

# VERITY

JULY 2015



ST MARY'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE



# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 03 A Word from the Principal
- 04 From the Editor
- 05 Commencement Mass and Dinner 2015
- 08 From the Archives
- 10 College Day
- 11 Exchange Student News
- 12 Principal's Dinner
- 14 2015 Scholarship Recipients
- 15 High Table at the College
- 16 Mannix Day
- 18 O Week
- 20 News from the Academic Centre
- 22 Culture Report
- 23 ESAC News
- 23 Survivor Week
- 24 Oratory Competition
- 25 Student Club Report
- 26 Alumni News
- 29 Loreto Federation
- 29 Lunch in the Loreto Room
- 30 Sports Report



# A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL



DR DARCY MCCORMACK

It has been a privilege over the last six months to serve as Principal of St Mary's College. It has been a time of getting to know people (no small task with 161 students, 15 staff, seven resident tutors, and 20 academic tutors!), re-immersing myself in the college's culture, and meeting with the various individuals and groups who make up this extraordinary college community; it has also involved people getting to know me and my aspirations for the college. The task has been made easier by my time on the college council – and the familiarity that has provided with many of the strategic issues and strengths of the college.

The college has been left in outstanding shape by the Loreto Sisters who administered St Mary's so effectively from its foundation in 1918 until the end of 2013; we are all beneficiaries of the efforts of those extraordinary women. I have been fortunate to know four of my predecessors – Sisters Jane Kelly, Deirdre Rofe, Maureen Bourke and Elizabeth Hepburn. The encouragement, wisdom and advice of Sister Jane and Sister Liz have been invaluable and much appreciated over these last six months.

The concept of a residential college at a university is at least as important today as it has ever been - at its core, a community of students and scholars engaged in learning about life, each other, and their disciplines within an environment that challenges them holistically to be outward-focused. At a time

of transition to independence and living away from home for the first time for many, students are faced with the challenge of seeing themselves not at the centre of the universe but, rather, as a valued and unique member of the community. Respect for each other, tolerance and support are lived out daily. The vision of the Catholic Bishops of Victoria in establishing St Mary's in 1918 is, arguably, even more important for society today than it was 97 years ago!

By the time you read this, Ms Rachel Lechmere will have commenced as Dean & Deputy Principal of the college. Rachel brings a wealth of experience to the role. Originally from Bendigo and a former student at St Mary's (and president of the student general committee in 1996), Rachel has qualifications in arts (psychology and history) and theology, and a Master of

Education; she also has vast experience in education and youth retreat work across metropolitan and regional Victoria, and is currently Deputy Principal at MacKillop College, Werribee. I am eagerly awaiting Rachel's arrival!

We have also recently farewelled Ms Elizabeth Burns who contributed much to life at the college over the last 18 months – first as Acting Dean & Deputy Principal in 2014 and then as Engagement Co-ordinator this semester. We wish Elizabeth every success and happiness in her future endeavours.

Two significant milestones for St Mary's are fast approaching - on the weekend of 12-13 March 2016 the college will celebrate 50 years on the current site and the attainment of full college status with affiliation with the university (previously St Mary's Hall was sited in The Avenue, Parkville). A celebratory dinner is planned in the college dining room on the Saturday evening, and on the Sunday an Open Day will feature historic photographs and memorabilia, there will be a Mass at 3pm in the Newman chapel, followed by a garden party in the St Mary's courtyard. And in 2018 the college will celebrate its centenary. I hope you will be able to participate in some of the celebrations planned for these significant milestones.

**Dr Darcy McCormack**  
Principal

# FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the first edition of *Verity* for 2015. It has been a very hectic start to the year; East Wing renovations rendered the offices out of action so for the first six weeks of the year staff were operating from empty student rooms! Notwithstanding the disruptions, freshers and returners arrived and have quickly settled in to college life.

The year started with O Week, renamed Ocean Week due to its distinctly aquatic theme. The Student Committee did a wonderful job of organising a myriad of fun events all aimed at familiarising the freshers with their new surroundings.

The Commencement Day Mass celebrated by the Archbishop of Melbourne, was followed by dinner in the dining hall. The following week saw the start of the intercollegiate sporting events with cricket and women's softball being the first cabs off the rank.

The Principal's Dinner was well attended with students eager to hear from our new Principal, Professor Darcy McCormack, and High Table commenced for the year with some memorable guests attending over the semester.

April was a full month for sporting events and formal dinners. The first of our Faculty Dinners took place as well as the International Dinner and Turn. Survivor Week was a huge success laden with spy-craft, subterfuge and tightly kept secrets!

In May we celebrated everything that is St Mary's College with a plethora of College Day activities, which you can read all about later in this edition.

The month also saw the start of training for the Rowing Regatta, in which we came an admirable second to Ormond College; Get Your Life in Order Week, encouraging students to get back to the basics of life at College; a JCR Jam and an Open Mic Night.

June saw students quickly settling into the more serious side of university life, with SWOTVAC and exams taking place before they all set off for a well-deserved break.

The Alumni Association has been meeting regularly and some great discussions are taking place on ways to connect with our Alumni. Events coming up include a 5 Year Reunion Cocktail Party for students from 2010-2014 which will be held on 21st August 2015 and there are more reunions in the planning stages. The Annual Francis Frewin Cocktail Party for all alumni is on 24th October followed by the Annual Alumni Mass, including prayers for the deceased, at noon on Sunday 25th October. In addition, planning has started on our "50 years on site" Jubilee celebrations in March 2016, details of which you will find herein. With these events in mind, it becomes even more important to make sure that we have up-to-date contact details for you, so once again I encourage you to email me on [kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au](mailto:kexell@stmarys.unimelb.edu.au) with any changes to ensure you don't miss out!

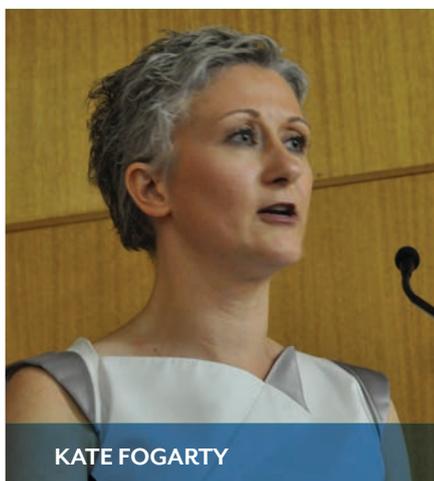
**Kim Exell**  
College Secretary and Alumnist



# COMMENCEMENT MASS AND DINNER 2015



The commencement of the 2015 academic year was marked by the College community on Friday 6th March with Mass in the Frewin Room, followed by a formal dinner in the college dining room. Staff and students were joined by members of the College Council and donors of scholarships.



KATE FOGARTY

The Principal Celebrant of the Mass was the Chair of the College Council, Archbishop Denis Hart DD. Fr Michael Elligate was concelebrant. The college community was delighted that Sister Elizabeth Hepburn ibvm, Principal of the college 2009-2013, was able to join us for the Mass and dinner. In his homily, the Archbishop highlighted the holistic approach to human development offered by St Mary's – academic, spiritual, physical, social and psychological. He also noted how proud he is of the achievements of St Mary's students, and encouraged them to pray at any time of the day or night, including in the

College's beautiful hand-crafted chapel. The college choir led the singing, accompanied by David Smith playing the grand piano. The students participated enthusiastically in the liturgy-in the readings, prayers of intercession, and as special ministers of the Eucharist. At the conclusion of the Mass, the president of the Student Club General Committee, Albert Zhang, led all present in reciting the college Mission Statement.

The Commencement Dinner featured an address by former student, Ms Kate Fogarty, recently appointed as Principal of Assumption College, Kilmore. Kate spoke fondly of her time at St Mary's, recalling several instances that indicated she has vivid and positive memories of her time in college. Kate also offered advice to current students on taking advantage of the many opportunities available to them and warned them against underestimating their abilities.

A further highlight of the evening was the presentation of scholarships to 31 students with outstanding academic achievements, including 13 returning students with an H1 (First Class Honours) average. Of note was the participation of several of the donors of the scholarships - which was appreciated by the recipients. Sister Liz surprised and delighted all with the announcement, on behalf of the Loreto Sisters, that they are donating a capital endowment to the college's Scholarships and Bursaries Fund – with the investment return on the endowment to fund a scholarship each year in perpetuity. The dinner itself was of the usual high standard provided by the St Mary's kitchen – and the college chefs and kitchen staff were thanked enthusiastically by the students.

The evening concluded with a 'turn' for the students in the Junior Common Room while staff and guests headed to the Loreto Room for a slightly more sedate time!





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# FROM THE ARCHIVES AT ST MARY'S COLLEGE

*(notes attributed to Mother Francis)*

## A recent display at the Academic Centre showcased photographs of the chapel at St Mary's College.

The superb craftsmanship is the work of an artist craftsman Schulim Krimper (1893-1971) who was engaged by Mother Francis, Principal of St Mary's College 1944-1952, 1955-1969 to work on the Chapel. Krimper is quoted as saying "I only help nature. If you help nature with your hands, you can do many wonderful things." R.I. Downing in his preface to a National Gallery of Victoria booklet on Krimper published in 1971 and in the display case, writes: "What makes human life worth living is that, just sometimes, you meet a man who makes you realize what it can mean to be human. For me, and I think for many who knew him, Mr Krimper was such a man."

There is also a letter from Elsbeth Krimper to Mother Francis thanking her

for an invitation to view her husband's finished workmanship. In this letter there is reference to the crucifix carving as "polychromed wood, Italian 16th century... probably Florentine."

On display are also descriptions of the chapel and its outstanding woodwork, alleged to have been written by Mother Francis.

The Chapel is a large room within the building. The Sanctuary wall, panelled from floor to ceiling in Thai teak, has a slight concave curve and this feature together with the beautiful crucifix attached to it, is meant to suggest a welcoming entrance. 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 floor is covered with carpet of a golden beige tone, which contrasts harmoniously with the curtains of peacock blue over the four southern

windows, the large triple window facing east, and the glass outside door on the North. These two colours are repeated in muted tones in the old ivory nylax covering the upper walls, and the same material in blue on the ceiling.

The crucifix needs a word of description. The teak cross is modern, but the figure is old. It was procured for the College by Mr Haines, buyer for the Sydney Art Gallery, who kindly brought it from Italy. Here is his note on it – "It really is a fine carving and we had some difficulty in obtaining permission for it to come out of Italy. The figure is polychromed wood, Italian, 16th century and comes from Tuscany. It is probably Florentine."

The paint has partly worn off, but that does not spoil the delicate but strong lines of the body and the particularly beautiful head.

The furnishing of the Chapel, all of Thai teak except the window sills which are





of solid African teak, was executed by Mr S. Krimper. The altar is simple in design, a wide table supported at either end by a row of five slender columns. Three curved supports cross in the centre. A processional candlestick stands at either end of the table.

The tabernacle, designed by the Nun Principal, and executed by Mr Dan Flynn is of Byzantine style. The sides of the metal safe are covered by a series of narrow panels of dull gold, each one bearing a figure. In the centre front is a double panel representing Rublev's Christ Enthroned, the Russian version of the Greek Pantocrator. Coming towards him on either side are,

on the right, Our Lady, St. Gabriel and St Peter, and on the left St John the Baptist, St Michael and St Paul.

These figures are taken from icons which appear on the iconostasis in Eastern Churches. The tabernacle door, bearing a crucifix with two small angels, is on the inner side. At one side of the door stand St Gregory of Nyssa, and St Basil, and on the other side St John Chrysostom and St Augustine – the later in Byzantine vestments – an ecumenical gesture! The tabernacle stand harmonizes with the altar. A carved Alpha and Omega is suspended by wooden links beneath the tabernacle.

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 organ screen was designed by Mr Krimper, except for the centre panel carved by the late Audor Meszaroo, of a figure blowing a trumpet, wonderfully expressing joy.

The walls of the Chapel are panelled to the height of four feet. The door from the corridor bears a representation of the Tree of Life, mentioned in the Psalms and the Apocalypse. The Sacristy door shows a simplified version of the Root of Jesse. The inner area of each door is the same, a series

of horizontal beams alternating with rows of circular insets, showing the circular in contrast to 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 Sanctuary lamp consists of a ruby glass in a teak cup pierced with circular holes through which the light shines.

On the wall opposite the Sanctuary lamp hangs an icon of Our Lady and the Divine Child, an excellent reproduction of the Vladimir Madonna. Before the icon a teak lamp holder in the form of a flower, (carved by Mr Krimper) holds an amber glass, and the subdued light of the flame enhances the grave beauty of Our Lady's contemplative and noble face.

The entire College bears witness to the great generosity of countless friends and benefactors, and the two groups of ladies; the Past Students' Association and the Ladies' Auxiliary have created a living tradition of "sharing" by their vital interest and close association with the Community and all that concerns the College. It would not be St Mary's without them.



# COLLEGE DAY

College Day on Friday 1st May was a day of celebrating life at St. Mary's College. The day started with a hearty (if somewhat noisy) breakfast in the College dining room and was followed by a spectacular Freshers vs Tutors debate, with the topic being "High Table should be held five nights per week" - which was contested with fervour by both teams. Following a quiet interval, the students embarked on a "silent disco" around the University campus; the sight of 160 students with headphones on and dancing to music that only they could hear was truly a vision to behold!

The Helping Hands Auction was a popular event and raised close to \$2000. The proceeds went to Mary Ward International for development projects; a wide variety of items were auctioned. Bidding was particularly fierce on some items – even a dinner for six prepared and cooked by Dr McCormack attracted strong bidding! A carnival in the afternoon saw the arrival of an array of jumping castles and waterslides in West Garden and the sun graced us with its presence for the afternoon.

The day culminated with Mass celebrated by Fr Michael Elligate, followed by a wonderful dinner in the College dining room. We thank all those who attended, including College Council members Dr Margaret Flatman, Mr Patrick Houlihan and Mr Chris O'Grady, as well as our guest speaker for the evening, Professor Anne Twomey, an alumna who is Professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Sydney, and who gave an engaging and humorous talk, and Sister Natalie Houlihan ibvm, another alumna, who is currently helping establish and develop a new school in Timor Leste. College Day 2015 was indeed a fitting celebration of what St Mary's means for all of us!



# EXCHANGE STUDENT NEWS

Study abroad has been a huge part of my experience at the University of Illinois. During my first two years I participated in short-term trips to South Africa and Sweden. I learned a lot and made new friends but I didn't feel like I had enough time to immerse in the culture. So, last July I decided to look into studying abroad for a semester, and after lots of consideration I chose to apply for a semester exchange program at Melbourne Uni.



After committing to the program my next priority was housing. When I was looking at all my options I knew that I wanted to try out living in a college. The Global Mobility office coordinated with all the colleges and said that St Mary's would be the best option for me, as it is located close to campus and accessible. I've been at Melbourne Uni for three months now, and there's no place I'd rather be during my time in Australia.

Living at St Mary's has been great for many reasons. When I first moved in I was so nervous about making friends and finding my way around. But right away, people started coming to my door to introduce themselves and made me feel welcome. All the students and staff were friendly and willing to help with whatever I needed. When classes started, it was nice to see familiar faces on campus even though I had only been in Australia for a few weeks. I found people in all of my classes that live in St Mary's, which makes late nights at the Academic Center easier.

At St Mary's, I've made many memories that I wouldn't have experienced back in the States. From O-Week, to formal dinners, College Day, JCR Jams, the Yarra Valley winery tour and the upcoming surprise "event", there is always something fun going on. Living in college, I've made friends that I was able to travel with too. I had an amazing time traveling with Alyssa in Tasmania and with Jesse in Cairns.

Even though I'm only in Australia for one semester, I have made friendships at St Mary's that will last a lifetime. It was great to be able to meet Australians as well as other exchange students that I will keep in touch with back in the States. My exchange experience would not have been complete without St Mary's, and I'm so glad that I got to call this place my home for the semester.

Shannon Kelly  
Illinois USA



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# PRINCIPAL'S DINNER

The 2015 Principal's Dinner was held in the college dining room on Friday 13 March. As the second formal dinner of the year, the evening provided a further opportunity for students to get to know new members of the college community and for the college community to learn a little more about the new principal, Dr Darcy McCormack, and his vision for the college.

The principal's address began with Dr McCormack outlining how the unlikely background of growing up on a farm had helped prepare him for his first few weeks as the college's principal! His reasoning was the wide diversity of roles that the principal's position involves – and the associated 'gear changes' that are required several times each day. "Like many of you, I was fortunate to grow up on a farm. In many ways, life on a farm has surprising similarities to being principal of this college – I remember learning from Dad the basics of fencing, staff management, contracts, time management, plumbing, and respecting the seasons and cycles of nature, to name just a few of the varied aspects of the typical day of a farmer. And from Mum I learned to value the unique contributions, and to treat with respect and hospitality, the various workers and contractors who came to the farm, and also how to manage finances responsibly. Each of these activities, in its own way, has important life lessons but, more relevantly, the ability to switch from one activity to the next, and often with minimal or no warning, helps

build resilience and an inner calmness that enable the farmer to not be fazed by the most unanticipated event".

The role played by St Mary's in supporting students through a time of significant transitions in their lives was highlighted by Dr McCormack. In particular, he focused on the international, regional and rural students moving from home to Melbourne, and adjusting to an approach to learning and a way of life that emphasises personal responsibility and internal locus of control. He highlighted particularly the formation of quality friendships among the students – where mutual support and appreciation develop. "Quality friendships form and these will endure in the years ahead. Indeed, my personal experience is that the friendships that I enjoyed during my time here in St Mary's have certainly endured over the years since I left."

One of the privileges of college life that was emphasised in the principal's address was getting to know and appreciate people from different countries, ethnicities and religious traditions. It was noted that each individual brings to the college community their own experiences and story. "This diversity enriches the whole community by challenging each of us to see any situation from the other's perspective – to 'put yourself in somebody else's shoes'. But too often such empathy is misinterpreted as requiring a compromising of your own perspective – it is, more accurately, the ability to appreciate and be sensitive to the other's perspective and how he or she has arrived at such a perspective. Living in a community and education – both being central aspects of life at St Mary's - are two highly effective counters to any desire to impose one's own perspective on others: recent tragic events in other countries

illustrate starkly the danger of not being open to understanding the perspectives of others. Indeed, empathy becomes increasingly important as more and more people move internationally".

Dr McCormack challenged students to seriously consider going on an exchange program: "I therefore encourage each of you to consider going on an international exchange program while undertaking your degree. Just as we welcome exchange students into our college community each semester – and they add so much to the richness of our experience - I urge each of you to consider going outward on exchange. Such programs provide a unique opportunity for you to experience life in another country, with all of the valuable challenges and learning that that entails, in addition to the academic benefits."

And Dr McCormack concluded, "Being a member of this college community provides extraordinary opportunities; it is my hope that we can encourage increasing numbers of students to avail themselves of these opportunities - and in doing so, these students will enrich all of us. As the college approaches its centenary I believe that it is well placed to continue to provide an educational experience that equips students well to face effectively the challenges of our rapidly evolving world."

Following the dinner, the student General Committee hosted its first full meeting of students for 2015.



# 2015 SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

**2015 St Mary's College  
Alumni Scholarship**  
Albert Zhang



**2015 Culican-Ward Scholarship**  
Emily Trusler



**2015 Invergowrie Scholarship**  
Katie Baxter  
Eliza Goode



**2015 Kallady Gippsland Scholarship**  
Jordan Bartlett  
Harley Zelenko

**2015 Maria  
Jens Scholarship**  
Kaitlyn Hastings

**2015 Melbourne Archdiocesan  
Scholarship**  
Carla D'Alessandro  
Claire Demeo  
Renee Demeo  
Joanna Fitzgerald  
Jack Lang  
Rebecca Porte  
Ciaran Ross



**2015 St Mary's College Scholarship  
(Freshers)**  
Lucy Cai  
Eleanor Clifford  
Megumi Yokote  
Matthew Snell



**2015 St Mary's College Scholarship  
(Returners)**  
Emma Barnett  
Matthew Bethune  
Alphonsus Jia Wei Chan  
Caleb Foster-McLachlan  
Sian Fowler  
Krysten Gandhi  
Danting Guo  
Kathy Hu  
Megan Krelle  
Erin Lawn  
Chen Qian  
Ruth Spencer  
Jeremy Waite



# HIGH TABLE AT THE COLLEGE

The College has been fortunate to welcome many guests to High Table this semester. A request to the Alumni for volunteers to talk to the students on “what next” after their degree, was met with great response and more will attend in Semester 2. We thank all who responded.

Anna Coldwell (2005) spoke on her work as a scientist with CSL as well as her post-College studies in Dietetics and Public Health. The Commerce students in particular were most interested to talk to Sam Vorwerg (1998) on his role as a partner with Deloitte and the post-graduation path he took to attain this challenging position. All the aspiring lawyers were interested to hear Mark Carey (2009) on his work for the law firm Lander & Rogers, dealing mostly in family Law. James McClerken, a graduate from the University of Sydney, spoke of his experiences in the entertainment industry since graduating with a degree in Media and Communications. Currently finishing a commissioned script for a blockbuster, he amused the students with descriptions

of his time as the Red Power Ranger.

Other guests included Dr Max Stephens from the Education Faculty, University of Melbourne, the French scholar and jazz musician Emeritus Professor Colin Nettelbeck and Mrs Nettelbeck, Ms Claire Berry who works with the students on resume preparation and interview skills, Costa and Athena Loukellis from Connecticut, the parents of Semester 1 exchange student Alex, and the current President of University of Melbourne Students' Union, Ms Rachel Withers.

The presence of guests at High Table enriches the lives of the students here at College and we thank all our guests.



ANNA COLDWELL



RACHEL WITHERS



SAM VORWERG



## MANNIX DAY

On 29th March, the long-standing rivalry between St Mary's and Mannix was played out at the State Netball and Hockey Centre.

Due to difficulties in obtaining both a football field and basketball court the sport representatives of both colleges decided to make a change to the traditional sports and play netball and futsal instead. Netball was the first sport of the day, with the women kicking off.

The Mannix ladies got an early head start and proved too strong a team for Mary's, winning 28-20. The men really got into the spirit of the day and sported the Mary's netball dresses for the second game.

It proved to be an incredibly close match, played with the same ferocity as an AFL football match with speckies and handballs featuring as key skills from both teams; sadly the boys were overwhelmed in the fourth quarter and lost 26-30. The netball portion of the day was finalized by a game of mixed, with great humor and lightheartedness – there were some very interesting height match-ups in the goal ring, and Mannix won 25-19.

Following the disappointment of the early afternoon's losses, the St Mary's students decided to knuckle down and prove their worth. The addition of some strong soccer players allowed Mary's to approach the field with much greater confidence. Mannix ladies found themselves without opportunities at goal due to strong defence; their defenders were also unable to compete with the skills of Mary's front line. The first goal saw great elation from the girls and supporters and their luck continued with Mary's winning 2-0. The men's game was again very close with neither team able to score and so it was decided to go to penalties. St Mary's scored the first goal, but Mannix quickly answered with one of their own. Ultimately Mary's chance to win came down to their goalkeeper; the supporters were in great suspense and ecstatic when the soccer ball found the corner of the goals. All the Mary's supporters ran to embrace and congratulate the boy's team on their efforts. Together Mannix and St Mary's Colleges celebrated the fun, sport-filled day by sharing dinner together at Mary's. The kitchen put on a delicious meal and if Mannix weren't already impressed by Mary's sporting ability they certainly were by the food! Many new acquaintances and friendships were made: proving that friendship, after all, was the real winner.





# O WEEK



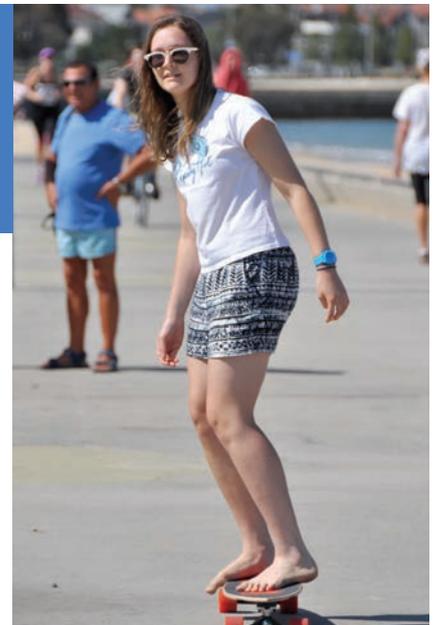
After months of planning and preparation it was time to welcome the newest additions to St Mary's College. Move-in day was an interesting experience for the freshers.

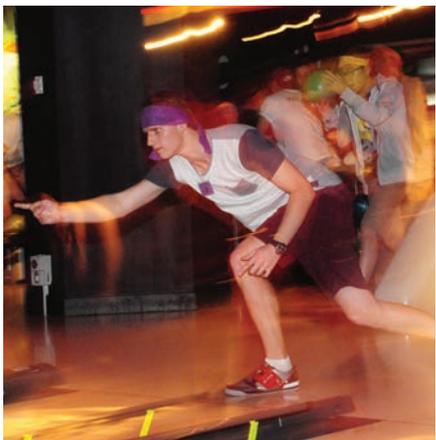
The new students were astonished at how we returning students knew all their names and while many seemed anxious about their new surroundings, it wasn't long before they settled in and started making new friends. Little did they know what lay before them in the week ahead!

Over the course of the next six days the freshers would undertake many gruelling challenges including early morning runs, marathons, marches and of course constant yelling from their leaders. Nights were full of fun with laser tag, bowling and a visit to Eureka as well as the experience of the Queen Victoria Markets. As leaders, we made sure that all freshers were aware of the nearest pubs and nightlife, as we all enjoyed a quiet ale and continued on making friends. During the day, however, we did make sure they knew their way around university, the main reason why they came to St Mary's College.

Since the start of O week it is fair to say that the freshers have become part of the furniture. It had already started to happen in O week, but even after it they all grew out of their shells and adjusted to a new chapter in their lives. How quickly they went from timid, nervous

newbies to friendly, outgoing students of St Mary's College! Now we have reached the end of the semester it is a time to reflect on the experiences O week brought us all, as we continue to develop and enjoy each other's friendship.





# NEWS FROM THE ACADEMIC CENTRE

## Outreach events

The central purpose of the Academic Centre is to be a resource for students of St Mary's College and Newman College, but it also plays a role in connecting the colleges with the wider community. The main expression of that connection is a series of public talks on a wide range of topics. Professor Margaret Manion has been responsible for much of the development of this 'outreach' program in association with both of the colleges.

There have been several talks held this semester, including one that was offered by Professor David Shallcross who heads the Engineering Learning Unit at the University of Melbourne's School of Engineering. David is a chemical engineer and a natural communicator with the capacity to make science, technology and mathematics accessible, and he wears many hats outside his university role. On the evening of Wednesday 20 May after a warm welcome to all present from College Principal, Darcy McCormack, Professor Shallcross presented a terrific talk called 'Historic Engineering: From the Eiffel Tower to the Falkirk Wheel'. This was a tour in words and photographs of some of Europe's notable engineering achievements – both famous and little-known landmarks. Question time was lively, with reflections on engineering education in the age of the calculator, and on the causes of the collapse of the West Gate Bridge. (For younger readers, I hasten to add that the collapse happened during construction,

back in 1970). Ms Elizabeth Burns thanked Professor Shallcross for his address and the discussion that followed. Held in the Frewin Room, it was good to see former St Mary's students in the audience, along with some regular 'outreach' program supporters, and very pleasingly quite a few people who had never visited the colleges before.

How does word get out about events like these? The Academic Centre maintains an email contact list and we also advertise on the University of Melbourne events website, which in turn emails a lecture bulletin to a large subscriber list. Word of mouth plays a part too. For more information about events, please email outreach@snac.unimelb.edu.au

The Academic Centre also took part in the Melbourne Rare Book week in July by presenting two small student-run exhibitions of some ancient tomes.

Coming up...

Professor Margaret Manion has been busy in recent months researching and writing about artworks acquired by Australian businessman Kerry Stokes. The Kerry Stokes Collection will be exhibited at the University of Melbourne in the second half of the year, and the organisers are planning a related program of talks including one by Margaret herself, currently scheduled for Thursday 29 October. Details to come.



Professor David Shallcross

## Study abroad

On the morning of Friday 15 May, 25 students from St Mary's and Newman came to the Jabiru Room in the Academic Centre to hear from fellow college residents who have successfully organised a semester or more of study at a university overseas. The speakers were all impressive, and generous in presenting their own experiences for the benefit of other potential overseas scholars.

Former Newman student Alex Eastwood, now Education Abroad Advisor at Melbourne Global Mobility, spoke about the application process and promoted scholarship opportunities, particularly in his portfolio area which is the Asia/Latin America program. Other guest speakers were:

From St Mary's

- Flora Harpley Green (Arts, Bachelor of Languages) who spent a semester at Royal Holloway, University of London
- Jessica Stals (Commerce) who will spend Semester 2 at George Washington University, Washington DC
- Lucy Joel (Computer Science/Physics) who will spend Semester 2 at the University of Glasgow



From Newman

- Bridget O’Bree (Arts, psychology major) who spent a semester at Trinity College, Dublin
- Chloe Pan (Commerce) who spent a semester at the University of Pennsylvania
- Brandon Walker (Arts, formerly at Newman) who spent one year at Moscow State University

The key messages were that: opportunities for overseas exchange abound; there is good scholarship support through the university; the application process requires large amounts of persistence and perseverance; and the effort involved is more than worthwhile. We look forward to hearing about the adventures of Lucy Joel and Jess Stals when they return from their semesters overseas.

Thanks go to all the presenters for sharing photographs, practical advice, wisdom and enthusiasm, and to the students who helped to organise and promote this session, particularly Grace Newman and Janet Watt.

[Angela Gehrig](#)



*Left, Bridget O’Bree, and Right, Flora Harpley Green recounting their experiences of study abroad*



## CULTURE REPORT

St Mary's College saw plenty of opportunity to show off cultural talents this semester in many forms. Our first event was the Pleasant Friday Afternoon during O Week with freshers and returners alike sharing their musical talents. Here we saw performances from students who we would continue to see throughout the semester.

ICAC events began soon after with Intercollegiate Trivia followed by the ever popular "Origins Fresher Dance Off" which saw Mary's go head to head with our fellow colleges in a dancing competition. Mary's enthusiasm and tight choreography to Mark Ronson's *Uptown Funk* was not enough to deter the judge's attention from Trinity's upbeat routine. All of the training sessions paid off and Mary's gave a brilliant performance despite the end results.

Mary's made their first appearance at Queen's Quadstock Music and Art Festival where the college band, Jaguers Lane, impressed the crowd with their indie rock repertoire.

This was followed by the Easter PWA, which saw our guest performer, Abi McQuarter, share her wonderful talent, followed by an encore performance of Jageurs Lane's Quadstock set and an Easter egg hunt.

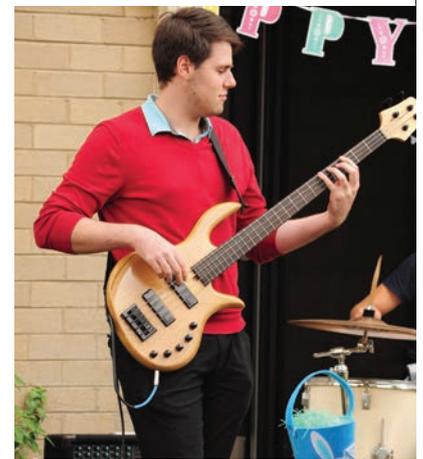


After Animesh's triumphant win in the Chess section of the ICAC Pool, Darts, Chess and Cards, Mary's and Newman had their first ever joint Soiree, which gave classical instrumentalists an opportunity to perform in a more formal environment.

The ICAC Variety Show saw Carla D'Alessandro wow the audience with her improvised Diablo routine which she then performed again at the JCR Jam. This semester this event was moved back into the JCR where we saw impressive dance routines and many more musical performances.

Next semester there are plenty of ICAC events to look forward to such as Battle of the Bands, Soiree and Film Festival as well as PFAs, JCR Jams and Mary's Newman Soirees.

Lucy Hay  
Culture Rep



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## ESAC NEWS

The Environmental and Social Awareness Committee has continued to play an active part in college life this semester. We started the year with our annual Get Involved Night, where representatives from several volunteer organisations around Melbourne come to Mary's to tell students about what they do and to provide an opportunity for students to sign up as volunteers. In June, students who had signed up for the Salvation Army Red Shield Appeal volunteered their time to collect donations. Over two weekends we managed to collect a total of \$16 000!

In other volunteering news, a number of students have joined a Newman tutoring initiative for high school students. They are enjoying the opportunity to help young, enthusiastic students do their homework and assignments and be reminded of their early high school years.

This year we have also started working with the ESAC representatives around the crescent. Our first event was an Intercollegiate Clean Up Australia Day at Princes Park. It was a great morning meeting of our neighbours and tidying up the park, followed by a delicious BBQ at Trinity College.

Following the devastating Nepal earthquake in April we organised a pancake breakfast with funds going toward Red Cross' Nepal Region Earthquake Appeal. Also in April

were the Easter egg-o-grams, which raised money for Caritas' Project Compassion.

Another very successful and beloved ESAC event on the college calendar was the Helping Hands Auction on College Day. Students and staff donated a variety of items including baked goods, personal training sessions and romantic dates. Over \$2000 was raised for Mary Ward International.

We're looking forward to next semester and the exciting things we have planned!

[Jessie Moyses, Finn Stephenson and the ESAC team](#)

## SURVIVOR WEEK

Survivor Week (also known as Assassins week) is an annual game involving the entire student club of St. Marys College.

The week-long game, usually played in first semester gives an opportunity for students to interact with other residents of the College who they had not previously spent time with. Each student is randomly assigned another student who will be their 'target' for the first round of the game. The aim is to 'assassinate' your target by touching them and saying the killphrase which this year was "Mr. Grey will see you now...". If you are successful, you must then "kill" another and remain alive to proceed to the second round, which involves "assassinating" as many members of the Student Club General Committee as possible. Whoever does this, is crowned the winner of Survivor Week.

Survivor week is a week full of fear, trust issues, friendship and fun. Its ultimate goal is to promote involvement in the St Marys community while providing excitement, entertainment and a bit of laughter. This year's Survivor Week was once again a success, especially for our victor, Tom O'Dwyer. For those of you playing next year may the odds be ever in your favour!

# ORATORY COMPETITION

The annual Deirdre Rofe Oratory Competition returned in March this year, with great success.

The Oratory Competition was introduced in honour of Sr Deirdre Rofe, Principal 1997-2002, outstanding orator and amazing woman dedicated to St Mary's College. This year's participants were required to give a five minute speech, arguing a contention of their choice. There was huge variety in topics across the seven competitors, ranging from 'productivity and happiness', to the importance of language, and the science behind language translation. Each and every speech was exceptional, with competitors proving they are all amazing orators.

Our talented judges, Jill Fenwick, Angela Gehrig and Robbie Burns, were given the difficult task of choosing a winner. After tough deliberation, Chen Qian was awarded the Deirdre Rofe trophy, with his thought-provoking and engaging speech entitled "De-individualisation, Egocentrism and Social Labelling". Chen discussed the prevalence and perils of social labelling, making us rethink the way we see stereotypes and our own actions and labels.

The evening was a fantastic opportunity to hear interesting and fascinating opinions from our fellow students, as well as to hear their exceptional talents. A huge thanks to all the competitors; Hannah Borash, Lucy Cai, Chen Qian, Bevan Madden, Natalie Keynton, David Smith and Amelia McNair.



# STUDENT CLUB REPORT



The General Committee has had a busy semester, organising various activities and events to develop an inclusive and supportive environment for all students. Although sometimes things may get stressful, we are happy to volunteer our time so that the students can flourish.

The first and biggest event on the Student Club calendar was 'Ocean' Week 2015. Thirty-five student leaders including the General Committee members welcomed just over 80 freshers into the college community. For many students this was their first time away from home and it was an important time for students to settle into their new university environment. However, much fun was had during the week and many new friendships were made. This has set a great tone for the rest of the year.

Other events the General Committee have organised include 'Get Your Life in Order' week, with many students having a quiet week to catch up on their studies and supper being supplied every night. A Yarra Valley Wine Tour at the end of the mid-semester break was a great opportunity to learn about the local wine industry and spend a lovely day out of Melbourne.

The final event for the semester was 'The Event'. Every year this cocktail evening is held at a secret location known only



by the General Committee members. This year it was held at the Old Melbourne Goal and proved to be an incredibly magical evening. Photos of the evening are up on our Facebook page [www.facebook.com/stmarysstudentclub](http://www.facebook.com/stmarysstudentclub)

Overall, Semester 1 2015 has been a fantastic start to the year with students embracing all aspects of college life. With major events such as the Ball and the musical next semester, we are all looking forward to the second half of the year.

**Albert Zhang**  
Student Club President



# ALUMNI NEWS

## BIRTH, DEATHS, MARRIAGES

### Obituaries

The college community was saddened to learn of the death on 2 March of Mrs Molly Sweeney (nee Barker), a long-time friend and supporter of the college. Mrs Sweeney's husband, the late Mr Frank Sweeney, was a foundational member of the St Mary's College Council. This Council accompanied Mother Francis Frewin through the legal, practical and administrative complexities involved in the transition from St Mary's Hall (located on The Avenue, Parkville) to its present site and its affiliation by statute as St Mary's College: a College of the University in its own right. While Frank continued to serve on Council for many years, he did so with the active support of Molly who donated her own share of time and energy to the College community over decades. On Frank's retirement, their son Patrick undertook his own lengthy term on Council, continuing the family association. May Molly Sweeney, such a generous and loyal friend to St Mary's, now rest in peace.

### Marriages

Congratulations to Declan Barlow (2008-2009) on his marriage to Maise on 20th June 2015. Declan currently resides in London, but the two met just under 2 years ago whilst Declan was sailing around Croatia. The wedding ceremony took place at Gardens House at the Royal Botanic Gardens Melbourne and the reception was held at the NGV's Persimmon Restaurant. We wish the happy couple all the best for their future together.

## NEWS FROM EX-COLLEGIANS

NAOMI JOHNSON  
Resident Tutor 2013/2014

Living in a community as diverse and vibrant as St Mary's College prompts us to examine the fundamental nature of education.

I was lucky enough to be part of the college community as a residential and academic tutor through the course of my master's degree in 2013/14, and the experience has certainly opened my eyes to that very question. Do we attend university primarily to obtain a degree? Or are the almost incidental experiences along the way equally as important?

I think one of the most important skills gained at university is that of lifelong learning. Alongside studying for my Master of Music Performance at the University of Melbourne, which involved presenting flute recitals and writing a thesis, I learned much from life in the college itself. The importance of community and team spirit, the quest for knowledge in the everyday as well as in books – each is shown daily. In particular, I often felt like the one doing the most learning in weekly French tutorials, despite being the tutor! I constantly had to find new ways of explaining the language and grammar, and was always intrigued by the plurality of learning solutions presented by the group.

It is with these thoughts of ongoing learning in mind that I accepted a place at the Trevor Wye flute studio in Kent, England, from October 2014. As one of only six students, the six month course was an intensive flute boot-camp-come-finishing-school giving the intensive practice time that is often lacking from



the university music curriculum. Yet I have also sought a breadth of experiences to complement this, hopefully giving me a rounded set of skills for work in the competitive arts industry. Along with performing at an international contemporary music festival in Italy, I spent two months backpacking in Europe, taking in the wealth of culture and history that it has to offer. I have been lucky enough to get an internship with a London-based arts group for three months, as well as being supported by an Australian Council for the Arts ArtStart Grant and Melbourne Conservatorium of Music alumni travelling scholarship.

In the 19th century, gentlemen would undertake the Grand Tour; a voyage of cultural discovery and learning, the chance for linguistic development, reflection and debate. In some ways, this year in Europe has been mine; an opportunity to engage with music and culture, to dive headfirst into the unknown and push my creative boundaries. In other ways, the journey is ongoing. I will be returning to Australia in July, and hope that my time overseas as well as at the University of Melbourne and St Mary's has equipped me well for a diverse portfolio career in the arts. Wherever this next step takes me, I hope to continue questioning, learning, and making music!

## MATTHEW CONNOLLY

2012-2014, Student Club President 2014

After three years at St Mary's I moved to Yogyakarta, Indonesia, to finish a Diploma of Languages in Bahasa Indonesia.

"An early-career sabbatical" I like to call it, but reflect it could equally be seen as a belated gap-year. I have found my intellectual, cultural, and professional interest piqued by a wide variety of experiences.

I've had such a varied academic experience while over here. Oftentimes the university's own coursework can – shall we say – leave gaps in its history of things like communism, or political Islam. This has made for an enlivening study environment, with independent research and out-of-the-classroom discussions feeling just as much like pioneering as homework. This is not to say that I've been let down by academia here in Indonesia – quite the contrary. Students here are thirsty for knowledge and, aware of the relative youth of the country's independent civil society, hungry for opportunities to challenge themselves and their teachers.

Indonesian culture is enchanting too. More than 200 unique ethnic groups influence politics, the economy, and every day life. The spirituality and moralism therein is pervasive too, something that is very different to life back home. Outside the walls of St Mary's it can sometimes be difficult to see people putting their faith into action – but not here. Culture in Indonesia is tangible: in the call to prayer definitely, but also in the food, ways of thinking and talking, clothing, architecture, and friendly inter-island rivalries. I've been very lucky to be exposed to a country that is so – on the surface – contrasted with Australia.

Often people ask 'Why Indonesia?' but I think this question has been somewhat answered over the last few months of diplomatic relations between the countries. I'm very interested in future business, development, and policy opportunities that



Indonesia and Australia share. So to see an absolute failure – from both sides – of understanding each other's perspective has almost been a little bit gratifying. More than 250 million people call Indonesia home. In the next 15 years, its middle class will grow to 3.5 times the size of Australia's entire population. At the same time, it is only Australia's 8th largest export destination, and primary school graduation rates actually dropped in the 10 years to 2013. Meeting young Indonesians and other young Australians over here who are engaged with these opportunities and challenges has really opened my eyes professionally. What was an inkling of Indonesia's untapped potential before I left has certainly been confirmed – just as much as its idiosyncratic barriers have become more obvious too.

Overall, I feel very lucky to be able to extend my education in such a wonderful country. It has taught me much about Australia's nearest neighbour – and about Australia itself. Though I wouldn't dare claim I understand it, Indonesia is indeed an enigma, and a wonderful place to spend a year contextualising some of my more formal study.

I will return to Melbourne at the start of 2016 to pursue further study in economics.



## UPCOMING EVENTS

**2010-2014 Alumni Reunion Cocktail Party**  
Friday 21 August 2015  
4pm – 5pm

**Annual Francis Frewin Cocktail Party**  
Saturday 24 October 2015  
5pm 'til 8pm

SAVE THE DATE

**50th Jubilee Celebrations**

**Celebratory Dinner**  
Saturday 12 March 2016

**Mass at The Chapel of the Holy Spirit followed by a Garden Party in the College courtyard**  
Sunday 13 March 2016



ST MARY'S COLLEGE  
THE UNIVERSITY OF MELBOURNE

# *50th Jubilee Celebrations*

Celebrating 50 years on Swanston Street

12th March 2016

*Celebratory Dinner*  
by invitation

13th 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  
Open to all

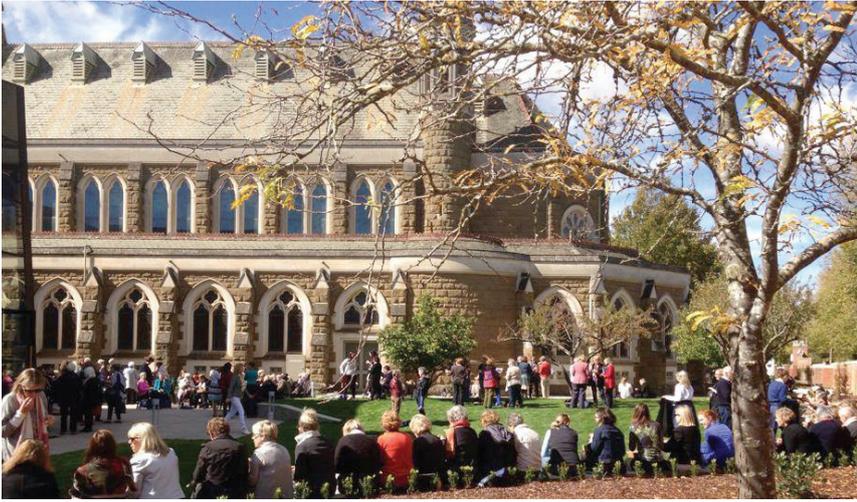
*Return*

*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!*



## LORETO FEDERATION

Loreto Federation is a bi-annual event that involves the coming together of past pupils, family, staff and friends of Loreto schools from around Australia. This year, the 29th Loreto Federation conference was held in Ballarat as 140 years of Loreto in Australia was celebrated over a weekend in April. A diverse line-up of inspirational and thought-provoking speakers including former Governor General Dame Quentin Bryce provided their own unique perspectives on this year's central theme 'Dare to be true'. This year was the first year that St Mary's College- which was opened by Loreto Sisters-sent two students to participate and engage in the program.

The Saturday program involved a conversation between the Honourable Dame Quentin Bryce and the Honourable Mary Delahunty who was the MC for the weekend. Quentin Bryce answered questions from the audience, discussing

the challenges she faced as a working woman and exploring the ways in we could encourage others to speak out against social injustice. After morning tea, a panel of past Loreto students including Dr Michelle McIntosh, Janette Morris and Dr Emma Ryan-Weber discussed the importance of educating young women and how this can influence change. Past student and current ABC news director, Kate Torney, also spoke and the day was concluded with a Gala dinner in the evening.

The Federation conference continued on the Sunday with a Mass in the Loreto Chapel. The Sunday sessions included 'Dare to be True' where different issues were discussed, such as the care and support of refugee women during and after pregnancies, the trafficking of children in Southeast Asia, and ways the Loreto community can help to combat these issues. The next session was 'Advance Loreto where' which involved different speakers giving an insight into the direction they believed the Loreto community should and could go. These sessions were insightful and encouraged action in the wider community.

After the conclusion of the conference, Loreto Fedfest began with a colour run followed by food, animals and different activities to be enjoyed by Loreto families. All in all, it was a successful weekend and we look forward to Federation in Adelaide in the next few years.



## LUNCH IN THE LORETO ROOM

Don't forget the Loreto and Frewin Rooms are available for functions all year round. You can enjoy an intimate lunch, afternoon tea or dinner in the beautiful Loreto Room or, for larger functions, the Frewin Room is the perfect venue with capacity for up to 150 guests. Our excellent chefs can offer a variety of first class menus at a price to suit your needs and we will happily organise a stroll around the College and its beautiful grounds afterwards.

Call **Bettina Richen**, Conference Co-ordinator on **9349 9555** for more details.



# SPORTS REPORT



St Mary's had a successful first semester of intercollegiate sport. The ICSC and MU Sport granted students the opportunity to participate in a variety of sports including cricket, softball, table tennis, athletics, hockey, and soccer.

The women had great success in the soccer coming third after defeating Newman in a penalty shootout. The women's VIII came 2nd in the Seconds B grade final on rowing day and the Mary's Softball team notably won their first softball match in four years, getting into the quarterfinals. The men also had a spectacular semester achieving some of the best results Mary's has seen in years. They were unfortunately defeated by University College in the seconds cricket grand final in the last couple of overs. The men's VIII had a dream run on rowing day losing only to Ormond in the finals. A skeleton hockey team saw the men defeated by Ormond in the third playoffs resulting in fourth place. The sport calendar again looks busy next semester with men and women's football, netball, basketball, tennis and the swimming carnival to look forward to.







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