



#### **Mission Statement**

Siena College, a Catholic secondary school in the Dominican Tradition, engages young women in a challenging education that empowers them with the personal resources to make a difference in the world, by searching for truth through a culture of lifelong learning.

#### **Vision**

As a vibrant, faith filled Catholic community with a commitment to justice, truth, reconciliation and compassion, we honour the sacred dignity of each person.

We aspire to provide exemplary and innovative education that will challenge young women to achieve their personal best and to embrace the future with hope, courage and confidence.

In the spirit of St Catherine of Siena, by word and action, we encourage young women to identify their strengths, enhance their sense of self-worth and be open to new ideas.

#### **Values**

We live the Dominican values through:

Prayer by nurturing spirituality and celebrating joyfully as a community of Faith

**Study** by striving for personal excellence, thinking critically and seeking truth through research, creativity and innovation

**Justice** by empowering young women to embrace diversity, respect human dignity and actively engage in the gospel imperative of responding to local and global injustice

**Community** by recognising that a sense of belonging and connectedness is the foundation for fostering good relationships and service to others

### **Hymn to St Catherine**

Colin Brumby and Jenny Dawson, 1994

St Catherine of Siena's words resound for us today, That Holy woman's fire
And strength will light for us the way,
Afraid of no man Pope nor Prince
She challenged those in doubt,
The Love of God will save us all
and put the dark to rout.

#### Chorus

For Veritas cry out with joy Fear not for truth sets free The courage of our love for truth Will win eternity.

The mercy of our risen Lord
Is truth by which to live
A mercy that can conquer death as
God His son did give
Eternal mercy by whose power
Christ's love will wash us clean
The light, which shines upon our lives,
A rock on which to lean.

Chorus

**Yearbook Cover Image** Eva Castaldi, Year 12 Art

### We Acknowledge Country

Siena College acknowledges that our school community stands and meets on the sacred lands of the Wurundjeri people. While there has been great change to this land over the many generations, we know in our hearts and minds that their stories and spirits will always be written in this landscape.

In the spirit of reconciliation,we honour and respect the custodians past, present and emerging and we are grateful for the opportunity to join with them in continuing to nurture this land, water and community.



### PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Jess Higgins Communications Leader (Community Engagement)

#### A Positive and Successful Year

I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Mrs Hanney to discuss her reflections on the year. Mrs Hanney reflected on the year that has been underpinned by our Dominican context, where we are "grounded in our history, and in the people and community we live and learn with each day". 2023, for the Siena community, has called on us to "pay attention to truth and be astonished by so much gift and opportunity, inspired by our annual theme".

We discussed the year as one that involved many "great community highlights", that demonstrated the College community's ability to flourish. One of these events included Fiesta, which saw a new format and was a "significant shift" for the student community. This new structure showed a "fantastic coming together" of students, in which student leadership was exceptional, in particular the leadership of 2023 College Captains, Majella Hine and Hannah Rosel, as well as House Captains, Veritas, Communications, Arts and Sports Leaders.

### Celebrating as a Community

Further initiatives that Mrs Hanney saw to be significant in 2023 included further implementation of FIRE Carriers work, which included having other schools on site for a formal gathering, coinciding with the launch of our Reconciliation Action Plan, and the 2023 Giving Day – a "fantastic day" which saw the College "reaching out to all of our community members for support". She also expressed the "overall winner" as being the introduction of our Therapy Dogs, Coco and Rooey, who are now well known members of the Siena community. Mrs Hanney framed these events and initiatives as fantastic opportunities to "celebrate as a community, come together in unity, and to give everyone a sense of belonging and safety".

Further, she spoke to the success of the VRQA school review, which the College came through with "flying colours", a testament to the diligent and inspiring work of the Siena community. What came through from this review is that Siena is "very strong in our pillars", in terms of our Dominican charism, which provides a basis for all our actions and endeavours.



#### Individual and Collective Success

Students this past year have excelled in the areas of public speaking, sport and community engagement. They also pursued excellence in academic endeavour with many students excelling in extension opportunities, in personal pursuit of learning success and in close collaboration with great staff. Staff have also seen significant achievement, as exemplified by VCE Drama Teacher, Ms Sandra Siapantas, who was inducted into the Hall of Fame by Drama Australia, recognising her incredibly extensive and committed service to performing arts.

A key point raised by Mrs Hanney is that "in a community like ours we rely on one another, with students and staff being at the core of everything that we do". The success of 2023, as manifested by staff and students, is due also to those who are "cheering from the sidelines", as described by Mrs Hanney. She wishes to acknowledge and thank everyone for a fantastic year – all in the Siena community who have worked to allow the College to thrive throughout 2023. More specifically, she thanked all the volunteers, community stakeholders, members of the Board, members of committees, the Alumnae Association and the Siena Parents' Association.

Mrs Hanney affirmed that it is through the Siena College community's ability to pay attention to every moment, cherish the moments that left us astonished, and embrace and share our experiences in 2023, that we have seen a year of growth, inclusivity, action and excellence.















# COLLEGE BOARD REPORT

**Judith Potter** Siena College Board Chair

In 2023, the Siena College community remains vibrant and thriving, thanks to the collective efforts of staff, students, parents, caregivers and volunteers. I pay tribute to those whose behind the scenes work enriches our community and aids in achieving College goals, in particular the Alumnae Association, Siena Parents' Association, students and staff.

The work of Board and Board Committees greatly supports the current and future direction of the College and I express my appreciation to each member for their generous gift of expertise and time in support of our Dominican Education. I assure all in our community that our focus on achieving the Master Plan is unwavering.

In 2023 the College underwent a comprehensive review by the VRQA (Victoria Registration and Qualifications Authority). The College met and surpassed all standards, a testament to the work of staff and the high education the College provides.

Principal, Elizabeth Hanney's recognition as an Excellence Awardee for Principal of the Year (non-government category) underscores the dedication and commitment of Mrs Hanney and that of the Leadership Team and College staff.

As the school year concludes, Siena College bids farewell to two dedicated Board members:

- Sr Judith Lawson OP, who served two separate terms on the Board. Shaped by years of experience leading a sister school in Sydney, Sr Judith's contribution and guidance in governance, education and formation has enriched our understanding of the Dominican Mission and education.
- Mr George Sfetsos who served on Finance and Strategic Property Committees over many years and the Board since 2020. His broad financial and property expertise has guided the College throughout the development and the challenges therein of the current College Masterplan.

I thank all in the Siena College community for their dedication and commitment to enhancing the College's Mission and Vision throughout 2023, for the benefit of our students.



### **DOMINICAN NEWS**



**Sr Julianna Drobik OP**DEA Trustee

Siena alumna, Sr Veronica Rosier OP (Class of 1970), visited Cambodia as a volunteer leader of Catholic Mission's Immersion programs.

With a rich history of both highs and lows, the Cambodians are still recovering from the brutal Pol Pot regime. Immersion participants aim to discover how they can contribute to bringing about positive changes in the lives of others and in the world. Sometimes, all we need to do is head out, meet people where they are, listen, be ready to learn, and witness for ourselves the vitality of the global missionary church.

Dominican Sisters from the Solomon Islands, Marie and Salome, completed the Accompaniment Program for Formators in July through the Institute of Formation and Religious Studies in the Philippines. The Sisters spent three months studying online from Australia and then travelled to the Philippines to complete the final five weeks in person at the Institute in Manila. They will take up the shared role of Formation Directors for the young women who will enter the Novitiate in Honiara to commence the Formation Program.







### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL MISSION AND IDENTITY





**Hannah Rosel** College Captain

Jennifer Levett Deputy Principal Mission and Identity

As we approach the end of the 2023 year, College Captain, Hannah Rosel interviewed the Deputy Principal Mission and Identity to reflect on the events of the school year.



Hannah: Our 2023 College Theme is Pay Attention. Be Astonished, Tell About It. How has this been lived out by the Siena staff and students this year?



Ms Levett: As Dominicans, we always need to see the 'big' picture - in this case, the global picture of our Catholic Christian tradition. Fr Timothy Radcliffe OP says "it is

imperative we do this in order to keep our charism recognisable. credible and meaningful for our people." In 2023, who are 'our people'? Our Siena students, families, staff and community. Across this year, our people have lived the theme authentically in many ways:

- Paying attention to our world: its climate, vegetation, people and creatures. Classroom learning has been enhanced and extended by social justice initiatives including supporting our Dominican Sisters locally and in the Solomon Islands, the Kopanang Community in South Africa, Vinnies and Caritas Australia.
- Being astonished by the signs and symbols around us: beauty, goodness, love and hope. Wellness sessions have highlighted our ability to be both grateful and outward looking, with cocurricular offerings drawing us into moments of achievement and celebration. Our College's natural surroundings have continued to provide us with spaces for reflection and conversation.
- Telling about it: we make meaning through story, so sharing our learnings and growth brings others into our story. Participating in rich dialogue including deep listening, has built understanding and created new opportunities for engagement. The Year 12 Retreat, Dominican Days and Staff Formation Sessions have seen the continuation of our story, in the context of listening to the voices of those on the margins.



Hannah: Each year we celebrate St Catherine's Day and St Dominic's Day. What is the significance of these saints and how do we embrace their legacy at Siena?



Ms Levett: When we acknowledge and model the ways of these significant saints in our everyday learnings and interactions, we are embracing and most importantly,

continuing their legacy. When we mark their respective Feast Days with special Eucharistic celebrations, we gather as a community of faith to voice prayers and participate in rituals that have continued across time and space to where we are now. St Dominic and St Catherine of Siena are very much alive in us today!



Hannah: What is the most rewarding part of your role?



Ms Levett: There are many rewarding aspects of my role - choosing just one is a challenge! On reflection, I find it tremendously rewarding to come to Siena each school day knowing that I will be doing something I love, working side-by-side with colleagues who share a vision with me and encountering students who privilege me with a partnership in their learning, wellbeing and spirituality. Being a leader in faith, and witnessing that faith manifest itself visibly and tangibly in various ways among members of our community, often referred to by



different names, is indeed a precious gift.















### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL LEARNING AND TEACHING







**Amy Duffy and Melania Flunt** College Captains

**Donna Laughlin**Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching

As students, we are deeply grateful for all the learning experiences and opportunities we have had here at Siena this year. Our Deputy Principal Learning and Teaching, Ms Laughlin, has consistently promoted student participation in a wide range of activities, positively enhancing learning in various diverse settings.

ooking back on the 2023 school year, Ms Laughlin shared that a highlight for her has been providing students with the opportunity to stretch themselves beyond the classroom. Through extension activities such as the STEAM Careers Breakfast, the Year 12 Volunteer Study Support Program, cross curricular subjects like Discovery and Year 10 STEAM, language and writing competitions, and Learning Centre Clubs, students have had numerous chances to apply their learning outside the classroom. As students, we feel fortunate to know that Ms Laughlin and all teaching staff prioritise creating these opportunities for us to see our learning come to life beyond the classroom.

While we have cherished the countless experiences beyond the classroom, being in the classroom among our peers is something that both staff and students have come to truly value. Ms Laughlin shares that her favourite aspect of her role is teaching in the classroom, where she feels a sense of purpose, experiencing laughter and joy through the relationships she builds with her students. She also makes special mention of her wonderful Year 12 English class. Alongside her passion for working with students in a classroom environment, Ms Laughlin has fostered connections that have allowed her to collaborate with staff to enhance the capacity of teachers, ensuring that Siena offers the most effective environment for our students. She loves seeing students achieve their personal best, as this deeply resonates with her. We express our heartfelt appreciation for the dedicated work that goes into fostering individually tailored education, where opportunities are abundant for all of us.

























### DEPUTY PRINCIPAL WELLBEING AND STRATEGY





Majella Hine College Captain

Antonella Rosati
Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy

"We know that as a community we will continue to look to the future with hope for all the wonderful things that await us."

As Deputy Principal Wellbeing and Strategy, Ms Rosati loved the work that was conducted in 2023 and most importantly, the work she did "with and for the students: the individual meetings, one on ones with students and working with students as part of a team". Ms Rosati's work is built on strong, respectful relationships within a Dominican school. She believes that Siena is a "community of learners building relationships together, focused on wellbeing, and realising that one cannot truly exist without the other".

Ms Rosati believes that our Wellness Program is a significant part of the Siena education. She states that there is great value in the "annual events such as RUOK Day, which focus on positive coping, stress management techniques and strategies to help students deal with the daily grind". She is also very proud of the introduction of Siena's two Therapy Dogs, Coco and Rooey. With the Wellbeing Team, Ms Rosati was able to enhance the work the College does in relation to equity and inclusion. Ms Rosati "hopes that this has given a voice to students who perhaps may have felt they did not have the kind of voice they wanted and needed in this space".

2023 has been a year that Ms Rosati describes as one that "surprised and amazed us all". She is very grateful for the involvement of the Year 12 leaders who simply led by example through various initiatives and events in their final year of school. Additionally, she commends the Year 11 students who have faced incredible hardships yet found ways to cope and move forward. Ms Rosati also appreciates the Year 7s for their impact on our College community, and acknowledges the Year 8s, 9s and 10s who have "continued to participate in the various activities we had on offer, recognising them as the future leaders of our school".





















## SIENA PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (SPA)



Nicole Wood SPA President

Our Annual Raffle provided a Siena family with paid tuition or a Flight Centre voucher. Generous prizes from SPA members and parents propelled our fundraising efforts. These funds go towards our Year 12 gifts from SPA and the entire parent body.

n May, our Mother's Day Breakfast was attended by three hundred mothers and daughters. Candid photos were captured, featuring raffle winners who raised over one thousand dollars through donations from parents and local businesses. Subsequently, the inaugural Parent Social Evening unfolded at the Auburn Hotel, uniting parents from all year levels. We eagerly anticipate hosting more events like this in the future.

Reviving the Trivia Evening in July after a five-year hiatus was a calendar highlight. We even managed to double our fundraising, selling close to two hundred tickets. The major 'wheelbarrow raffle' prize added excitement as attendees tried their chosen keys in the padlock to access the prize – the final key holder won the prize. Guests enjoyed trivia, dancing and socialising, making it a fantastic night.

The Father's Day Breakfast in August was a resounding success, featuring an abundance of pizza for two hundred and forty fathers and daughters! Students shared the best dad jokes and were rewarded with Mimi's Restaurant vouchers for their participation.

Working alongside dedicated volunteers, SPA members and the College Leadership Team has been a privilege. Noteworthy is the SPA Uniform Shop, expertly run by two committed volunteers, providing excellent service weekly. It is gratifying to be approached by those expressing thanks and interest in joining our volunteer group. I encourage all to connect and be part of our community.





### ALUMNAE ASSOCIATION



**Dr Lisa Higgins** (Class of 1993) Alumnae Association President

The Alumnae Association has enjoyed many events in 2023 and the addition of younger alumnae to the Alumnae Association Committee.

We held our increasingly successful Careers Showcase which was a wonderful event with thirty-three alumnae presenting to over three hundred families and current Year 9 to 12 students. We also held our annual Alumnae and Student Gathering with fourteen mothers, one grandmother, seventeen current students and one prospective student in attendance.

Various alumnae were engaged to speak at events throughout the year, such as the STEAM Careers Breakfast and the International Women's Day Breakfast. It is always wonderful to see how current and past students connect when the opportunities arise. The Siena Rust Warriors (Class of 2021) have continued to play at the Waverley Netball Centre and we look forward to expanding the Siena Alumnae Sporting Association in years to come.

We enjoyed a joyous Reunion season at Siena College in 2023. The Class of 2021 returned to Siena to celebrate their first reunion in May. It was a fabulous evening catching up with fellow Siena alumnae and staff members. To round off the year, we hosted two wonderful Decade Reunions for the Classes of 1973, 1983,1993, 2003 and 2013. We now eagerly look forward to our 2024 reunions!

The Alumnae Association has continued to contribute to the Siena College Equity Scholarship Fund, providing funds to go towards a scholarship for the daughter of a Siena alumna.

On behalf of the Association, we are truly grateful for the ongoing support of the Siena College Development Team and all members of the Siena community. We look forward to welcoming the Class of 2023 as members of the Alumnae Association, reconnecting with the alumnae community during the 2024 events, growing our network and expanding the support that the Association provides.







### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



Laura Ridley Head of Religious Education

# I am about to do a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? (Isaiah 43:19)

The 2023 Religious Education program offered valuable opportunities for Siena students to collectively reflect on their Dominican identity and establish connections within their studies.

In Year 7, students began by acquainting themselves with their peers and contemplating their place within the Siena community. They delved into the rich history of Siena College, gaining insights into the Dominican Tradition that underpins our College ethos. The exploration of prominent historical figures like St Catherine and St Dominic, and their impact on the Catholic faith and identity, enriched their understanding. Some reflections from their studies include:

#### Belonging

- Feeling safe, included and valued
- · A space for self-expression and enjoyment
- · Caring for and about each other

### **Group Belonging**

- Open self-expression without judgment
- Equal treatment despite differences
- · Acceptance of individuality

#### **Belonging at Siena**

- Building friendships
- Embracing new experiences
- Ensuring inclusivity and participation
- Engaging in Fiesta rehearsals

In Unit 2 of VCE Religion and Society, Year 11 students participated in panel discussions on the religious and ethical perspectives of Judaism and Catholicism.

Panellists shared personal faith journeys, insight into ritual practices like Shabbat/Sabbath and ethical teachings, offering a platform for comparing values and principles across faith traditions.

Year 12 Religion and Life students explored Social Justice, including climate justice, through their studies. They engaged with the film *The Letter: A Message for our Earth*, which delves into Pope Francis's encyclical, *Laudato Si*, emphasising care for the environment.

Throughout the year, the 2023 College Theme: Pay Attention. Be Astonished. Tell About It. has served as a reflective touchstone for discussions and contemplation within Religious Education classrooms. Looking ahead to 2024 and beyond, the focus remains on nurturing student engagement with their faith and the Dominican Tradition.











# **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**



### JUSTICE EDUCATION









Isla Buchan and Ciara Newman Social Justice Leaders Carly Walsh, Environment Leader Written in collaboration with Bronwyn llott Head of Justice Education

**Veritas Leaders** 

As the Veritas Team, we have been working diligently to instigate positive changes at Siena College in the realms of environmental activism and social justice. Our team comprises both Social Justice Leaders and Environmental Leaders who collaborate closely to garner community support for various initiatives across the entire Siena community.

We have successfully raised funds and gathered donations for organisations such as Vinnies, in our goal to help the community embody the spirit of giving and compassion, while demonstrating the indispensable role these contributions play in enhancing the lives of others. For instance, our Vinnie's Clothing Cube and Rug Up Day effectively raised awareness about the social inequalities surrounding homelessness. These efforts were coupled with the donation of warm clothing to assist individuals in staying warm despite the harsh Melbourne winter. Moreover, our House-led bake sales each term are dedicated to generating funds for charity, all while fostering a sense of House spirit.

Furthermore, we collaborated to relaunch the Eco Activists student and staff group. This initiative encourages students to be more mindful of their ecological footprint and to effect tangible changes within the Siena community. By creating a new webpage, we have enhanced accessibility to educational resources concerning ongoing ecological issues. In Term 3, the Eco Activists led an Op Swap Shop event, enabling students to donate and purchase preloved clothing items, thereby promoting an eco-friendlier approach to fashion. This initiative has played a crucial role in disseminating awareness about consumerism and its associated adverse effects. Additionally, our group participated in the Little Earthies school-based activism education course, which has guided our initiatives and advancement as a collective, enabling us to maximise our impact and expertise.























### STUDENT FORMATION







Majella Hine and Hannah Rosel College Captains

**Peta Mackintosh** Head of Student Formation

#### Tell About It!

his year has proven to be yet another fantastic one for the Student Representative Council (SRC)! Through a multitude of fundraising, social justice and House of the Year driven initiatives, we have thoroughly enjoyed collaborating with a passionate student voice team to organise a diverse range of events. Members of the SRC, such as Year 12 Arts Leader (Music), Maddie Castoldi, describes her experience as a great way to combine her passions for leadership and music, while collaborating with students from various years and contributing to the growth of Siena's music program. Year 8 Student Voice Leader, Gabriella van Delden expressed, "I thoroughly enjoyed coordinating initiatives like the Year 7 and 8 House netball competition alongside the other Student Voice Leaders. It was an incredibly rewarding experience."

#### What was your favourite SRC initiative?



Majella: "My personal favourite SRC initiative in 2023 was SRC Week. This year's focus was on fundraising for the Kopanang Community in South Africa. The Siena

community successfully raised \$1,971, collected through a range of student-run events, including a barbecue, a hot chocolate and Tim Tam stall, a disco, a 'Guess the Number of Lollies in the Lolly Jar' activity, and my personal favourite, the Staff versus Student Volleyball



Hannah: Project Compassion was a remarkable success this year, becoming my absolute highlight among the SRC initiatives. Not only were our fundraising efforts outstanding,

but the SRC also showcased their creativity through a range of activities they organised. The crowd's favourite undoubtedly was our Siena Blind Auction, where the SRC collaborated to assemble suitcases packed with various items, inviting student bidders to embrace the thrill of the unknown. The auction resonated with laughter and enthusiasm as we raised funds for Caritas.



Ms Mackintosh: "An SRC initiative that readily comes to mind and was one of my favourites this year is the Hot Chocolate and Tim Tam stall. It was introduced and

executed last year as a fundraiser for Caritas Ukraine. In 2023, it was elevated for SRC Week with the inclusion of forty-six packs of Tim Tam biscuits generously provided by the Year 11 House Captains. On a chilly winter morning, who would not enjoy a hot drink? Given the limited supplies, planning and time constraints, the results consistently astound me - we raised \$564 in just thirty minutes of selling. The Kopanang Community emerged as the winner through this event."

### How did you find your experience as College Captain?



Majella: "Being fortunate enough to hold the position of College Captain this year was an experience I will never forget and am immensely grateful for. This role has provided

me with the opportunity to lead such an incredible school and achieve numerous goals, not only within the SRC but also within the wider community!"

to hosting assemblies, I have cherished every second of it!"



Hannah: "As someone who had never previously held a leadership position, in some ways, I was stepping into the unknown with my role - an exciting and nerve wracking task! Being Captain this year alongside Majella has brought forth numerous opportunities and has allowed both of us to experience and contribute to so much. From leading the weekly SRC meetings

### In the SRC this year, what were the unexpected challenges and highlights?





Hannah and Majella: "One challenge we encountered was determining which initiatives would resonate most with students and provide

the highest level of enjoyment. Additionally, we needed to identify events that would effectively raise awareness about the focal issues at Siena College. We feel we successfully navigated this challenge by infusing each event with a positive attitude. Our approach included striving to unite as many members of our College community as possible to support these initiatives."



Ms Mackintosh: "Highlights included events like Siena's Blind Auction and the Siena Chalk Walk for Caritas' Project Compassion, with student leaders actively facilitating and

overseeing the designated activities. The atmosphere was charged, particularly during the Blind Auction, as students engaged in friendly competition while bidding on unseen items. The generosity displayed by students and families, contributing items for auction, created a memorable experience. Several individuals were delighted with their purchases from MECCA on the day. A challenge, which while not entirely unexpected, is the swift passage of time. The SRC consistently juggles a packed agenda, managing event planning, support requests, fundraising, and the pursuit of fresh ideas and vision. Despite efforts, finding sufficient time for these tasks always remains a challenge."

### Final thank you





Hannah and Majella: "On behalf of both of us, we want to express the utmost gratitude to everyone who has been a part of the SRC

initiatives. From the dedicated SRC members who tirelessly strive to make our events spectacular, to the students and teachers who actively participate and offer their support and extending to the wider community members who consistently show their generosity through donations and promotion of the SRC-led initiatives. Lastly, we extend a profound thank you to Ms Mack for her unwavering dedication to the SRC. Her continuous support, guidance, and ability to address any last-minute issues have been integral to the accomplishments of the SRC. Without Ms Mack, the SRC could not have attained the level of success we have achieved."



### **ENGLISH**



Punita Mistry Head of English

We started the year with a visit from poet, Joel McKerrow, who immersed our Year 7 students in the realms of creativity and escapism through poetry. Joel's dynamic and high-energy performance resonated with students, kindling their own enthusiasm for the art of poetry.

A select group of Year 7s also took part in a writing workshop by Joel. In the workshop, Joel shared illuminating perspectives on how he derives inspiration from seemingly inconspicuous facets of his life, skilfully shaping them into poignant poetic expressions. This lens of perception was actively embraced by the students during the workshop, leading to the emergence of their own extraordinary poetic masterpieces.

Our Year 8 students participated in an engaging interview session with renowned Australian author, Kirsty Murray. This interaction provided Year 8s with a chance to delve into the anthology, *Eat the Sky, Drink the Ocean*, and pose questions to her. A select group of Year 8s also attended a creative writing workshop with Kirsty, inspiring them to adopt diverse techniques and modes of thinking, which provided them with newfound sources of inspiration to craft captivating creative pieces.

Gunai woman and award-winning First Nations activist, Kirli Saunders OAM, visited our Year 10 students as part of the *Blak & Bright* First Nations Literary Festival. A distinguished writer of poetry and children's literature, Kirli shared her life experiences with our Year 10s, who were undertaking the Creating and Crafting Text unit. She also unveiled some of her own literary creations, thereby providing a multi-layered encounter with her creative journey. This interaction with Kirli added a profound layer of understanding to the students' comprehension of Australian First Nations justice.

This year, Year 11s began their exploration of the new study design, leading them to delve into various uncharted areas of study and encounter new texts. They were fortunate to have an incursion with Jason Jewell, who delivered a lecture on *Medea* and Ancient Greek Theatre to help them prepare for their upcoming School Assessed Coursework (SAC).

The Year 12s worked diligently throughout the year and were visited by one of the Chief Assessors, Ross Huggard, during their revision week to help prepare them for the final Year 12 exam. They received invaluable advice which guided their revision.













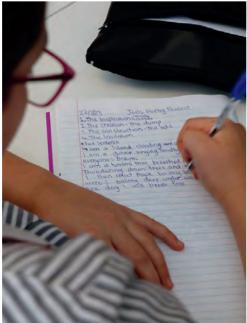














### HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Jessica Brady
Head of Health and Physical Education

In 2023, our Health and Physical Education program has once again excelled, fostering student growth and achievement. Through our comprehensive onsite program, students have embraced opportunities to develop vital skills and engage in enriching experiences. This year, both within the classroom and in broader life contexts, has nurtured leadership abilities, health literacy and resilience.

n the Health classrooms, students enthusiastically explored diverse topics like Respectful Relationships, Healthy Communities, Drugs in Society, and Mental Health and Wellbeing. These themes not only imparted knowledge but also empowered students to take positive actions for their personal health and safety. This foundation equips them to positively impact the wellbeing of those around them.

Simultaneously, the Physical Education classrooms buzzed with dynamic learning. Students delved into movement concepts, honing cooperation, leadership and fair play across various activities and sports. Year 7 students engaged in Invasion and Striking Field Games, and relished Gymnastics at Eastern Gymnastics Centre and Swimming at Ashburton Recreation Centre. Year 8 students explored dance sequences and gained AFLW insights from St Kilda Football Club players. Year 9 students saw emerging leaders orchestrate their SEPEP Volleyball unit, while Year 10 students embraced the invigorating challenges of the Self Defence unit.

The Sport Science elective, which is a highlight for our Year 10 students, delved into the human body's intricacies, fostering an understanding of structure, function, and movement mechanics. Our dedicated VCE Physical Education students honed their knowledge of biomechanics and performance enhancement, and our VCE Health and Human Development students expanded their understanding of health across local and global contexts. Their diligence throughout the year is commendable.

2023 has demonstrated the dedication of our staff to Health and Physical Education. We celebrate the triumphs, growth, and flourishing of our students in the realm of wellbeing.





































### **HUMANITIES**



Jessica Sullivan Head of Humanities

In 2023, Humanities students across all year levels have enjoyed deepening their understanding of various subject areas and have made the most of the opportunities to take their learning beyond the classroom.

A s part of Horizons Week, Year 8 students were visited by real-life knights on Medieval Day who taught students the arts of jousting calligraphy and brass rubbing. Year 8 Geography students completed a fieldwork expedition to Sorrento, which contextualised their learning relating to landforms and landscapes.

Year 9 Geography students ventured out to numerous local sites in Camberwell to collect field data relating to the interconnections between Australia and the world as evidenced in our restaurant and food culture. Global Responsibility students had the opportunity to participate in a Model United Nations debate on international women's rights, where students research various issues affecting women worldwide and discuss their positions with the aim of reaching a resolution on a proposal to achieve greater gender equality.

Year 10 Politics and Legal Studies students campaigned for votes as part of their mock election task, whilst Year 11 Politics students advocated for their allocated country as part of the interschool Model United Nations Convention. Year 11 and 12 Legal Studies students were given the opportunity to attend the Magistrates' Court and view court proceedings unfold from the public gallery space. Year 11 Business Management students applied their learning about marketing a business by developing a business report and pitching their business proposal to members of the College community.

We are grateful for what has been an incredibly exciting and busy year in Humanities.















### LANGUAGES

SIENA COLLEGE



Tina Di Camillo Head of Languages

Effectively involving students in the study of a foreign language can present challenges, particularly in Australia, where monolingualism is prevalent, with only isolated pockets of diverse cultures and languages. Hence, it is crucial to proactively engage students in second language acquisition and offer opportunities for language application.

This year, students harnessed language learning to create visualisations of cherished words, crafting persuasive speeches advocating language study, and devising storybooks and role plays.

Beyond the classroom, they partook in poetry recitation contests and explored culturally significant sites in Melbourne. Included in the following pages are three highlights exemplifying students' language learning involvement here at Siena.

#### Year 9 and 10 Chinese Cultural Day

The Chinese Cultural Day was dedicated to celebrating Chinese culture through various interactive activities and workshops. Our Chinese students took part in a range of experiences that immersed them in Chinese language, traditions and customs. Students witnessed dance and music performances, saw Chinese paper cutting and calligraphy displays, and participated in quizzes.



### **Year 8 Bonjour France Excursion**

Year 8 French classes were privileged to partake in an enriching experience at the National Gallery of Victoria, where they engaged in 'A Day in France with Alliance Française'. This opportunity allowed our students to immerse themselves in the vibrant world of Pierre Bonnard's France during the La Belle Époque era. Students relished talks from

educators conducted in both French and English, offering them an authentic language experience. Through his artworks, students adeptly outlined and identified Pierre Bonnard's cultural and historical context, thereby gaining profound insight into the life and times of France during that period.













### **Year 9 Italian City Immersion**

Students embarked on a journey through Sydney Road and Lygon Street, during which they identified landmarks influenced by Italian culture and encountered buildings and places with Italian origins. They also explored Italian produce stores to observe traditional products and foods, had the chance to sample these items, and sought evidence of the enduring impact of Italian migrants

on this specific part of Melbourne. This experience provided students with an exposure to genuine Italian language and culture, allowing them to develop a deeper appreciation for Italian culture beyond the boundaries of a classroom. This, in turn, nurtured a sense of cultural empathy and understanding.























### **MATHEMATICS**



Nick Roussidis
Head of Mathematics

# Embracing the Beauty of Numbers: Mathematics at Siena College

A t Siena College, our Mathematics classrooms are spaces for learning, where we not only learn about numbers and formulas, but also discover the beauty of problem solving and critical thinking. Our Mathematics classes are places of exploration, discovery and growth, where the magic of numbers unfolds before our very eyes. Mathematics classes at each year level are dynamic and engaging environments, with passionate teachers and students with inquisitive minds.

Throughout the year, many of our students engaged in a range of maths challenges. This allowed students to foster their understanding of the power of Mathematics and the joy of problem solving.

In Year 7, our mathematical explorers set foot on a path paved with curiosity. From solving equations for the first time to exploring geometric wonders, our students began their journey by building a solid foundation for their mathematical adventures that lay ahead. These foundations were further developed as our students continued to establish their mathematical prowess by engaging with online program, *Times Tables Rock Stars*.

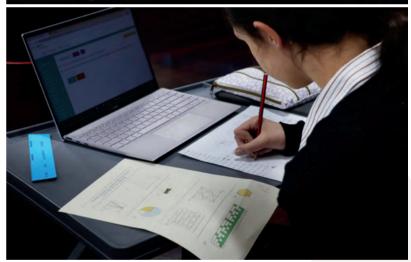
Our Year 8 students have continually developed their passion for Mathematics, by experiencing many moments where a tough concept finally clicked through perseverance. Our students have utilised an online adaptive program, *Mathspace*, that compliments the explicit instruction taught in class, allowing them to develop a deeper understanding of mathematical concepts.

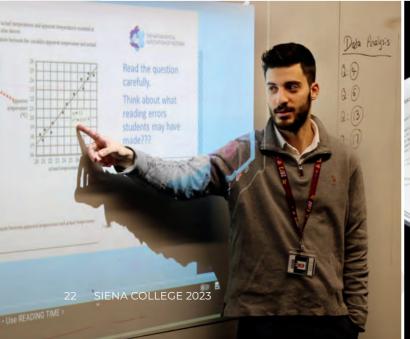
At VCE level, our students were introduced to a variety of skills that stretched their understanding of many mathematical concepts involving algebra, calculus and more. It is during these years that students can take their learning to the next level, engaging in many scenarios where critical thinking takes place.

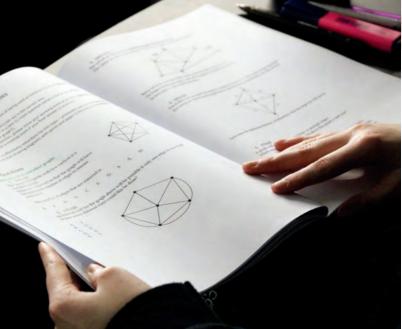
We look forward to our students continuing to develop their passion for Mathematics in 2024.













### SCIENCE



Nicholas Harvey Head of Science

2023 saw the Siena Science Faculty embrace the National Science Week theme of *Innovation: Powering Future Industries*. We kickstarted National Science Week as usual with a fantastic science themed morning tea for staff! Students participated in science quizzes during House Group; laboratory sessions including building balloon rockets and spaghetti bridges; a hydrogen fuel innovation based Escape Room; and viewings of the SCInema short films.

Siena College alumna, Dr Lorien Parker (Class of 1999) joined us again this year as our Scientist in Residence to share her passion and talent for science. She has been involved across Year 7, 8 and 9 classes, showcasing creative new ways to learn about science. Highlights included performing a range of wonderful chemical reactions, students creating beautiful artworks, and students designing their own species for various ecosystems.

We were fortunate to have a variety of STEAM professionals join us throughout 2023, including Geochemistry Lecturer and AGN Data Scientist, Dr Hayden Dalton from The University of Melbourne, who brought along some amazing rock samples to share with our Year 7 students. The STEAM theme continued for our senior Science students as they were invited to contemplate their futures at our annual STEAM Careers Breakfast. We hosted a diverse range of scientists and engineers who shared their career stories. Our keynote speaker, Human-Centred Roboticist and Monash University Senior Lecturer, Dr Elahe Abdi, discussed her journey in engineering and robotics across multiple continents.

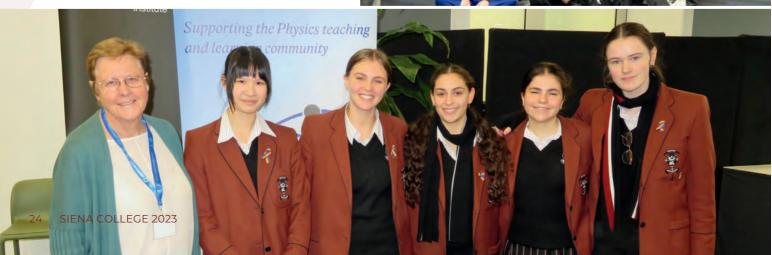
Students have also enjoyed a variety of excursions. Our Year 7s visited Healesville Sanctuary to explore food chains and classification. Meanwhile, our Year 10 Crash and Burn students tried indoor skydiving at iFly to witness Newton's Laws in action. Year 10 STEAM students had the opportunity to visit Swinburne University and learn about their Formula SAE program. Our Year 11 Biology students conducted a visit to Werribee to study animal adaptations as part of their Unit 2 curriculum. Moreover, the Year 12 Environmental Science class embarked on a night tour of Mt Rothwell, delving into the protected ecosystems there and gaining insights into endangered native fauna, including the Eastern Barred Bandicoots and the Eastern Quoll.













### PERFORMING ARTS: DRAMA





Adele Browne
Arts Leader (Drama)

Written in collaboration with Claire Al-Noah Head of The Arts and Technology

### 2023 has been an incredible year for all involved in the performing arts.

nternational Arts Education Week in Term 2 was a vibrant week showcasing students' talents and original performance work. Our Year 7 and 8 students took part in lunchtime theatre sports activities and our Year 9 Drama students performed to other year levels during class and lunchtime performances.

Classroom Drama students across year levels had the opportunity to view live theatre performances both at the College and at various theatres across Melbourne. Viewing professional theatre has always been a highlight for students and helps broaden our understanding of theatre and the various areas of creating a production.

Select Year 9 students worked hard with students from St Kevin's College to create their performance, *An Anthology of Theatre*, where small scenes from various famous plays were combined to create a new play. They attended weekly rehearsals at the Waterford Campus where they had the opportunity to collaborate with one another to

prepare for their evening performances to a public audience. The student enjoyed collaborating with St Kevin's College students and gained valuable skills in performing to a live audience.

Our VCE Drama students worked diligently on the Year 11 performance, *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, and the Year 12 ensemble performances inspired by *Toy Story*. Students performed their self-devised ensemble pieces at our Senior Drama Performance Evening to family and friends. A big congratulations to our Year 12s for their end-of-year solo performance exams. An enormous amount of effort and hard work has gone into crafting these self-created solos, and we are so proud of the outcome.

"I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my fellow Arts Leaders, Carla Morel (Visual Arts) and Maddie Castoldi (Music) this year. The enthusiasm and acting talents displayed by all students made this year a wonderful experience for all." Adele











### PERFORMING ARTS: CHICAGO MUSICAL





Adele Browne
Arts Leader (Drama)

Written in collaboration with **Becky Scott**Director

In May, Siena College and St Kevin's College presented the 2023 musical production, *Chicago: High School Edition*. The cast, orchestra and crew, consisting of students from both Colleges, worked tirelessly throughout Semester 1 to learn lines, songs and dances to create a wonderful show. They attended rehearsals after school, on Sundays and even during their school holidays to develop a refined and entertaining performance.

Due to the guidance of Director, Ms Scott, who dedicated countless hours to supporting the students and meticulously organising all the important details, this production will undoubtedly be etched in memory. The musical boasted a remarkable cast consisting of Year 8 to 12 students, backstage crew and makeup team. Congratulations to Taylor Antonio and Melina Koukourikis for leading this fantastic show.

We were also extremely fortunate to work with Vocal Director and Choreographer, Drew Downing, along with Director of Music, Ms McGillen, who worked with the incredible student-led orchestra. The bond created between such a diverse group of students has been amazing to see, with our senior students taking the lead and inspiring the budding talents among the younger students.

This year, we had the privilege of collaborating with the Visual Arts and Design team, drawing on our peers' talents to craft the extraordinary props and set pieces featured in the musical performance. A special thank you to Hailey Kilgour who created the stunning newspaper prop.

"We thank everyone who was involved in bringing this production to life. It was fantastic to work with students and staff from St Kevin's College in our first musical collaboration. Students from both schools were absolutely phenomenal and brought so much energy and dedication to the show from the very first rehearsal. It was wonderful to see the efforts of the talented musicians, actors and crew members come together during the final weeks of rehearsals to present an outstanding show. Every single one of you should be incredibly proud. Well done!" Director, Ms Scott

#### **CAST**

Taylah Antonio Melina Koukourikis Harry Vreugdenburg Benjamin Thek Adele Browne Caitlin Comer Lily Graham Alex Hogan Claudette Lang Sofia Trevisin Ava Lacv Sam Vivian Mackensie Sykes James Howden Charlotte Hall Angus Macmillan Karla Arbizu Molly Barber Maddie Cumming Luke Eaton Kiara Entera Eliza Forster Olivia Gastin Abigail Hudson Megan Ferreira Huahes Sharlise Huvnh Grace Mazzacca Zoe McCann Everett Pereira Asta Robinson Zoe Tribe Pheobe Wong

### ORCHESTRA

Cilla Brownlie
Isla Buchan
Yuxi Chen
Thomas Featherstone
Macy Hawkins
Olivia Ljubicic
Hugo Lourey
Mimi Mangan
Penny Morpeth
William Noonan
Briddet Nowland

#### **CREW**

#### **BACKSTAGE**

Georgia Maynier Oscar O'Donoghue Oskar O'Sullivan Ava Paterson Angelina Rodos Tenumi Tapusoa Thomas Webb

#### FRONT OF HOUSE

William Anastasi Jed Anders Julia Arteiro Maia Cantone Carina Choueiri Steph Cullinan Isis Curulli Antonio Ferraro Yasmin Fitzgerald Zahra Haidermota Declan Hawe Helen Kyriakos Juliet Mackley Pearl Navlor Winston Nguyen Alessandra Pastore Charlotte Paterson Michael Prowse Cecilia Quin Gabriel Spencer-White Sophia Velasquez Dean Viola Vedh Vipinkumar Ciara Whitehouse

#### HAIR AND MAKE UP

Imogen Armstrong Sienna Fogg Carla Hakme Sofia Lee Alyssa Leong Tia McCann Abby O'Farrell

#### **PROPS**

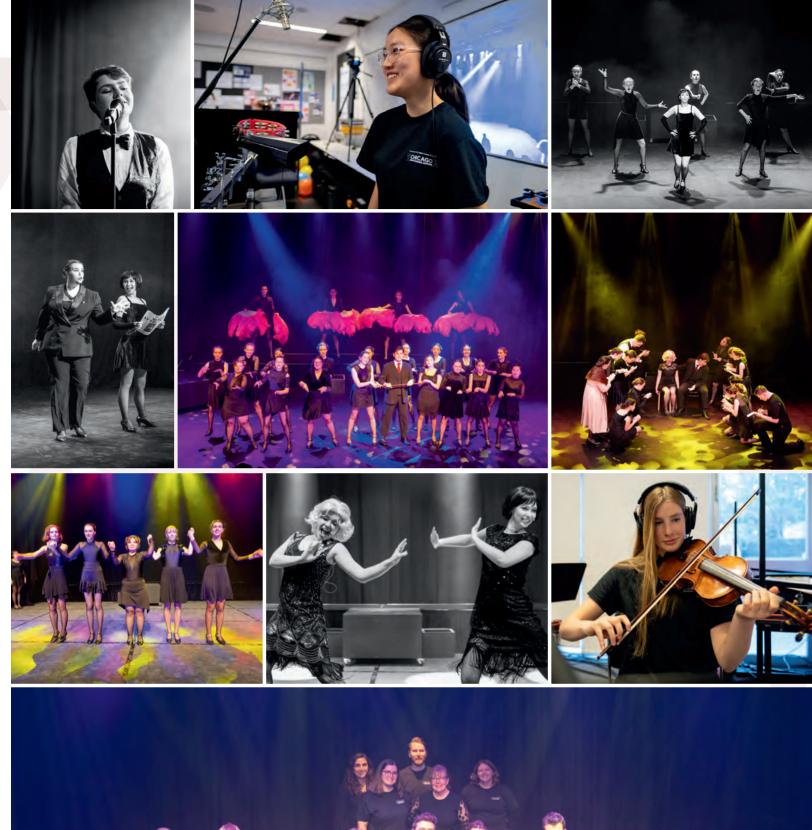
Adele Browne Maia Cantone Matilda Dixon Yasmin Fitzgerald Eliza Forster Zahra Haidermota Charlotte Herron Charlotte Heverin Grace Johnstone Hailev Kilgour Claudette Lang Saskia Liparota Georgia Maynier Zoe McCann Carla Morel Fleni Nikas Bridget Nowland Sophia Setiawan Angelina Rodos Claire Ruge

### SOUND AND LIGHTING

Terumi Tapusoa Thomas Waters









### PERFORMING ARTS: MUSIC





Maddie Castoldi Arts Leader (Music)

Written in collaboration with **Kerryn McGillen**Director of Music

2023 has been a remarkable year for the Music Department, brimming with so many exciting performance opportunities. These included the Autumn Concert, the Combined Senior Band Concert with De La Salle, the Annual Concert, Night of Jazz, Cabaret Night, and the Rising Stars Concert, all of which were highly successful events.

n Term 2, the onset of 'Jazz Season' brought about some extended rehearsals and workshops leading up to the Night of Jazz – a huge success enjoyed by a sold-out audience at the Manningham Hotel. Students had the opportunity to watch and perform with the multi-award-winning singer, songwriter and comedian, Jude Perl, accompanied by an exceptional house band. I would also like to recognise the recipients of the 2023 Siena Jazz Prize, Claudette Lang and Audrey Baaini, who were presented with this award on the night.

The culmination of Semester 1 witnessed Siena College and St Kevin's College collaboratively presenting the musical production, *Chicago: High School Edition*. Students from both Colleges rehearsed tirelessly from the start of the year, resulting in an extraordinary performance over the course of three days. A heartfelt acknowledgement goes out to all the students involved in the musical production, encompassing the cast and orchestra. Their feat of mastering a professional-level score has undoubtedly filled the staff in the Music Department with immense pride.

This year's Music Camp saw a record number of attendees, including the Senior Choir for the first time. The focus was set on mastering the performance pieces for the Annual Concert, and it was a delight to witness students forging connections through music and forming new friendships.

In September, the Annual Concert took place at the Robert Blackwood Hall, adopting an 'Off the Record' theme by celebrating music from the fifties and sixties. With an emphasis on collaborative efforts and increased performance time for students within larger ensembles, this concert stood as a true highlight. It was indeed a spectacle to witness our choirs, stringed ensembles and wind bands playing in unison on these pieces.

Cabaret Night was a platform for vocalists, pianists and our choirs to shine. The Susan Alberti Auditorium underwent a captivating transformation into a relaxed cabaret venue, and our students certainly lived up to the expectations of the enthusiastic audience. The sight and sound of students from all year levels performing was truly a sight to behold.

Congratulations to all student musicians for your outstanding efforts this year. I, along with others, hope that you carry with you incredible memories and experiences from your participation in the music program and the various performances.





### Canti Dolci



### **Galway Flutes**



**Junior Guitar Ensemble** 



**Guitar Ensemble** 





Symphonic Band

### **Groove Train**



**Sisters of Swing** 



# MUSIC GROUPS

### **Junior Band**



### Stage Band



# MUSIC GROUPS

#### **Wind Orchestra**



### St Cecilia Strings



# MUSIC GROUPS

**Junior String Ensemble** 



**Senior String Ensemble** 



### VISUAL ARTS AND TECHNOLOGY





Carla Morel
Arts Leader (Visual Arts and Design)

Written in collaboration with Claire Al-Noah
Head of The Arts and Technology

Siena College offers a diverse range of subjects in the Arts and Technology, enriching the educational experience. As part of this enrichment, various excursions have taken place across year levels.

n the realm of Visual Arts, students from Years 10 to 12 embarked on an exciting Art excursion to NGV Australia at Federation Square and the Australian Centre for Contemporary Art (ACCA). This immersive experience exposed them to a variety of artists and innovative ways of communicating ideas and presenting artwork. In April, Year 11 and 12 Media students had the privilege of visiting the 2023 Top Screens Exhibition. This provided them with a unique opportunity to observe the creative processes and works of fellow VCE filmmakers.

In Product Design and Innovation, Year 10 students explored the creative process behind traditional jewellery making. Meanwhile, Year 11 Product Design and Technology students delved into the sustainable qualities of products and engaged in collaborative efforts to create a range of products inspired by specific design styles.

The Digital Technologies program at Siena College has been an exhilarating and enriching journey for students across year levels, fostering growth, creativity and innovation. Year 10s delved into chatbots and mobile app development, while Year 11s and 12s honed and consolidated their programming skills, engaging with Python programming and tackling complex challenges.

In May, Siena College celebrated International Arts Education Week, commemorating various aspects of the Arts and Technology curriculum at Siena College. The week encompassed an art competition, a screening of the movie, *Big Hero 6*, a chance to participate in the CodeBug course, and the excitement surrounding the musical production of *Chicago: High School Edition*, which premiered later in the week. This celebration also placed a profound emphasis on social justice, with a special focus on inclusion and reconciliation. An incursion involving First Nations music and drama, led by Michael Cussens, vividly showcased First Nations spirituality through the mediums of sound, movement and breath.

The 2023 Arts and Technology Showcase prominently presented the exceptional achievements of VCE Unit 3 and 4 students. This Showcase not only traced the evolution of their final artworks over the course of this year, but also celebrated the refined skill sets they have nurtured during their time at Siena. Congratulations to Principal's Choice Award winner, Carla Morel, and People's Choice Awards winners: Eva Castaldi (Art), Kaitlin Patterson (Product Design and Technology), Amelie Giaimo (Visual Communication Design) and Amber Wadia (Media). A warm thank you to guest speaker, alumna Judy Horacek (Class of 1979) who officially opened the exhibition.











































# PRODUCT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



Julia Arteiro Year 9 Fashion



Olivia Lynch Year 9 Fashion



Pearl Naylor Year 9 Fashion



Valerija Ljubicic Year 9 Fashion



Lara Jackson Year 9 Fashion



Gabrielle Menegola Year 9 Fashion



**Eva Hughes** Year 9 Silk Painting



Aiko Tanubrata Year 9 Silk Painting



**Mia Hopkins** Year 9 Silk Painting



Gabrielle Menegola Year 9 Silk Painting



Isabelle Kennedy Year 9 Silk Painting



Tatjana Slangen Year 9 Silk Painting





Grace McPhee

Year 11 Product Design

Adrianna Sakkos

Year 11 Product Design

Siena Miller

Year 11 Product Design

**Jana Niolakis** Year 11 Product Design

# PRODUCT DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY



# ART



Avery Stocco Year 7 Art



Claire Ruge Year 7 Art



Chloe Hughes Year 7 Art



Stella Brownless Year 7 Art



Abbie Donovan Year 8 Art



Allegra Tjitji Year 8 Art



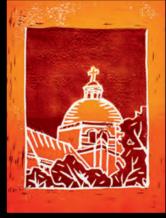
Emma Henderson Year 8 Art



Carissa Luk Year 9 Art



Julia Arteiro Year 9 Art



Mikhela Alfonso Year 9 Art



Stella Feltrin Year 9 Art







Sofia Trevisin Year 10 Art



Marita Abou Naser Year 10 Art



Audrey Baaini Year 10 Art

# ART





Roxanne Champion, Year 11 Art





Isabella Spillane, Year 12 Art



Lily McNidder, Year 12 Art



Eden Fraser Year 11 Art





Holly Grainger Year 12 Art



# ART

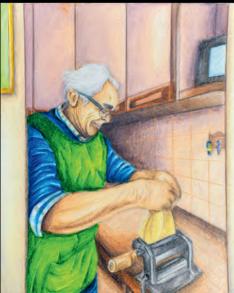


Mia Giannangelo Year 12 Art



Eva Castaldi Year 12 Art



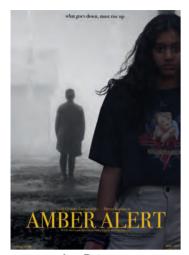


Carla Morel Year 12 Art

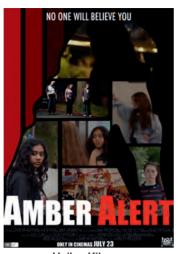


Timikar Johnson Year 12 Art

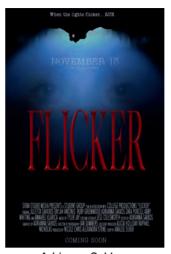
### **MEDIA**



Ava Paterson Year 11 Media



Hailey Kilgour Year 11 Media



Adrianna Sakkos Year 11 Media



Stephanie Damianopoulos Year 11 Media



Mia Jagic Year 11 Media





Amber Wadia Year 12 Media

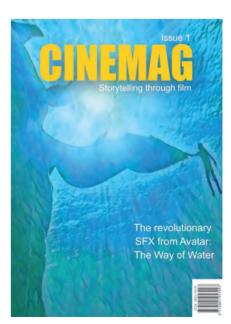








Tess Lawrence Year 12 Media



Eleni Pope Year 12 Media

### **PHOTOGRAPHY**



Alex Collard Year 10 Photography



Alex Halliday Year 10 Photography



India Hawkins Year 10 Photography



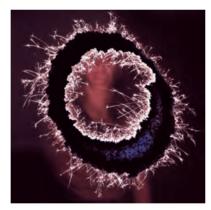
Georgia Bond Year 10 Photography



Kara Ilardi Year 10 Photography



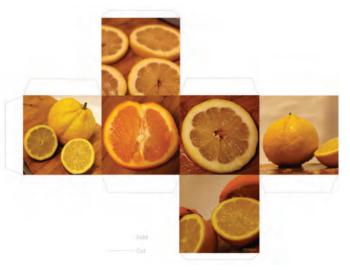
Alex Collard Year 10 Photography



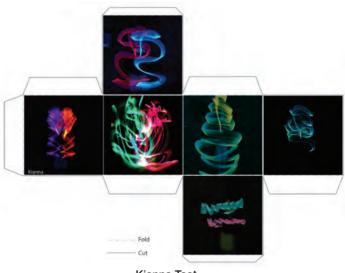
Carla Hakme Year 10 Photography



Olivia Cursio Year 10 Photography



Gemma Porcaro Year 10 Photography



Kianna Taat Year 10 Photography

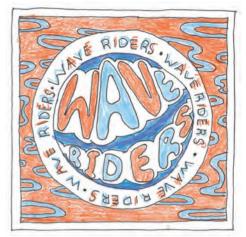
### VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN



**Bridget Newman** Year 9 VCD



Isabelle Kennedy Year 9 VCD



Olivia Kotzapavlidis Year 9 VCD



Maya Keefe Year 9 VCD

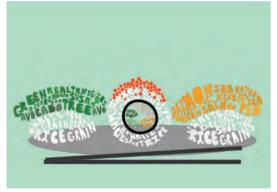


Lucienne Clark Year 9 VCD



Lauren Elliston Year 10 VCD





Aimee Tapsell Year 10 VCD



Lila Potgieter-Strachan Year 10 VCD



Kiara Nikolovski Year 11 VCD



Mia Holdgate Year 11 VCD



Sienna Erzetic-Nadalin Year 11 VCD



Sienna Horan Year 11 VCD



Roxanne Champion Year 11 VCD

### VISUAL COMMUNICATION DESIGN



Amelie Giaimo Year 12 VCD



Carla Morel Year 12 VCD



Aurora Neumann Year 12 VCD



Erin Seward Year 12 VCD



Lucy Wyatt Year 12 VCD



Ava Dalla-Fontana Year 12 VCD



Holly Grainger Year 12 VCD



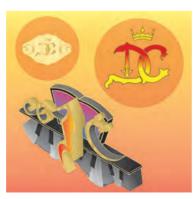
Emma Bate Year 12 VCD



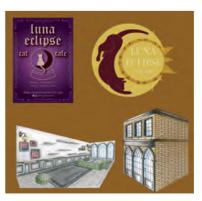
Angelina Rodos Year 12 VCD



Saskia Liparota Year 12 VCD



Georgia Maynier Year 12 VCD



Jessica Comito Year 12 VCD



Narcia Karvouniaris Year 12 VCD

### SPORT COCURRICULAR







2023 has been a very successful year for our Sport program. This year, Siena College has offered more than twenty types of sport for students to choose from, including weekly GSV Sport, Carnival Sport and Sport Clubs.

n Term 1, the Swim and Dive programs were a big focus. The Dive athletes did exceptionally well, emerging as Division winners and progressing into the Championship Carnival. The Swim team also had a successful season with some excellent individual performances. In addition to the Carnival Sports, students also participated in weekly GSV Softball, Tennis and Indoor Cricket. Term 1 also saw students participating in a GSV favourite, Triathlon. Well done to all students involved.

Term 2 saw the highest level of participation in our weekly GSV Sport program with Netball, Football and Water Polo on offer. Both Football and Netball were highly successful with multiple teams making it through to the grand final. The Carnival Sport for this term was Cross Country. Several of our students performed exceptionally well in their races, securing positions in the top ten for their respective year

Term 3 was by far our busiest term of the year. Volleyball was very popular across all year levels. Soccer and Badminton were played in the Junior categories and these teams did very well. The major Carnival Sport for the term was Athletics. Well done to the Athletics team for their outstanding performances, with several students making it through to the GSV finals evening. Twelve students also qualified for the National Aerobics Championships which took place in Queensland. The last day of Term 3 provided an opportunity for our Year 12s and some Year 11s to come together for a friendly basketball tournament, which was a great way to end the term!



Written in collaboration with Haneen Bou-Karroum Director of Sport

Term 4 saw Basketball as a weekly Sport, with all Junior, Intermediate and Senior teams having very strong numbers. Outdoor Cricket was also very popular. There were no Carnival Sport this term, however students commenced training for the 2024 Term 1 Swim and Dive Carnival, and the Triathlon Club commenced preparation for the 2024 GSV race.

Overall, it has been a very busy and rewarding year in the Sport department. We say goodbye to our 2023 AFL Trainee, Natalia Moraitis, who has done an amazing job working in our department this year. We are looking forward to what 2024 brings and all the opportunities that come along with it. Go Siena!















### **Sports Captains**



### **Aerobics State Squad**



### **Athletics**



#### **Junior Badminton**



### **Junior Indoor Cricket**



#### **Inter Indoor Cricket**



### **Senior Indoor Cricket**



### **Cross Country**

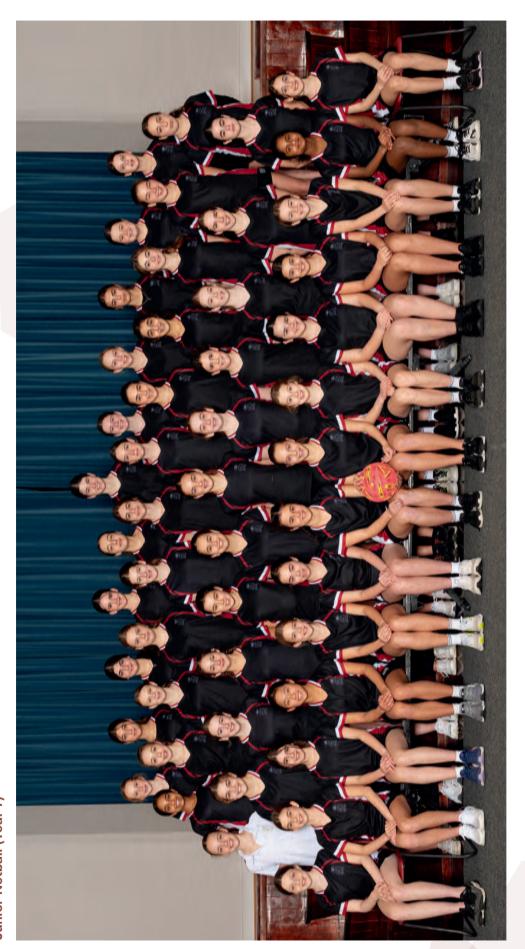


#### **Junior Football**



#### **Senior Football**





Junior Netball (Year 7)

### Inter Netball (Premier C)



### **Senior Netball**



#### **Junior Soccer**



### **Junior Softball**



### **Swim Team**



#### **Dive Team**



### **Senior Water Polo**



### Triathlon



Inter Volleyball



**Senior Volleyball** 



### LEARNING DIVERSITY



**Lidia Mostert** Head of Learning Diversity

# Empowering Diversity: Nurturing Resilient Independent Learners at Siena College

The Learning Diversity Department at Siena College is a vibrant and welcoming community dedicated to developing young, empowered and independent learners who demonstrate resilience. We recognise that every student's learning journey is unique, with varying abilities, interests and needs. Therefore, we prioritise personalised support and intervention to ensure each student thrives

Our Year 7 to 9 Learning Diversity classes provide targeted assistance, helping students overcome challenges and unlock their full potential. It is about tailoring education to the individual, fostering growth in both academics and personal development. We encourage students to advocate for themselves, equipping them with essential learning skills.

Beyond academics, Siena College offers enrichment opportunities such as the Year 7 and 8 Philosophy program, which stimulates critical thinking and creativity. We also host the Year 8 and 9 Enrichment Days, as well as provide opportunities for students to explore their unique potential post-secondary school.

Our commitment to Learning Diversity extends beyond the classroom. We believe in preparing students for the real world. Our philosophy is simple: diversity is a strength. At Siena College, we celebrate and harness this strength daily. The Learning Diversity Department is not just a department; it is a community of growth, support and celebration.



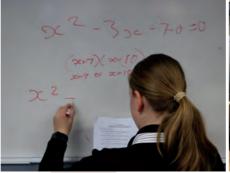
















### ALBERTUS MAGNUS LEARNING CENTRE

Roxanne Summer Head of Learning Centre



4,266
books
borrowed

829 eBooks borrowed 655 new books purchased



Scan to link to the Albertus Magnus Learning Centre page on Siena Central



### CAREER DEVELOPMENT



Clare Timmins
Head of Careers

We began the year with Year 12 Careers Catch-up meetings, aimed at connecting with Year 12 students to assess their progress in their career journeys. These sessions involve revisiting their Morrisby Profiles to identify gaps in their research on potential careers. We then guide them towards finding answers and additional information to fill these gaps.

At the end of Term 1, Horizons Week took place, which is always a busy period for the Careers Department. This week presented a range of enriching experiences tailored for students in Years 8, 10 and 11.

Career Practitioner, Maree Hodgson, who joined the Careers Team this year, introduced our Year 8 students to the Siena Careers website. She expertly guided them through a series of career quizzes designed to uncover their personal interests, strengths and values, thereby suggesting potential career pathways. Students can revisit their quiz results at any time, enabling them to make well-informed decisions about subjects and tertiary courses as they progress through their academic journey.

The Morrisby Profile has been a comprehensive tool for subject selection and career planning for our Year 10 students. We held follow-up meetings to assist them in navigating decisions about their VCE. Meanwhile, our Year 11 students immersed themselves in three days of career activities. These included an online career planning course named Next Step Navigator, as well as visits to renowned institutions such as RMIT University, The University of Melbourne and Deakin University. Notably, these university visits have emerged as a highlight, significantly shaping the course choices of many students.

Our highlight this year was the annual Careers Showcase, hosted by the Alumnae Association, which coincided with our inaugural Tertiary Careers Expo. Representatives from TAFE, universities, and various industries joined Siena College for the Expo, providing students with insights into career pathways and post-secondary school options. This dual event was a tremendous success and is set to be a regular feature on the Siena Careers calendar moving forward.

Resume writing, interview skills and financial literacy workshops were also a feature of the Horizons Week. Students were taken through the steps to create a professional resume and a LinkedIn profile with Arrive & Thrive founder, Tyson Day.

Other career events this year include the amazing annual Careers Showcase featuring Siena alumnae who have deftly navigated life beyond Siena College to forge successful careers in a variety of fields.



# VOCATIONAL EDUCATION AND TRAINING (VET)



Michael Petrie
Head of Senior Pathways

Siena VET students consistently amaze and astonish everyone with their diverse skills across a wide range of captivating and fulfilling disciplines, spanning from Dance and Fashion to Early Childhood and Allied Health.

Currently, we have around thirty students engaged in various studies throughout Years 10, 11 and 12. Several of these units have the potential to attain a fully scored ATAR subject status if pursued as a Unit 3 and 4 study, while others can contribute to a ten percent increment in their ATAR if continued into Year 12.

The remarkable stories and accomplishments of our Siena students, coupled with their unwavering passion and vivid descriptions, are truly heartwarming to hear. Here, we present a glimpse of some of them in action. We eagerly anticipate increased participation and extend our gratitude to the exceptional hosts from various institutions who take such excellent care of our students.

















### Amali Hawkins Communications Leader (Debating and Public Speaking)

Written in collaboration with:

Gerard Sutton

Debating Coordinator

Emily Black

Public Speaking Coordinator

### **DEBATING**

# In 2023, Siena College experienced a rewarding year of Debating, once again taking part in the Debaters' Association of Victoria (DAV) interschool competition.

his year, there were six teams representing the College, ranging from A Grade (Year 12) to D Grade (Year 9). The growth in participation compared to the previous year was evident, and our teams thrived with consistent victories across all levels, fostering critical thinking skills.

The Siena Debaters have showcased a diverse array of talents, effectively presenting arguments, skillfully countering opponents, and delivering speeches with clarity and persuasion. The true essence of success was witnessed through their strong sense of teamwork with their peers and even through the varying year levels which played a pivotal role in their accomplishments.

Excitement grew further as Siena entered two teams in the Junior Speakers Program (JSP) to represent the College at Camberwell Grammar. Throughout Term 3, our enthusiastic Year 7 and Year 8 students underwent a comprehensive Debating program consisting of three rounds. Engaging in workshops and training sessions, they honed their skills and boosted their confidence in preparation for their first real debating sessions. Regardless of experience or background, all participants performed admirably, igniting a promising future for Debating at Siena.

Gratitude is extended to all staff and students who contributed to the Debating journey throughout the year, and we cannot wait to see this continue in the coming years.





### **PUBLIC SPEAKING**

#### I recently had the pleasure of sitting down with Public Speaking Coordinator, Ms Black and fellow public speaking enthusiasts to reflect on the year. Below are some quotes arising from our discussion.

What significant events did Siena students have the privilege of taking part in?

"Siena students had the privilege of participating in many Public Speaking opportunities over the course of Semester 1. Students competed in the Ainger Peck Public Speaking Award, Rotary Four Way Test and Rostrum Voice of Youth. As Semester 2 began, the Antonio de Montesinos Award was the next big event on our calendar, during which six students across year levels competed. Congratulations to winner, Ciara Whitehouse (Year 9) and Encouragement Award recipient, Gabriella van Delden (Year 8)." Emily Black, Public Speaking Coordinator

"Siena offers a diverse range of competitions for students to participate in. These opportunities allow students to step outside their comfort zones by exploring a wide range of topics. Moreover, it encourages all students to develop their skills in communication and expression." Amali Hawkins, Year 12 Debating and Public Speaking Leader

### What aspects of Public Speaking did you find most enjoyable this year?

"I enjoyed participating in the Ainger Peck Award because it is a major competition. It was great to step out of my comfort zone and immerse myself in the experience it offered. I would love to come back again next year because I enjoyed it so much."

Kristen Kantzipas, Year 8

### How has Siena allowed you to develop skills in Public Speaking?

"Siena has offered a positive community that has supported me in my journey through Public Speaking. Receiving constructive feedback on my speeches has been incredibly beneficial. The fellow students engaged in Public Speaking at Siena are also remarkably supportive, contributing to the creation of a positive environment for honing our Public Speaking skills." Emily Sleeman, Year 8

### What advice would you give to students not currently participating in Public Speaking?

"Take a shot and give it a go! Even though you may not have previous experience or feel that there is not much time to prepare, take a risk and do it anyway. Participating in Public Speaking is an awesome experience and it totally pays off." Ciara Whitehouse, Year 9











SIENA COLLEGE 2023











# **DEBATING GROUPS**

#### A Grade DAV Debating





#### **C** Grade DAV Debating







### **FIESTA**





The 2023 Annual Fiesta was truly a big one! With the overarching theme of Decades, all Houses did not shy away from fun and colourful costumes, props and of course... iconic hits! This year ran slightly differently in terms of rehearsal schedules, with Fiesta occurring in Week 3 of Term 1, but that did not stop all Houses from performing to an incredible standard! It was inspiring to see how well all the students adapted to the new changes, such as the addition of the Hymn to St Catherine, and how positive everyone's approach was to the daily rehearsals.

We are so proud of Waratah's eighties performance for placing first overall, as well as taking first place in all the dance and choral performances. We saw how dedicated every student was, and it certainly paid off! We would like to extend our thanks to all students, House Captains and staff members involved for making the day memorable and running smoothly. A massive well done to the other Houses, and there is no doubt it was a Fiesta to remember!

#### 2023 Fiesta Results

Entrance and Participation Award: Cassia First Timers Award (Year 7): Waratah

Hot Shoe Shuffle Award (Year 8 to 11): Waratah

Last Timers Award (Year 12): Waratah

Hymn to St Catherine's Award (Whole House Item): Dianella

The Sound of Music Award (Instrumental): Kurrajong

The Soul Sisters Award (Choral Item): Waratah

WOW Award (Best interpretation of 2023 Fiesta Theme): Cassia

Overall Winner: Waratah



























# **CASSIA**





Kiara Bendinelli Anita Boussioutas Cassia House Captains

W ow! What an incredible year it has been for vibrant Cassia House. This fun-filled year has been nothing short of action, enjoyment and success. From small House bake sales all the way to boogieing our way through Fiesta, the sheer effort and passion shown by each Cassian has been remarkable. This would not have been possible without the ongoing support of the wonderful Cassia staff and our amazing Head of House, Ms Vangelista, who helped us all raise the House spirit.

We have hosted numerous events that have fostered a profound sense of community, connectivity and creativity. We were especially excited for the new Year 7s and had the privilege of transitioning them into the Siena community. Year 7 Cassia Student Voice Leader, Annabelle R, shared her defining moment joining the Siena community, which was "presenting her Student Voice Leader speech during the Year 7 camp," a moment that she will remember forever. This sense of community expressed by Annabelle encapsulates the nurturing Cassia environment we are all so proud to be a part of.

Cassia participated actively in many House events this year, taking home third place in Fiesta with a 1970s themed performance. We are also proud to have brought home the Spirit Award and Community Award. However, seeing the smiles on each Cassian's face was the most rewarding aspect!

Next came the Inter House Swim and Dive Carnival. The Cassia House spirit was on full display, guiding the House to a second place finish, with the Juniors winning their section! We were so proud of every Cassian who stepped out of their comfort zone, tried their best and, most of all, had fun. Cassia finished off the year strong at the Inter House Athletics Carnival. Our participation levels were remarkable and we could not be prouder of each student. Our voices raised the roof!

We are so grateful for the opportunity to be the Year 12 Cassia House Captains and we cannot wait to see what Cassia does in the future. We are beyond appreciative of all those who made this journey exciting, challenging and extremely rewarding. Sending love to Cassia for all that you continue to achieve, we know it will be great!







Stephanie Vangelista Sophie Pryn Head of House









# DIANELLA





Francesca Ciampa Evie Goodale Dianella House Captains

Dianella has truly shone this year, and our pride and gratitude for our students' remarkable contributions are boundless. The dedication of both students and House Group Teachers has been exceptional, evident in their enthusiasm for participation – from the pool to the stage to the bake sale and even to the Dianella lockers.

The beginning of 2023 was brimming with hope and anticipation as Dianella geared up to showcase its array of talents at Fiesta. Every member engaged fervently, whether it was managing props, dancing, singing, acting or handling technology. Our theme was rooted in the 1950s with nods to *Grease*, Elvis Presley and *Singing in the Rain*, showcasing an unprecedented level of participation compared to our five years at Siena. Although our overall placement fell short of expectations, Dianella clinched the Hymn to St Catherine Award, a testament to the students' dedication on the day.

The year progressed with the eagerly awaited Inter House Swim and Dive Carnival. Through teamwork, encouragement and support, Dianella's unity flourished, resulting in a resounding victory. Our commitment to filling in races, cheering for teammates, and wholehearted participation in various events secured Dianella's first-place finish. The Inter House Athletics Carnival concluded the year, highlighting Dianella's unwavering determination and willingness to participate. The marriage of House spirit and competitiveness was a source of immense pride.

Aligned with Siena's tradition of championing causes, Dianella led with initiatives such as a bake sale and a coin line, both dedicated to Project Compassion. Despite placing fourth in the latter, the House's determination remained unwavering. Dianella's compassion was further evident on St Catherine's Day, as donations poured in for the Dominican Sisters in the Solomon Islands who are battling climate change. The Big Sister Little Sister program fostered meaningful connections between our Year 12 and Year 7 students. The exchange of guidance and lunchtime conversations not only offered support, but also provided a break from the pressures of VCE. Overall, Dianella's extraordinary efforts this year have been instrumental in our achievements. We extend heartfelt gratitude and congratulations to each member for their remarkable contributions. Without their determination, spirit and drive, none of these accomplishments would have been possible.













Becky Scott Head of House

# **KURRAJONG**





Ella Castoldi Lily McNidder Kurrajong House Captains

"Be who you want to be, and not what others want to see."

The culture of our hardworking, determined and connected House could not have been more evident throughout 2023. The strong and independent people of Kurrajong continuously showed no signs of defeat, nor did they give up on any challenge thrown their way. To say Kurrajong is like a family would be an understatement. Being the two individuals who had the opportunity to witness the growth and resilience of each member of the Kurrajong family was an unbelievable part of our Leadership experience that we will cherish for a lifetime. We could not be prouder and more honoured to be your 2023 Kurrajong House Captains.

To start off the year with a bang, Kurra successfully thrilled Siena College with their breathtaking nineties Fiesta performance. They not only gave their all on the big day but also during the two-week period of learning three minutes of non-stop choreography, making props, creating videos, auditioning, memorising scripts and, most importantly, stepping out of their comfort zones. This was truly remarkable to witness.

This ongoing persistence continued into the Inter House Swim and Dive Carnival. Not only did they give everything a try, but they also demonstrated amazing creativity with some very funny and impressive costumes. Once again, this event showed us that Kurrajong is more than just a House; it is a family. The enthusiasm of everyone allowed our Kurra family to excel in the Inter House Athletics Carnival. The throwing, jumping and sprinting events could not have been successful without teamwork and fantastic participation. The boundless eagerness and encouragement was incredible to watch!

The compassionate values that Kurrajong continuously upholds made it no challenge for us to support and fundraise for those in need. A highlight for us, as House Captains, was a House Group fundraiser for Caritas in support of Project Compassion. Both our Junior and Senior House Groups raised the most money out of all the House Groups at Siena College. This wholeheartedly showcased our determination and generosity as a House in caring for those most in need.

To the Kurrajong family of 2023, we appreciate and commend your unwavering love and dedication in consistently striving for greatness and believing that within our House, nothing is impossible. Seeing our House theme, "Be who you want to be, and not what others want to see" develop throughout the year is something we are truly grateful to have achieved. Lastly, we leave you, Kurra legends, with this quote: "You can always take a person out of Kurrajong, but you can never take Kurrajong out of a person."













Laine Rice Head of House

# WARATAH





Sophie Birrell Ava Dickinson Waratah House Captains

Waratah had an amazing year in 2023 filled with lots of House spirit and success, which, as House Captains, we could not be prouder of.

Il students in Waratah started 2023 off strong and rose to A the challenge of Fiesta. They were all so committed and always went above and beyond at every rehearsal, which we really appreciated. A true highlight of our year was witnessing the fruits of everyone's labour behind the scenes and experiencing the unbridled joy and happiness radiating from the faces of the Waratah students. This triumphant moment arrived as Waratah clinched first place overall (achieving a remarkable hattrick!), securing the top spot in all three dances, and reigning supreme in the House choral performance as well. The 2023 Fiesta is a day we will forever remember, and we hope each Waratah student does too. Waratah's House spirit is truly an unstoppable force, and we have loved seeing everyone putting up their hand and having a go, no matter the result in every activity. Both the Inter House Swim and Dive Carnival, as well as the Inter House Athletics Carnival, demonstrated exceptional talent, and the Bake Sale and fundraising efforts saw incredible engagement and contributions to help support the wider community.

We are so grateful to have been Waratah House Captains for multiple years now, witnessing the growth and success that has occurred. We are also thankful for Ms Seymour for her commitment and the endless support she always provides in making sure everyone is well looked after. We appreciate the assistance from our team of House Captains, as without their dedication, nothing could have been possible. Finally, we would like to thank all the students in Waratah who bring their unique gifts and energy together to make the House as special as it is. We want to express our gratitude for them always putting themselves out there, having a go, and contributing to House events, fundraisers and the House spirit throughout the years, particularly in the present year.















Lauren Seymour Head of House













# 2023 STUDENT LEADERSHIP LIST

# **Student Executive**

# **COLLEGE CAPTAINS**

Majella Hine Hannah Rosel

# CASSIA HOUSE CAPTAINS

Kiara Bendinelli Anita Boussioutas

### **DIANELLA HOUSE CAPTAINS**

Francesca Ciampa Evie Goodale

### KURRAJONG HOUSE CAPTAINS

Ella Castoldi Lily McNidder

# WARATAH HOUSE CAPTAINS

Sophie Birrell Ava Dickinson

# SPORTS CAPTAINS

Mia Kelly Lucy Parnell

### **Veritas Leaders**

### **ENVIRONMENT**

Carly Walsh

### **SOCIAL JUSTICE**

Isla Buchan Ciara Newman

### The Arts Leaders

## **DRAMA**

Adele Browne

# MUSIC

Madeline Castoldi

### VISUAL ARTS AND DESIGN

Carla Morel

# **Communication Leaders**

### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

Jess Higgins

# DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Amali Hawkins

# **House Leaders**

#### CASSIA

Year 12 Kiara Bendinelli Anita Boussioutas

Year 11 Amy Duffy Melania Flunt

Year 10 Katrina Gavralas Grace Mazzacca

Year 9 Olivia Gastin Nickie Guan

# **DIANELLA**

Year 12 Francesca Ciampa Evie Goodale

Year 11 Grace McPhee Teah Wilson

Year 10 Annabelle Goodale Zoe Tribe

Year 9 Eloise Louey Annabelle Mackintosh

# KURRAJONG

Year 12 Ella Castoldi Lily McNidder

Year 11 Shreya Kapitan Sienna Marolda

Year 10 Alessia Famularo Megan Ferreira Hughes

Year 9 Molly Free Katie Kim

# WARATAH

Year 12 Sophie Birrell Ava Dickinson

Year 11 Harper Honrado Audrey Tjitji

Year 10 Cilla Brownlie Tia McCann

Year 9 Eva Hughes Mia Wilkinson

# **Year 8 Student Voice Leaders**

#### **CASSIA**

Frankie Ramasamy

### **DIANELLA**

Gabriella van Delden

# **KURRAJONG**

Victoria Tamaresis

# **WARATAH**

Maddison Bailey

### **Year 7 Student Voice Leaders**

#### CASSIA

Annabelle Raven

# DIANELLA

Polly Peachey

# KURRAJONG

Niki Wilson-Wong

# WARATAH

Chloe Hughes









# 2023 HOUSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

# HOUSE SWIM AND DIVE CARNIVAL

Annabelle Raven Cassia Year 7 Champion: Zara Orton Dianella Year 8 Champion:

Lulu Wood Year 9 Champion:

Kara Jackson Dianella Year 10 Champion:

> Sarah Stravato Waratah

> > Dianella

Cassia

Dianella

Sienna Reidy Dianella Year 11 Champion:

Anais Johnstone Dianella Year 12 Champion:

Maddie McDonald Junior Ironwoman

Senior Ironwoman: Beatrice Zago Kurrajong

Giaan Dinh Dianella Junior Diving:

Millie Marks Intermediate Diving:

Audrey Tjitji Waratah Senior Diving:

Waratah **House Spirit Award:** 

Junior Aggregate: Dianella **Intermediate Aggregate:** 

Dianella Senior Aggregate:

DIANELLA **OVERALL AGGREGATE:** 

# **HOUSE ATHLETICS CARNIVAL**

Year 12 Champion:

**Senior Aggregate:** 

Mae Power Year 7 Champion: Kurrajong Kristen Kantzipas Year 8 Champion: Cassia

Zara Orton Dianella

> Zaria Chin Waratah

Valerija Ljubicic Cassia Year 9 Champion:

Kara Ilardi Waratah Year 10 Champion:

Emma Ireland Cassia Year 11 Champion:

Lucy Parnell

Waratah **House Spirit Award:** 

Cassia **Junior Aggregate:** 

Kurrajong **Intermediate Aggregate:** 

Dianella

**KURRAJONG OVERALL AGGREGATE:** 

# MICHELE TIMMS AWARD

Dianella Anais Johnstone Swimming (50m): Cassia

Valerija Ljubicic Athletics (100m):

### **FIESTA**

Cassia **Entrance and Participation Award:** Waratah First Timers Award (Year 7):

Waratah Hot Shoe Shuffle Award (Year 8 to 11):

Waratah Last Timers Award (Year 12):

Dianella

Hymn to St Catherine's Award (Whole House Item):

Kurrajong The Sound of Music Award (Instrumental):

Waratah The Soul Sisters Award (Choral Item)

Cassia **WOW Award** 

(Best interpretation of 2023 Fiesta Theme):

**WARATAH OVERALL WINNER:** 

# ST CATHERINE'S DAY

**Bake Sale Winner:** Cassia **Coin Line Winner:** Kurrajong

# **BOOK WEEK**

**Photo Scavenger Hunt** (Pics or It Didn't Happen): Dianella Student Book Quiz: Lily Graham Waratah

# HOUSE OF THE YEAR AWARD

