pleasant Thursday Afternoon!

Ultimately, the way that Open Day was conducted reflected a realisation of our central aspirations as a College. We seek to encourage and facilitate a culture of excellence, initiative, self-regulation, responsibility and community. These attributes were evident everywhere one cared to look on Open Day. Most importantly, the way that these attributes manifested themselves was through an overwhelming communal display of warmth, welcoming, generosity of spirit and genuine fun that for me has come to typify the St Mary's collegiate experience.

Mr Sean Vagg
Vice Principal





I have no doubt that many people will be able to associate with the reflection I am about to make. I will begin with leaving home and the comfort and security which it entails and moving to the daunting prospects of college and city life.

The opportunity to meet new people and live in a new environment, however scary it may be, was overshadowed by an overwhelming sense of excitement and adventure. I'm the kind of person who lives by the philosophy that as every door shuts another one opens, so the next stage of my life began; one in which I would be surrounded by people, who unbeknownst to me at the time, would become lifelong friends.



Whenever I take prospective students around our College, I invariably ask what attracted them to St Mary's. Was it a family connection? A recommendation from a friend? All answers

are acceptable. Except one. Namely: It is the closest to the university campus. Whenever I hear this pragmatic reply I begin to despair. St Mary's is not a college of convenience, a mere place for repose between lectures.

Of course, I concede that we do enjoy certain privileges. Lavish meals magically appear three times a day. The cleaner vacuums around you whilst you sleep in. One collegian is such a creature of convenience that he recently received a fine for parking outside Pugg Mahone's, rather than walking. In the light of such slothfulness, it could appear that collegiate living is an expediency, rather than a commitment. Is this possible? I cannot accept that this is the case.



The journey for me began approximately a year ago, at St Mary's Open Day. My student tour guide was Phillipa Tippett, and as she took me around the halls of Mary's, I saw a community that I hoped that one day I'd be fortunate enough to be a part of. My imagination ran wild with the thoughts of college – uni not so much at the time, but college definitely. Upon arriving, I instantly felt like this was home. The incredible efforts of the senior students made the transition to college a friendly and extremely happy one. The next few weeks were hard to put down in words; a whirlwind of new friends, adapting to university and making the most of my newfound independence.

More recently, I became aware that tables had turned. It was me taking people



around on Open Day, and an overwhelming sense of pride came to me on every tour. It was at this time that I really had a chance to sit and reflect on my past six months at college.

It is nothing other than the people that make this community special. The friendships made here will undoubtedly last a lifetime, as will the experiences and memories. It is one of the most shocking, confronting, and humbling experiences to realise that you are an extremely fortunate person. And we are all fortunate people to live in a community of young adults who are living and learning with one another but most importantly from one another.

Hannah Barber

COLLEGE DAY

College life is the most demanding manner of living that I can imagine. One typical weekend for me consisted of doing an all nighter writing an essay, before supporting our Rowing crews on the Yarra, travelling to Bendigo for a ex-collegian's 21st, doing another all nighter in order to return to Parkville to speak at the Inter-collegiate Oratory Competition, tutor refugee children, read at Mass, and rehearse the college play until midnight.

I do not recount this formidable schedule in order to impress or surprise you. I cannot impress you, for I know each of you maintain a similarly frenetic existence. I cannot surprise you, for you all know about my life, just as you are aware of the aspirations, vulnerabilities and devotions of 160 other souls.

It is this mutual understanding that defines St Mary's. Through fellowship and pastoral care, each one of us is sustained and inspired. Our community is one of shared knowledge; we exchange not only intellectual insight, but also empathy, gratitude and affection. We are compelled to be seekers of truth and doers of justice, because it is only by embracing these virtues that we are able to do justice to the support and guidance we give each other. Life in college is challenging, because the model promoted by the staff, students and benefactors of this college can only be attained through constant dedication. The Collegiate ideal is not a vehicle for convenient accommodation; it is a medium for self-improvement.

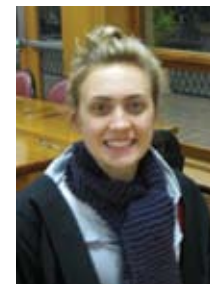


I believe that a collegian can never truly be lazy or complacent. To paraphrase our Foundress, 'collegians in time will come to do much'. This means that whilst many of us may not get up until noon, each member of our community eventually excels themselves; they exceed their own expectations, and more importantly fulfil the expectations of Our Lord, that is, to 'love your neighbour as yourself'. Surrounded by neighbours, college gives us an environment in which, to invoke today's reading from St Paul, we can share 'not only the Gospel of God, but also our own selves', and create a community which is very dear to us all.

Robert O'Shea



Sport



After a relaxing mid year break, we were soon back into the study and up for early morning training sessions in preparation for the intercollegiate sport. The girls were getting ready for the intense netball season and the boys were preparing for

a strong lineup in the college football competition.

The Firsts netball team played five matches over a three week period and demonstrated great skill and spirit in all games. Unfortunately we did not have Emma Brewster in our defense due to injury and only managed to win one match against Trinity College. We did however provide great entertainment in our draw with Ormond College in the final round robin match with a full grandstand of St Mary's students eagerly cheering us on!

The Seconds netball team played a total of three matches and with just one win, managed to make it into the finals. Even though defeated on the day, they all showed great enthusiasm and enjoyment.

Getting up early for the frequent netball matches was hard some mornings but even harder was getting up early on weekends for the boys football. Over three weekends, the boys displayed their excellent agility, skill and talent on the football field against some strong teams in the seconds

competition. Despite missing both Steve Reid and Tim McKinnon through injuries, there were some wonderful games won by large margins. Trinity was beaten by over 100 points and International House got a dose of St Mary's talent. There was great enthusiasm from all the team as they entered into the Semi Final against University College. Despite fresh attacks and early goals, they were unable to stop the skillful opposition. Disappointed at not reaching the grand final, they did however share a wonderful evening with the girls netball team in the annual vote count. Congratulations to Matt Doyle who received the Football Best and Fairest and Amelia Marshallsea and Ella Dimasi for winning the netball Best and Fairest.

The girls participated in a weekend round robin football competition. Our coaches Josie Harris and Jessica Pollard provided great inspiration for all our matches with the help of Chuck Norris quotes. It proved to be a great success with wins against Queens, Trinity and Ormond. We headed into the semi finals against Queens but unfortunately lost by a couple of points. Congratulations to Maggie Forbes who won the Best and Fairest.

With not much training time, boys and girls teams readied for the Basketball Competition. Even with wonderful guidance from coaches Dan McKinnon, Matt Canny and Kimberley Prince, and some fantastic play by Tim Green and



Sam Roder, neither teams made it through to the finals.

The last event for the sporting calendar was the Athletics Carnival which saw possibly the entire college come to watch and support two future Olympic hopefuls. The outstanding talent displayed by Dan Martin in the hurdles and sprints and the lightning speed shown by Jo Bromfield in the 400metres provided great entertainment for all and valuable points for the Intercollegiate Cup. Thank you to all who participated in the carnival.

On Friday the 16th October, Tom Crabtree and I organised and presented the Annual College Sports Awards Dinner. Congratulations to Andrea Harriott and Patrick Lanyon who received the Half Blue Award, Bridget Doyle and Matt Doyle who received the Full Blue Award, Russell Lamatina who received the College Sport Spirit Award and Tom Crabtree on receiving the prestigious Sean Dooley Award. I would like to thank all members of the college community who have participated, supported and organised sporting events and teams throughout the year. Both Tom and I truly appreciate all your enthusiasm, spirit and determination in making the year of St Mary's sport enjoyable for all.

I would like to wish Annie Parker and Steve Reid all the very best next year as Sports Representatives for the college.

Kate Harwood





BLAZE AID

The year 2009 was an exciting time to be at St Mary's college, full of opportunities to get involved. From a personal point of view, one of the most rewarding experiences I had this year was one that took place outside of the walls of our home away from home, Blaze Aid.



The fires of February 2009 claimed countless lives in one of Australia's worst natural disasters to date. Not only did these fires kill over one hundred people, they also destroyed thousands of hectares of residential and farming property, leaving nothing but charred remains to return to. When I first thought about the rebuilding process that was to follow the disaster, I must admit, fences never came to mind, and if they did, they would have been last on the list. However, fences in the country are imperative, they keep stock in, and unwanted particulars out. Without fences, no farmer can work the land, and begin to rebuild his or her lives, physically and as importantly, financially.

The concept of Blaze Aid started a matter of days after the fires, as a small group of concerned people offering their time, equipment and often money, to get farming families back on their feet in a time of great need. Working from a shed in Kilmore, local farmer Kevin Butler and his team worked day after day overseeing the gradually expanding relief operation, taking down destroyed fences and quickly erecting new ones in their place. Word quickly spread, and in no time at all the operation turned full scale, with hundreds of volunteers turning up weekly, many not knowing each other, bound by a will and generosity that is only seen in the greatest displays of Australian spirit.

The College was addressed by our Deputy Principal in a presentation over dinner, challenging us to seriously consider travelling to the fire affected regions with him and offering our time volunteering to help those who needed it most. Like so many great initiatives, the response was enthusiastic, with the College quickly setting up an online forum and schedule of dates when convoys of cars would hit the road and make the trip up the Hume highway to Kilmore.

Blaze Aid volunteering took place over two weekends. On the weekend that I participated, between the two groups that went up, more than 20 enthused Mary's residents and our Deputy Principal took on the challenge and got their hands dirty. The 6am rise was all but forgotten when we were met by the smiling faces at the Blaze Aid shed. We were all allocated to a property about 45 minutes from Kilmore, in Kinglake west. The couple who owned the property were more than welcoming, putting on a mean lunch and cooking one of the best homemade cakes I have ever tasted! As it happened, their daughter had attended St Mary's some years ago, so it was great to renew the College connection in such a positive way.

The day was a success, with the team of red and blue taking down more than a kilometer of destroyed fence, ready for a brand new one to be put up. We all had a fantastic time, and made it back to college covered in ash and ready for bed.

One of the most powerful memories from that day was driving through Kinglake on the way to the site. Only then did I get anything approaching a sense of the fear and helplessness those who lost their lives would have been confronted with. I am more than grateful for the opportunity to be involved with such an amazing and rewarding program. It really gave me a sense of how generous some people are, and only gave me more to aspire to.



Thomas Lukaitis

Environmental initiatives

The St Mary's College environmental initiative has been proceeding apace, and we have a number of exciting new developments to report since our last update.

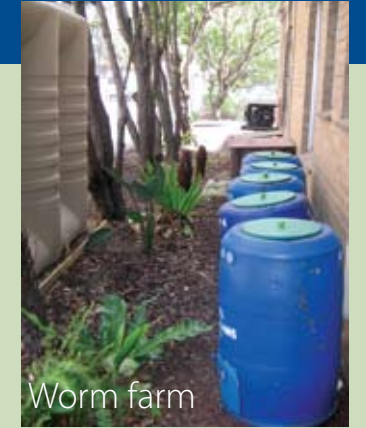
Awareness

A major development in environmental awareness at St Mary's has been the establishment of a staff environment committee. The committee is meeting fortnightly to discuss and report on environmental initiatives, and to give an overall direction and framework to the College's efforts to act more sustainably. The committee will work in conjunction and consultation with the student environment committee.

The new year will provide substantial opportunities to build upon this increased awareness by way of induction and training at the start of the year, and by direct engagement and input from students into policies and procedures as the year progresses.

Infrastructure

The College veggie garden is now in full swing, producing a consistent harvest of perennial salads and herbs, as well as an impressive crop of potatoes, zucchini and spinach thus far. The garden is organic and uses 'no-dig' principles of soil regeneration.



Worm farm

In addition to the veggie garden, the College worm farms have been reactivated, with organic waste and food scraps from the kitchen being diverted from landfill and used to create a rich compost which is then used in the garden. The worms have been welcome additions to the St Mary's community, although so far nobody has taken on the task of naming them all...

As discussed in the last issue of Verity, we have been engaging with Sustainability Victoria's pilot outreach program. We have now received an extensive Report from Sustainability Victoria full of useful recommendations which we are systematically examining for feasibility and applicability. I would like to particularly thank Mr Kelly Wickham from Sustainability Victoria for generously giving of his time and expertise in the preparation of this Report and its follow-up.

Coming up

Our engagement with Sustainability Victoria has resulted in a broad examination of possible behavioural and infrastructural changes. We are now at the stage of implementing more specific recommendations on individual areas of resource allocation. This semester, we commissioned Origin Energy to conduct an energy audit of St Mary's to examine our gas and electricity usage patterns. We are currently working with Origin to use this audit as the basis for technological and infrastructural changes to the College which will conserve gas and electricity into the future and ultimately recoup their own costs as well as allowing us to use College utilities sustainably and efficiently.

In the context of national and international efforts to moderate climate change and regenerate a global environment in crisis, it is heartening to witness St Mary's College thinking globally and acting locally on environmental issues. I think we can all look forward with interest to the new ideas and innovations that are sure to flow in 2010!

Mr Sean Vagg
Vice Principal

Tim Sullivan is the student environmental committee convener for 2010. He has worked on every aspect of the veggie garden, from selection of seedlings to construction of the garden to watering the vegies in the summer heat. Here are a few words from Tim about his vegetable experiences:

“The St Mary's College veggie garden began with two main intentions – to supplement the college kitchen and to reclaim an otherwise unused dumping ground. This year I enjoyed working on the veggie garden as it enabled fellow students to participate in a project that was beneficial to both the College and the Environment.

Having the veggie garden is important because it allows students to see an easy way to help the environment, a place to relax and tangible products from their hard work. The veggie garden would usually be worked upon by a group of students after lunch. As there were a large number of students who helped along the way I would like to thank everyone as a group for their participation. I would also like to thank Paul from Very Edible Gardens (www.veryediblegardens.com) and Sean Vagg for donating their time.”





Academic Life

This year a total of 33 tutors were utilised in the Academic Tutorial Programme; of this number, seven were 'resident' (including myself), which helps to bind our social ethos to academic welfare.

This Semester we offered in excess of 40 tutorials across a range of 37 different subjects; and I am also happy to say that we have picked up some excellent new tutors!

The results for Semester 1 were outstanding. In fact, 25.62% of all grades were of H1 standard: this is the highest percentage of H1's across the entire student body in the last decade. This also reflected a general trend across all grades.

Throughout the year Sister Liz and I have been hosting 'Faculty Dinners'. These evenings are wonderful occasions which afford the opportunity for 12 students to dine and engage with distinguished academics from their faculty. This year our guests have been of the highest order, with identities such as Professor Pauline Ladiges

AO FAA (Science), Associate Professor Chris Mackie (Arts), and Acting Pro Vice-Chancellor Professor Greg Whitwell, who has also been Associate Dean (Academic Programs) since 2007 (Economics and Commerce), all from the University of Melbourne. We were also fortunate to entertain Professor Margot Hillel OMA from ACU and the Vice-Chancellor Professor Margaret Gardner AO from RMIT, among others.

I again had the pleasure of running the St Mary's Book Club, wherein we came to terms with Albert Camus' 'l'Etranger' ('The Outsider') in an English translation, and which has been seen by some as "an existential joyride on the beach". The book is short, manageable, classic; and so the literati gathered in the first week back after mid-semester break.

I am also charmed to say that Kabita Dhara (aka 'my wife', and an alumna of St Mary's), currently employed as Editor at MUP and serving on the Board of 'The Emerging Writers Festival', conducted a convivial and informative evening on 'careers in books and publishing'.

With so much going on, end of year fatigue, springtime, and various other multifaceted factors, the pastoral efforts akin to the St Mary's tradition swing into effect: in Swot Vac wing cafés organised by our tutor and mentor teams break the monotony of study, promote a productive calm, and students come into the home straight.

**Mr Dane Kirby
Dean**



On a Pleasant Friday Afternoon...

BEST OF THE REST



After a fantastically fun year at St Mary's College; SWOT VAC, the exam period and summer were quickly encroaching on the beloved college lifestyle.

The year to date had been an outstanding success with the college showcasing its amazing talents in all social, sporting and academic disciplines. However, with the year coming to a close and there was only one way to finish it off in style; with a rocking Pleasant Friday (which was actually a Thursday) Afternoon.

The theme was Best of the Rest, and everyone turned up in style, costuming it up in their best outfits of the year. Special costume mentions must be given to Seb and Sheep who dressed like they were from the Roman Senate, Gerry who went fluro Constructo and Edwina who dressed up as the cartoon mum whose hair everyone wants to have, Marge from the Simpsons.

The afternoon was blessed with great weather, but even better music. Big thanks must go out to Bryce from Puggs (as he is best and only known) who provided excellent music and worked the crowd like a beach ball at a Nickleback concert. Also, our very own Deputy Principal, Sean V to the Agg brought out his guitar and strummed the strings all afternoon to the delight of his fans. Renditions of Lukaitis and Tooses famous 'Hey Ya' and Benny Hester belting tunes out more professionally than Britney, displayed more of the colleges fabled talent and ensured a great time for all.

The theme was Best of the Rest and that was how the PTA was received with many sentiments towards the event hallowing it as the best PFA turn they had ever been to, even amongst the Second and Third year students. A fitting way to close the curtains on the year that was, but also a sneak peak of the fun and excitement which 2010 will bring. Thanks to everyone who helped set up the event, got up and sang or played along and Bryce and Sean especially for their entertainment. The afternoon was a super success. Well done everyone.

Jed 'Andrews' Andrews



BEST OF THE



REST

Valedictory Dinner 2009



In responding to Emily's speech on behalf of the Valedictorians, I thank you for the gift you have been, collectively and individually to the community of St Mary's over the last three years. Without your contribution it is obvious that the community would not have existed as we have experienced it.

When Nelson Mandela was released from Robben Island in 1990, after nearly thirty years imprisonment, he made a memorable speech which I would like to daw on this evening; He said "I stand here before you not as a prophet but as a humble servant of you, the people. Your tireless sacrifices have made it possible for me to be here today. I therefore place the remaining years of my life in your hands."

Perhaps on this evening each of you would make a similar speech. In a very real sense each of us is here today, in the role which we occupy, because of the efforts on our behalf by so many who have made us who we are. Sure there is a way in which we make ourselves and our individual choices are very important in making me the person that I am, but there are all sorts of influences at work, and the older we become the more aware we are of that fact. We hear with ever growing clarity another voice when we speak, sometimes a parent, sometimes a close friend.

Then of course there is the way in which our choices make us. You may think of it as a branching diagram not unlike a family tree. Faced with a decision we go about gathering information and we make a choice. The next time we make a decision, we make it as the person who made a former decision. So for the sake of the dramatic I will use an extreme example. Suppose I am in a situation where I have to decide that either I will break the law in some minor way or that I will observe the law even though I can see that to break it would be a minor offence. My point is that I approach the subsequent decision as the sort of person who tends to observe the law or someone who is prepared to flout it.

In fact, this is the stuff of major novels, the author is interested in the development of character and showing precisely that antecedent acts influence subsequent

acts. So my choices have a profound effect on the sort of person I become. Our integrity consists in the observed behaviour reflecting our deepest convictions.

In addition, we are shaped by the people around us. They may influence our choice directly, but more subtly they influence the person that I am because I value the relationship I have with that person. There is a sense in which I cannot live with the lie that I am not who you believe me to be. It is if you like the obverse of integrity. It is the level of congruence between what I purport to be and the person I am.

When Nelson Mandela went to prison, he was a violent and angry man. Many people shared his anger. After thirty years in a dehumanising imprisonment he emerged able to say, gently, "I put my life in your hands". How do we account for this change? Mandela himself said it was due to many people surrounding him and encouraging him. This was undoubtedly true. Equally true was the fact that during imprisonment he was able to observe the effects of violence and pledged not to be a party to such actions.

It turns out to be both, we need time for reflection but equally we need the support of others. College provides a privileged opportunity to participate in this process. I thank you for your obvious readiness to reflect on who you are and for your preparedness to be for others. These are practices which I hope are well on the way to becoming habits of mind. From what we have heard from your supporting speakers I believe it has begun in you.

In Mary Ward's words, "May you be as you appear and appear as you be". Good luck and don't forget us who stay behind as the basis of St Mary's community for 2010.

Dr Elizabeth Hepburn IBVM
Principal



Pictured at the Brisbane launch from left: Loreto Provincial Christine Burke IBVM, author Mary Ryllis Clark, The Hon Justice Ann Lyons, Chair Loreto History Committee Jane Kelly IBVM.

Book launch Loreto in Australia by Mary Ryllis Clark 4 September 2009



Loreto in Australia, by Mary Ryllis Clark, has been launched in Brisbane, Sydney, Adelaide, Perth, Melbourne and Ballarat.

Loreto in Australia, published by UNSW Press, is a story of women of great strength, charm and deep spirituality who work towards Mary Ward's dream that 'women in time to come will do great matters'.

At each event a 'notable' woman had been asked to launch the book: one familiar with Loreto and who embodied the values and spirit of Mary Ward in some way.

In each state the audiences were captured by the thoughtful and beautiful speeches. Author Mary Ryllis Clark said, "Every aspect of my work with the Loreto Sisters over the past few years has been notable for the extraordinary trust and generosity of all those associated with this project... it has been a privilege and an inspiration for me to write their story".

When a small group of Irish nuns arrived in Ballarat in 1875, with their charismatic leader Mother Gonzaga Barry, who could have imagined the influence they would have on Catholic education in Australia?

Loreto nuns in Australia have not only founded their own schools, but have run parish schools on a shoestring, worked in indigenous and other disadvantaged communities, taught in universities and held prominent positions in public life. Their commitment to a life of contemplation in action emerged out of Mary Ward's vision for a different sort of life for nuns.

"The characters, ambitions, disputes and sheer drama involved in the Australian Loretos' evolution offers both stunning surprise and inspiration."

Geraldine Doogue

Article from the Loreto website:
www.loreto.org.au



Above: Julia Gillard with Loreto Toorak student Sarah Vanderkley



From the archives...

St Mary's College Chapel



The beauty of St Mary's College Chapel resides in the superb craftsmanship of the woodpanelling and furniture, the work of an artist craftsman Schulim Krimper, the son of a Rabbi.

In 1939 at the age of 45 "without means or possessions but with courage" Krimper left Europe with his wife Elsbeth a medical doctor, to build a new life in Melbourne. He was the first cabinet maker to have a solo exhibition at the National Gallery of Victoria and to command the respect which had previously been accorded only to painters and sculptors. An exhibition of his work was held in the Gallery of George's Department store in 1951. He is quoted as saying "I only help nature. If you help nature with your hands, you can do many wonderful things." RI Downing in his preface to a National Gallery of Victoria booklet on Krimper published in 1971 writes: "What makes human life worth living is that, just sometimes, you meet a man who makes you realise what it can mean to be human. For me, and I think for many who knew him, Mr Krimper was such a man."

Krimper came to work at St Mary's because of the impression the workmanship of his pulpit in the Hobart Cathedral had made on Mother Francis IBVM, whilst visiting Hobart for a Conference. On her return to Melbourne Mother Francis sought to engage Krimper to do the work for the new chapel. The College archives contain some beautiful descriptions of the chapel and its outstanding woodwork written by a Loreto sister.

"The Chapel at St Mary's College is a large room within the building. The sanctuary wall, paneled from floor to ceiling in Thai teak, has a slight concave curve, and this feature together with the beautiful crucifix affixed to it, is meant to suggest a

welcoming embrace. The sanctuary floor is curved in the opposite direction, outwards, and these curves, apart from the implied symbolism, give a pleasing relief to lines which might be too austere and rigid.

"The altar is simple in design, a fairly wide table supported at either end by a row of five slender columns. A beautifully carved Alpha and Omega is suspended by a chain of wooden links beneath the table. Behind this are three curved supports attached to the columns on each side and crossing in the centre. A processional candlestick stands at either end of the altar. The lectern, where the scripture is read during mass, shows St Paul's Sword of the Spirit which is the word of God and the symbols of the four Evangelists."

"The walls are paneled to a height of four feet. The door from the corridor bears a representation of the Tree of Life, mentioned in the Psalms and the Apocalypse, with the twelve branches and the fruit for every month, and its roots spreading out to the running water – a symbol of Our Lord. The sacristy door shows a simplified representation of the Root of Jesse, the rod, the root and the Flower. The inner of each door is the same, a series of beams alternating with rows of circular insets showing the circular in contrast with the straight grain of the wood."

"The Stations of the Cross are very simple, a cross within a circle, with the number of the station in gold. The benches are of the same wood, whose lovely colour and grain make other ornaments superfluous. The sanctuary



lamp consists of a blue glass in a teak cup pierced with circular holes through which the light shines. This design is repeated in the Holy Water container at the door."

Geraldine Woodhatch
Archivist

A Bequest to St Mary's College

The gift of education is one that lasts a lifetime.

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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 Scholarships and Bursary Fund, 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
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College Ball 2009

