

# VERITY

DECEMBER 2015



ST MARY'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



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# FROM THE PRINCIPAL

The end of the 2015 academic year arrived quickly and the college's corridors are eerily quiet and empty... definitely not their natural state!



DR DARCY MCCORMACK

As I write this, the students are at home – or further afield - and I am left wondering where 2015 went! It seems so recently that I arrived in January 2015 to a construction site and made a temporary office in a student room - in that room interviewing 42 applicants for admission before moving into the principal's office on the day immediately preceding 'Arrival Day'. The return of the construction crew in recent weeks signals the final stage of the college's refurbishment program – West Wing. It will be a significant achievement and of great advantage to all members of the college community to have the entire college refurbished to a consistently high standard.

My year as a 'fresher' principal was always busy, at times challenging and, in many ways, demanding. I learned much – not least, to expect the unexpected! I have certainly never previously had such a deeply satisfying job. And my faith in 'Gen Y' has been utterly reinforced. The reality is that the students of St Mary's are growing into fine young adults - of whom their parents have every right to be immensely proud. They are generous, loyal, honest, and have an acute sense of justice and appreciation of peace. They have been welcoming to me and helpful at every stage of the year – and for that I will be always grateful.

I wish to thank many people who supported, encouraged and assisted me in 2015 - particularly the college council, the staff, and the residential tutors. I thank also Mr Albert

Zhang and Ms Laura Brennan, President and Vice-president respectively of the student General Committee, who guided me through the activities in the yearly cycle; the knowledge that I have the support of the students has sustained me. In Semester 2, we all benefited significantly from the presence of Ms Rachel Lechmere in the role of Dean & Deputy Principal.

The new year signals transition for many – whether in the form of leaving college to move into a shared house, from 'fresher' to second year student, or from second year to senior student: in each case the move onward involves some 'letting go' of the familiar, the comfortable, the known – and a step toward the new, increased responsibilities, further opportunities for personal development. It is an exciting time of year – and taking some 'time out' to reflect on the bigger picture and refresh our minds and bodies is appropriate!

Looking ahead to 2016 inspires optimism at St Mary's. Three particular developments and events that will have direct benefits for our college community are:

- The completion of the final stage of the refurbishment of the college will also open up direct access to West garden for the benefit of all residents;
- The celebrations to mark 50 years on the college's current site, and to acknowledge the enormous contribution of the Loreto Sisters over 96 years, will be hosted on the

weekend of 12/13 March 2016 and I hope that many of you will visit the college that weekend to catch-up with old friends and see our greatly improved facilities;

- The college will welcome two outstanding academics as Scholars-in-residence: Professor Anne Steinemann is Professor of Engineering and Chair of Sustainable Cities at the University of Melbourne, and a world-renowned scholar in the areas of engineering and sustainability; and Associate Professor Patrick Quirk is Associate Professor of Law in the Thomas More Law School at ACU. Both these scholars have broad experience internationally and outside academia and a profound interest in the welfare and holistic development of young people; I am confident that they will add considerable depth to the college experience of our students.

I wish you all the best for 2016. I hope we will all return from our 'time out' refreshed and reinvigorated as we anticipate the many opportunities of 2016!

Dr Darcy McCormack  
Principal

# FROM THE EDITOR

And so another year comes to a close and, as is usual at this time, the corridors are strangely quiet as students study for their exams. The courtyard, on the other hand, is robustly noisy in colour with the Manchurian pears in glorious leaf and the showy magnolias slowly coming to flower – a lovely time of the year in the College garden.

The semester has been as busy as ever. We welcomed the new Dean & Deputy Principal, Rachel Lechmere, in July and the subsequent arrival of her new puppy, Patrick the golden retriever. He has certainly made himself at home around the college and is a huge hit with students.

Christmas in July was, once again, a roaring success with students being extremely generous in their donations to the Sacred Heart Mission. The Dean's Dinner followed shortly thereafter and you can read the inspiring speech given by Rachel later in this edition.

The Engineering Faculty dinner in August saw distinguished guest, Professor Anne Steinemann, join the students for dinner and the Senior Student Wine Appreciation evening later that month was a show stopping event, filled with wonderful wines and gourmet food.

September was just as hectic with the College production, College ball and various ICAC sports events and ICSC events taking place, all of which are showcased in pictures throughout the following pages.

October saw the newly formed Sports & Arts Awards dinner take place with several new awards being handed out.

Also this month we held the Valette dinners to farewell the 18 third year students leaving the College this year, and a High Table dinner to farewell our wonderful exchange students.

The Alumni Committee has made a solid start to reconnecting alumni with our inaugural 5 Year Alumni Reunion Cocktail Party being held in August. With over 70 attendees, the success of the evening will ensure that more of these events are organised next year. If anyone is interested in getting involved in organising these events, I would be happy to hear from you. We also held the fourth Annual Francis Frewin Cocktail Party which was, once again, well attended with many familiar faces. The day after the cocktail party we held the Annual Alumni Mass for the Deceased which was, this year, dedicated to the life of Sr Veronica Brady ibvm. A moving eulogy was read by Ms Agnes Dodds together with some beautiful tributes, some of which can be read later in these pages. A tribute book was available on the day with many contributing. The book will be handed to the Loreto Organisation in Sr Veronica's memory. If anyone would like to add their own tribute to the book, please email me on [kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au)

All in all, it has been another rewarding and enjoyable semester at St Mary's College. I wish you all a very happy New Year.

**Kim Exell**  
College Secretary and Alumnist





## OPEN DAY

Open Day this year saw perfect weather and plenty of smiling faces. For over eight hours our dedicated tour guides helped show over 400 prospective students around the College.

The staff and students were up early ensuring the front steps were chalked, balloons and merchandise were everywhere and the smell of the kitchen's famous pizza filled the hallways. The memory of the fantastic tours each of us had personally experienced in previous years ensured that excitement and anticipation filled the air, as we wanted to successfully articulate all that St Mary's has to offer.

The tour guides were quickly put to work as people came from all parts of the state, country and world to inspect all facets of the College, from the size of the rooms to whether we do in fact have unlimited avocados!

From the JCR to the Academic Centre, everyone who entered was individually shown all that the College has to offer, eventually finishing the tour with lunch in the courtyard. The relaxed music from the College band, paired with lunch and a lively atmosphere, illustrated the different

ways each student may get involved and provided the perfect snapshot of our inclusive community.

A huge thank you to everyone who prepared the College and the 40 tour guides who ensured that everyone who came through the gates was welcomed and guided around the College.



# CHRISTMAS IN JULY

On 31 July the annual Christmas in July dinner took place in the college dining room.

As in previous years, the event was widely attended and much enjoyed both by students and staff. Special guest for the night was Professor Anne Steinemann, who will be joining the college as a Scholar in Residence in 2016. It was a great pleasure to have Professor Steinemann with us on the night to experience the wonderful sense of community that always prevails on this evening. The students were, once again, extremely generous, not only in their donations to the Sacred Heart Mission but also in their Kris Kringle gifts to each other, which is something of a tradition at St Mary's.

Dr McCormack gave a brief, but moving speech about the humility of the nativity, the meaning of community and the joys of sharing these special events.

As always, a delicious traditional dinner was prepared by our wonderful kitchen staff, making the evening an all-round success.





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# DEAN'S DINNER SPEECH

*Given by Rachel Lechmere*

To begin, I would like to acknowledge the Wurrundjeri People, the Traditional Owners of the land on which we are gathered and pay my respects to their Elders both past and present.

I would also like to acknowledge past and present Australian Loreto Sisters, the order of Catholic Religious Sisters who founded St Mary's in 1918 and who administered our College until 2013. We are the recipients of their original vision, hard work and commitment to quality education and we stand on their shoulders.

It is a lovely thing to host a dinner that acknowledges the intellectual achievement, and the improvement in achievement, of those with whom we share our lives here at St Mary's. The excellence and effort which we will celebrate tonight will well exceed the efforts of the Australian Cricket team in England last night. Australia were 7/33 in the 4th Test at Trent Bridge as I sat down to write. By the time I finished that sentence they were 8/46. The disappointment of Edgbaston last week was pain enough for me who dislikes seeing the Poms win at any time (no disrespect intended to our English visitors), let alone in an Ashes series. As a great fan of Test Cricket I feel especially short-changed if it doesn't last the whole five days and in the event that it does, I always grieve a little on Day 6 and feel like something is missing in my life. To be all out before lunch, 10 wickets in a single session, is almost cause for existential crisis. I find listening to and watching cricket very soothing. It is strongly associated with my childhood memories of long, hot, enjoyable summers.

Twenty years ago in 1995, I was in my second year at St Mary's, sitting where you

are now. In this last month since taking up the position of Dean and Deputy Principal I have had much cause to reflect upon my time here as an undergraduate student and indeed on my life, in the intervening years.

It is a curious thing to return as an adult to a place which held the hopes and aspiration of one's youth; to remember the faces of friends whose voices filled the corridors and with whom each meal was shared; to retrieve the memories associated with particular geographical locations in College. The random fire alarms, the possums, and the quality of John's cooking give me a sense of comfort that even in our rapidly changing world things can and do, stay the same. The friendly nature of St Mary's students and the sense of community we celebrate with one another, has also remained. I have felt welcomed back into this community by your warmth these last weeks; by your openness and patience with me as I ask you to tell me your name 'just one more time'. St Mary's was such a formative time in my life. Formative in the way that it influenced and shaped my values and also in the possibilities that it opened up for me.

It is difficult to put into words how alive I felt being surrounded by so many people my own age who were in possession of keen intellects and diverse interests. Ideas and 'isms' swirled around me and the conversations we shared were lingered on and they were rich, idealistic and thoughtful. There seemed to be all the time in the world to talk often and at length around the dinner table. Regularly the conversations relocated and lingered too long at the Clyde also! It was a period of expanding and discovering new ideas, of opening up my existing ones for safe

cross-examination, of learning how to reason and discuss. It was a time of friendship and fun, of late nights, midnight supermarket runs and exploring Melbourne. My learning about how to keep things in balance in life, how to take responsibility, and how to increase my self-discipline were lessons that I occasionally had to learn through my mistakes or poor decisions. But they were lessons well learnt, and they were learnt in community. For it is true that we know ourselves only in relationship with others. Others mirror something to us about ourselves. The lovely thing about honouring the award winners tonight is that as we are inspired by their achievement we naturally reflect on and evaluate our own achievement (in a positive way hopefully), in a way that is encouraging to all of us. We might well ask ourselves the questions: what's working well for me? What would be 'even better if'? We might ask these questions in several areas of our lives, not just in academics. What's working well in my relationships with others? What is working well in my decision-making? What is working well in the way I care for my emotional and mental wellbeing? What would be 'even better if...?'

The sense of community at St Mary's really does allow individuals to thrive. We come to see one another's uniqueness. I remember coming to love and appreciate people who I had very little in common with and never thought I would be friends with. Most vividly, yet also most difficult to describe, was the sense of respect, dignity and gentleness that characterised the ordinary moments of daily life at St Mary's. It was evidenced in my first year by the smiles that greeted me upon my arrival, by the fact that anyone could sit at a dining room table and be welcomed with a smile and conversation. I knew that I was in a special place, I knew that I was surrounded by people of deep quality in their person, and I knew that I was taking part (for a short time), in traditions that had existed long before me and would exist long after I moved on. My dad was most impressed on his first tour by the Chesterfields in the JCR (the same ones) and determined from this piece of evidence that that 'clientele' must be of suitable quality. We had great respect for Sr Jane, the Principal of our College, for her position and her person. When I had the privilege of being elected







by the student club as President, myself and the GC of that year enjoyed a really positive year, being inducted into a much bigger picture about the considerations which leaders in a residential college must account for. Leadership in that sense, I learnt, was about working together for the good of most, setting aside personal agendas, heeding the voice of experience and being ever mindful of the bigger picture. It was primarily about service to others and it required humility. I also remember looking up to and admiring our tutors. They were such a positive presence in our community. They didn't meddle in our affairs or engage in gossip. But they did engage us in conversation about our interests and passions and inspired us with their commitment to work, study and their adult lives.

Service to others, a concern for my fellow human beings and a strong sense of social justice were instilled in me through my education at Catholic College Bendigo where I grew up and where my family still reside. This was further supported when I moved to St Mary's. The GC Social Rep and the Social Justice Rep as it was called then, organised a series of activities for us to get involved in. We volunteered at the Soup Van in Fitzroy, held discos at the Juvenile Detention Centre, and had a weekly commitment on a Sunday where student volunteers would take cooked food from St Mary's to Bethlehem in Fitzroy, a long-term supported accommodation house for women who were drug and alcohol dependent, and who were living with mental illness. This initial volunteering then led to more regular volunteering which resulted in me living in community with the

women for a year. It was an eye-opening time, and I was beginning to see that life hadn't been as easy or blessed for others as it had been for me. By letting me into their loves and sharing their stories with me, the women at Bethlehem helped me to more profoundly understand and experience gratitude. It was I who had been changed, even though I thought I was the one going in to do the 'changing'. And so it has continued through my life, listening to the stories of others, and being changed by them. I'm grateful to St Mary's for opening me up to these opportunities, for it was the Dean at the time who encouraged me to get involved. It has been deeply satisfying, and has helped me to keep perspective in my life. My problems become small ones when I hear what daily life is like for someone living rough on our streets in winter.

After graduating from my Arts degree with majors in Psychology and History, I completed a Graduate Diploma of Secondary Education and commenced my teaching career. I have been privileged to work and live in diverse educational contexts in Victoria, the Northern Territory and Western Australia. Before commencing here one month ago, my most recent role was as a Deputy Principal at a large co-educational secondary school of 1600 students in Melbourne's West.

In my role as Dean and Deputy Principal it is my responsibility to not only support your personal and academic development, but to work with you to promote an ethos of care for yourself and others, of respect. It is my responsibility to create an environment where you are academically and pastorally supported to achieve your potential as individuals and as generous contributors

to society – both during your time at College and beyond. It may at times require me to gently remind you about the things you signed up to when you joined this community and ask you to 'pull your socks up' if your standards have slipped.

You sit before me now as some of the best and brightest young minds in Melbourne. You may not always feel like it, but if you take a bigger view and open yourself to the reality of life for the poor and vulnerable of our world, you will see it. You can read and write. And not only this: you can think, compose original ideas and be creative. You can envisage a world that is more just for more people, and you can bring your gifts of intellect, energy and concern for others into your chosen field. You have significant capacity to participate fully in our society. It is my responsibility to create an environment where you are academically and pastorally supported to achieve your potential as individuals and as generous contributors to society – both during your time at College and beyond.

In quintessential Australian fashion Glen McGrath described Australia's performance last night as "yeah, not too good". In quintessential British fashion, the endearing Henry Blofeld instead focused on and delighted in "the acreage of blue sky that was coming from over the Castle." You are the blue sky. If each one of you, the brightest and best young contemporary minds of Melbourne, can exercise your leadership in the service of others, that would be a most wonderful and inspiring thing. I look forward to our shared lives together on this part of your journey, and for our Mary's connection that will endure long after you've left.

# NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC CENTRE

## *The 1916 Irish Rising: Australasian Perspectives international conference*

Many readers of Verity will know that the founders of St Mary's College and Newman College had strong ties to Ireland. Almost 100 years later, those ties are still apparent in some ways, not least among the surnames of many students and staff! In addition, there is a substantial Irish library in the Academic Centre; we host a visiting scholar of Irish studies each summer to use that collection; and Newman counts among its community the Gerry Higgins Chair of Irish Studies. That chair is held by Professor Gillian Russell.

Dr Russell is currently leading a working group (I am a member) in developing programs to commemorate the 1916 Easter Rising, including an academic conference to be held at Newman, **7-8 April 2016**.

What was the Easter Rising? It was a short-lived armed rebellion staged in Dublin during Easter Week 1916. Most of the seven leaders of the Rising were subsequently executed but their proclamation of an Irish Republic, and the support this generated, ultimately proved transformational for Irish

politics. It could be argued that the Easter Rising also had a significant impact on Australia, particularly on the conscription debates of the time. Melbourne's Irish Archbishop Daniel Mannix led the debate against conscription and strongly influenced Australian public opinion about it.

So, the purpose of this article is two-fold: to advertise the conference dates to anyone in the St Mary's community who might like to attend – registration information coming soon - and to circulate this **call for papers**:

Keynote speakers will be Guy Beiner (Ben-Gurion University of the Negev), Roisin Higgins (Teesside University), and Fearghal McGarry (Queen's University Belfast).

The Easter Rising of 1916 is a key event in the Revolutionary decade, 1913-23, and in Irish and world history. This conference welcomes proposals for papers addressing any aspect of the impact of the Rising, including its Australasian contexts. Topics to be considered might include:

historiographies of the Rising; the Proclamation as iconic document; women in 1916 and after; the Rising and the conscription debates in Australia; Anzacs and the Easter Rising; archiving the Rising; family histories of the Rising; representing 1916 in literature, film and visual art; the material culture of the Rising in Ireland and Australasia; comparative responses to the Rising across Australia and New Zealand; Mannix and 1916; the Rising and global imperialism; the 50th anniversary in 1966; the Rising and the later Troubles in Northern Ireland; the Rising and 21st century Ireland.

The organisers invite proposals of no more than 250 words for 20-minute papers to be sent to Jack Moloney ([moloneyj@unimelb.edu.au](mailto:moloneyj@unimelb.edu.au)) **by the 31st of January 2016**.

**More details at**  
<http://shaps.unimelb.edu.au/events/5957>

Angela Gehrig

The Academic Centre has on loan from the Brennan family two scrapbooks including news clippings dating from the era of the Rising. These scrapbooks were compiled by Irish scholar Dr Nicholas O'Donnell, and the Irish Embassy is providing funds to enable them to be digitised. These images give a snapshot of some of the news around the Rising, as it was reported in Melbourne:



# O2 WEEK

The first week in Semester 2 is traditionally one of the biggest, best and most entertaining weeks on the college calendar, and this year definitely did not disappoint!

'O2 week', as it is known, is designed to welcome those students joining our community mid-year.

The week started with the annual Intercollegiate Paint Party with our friends at UC, Whitley and St Hilda's colleges. A lot of paint and a lot of good times were had at the sellout event and everyone was welcomed back to the college in fine form.

Monday saw Bucks & Hens night kick off in style with the boys and girls parting ways for what was one of the best nights.

Tuesday Trivia was then on the cards with everybody making teams and getting involved. The questions were puzzling and the dining hall was full of enthusiasm and anticipation. Grease the Movie was then screened in the Frewin room as a fundraising event for the upcoming musical which proved successful and a nice break in what is an eventful week.

After another full day of Uni on Wednesday, the activities continued with each floor going out for dinner.

A Scavenger hunt on Thursday evening saw teams spread across the city for an array of different activities. A great time was had by all.

O2 week was rounded out by the Christmas in July dinner followed by the Scribble turn in the JCR which was very successful. Another awesome O2 week for all the students at St Mary's and what a welcome back it was!

Tom Mason

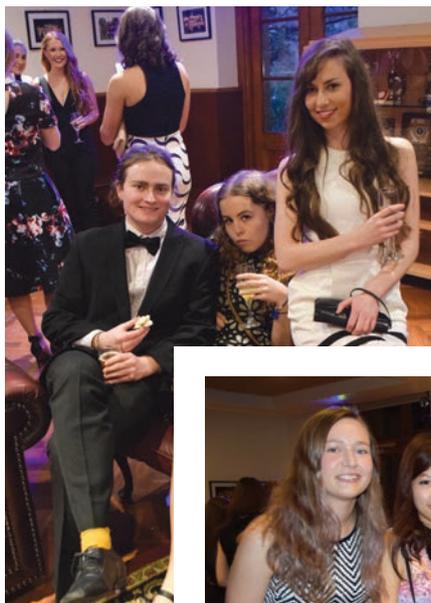


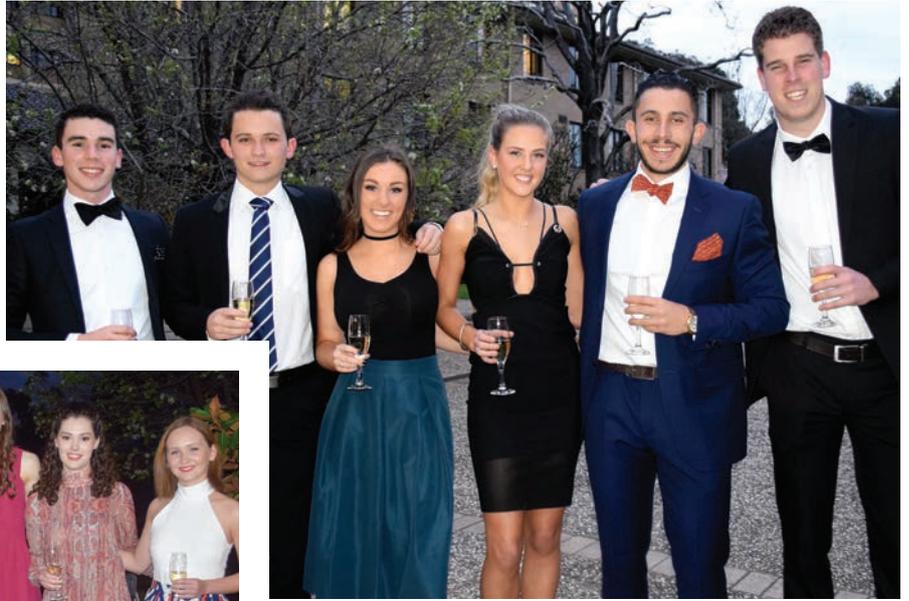
# THE COLLEGE BALL

The St Mary's College Ball is one of the most anticipated and memorable nights in the college calendar and this year proved no exception.

On 9 September we hosted 360 people in the much loved San Remo Ballroom in North Carlton, an iconic venue that has held many a Mary's ball over the decades. It was a night of delicious food, dancing and socialising with fellow past and present St Mary's students and staff, intercollegiate friends and university colleagues.

The traditional pre-dinner drinks in the St Mary's courtyard meant that everyone had the opportunity to be photographed looking their best. The roving photographer and photo booth at the event ensured that the guests at the ball had plenty of material to remember the night. A three-course meal, flowing champagne and the central dance floor with a very obliging DJ created a wonderful evening which, despite lasting five hours, was over too soon!





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# NEWS FROM THE ST MARY'S COLLEGE STUDENT CLUB

Semester 2 was a busy time for the St Mary's College Student Club. As a way to promote involvement in the college community, various week-long events and activities were run.

We started the semester with the inaugural 'So You Think You Can Date?' week. This brand new event involved every student being randomly assigned to take another student out on a 'date' and spend quality time with each other. The ultimate purpose of this week was to get everyone mingling again and provide an opportunity for everyone to meet our new students or 'fresh-freshers' and perhaps talk to someone they had not previously had the opportunity to. As it had never run before we had no expectations for the week, but we were pleasantly surprised and hope that it may continue on in the future!

The classic Guardian Angel Week also ran again this year. This week is all about showering your assigned 'mortal' with love, gifts and everything nice to make them feel as good as possible. During a busy time later in semester when stress levels are often high, it's always nice to find something, whether it be chocolates or a heart-felt poem, outside your door from your mystery guardian angel.

Not only were there weeks to promote college love and community, but there was also GYLIO week, a week purposely created to help Get Your Life In Order. GYLIO week occurs every semester and is a time where we promote staying in instead of heading out, calling your parents, getting on top of uni work, cleaning your room and finally doing that load of washing that you've been putting off for the past month.

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## STUDENT CLUB DINNER

Each and every year the Student Club of St Mary's College tirelessly coordinates numerous events for the calendar and develops initiatives to enhance student experiences.

The Inaugural Student Club Dinner this year provided the first formal occasion to thank contributing members as well as recognise the leaders in our community. These volunteers form the backbone of our college community and events such as O-Week, the Musical or the Ball would not occur without them.

During the evening, the new General Committee for 2016 was also announced following the recent elections. We believe that we have left the Student Club in capable hands and wish them the best of luck for next year. With student leadership changing every year the Student Club will always be a dynamic and evolving organisation.

It may appear sometimes that the Student Club is just an organised social machine but it actually provides real opportunities for students to be elected into leadership positions and hold responsibilities to their peers. Other initiatives include wellbeing awareness weeks, promoting external volunteering opportunities as well as an annual publication of student academic work.

Next year we see the 50th Anniversary of the incorporation of the Student Club and will celebrate 50 years of student organisation and contribution. Many everlasting memories and friendships have been formed over that time and we cannot wait to see what the next 50 years will have in store.

Albert Zhang  
SC President 2015

# 2015 QUIDDITCH

A sunny Sunday afternoon on Ormond's front lawn was the setting for the 2015 ICAC Quidditch tournament. The setup was almost Hogwarts-esque. A slightly smaller but no less luscious grass field was bound at either end by three hoops. Real world Quidditch involves a lot less simulation than expected. It is more of an actual sport than a spin-off of a fictional game in a movie. Its rules involve each player keeping their broom in their hands and between their legs at all times; some players running and throwing balls at their opponents, which forces them out of the game for a short time; and other players throwing another type of ball through the hoops. Perhaps the best part of all the matches was the catching of the Snitch. There was no small golden ball with wings as used in real (or fictional?) Quidditch games. Instead, the Snitch was a person wearing bright yellow shorts with a ball attached at the back, to entice the players who had to 'catch' the Snitch by grabbing the ball. The Snitch chase occurred halfway through each game, so always provided entertainment as the Snitch hid and eluded many of their pursuers.

The team for St Mary's played in the second match of the day. Despite being matched against the intimidating Queens College, we performed extremely well and, at first, it seemed we had won when the match was declared over when we caught the Snitch. However, victory did not come so easily – Queen's had scored enough points for the match to result in a draw. We moved into extra time, which could be won with either scoring through the hoops or catching the Snitch. Unfortunately, Queens was quick to score and snatched victory from our hands.



## FACULTY DINNER

Our special guest at the college's science and engineering faculty night early in Semester 2 was Professor Anne Steinemann, newly appointed Professor of Engineering and Chair of Sustainable Cities in the Faculty of Engineering.

Professor Steinemann is the first woman to be appointed as full professor in civil engineering at The University of Melbourne. Twelve science and engineering students, as well as the Principal and the Dean, enjoyed a most convivial evening with Professor Steinemann in the Loreto Room. The students enjoyed the interaction with Professor Steinemann whose genuine interest in each student was transparent: she asked each of the students about their background and aspirations, and then spoke about her own background – originally from

California but having lived in several states of the US – and her journey into academia. She also encouraged the students to consider postgraduate opportunities and offered to advise any of them interested in pursuing higher studies. The students were fascinated by her research into the health effects of toxicity in so many of the products with which we interact daily. Professor Steinemann's natural rapport with the students ensured a most pleasant and convivial evening for all.

It is notable that since this faculty night, Professor Steinemann and Associate Professor Patrick Quirk of ACU's Thomas More Law School (who was special guest at the college's law faculty night in Semester 1) have been appointed as Scholars-in-residence to commence at St Mary's in February 2016.

# VALETE

In late October, the College farewelled 18 valetants with due ceremony. They are:

- Ellie Bowtell,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Laura Brennan,**  
*Bachelor of Science*
- Liam Cain,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Meghan Choo,**  
*Bachelor of Environments*
- Daniel Ferguson,**  
*Bachelor of Science*
- Sian Fowler,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Peter Fu,**  
*Bachelor of Commerce*
- Krysten Gandhi,**  
*Bachelor of Commerce*
- Flora Harpley-Green,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Kaitlyn Hastings,**  
*Bachelor of Pharmacy (Monash)*
- Megan Krelle,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Erin Lawn,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Vianne Leung,**  
*Bachelor of Arts.*
- Nicholas Pitson,**  
*Bachelor of Science*
- Alexander Port,**  
*Bachelor of Arts*
- Selven Ramamouthy,**  
*Master of Engineering*
- Animesh Sharma,**  
*Bachelor of Commerce*
- Albert Zhang,**  
*Bachelor of Science*

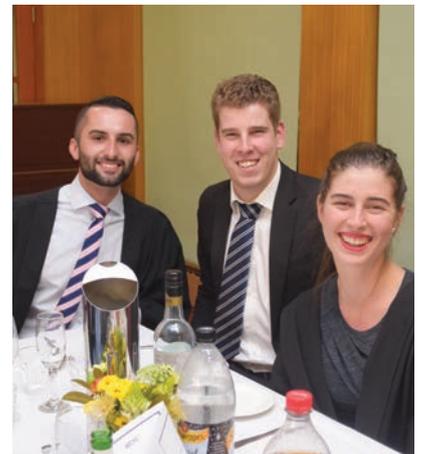
The 2015 Valete – or farewell – to the 18 students who are leaving after three years as members of the college community, comprised two components: i) a formal college dinner on Friday 16 October; and ii) a Mass and formal dinner for invited family and friends on Saturday 17 October. Both evenings were extremely well attended.

The highlight of the college dinner on the Friday evening was the presence of Sister Elizabeth Hepburn ibvm (Principal 2009-13) as guest of honour and speaker. Sister Liz was greeted by a standing ovation as the procession entered the dining room. After the main course, the principal, Dr Darcy McCormack, welcomed Sister Liz to the podium, highlighting that the 2015 Valetants were the last cohort of St Mary's students to have Sister Liz as their principal and that they had, in fact, been selected by her for admission into St Mary's at the start of 2013. It was therefore particularly apt that Sister Liz be the speaker at their Valete dinner. Sister Liz's speech was meaningful and had real poignancy as she spoke of the need for each of us to give and receive love that is pure and unconditional. A sustained standing ovation followed the conclusion of the speech. A copy of the speech is provided in this issue of Verity.

As is the tradition at Valete, a speech was then made by a fellow collegian about each valetant – including the recounting of some notable happenings from their time in college! The evening concluded with the 2015 student club president, Mr Albert Zhang, on behalf of the valetants, thanking Sister Liz for her efforts to be at the dinner and for providing such a meaningful speech; the dean, Ms Rachel Lechmere, then provided the final prayer.

The Mass in the Frewin Room on the Saturday evening was well attended by the valetants and their invited guests of family and friends. The college choir sang enthusiastically, and the students participated fully in the liturgy, having written special prayers of intercession for the occasion. The formal dinner in the dining room was then enjoyed by all. Dr McCormack spoke of the significance of the evening and expressed the wish that the valetants keep actively in touch with the college and join the college alumni association; he concluded by wishing the valetants well with their aspirations and reminded them that the deepest satisfaction in their lives will come from using their considerable knowledge, skills and abilities in the service of others. "May you indeed fare well!" he added.









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# MORAL IMAGINATION AND DISCERNMENT

*Speech given by Sr Elizabeth Hepburn ibvm  
at the Valete Dinner*

...of course, all that I have said so far suggests that moral judgement is complex because it is not just an exercise in rational analysis but requires the faculty of imagination and the interpolation of feelings like compassion and takes seriously the promptings of discomfort. In short, this approach counts feelings as morally significant and claims that moral sensitivity can be cultivated through practices which develop both self-understanding and empathy with others. Fundamental to true self-understanding is the imaginative capacity to identify with others. None of us can experience the full range of possibilities available to us but we can imaginatively enter the worlds of others and hence share something of another perspective. Sound moral judgement, it seems to me, is dependent precisely on this capacity to enter many worlds and is ultimately dependent on what Thomasma calls 'passionate thinking.'

This is a profound contrast with the much prized dispassionate reason urged upon us by the secular humanists, suspicious as they are of personal commitment and the mortal sin of bias.

It is the imaginative entry into the world of another which can transform our world and help us to reframe our obligations in newly sensitive ways. I am not suggesting that there is no objectivity in moral evaluation, I am claiming that such assessment must be fully informed and that this requires not only self-understanding but imagination and identification with others. Let me illustrate the point with a story of a clinical encounter told by Thomas Boyce

*A little more than a year ago, I ran across a dying boy who was relatively young (I will call him Blake), no more than seven years of age and afflicted with a terminal, disfiguring version of mucopolipidosis... Over the years of Blake's short life, the unabated metabolic hoarding of carbohydrates had severely deformed and retarded him. His eyes were clouded and protruded from his face as did his tongue, like the overstuffed contents of a pastry shell too small to contain it. The gums surrounding his peg-like teeth were similarly engorged and frequently bled when disturbed. His massively swollen heart was failing, and he perennially threatened to drown in the secretions that flooded his airway. His chest and belly, glutted with a liver and spleen many times their normal sizes, had together become a single, reddened, congested globe from which four largely useless limbs projected. He was, in short, a small grotesque tomato-of-a-boy whose appearance turned away even the most forgiving eyes.*

*Blake was not overly grateful for the abundant, cutting edge medical care being provided for him....the approach of doctors, nurses and technicians and other assorted hospital personnel was greeted abruptly with a raspy, incoherent grunt and a flailing motion of his arm that meant, indisputably, "Get out of my face!"....*

*One July evening, held in the hospital late by a series of unanticipated events, I approached Blake's room at an unaccustomed hour. His young, single mom, who was at her own place of work for the daylight hours of most days, was sitting on the edge of the bed, deeply immersed in a conversation with Blake. I paused, and then settled at the door, transfixed by the scene before me in the*



*darkened hospital room. Blake's mom was talking to him. In hushed and comforting tones she spoke of the day, wondering how things had gone, asking him about his new nurse, reviewing for him the events of her own day at work. As she spoke, leaning over her son, her hand stroked his forehead and hair in a mundane gesture that filled the room with her love for the boy.*

*Blake's eyes, moist and utterly devoid of his stern resistance, looked up into his mother's face, absorbing every moment, every piece of her presence there with him. Relaxed and more peaceful than I had ever seen him, Blake seemed to melt into his mother's eyes. She stroked his round, swollen face and said to him, "Oh my beautiful, little boy."*

*Suddenly I understood what I had not understood: When this mother gazed at her bloated, dying son, she physically saw a person I had never seen. Transformed by her eyes' willingness to see the child beyond the disease, Blake had become a different being, an individual no longer diseased and distorted but a frightened child visibly changed by his mother's love.*

*In the months since that night and since his death later in that same year, I have often thought of Blake and his mother... I have thought of how mysteriously my own way of seeing Blake was irreparably changed by the experience of watching his mom truly see him and respond to him for who he, finally, was.*

Boyce goes on to reflect how so many stories tell of the clarity of Jesus' sight and the pastoral and moral import of that.



He goes on:

*The wonder of Jesus' way of seeing people, such as me and Blake and countless others, is that it is a transforming vision. It is, miraculously, a way of seeing that is accessible to all of us and one that transforms not only the person seen, but also the person seeing.*

Boyce is making the point that what counts in the clinical encounter is the quality of engagement and that he was shielded from that by his own professionalism, professionalism that is a form of sophism. And Boyce was misled by appearances. It is a danger for all of us. His own rejection of diminishment and suffering informed the way that Boyce approached Blake. He had not seen Blake's humanity and kinship with him. The retrieval of Blake as a person was achieved for Boyce by Blake's mother, and the unscheduled interaction opened Boyce to possibility. Boyce now allowed himself to be touched by the plight of a small frightened boy and he no longer dealt with a terminal condition instantiated in a boy. The point I want to make is that, when we adopt a clarity of vision which is made available through imagination and gives rise to empathy and compassion, then, we will begin to weigh the morally significant features of the situation more authentically. When we acknowledge the similarities between us rather than defining ourselves by difference, then we will be able to call on all the capacities at our disposal as moral agents.



# CULTURE REPORT

The ICAC Soiree was held at Rubix Warehouse in Brunswick and was a huge success. The art section, displayed in a room dimly lit with fairy lights contained an array of beautiful artwork from around the crescent whilst the music category saw a performance from each college in the classical and contemporary section. Wasinee Phornnarit represented St Mary's in the classical section with a lovely piece by Mozart. Overall the night was a sound success and was enjoyed by all who attended.

The Film Festival was a great success this year, seeing an increased number of Lip-Dub video submissions from last year. For those of you who are not familiar with a Lip-Dub video, it is a kind of music video which consists of a few people taking it in turns lip syncing to a popular song while traveling around the location they're in, which in our case was college. This also has to be done in one take. St Mary's embraced the challenge and put up a very enjoyable piece to Carly Rae Jepsen's *I Really Like You* but unfortunately the video from UC was the judges pick with Medley's offering winning the audience choice. The night also consisted of what we called "arty" films which exceeded my expectations of a homemade film. We saw films ranging from those that commented on consumerism to a boy whose friends were stuffed animals. Maddie Reed represented St Mary's in this section with her stunning submission, *Awake*. In the comfort of the lovely red chairs of the Nova cinema, it was an enjoyable Sunday night for all.

Battle of the Bands was, as usual, a most enjoyable event. The band comprised Bernard Yue, Jordan Ridd,

Bevan Madden, Lucy Hay, Ciaran Ross and Winston Wu who were ready, killer set in hand, to blow away the judges and the rest of the crescent. The set consisted of The 1975's *Chocolate*, *Are You Gonna Be My Girl?* by the Aussie band, Jet, and the recent hit from The Weeknd, *Can't Feel My Face*. The night went extremely well and after a series of pub classics and unknown indie songs. St Mary's came out in solid 5th place behind Trinity, IH, JCH and Newman. I am so proud of the band and what they managed to achieve in a short time between finishing the musical and the final performance at Battle of the Bands. I thank everyone who came in support and dominated the front row so the band could truly perform to the enthusiasts.

ICAC Debating in week 3 saw our team of Nick Billings, Fergus Booker, Amelia McNair and Kevin Murphy head to Whitley to debate media access to immigration detention centres. Despite being knocked out in the first round, the team made a great effort against Whitley and I thank all those who attended for their support.

Lucy Hay

# JCR PYJAMA JAM

Culture kicked off the year with a JCR Jam, or Pyjama Jam as we themed it, which saw a range of performances from classical piano to acoustic versions of popular club music. The Frewin Room looked like a giant slumber party as everyone enjoyed the wonder talents of Mary's in their pyjamas with their doonas and pillows. Highlights included a preview from the college musical, *Grease*, featuring Alyssa Ridd, Rosie Ashburner, Cathrine Gay, Lucy McKenzie-McHarg, Loretta Martin and Eleanor Clifford and performance debuts from Loretta Martin and Wasinee Phornnarit.





# COLLEGE MUSICAL

The 2015 St Mary's College performance of *Grease* was a wonderful success, with two of the three shows selling out, and the third show selling almost every ticket.

The production is a great chance for people to become involved in something they may not have had the chance to before College. There were around 60 students involved in a number of different ways, from production team and cast, to props team and technicians, making this one of the biggest events on the College calendar.

It was announced at the end of first semester that the Drama Committee would be taking on yet another musical, and *Grease* was the most popular choice with the Committee. *Grease*, being a widely renowned production, drew much attention from the student body and we soon had our cast and production team sorted.

Rehearsals began in second semester, a week before uni started back, and the cast were amazing from the start. In the first week Alyssa Ridd, Bernard Yue and Catherine Gay managed to teach the cast all twenty songs, and Lucy Hay, Georgina Pitson and Hannah Borash were able to fit in some choreography lessons too. Without these talented individuals, the next six weeks of rehearsals we had prior to the opening show wouldn't have been anywhere near as smooth sailing as they were.

The opening show was amazing to watch, and the audience who filled the theatre was as excited and thrilled with our performance as we were. Thanks to all the people from St Mary's, as well as friends and family, who came along to enjoy the show that everyone worked so hard for.

As Drama Convenor and director, I managed to keep my stress levels to a minimum, and this is all because of everyone who volunteered their time to make the show such a success. Thanks to the Drama Committee for taking on such a big task, thanks to the cast for being such fantastic performers, and thanks to everyone else who contributed in any way, big or small. Good luck to next year's committee, and I encourage everyone to get involved and make the show as big and wonderful as *Grease* was.

Genevieve Lee





# ST MARY'S MARKET PFA

The Mary's Market PFA  
(Pleasant Friday Afternoon)  
was a great event to end the  
college year.

It featured special guests Optimus Rhyme vs the Wizzkid, also known as ex-collegian Liam Gibson and his friend Mitchell Kerr. They performed some fantastic acoustic tracks that floated around the courtyard as a perfect background for the market. They were followed by Leticia Atkinson on guitar and vocals. Intercollegiate spirit was high with an acoustic act from Ormond College. Jageur's Lane. This year's college band, consisting of Ciaran Ross, Bernard Yue, Jordan Ridd, Winston Wu, Bevan Madden and Luce Hay, had their last hurrah with some specially rehearsed songs as well as a couple of old favourites from the year. David Smith followed with some jazz and a souvenir of our childhood, Sesame Street, on the piano. The afternoon was complete when Ciaran, Michael and Evan took to the stage with their very own rap, carefully written over many hours and accompanied by some top guitar skills. All in all, the year's last PFA was just as relaxing as the previous events proved to be. Thanks to everyone who both performed and enjoyed the performances. Tune in for the next PFA early next year!







# SPORTS REPORT

## MEN'S BASKETBALL

Under the wise coaching guidance of 2014 Sports Rep Chris Cappalleri and our own Matt Bethune, the Mary's basketball team started their campaign against Janet Clarke Hall with a convincing win, with Xavier Vearing making a stellar debut in the red and blue. Despite this momentum the boys were unable to capitalise against college crescent powerhouse Ormond College, and even the wise coaches couldn't help the boys pull through their quarter final matchup against IH, going down 51-32. Best players for the tournament include Tom Chalkley, Sam Nicholls and Xavier Vearing.

## WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

The Mary's women's basketball season was a series of exhilarating highs and disappointing lows, with our team having very mixed results over the course of the season. Despite the coaching prowess of ex-collegians Liz Smart, Brooke Healey and 2014 Sports Rep Kat de Boer, the team's skill levels mixed with some dubious umpiring that failed to pick up on an overloaded opposition team led to a considerable defeat. Saying this, our team consistently performed admirably against the larger colleges in the early morning matches, with Lily Corboy and Fresher Sports rep of 2015, Carla D'Allesandro, taking the title of our best players for the tournament.

## TENNIS

Mary's international students dominated team took it to the colleges this season, with intense passages of play from mens duo Animesh Sharma (India) and Brandon Conrad (USA) leading to mixed results, while our very own import from the mother-land Ollie Spray (UK) was performing in typical pommy fashion, occasionally scraping a game or two. In the women's, Sayuri Monnarez (Mexico), who it was discovered had previously represented Harvard's First tennis squad, performed unbelievably only dropping a set to one opposition after an incredibly close 10 games. The standard of the entire tournament was very high, and our men and women's team made sure we were accounted for. Thanks to the team for turning out to so many early mornings and doing St Mary's proud.

## MEN'S FOOTY

Under an extensive coaching team of experienced ex-cols and with the addition of a core of actual footy players, the Mary's footy team seemed destined to sparkle in 2015. Rigorous training led to the first game dressing down of Kendall, with highlights like Alex Port's Jesaulenko-esque screamer over our very own Matt Snell who'd volunteered to play for Kendall to make up numbers, Tim Tielen's exciting chase down,

tackle, then goal right in front of our crowd, and finally the big goal haul from Tom O'Dwyer which saw his the size of his head swell to equal heights. The high injury toll of game one led to a weaker side running out against a big contender for the flag, UC. Despite the efforts of our exceptional backline of Nick Billings and Nik Verbeek, and the heavy runners through the middle – Kevin Murphy and Eamon Dimasi – and the walking tower Matt Bethune (skipper), we failed to capitalise on the day. Finally, the 3rd place playoff against Whitley, a tantalising battle that saw our midfield play a crucial role in the eventual success, with Boris Chong, Matt Bethune and Lewis White linking the play with forwards the ever capable Tom Chalkley, and Jordy Ridd converting the play into crucial goals, providing our large crowd with excitement as they huddled around the GC barbeque for warmth and satisfying sausage. When the final siren sounded, we proved that we'd lusted the 3rd place crown more than the Whitley boys, with the final score 43-38. Eamon Dimasi was crowned the best player for the season, and Sean Bartlett the healthiest eater for the season. Overall a successful season, not quite the diamond standard we wanted, but enough to do St Mary's proud. Special thanks to all those who made the early mornings to support our boys.





ST MARY'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

# 50th Jubilee Celebrations

Celebrating 50 years on Swanston Street  
and 96 years of Loreto leadership of the College

*Return*

*Reflect*

*Renew*

*In preparation for this auspicious event we are calling for any alumni who have photos or memorabilia that they would like to share for a showcase display of the last 50 years of St Mary's.*

*Please contact the College Secretary,  
Kim Exell, on 9349 9502 or email [kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au)  
if you are able to help!*





SATURDAY 12 MARCH 2016

*Celebratory Dinner*  
by invitation

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SUNDAY 13 MARCH 2016

*Open Day*

*Mass at 3pm in The Chapel of the Holy Spirit  
followed by a garden party in the courtyard at St Mary's  
All most welcome*

# ALUMNI REUNIONS

## 2010-2015 Alumni Reunion Cocktail Party & the Annual Francis Frewin Alumni Cocktail Party

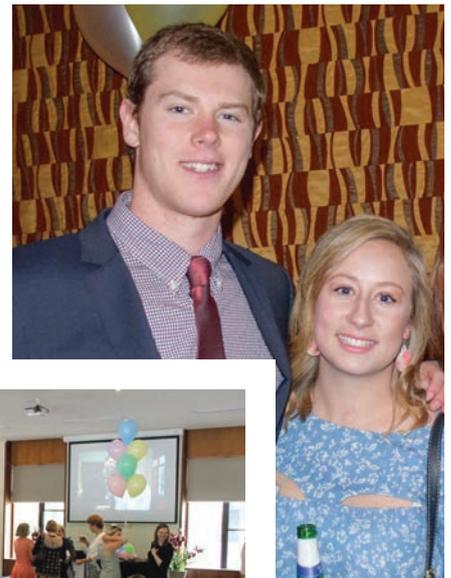
This year saw two successful alumni events being held. On 21 August alumni from 2010-2014 were invited to a cocktail party in the Frewin Room. Around 70 people attended and the evening was a great success. Those present were delighted to catch up with old acquaintances and have all expressed a keen interest in seeing more of these events in the future.

On 24 October we held the Annual Francis Frewin Alumni Reunion Cocktail Party. This function is now in its 4th year and continues to go from strength to strength. It was encouraging to see so many familiar faces on the night and we are confident that this event will continue to grow as we continue in our endeavours to re-connect the St Mary's Alumni.

## Annual Alumni Mass

The day after the Annual cocktail party, the Annual Alumni Mass for the Deceased was held in the College chapel. The Mass was also dedicated to the life of Sr Veronica Brady ibvm and it was lovely to see the chapel full for such a moving service.

The following is the eulogy given by Ms Agnes Dodds at the service and a tribute to Sr Veronica written by Sr Jane Kelly ibvm, a long-time friend and colleague of Sr Veronica's.







## Some Random Memories of VERONICA BRADY ibvm

JANE KELLY IBVM

25th August 2015

My sisters, Noel and Caroline were taught by Veronica at school. I wasn't, but had the great good fortune to have her as a tutor in English when finishing my BA in Arts at Melbourne University. She arrived at the University and joined the community to at St Mary's College sometime in the course of either 1967 or '68. I was newly professed and she was coming from Toronto I think, and was engaged by Christ College (Chadstone) to teach. She was in the final stages of writing up her doctoral thesis. That I do have is a very clear memory of her sitting precariously anywhere at all, or walking up and down and up and down the centre of the St Mary's courtyard, writing, writing, writing on tiny scraps of paper – mainly using the back of old envelopes. She used the most incredible scraps and at some time or other obviously transposed them all onto paper. That was the first thing that intrigued me.

When the thesis was finally complete I suppose someone had typed it up, chapter by chapter, transposing Veronica's almost illegible hand into type. Veronica appeared one night, thesis bundled in a rather haphazard fashion and placed in what I recall as being a somewhat flimsy, large brown paper bag on which she was writing the address of whoever it was she was sending the manuscript to in Toronto. For some reason Agnes Dodds and I came across her in the midst of this procedure; took the thesis from her in its bag, tut-tutting and telling her this would never do, as we proceeded to find string and lots of stronger brown paper to ensure this precious document would actually make it through the mail! I have two other main memories of this. One is of Veronica perched on an armrest looking

at us and giggling (I think that is the right word here) as we beavered away. The other is that it was quite late and night. Veronica and I certainly, should have been in silence and I'm sure that as a young nun, I should have been in bed! So somehow we had to work quietly without being discovered by Mother Louis who prowled the corridors of St Mary's from about 9.30pm and invariably discovered illicit goings on in the most unlikely places. We packaged the thesis in professional style, addressed it ready for Veronica to take it the post next day, somehow evaded Mother Louis and spluttered our various ways to bed.

The other thing about Veronica at St Mary's that I recall vividly, was her extraordinary generosity with time. She was tutoring English at the College. I can't remember if she was actually employed as a tutor at the University or not, but in whatever way, students from all over the campus came knocking. I can recall nights when she started her College tutorials at about 7.30pm after dinner. As one tutorial started, a queue would form along the front passage and sometimes out the front door, of another group of students waiting for the next tute. As a general rule tutorials were held in the afternoon and evening 7.30-8.30; maybe then 8.30 till 9.30. My recollection of Veronica is that she just kept going for as long as there were students seeking her help. And they certainly weren't just from the College.

I'm not sure how long she was actually resident there as at some stage I think she returned to Toronto to defend her thesis and in about 1972 was appointed to UWA, but her presence made a tremendous impact for however long it was. And in all her visits back to Melbourne over years and years, whenever she stayed at the College which she often did, word would get around and the phone would start ringing. Often she

was hardly in the door when the ringing would start. What always impressed me was the way she answered every single call and tried to accommodate the many people asking for her presence somewhere whether it be for a personal or professional commitment.

The other funny memory I have is of Veronica with the dog. After the residence was built at St Mary's, I got a puppy called Jedda. Veronica was in the process of writing the Judith Wright biography at the time, and staying with us over a short period, set herself up in the little spare room we had downstairs overlooking the residence garden. She'd sit with her manuscript (more scraps of paper) on her knee, from time to time looking out the window. Jedda, still a puppy was outside playing. One of his games was jumping into an old cardboard box large enough to hold him, and let it go skidding across the grass. Sometimes the box overturned with him under it, so all you'd see was an upside-down box running, propelled across the garden by four little black legs going for their lives underneath. This was too much for Veronica as it sent her into paroxysms of mirth. She had to turn her chair around to concentrate – but over years when she visited, or when we'd be sitting seriously at some province meeting, she would lean over and whisper: 'Will you ever forget that dog in the box'. It became a sort of secret memory we shared – until she didn't any more.

Veronica will remain an inspiration to me. I know she could be impossible and irascible and difficult, but she lived her vocation, religious and secular. She lived fully her ibvm commitment in public and in private – and often mentioned how fortunate she was because she couldn't imagine another religious order putting up with her. Nor did she ever forget the centrality of the gospel and Jesus crucified -still in our midst. She read and talked and laughed and partied and argued. And she prayed.

Knowing her was enrichment for me. I give thanks.

# In Memory of VERONICA BRADY *ibvm*

AGNES DODDS

25th October, 2015

This is about a prophet. A prophet who was an Australian, and like all prophets was torn by the realities of the world in which she lived. A prophet is someone who tells things how they are. Veronica certainly was known for telling things how they are – that is – how she saw them.

She told them whether you wanted her to or not, as Margaret Findlay said at the funeral about Loreto community meetings when the little hand would go up and ‘I’m sorry, but.....’ would break into the debate.

Deeply rooted in her Irish-Australian heritage, this prophet frequently pointed to our cultural and religious shortcomings and our national privileges, possibilities and responsibilities. The prophetic vision was laced with wit but also with doom.

We may not naturally think about a prophet as

- A skinny little woman,
- With zinc cream on her ears
- And a glass of red in her hand.

But this was one who looked into the heart of Australia -

and called its ills and its decencies how she saw them, as fearlessly as any bearded Elijah or John the Baptist. Yet it was always with her sense of being a Loreto and a Catholic (as she saw those). She was always a nun. When Phillip Adams in a radio interview in 2009 asked her if she had ever thought of leaving, she said ‘No, never. This is who I am’. Nun. Loreto. Catholic. Australian.

Now Australia is not very good with prophets (and neither, dare I say, is the Catholic church). There were many both inside and outside the church who dismissed Veronica either as a nutter, or a nuisance. Certainly as an irritant with always a comment and a critique. Prophets are not known for being even-handed, or for seeing the other side’s point of view, and Veronica was no exception. Bigotry, sloppy thinking or mean mindedness would meet with an outraged – ‘Oh Rubbish!’ But, there were many who resonated to what she said, and, as they listened, were challenged by it. The challenge could be in many forms – Vietnam, the environment, the plight of Aboriginal people, the role (or lack of it) of women in the Church, but mainly about the poor and marginalized. If you had privileges, as she had, you had to speak and act against injustice wherever you saw it, especially to speak out for those who could not speak for themselves.

In her commentaries, she was primarily interested in values. She valued above all justice, and literature as a way for us to know culture, the world we live in, how we should act, and ultimately God.

She said about Poetry, and I think she saw all forms of literature in a similar way, poetry ‘is a way not only of knowing but also of living in the world, straining towards fullness of consciousness in which what is outside is fused with what lies within the self’. Veronica wrote that about Judith Wright. It was what she wanted for her own life. But.....

As many of you will know, Veronica’s relationship with the physical world was challenged and the inner commitment to nature was not easily expressed physically. The physical world often fought back. With the creations of people, with literature, and art and music she was right at home, but not with the objects around her. When she was a novice and the other novices were sweeping the floors, Mother Dymphna would say ‘Now Veronica, you just go and read a book, we don’t have time to do it all again’. (It was of course, Mother Dymphna who saw the potential in all that reading and sent her to Canada to do her PhD with Northrop Frye).

For over 20 years when Veronica came to Melbourne she divided her time between St Mary’s and Brunswick, and it was always stimulating, sometimes frustrating, and quite often expensive as we replaced irons that mysteriously failed to work after being dropped, blinds that had to have all the cords replaced, and the time we came back from holidays to find that she had painstakingly put the blankets inside the duvet covers – her comment ‘I don’t know why you put your blankets in those bags. How do you get any work done if you have to do that all the time’. But she was always willing – the cry of ‘I’ll do it, I’ll do it’ was often heard and the usual reply was ‘No, Vee, it’s fine, we’ll do it, it’s no trouble’.

Angie Quill used to march her off to buy new clothes (on the North Shore) when the ones she was wearing were in danger of complete disintegration – artfully getting the shop assistant to remove the price tags. Angie thought that an ABC Board member should have zips that did up.

She had a special love for Italy and Spain, but was not partial to England or the English. On the last time I saw her, she lamented that her travelling was over and she would not see her beloved Italy again. I travelled with her and, for example, shared her delight in the hill towns of Spello and Spoleto – and spent a night in a sleazy hotel in Genoa with a chair under the door knob as drunken sailors roamed the corridors. We found out later it was

a 'short stay' hotel – and the sailors would have been very surprised.

Veronica believed in living, and in making your life useful.

Useful for righting wrongs (once you had identified the wrongs to be righted by reading good literature).

- Useful for making life better for people who were marginalized.
- Useful for changing bad things into good things.
- Speaking out.
- Standing up.
- Taking action.
- Being true to the Christian message.
- With Veronica's death, Australia arguably lost one of its great religious thinkers. But it undoubtedly lost a great religious activist.

She may have had some problems with living in the physical world. But she had no problems at all with the life of the mind and the spirit. She lived in the mind. Her spirit was strong.

But along with believing in living, Veronica believed in dying.

Between us Jeanette and I spent 20 years trying to stop her from telling people, "Cheer up, you'll soon be dead", and "We'll be better off dead", particularly when, in her opinion, some political stupidity made life less just, less gracious, less real.

You got your wish Veronica, although the getting there took all your strength at the end.

We miss you greatly and we'll have to pick up the challenge and make life useful.

But without the guidance of your prophecies.

## ALUMNI NEWS

### BIRTH, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

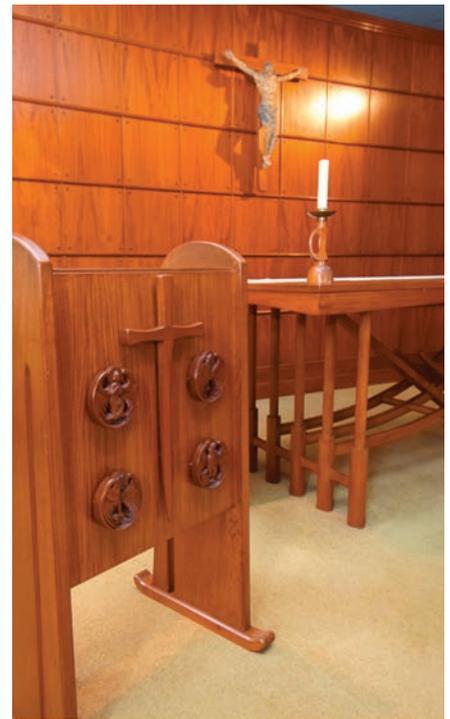
#### Births

On 23rd September, Aimee Patten (nee Kong - St Marys 1999-2002) and husband Craig, welcomed daughter Mae Hui-Jing to the world. A beautiful baby sister for two year old Eve.

#### Obituaries

The St Mary's College community was saddened to learn of the passing of Alumna, Mary Baldock, on 23 August 2015.

A Requiem Mass was held for Mary at the St Louis de Montford Catholic Church, Aspendale, on Wednesday 26 August 2015. A Prayer and a Service of Thanksgiving and Farewell were conducted at the Mildura Lawn Cemetery, Nichols Point, on Thursday 27 August 2015.



### UPCOMING EVENTS

#### 50th Jubilee Celebrations

##### *Celebratory Dinner*

Saturday 12 March 2016

##### *Mass in The Chapel of the Holy Spirit at 3pm*

*followed by a Garden*

*Party in the College*

*courtyard*

Sunday 13 March 2016



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